

Pages 16 |₹ 5.00 | LC

# Che Statesman



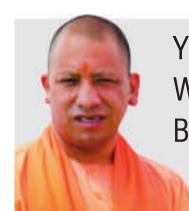
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KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR



**TOUGH BARGAINS** AHEAD IN TIES WITH AMERICA



YOGI SAYS SANGAM WATER FIT FOR **BATHING** 

'PARTY GENERAL SECYS WILL BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR POLL RESULTS'

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

SHUBMAN REPLACES PAKISTAN'S BABAR AS TOP-RANKED ODI BATTER

P16

BRENT CRUDE (IN \$) 76.45 - 0.61

SENSEX 75,939.18 ▼28.21

NIFTY 22,932,90 ▼12.40

₹ vs \$ 86.95

GOLD 89,240.00

SILVER 1,08,000

#### **WEATHER**

Scattered thunderstorms. Hazy in the evening. Maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be around 29°C and 21°C respectively.

**RAINFALL:** NIL **RELATIVE HUMIDITY** Max. 86% Min. 75% **TEMPERATURE** Max: 29.2°C Min: 21.3°C **SUN SETS SUN RISES** 06:04 hrs 17:35 hrs

New Moon on 28 February

#### **THUMBNAILS**

**MOON RISES** 

19:11 hrs



**MOON SETS** 

10:22 hrs

People of the Mising community perform rituals during the celebration of the 'Ali-Aye-Ligang' festival 2025, marking the beginning of the sowing season, at Sonaighuli in Guwahati on Wednesday. ANI

**Gyanesh Kumar takes charge as Chief Election Commissioner**: Gyanesh Kumar took over as the 26th Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) on Wednesday and said the Election Commission of India was, is and will always be with the voters. "The first step for nation building is voting. Therefore every citizen of India who has completed 18 years of age should become an elector and should always vote," Mr Kumar said.

# Rekha Gupta to be next CM of Delhi

The new Delhi Chief Minister will take oath of office today

**NIKHIL VYAS NEW DELHI, 19 FEBRUARY** 

ekha Gupta, the newly-elected BJP legislator from Shalimar Bagh, will be the next Chief Minister of Delhi. She will be sworn in on Thursday,

ending the prolonged suspense following the party's historic win in the Assembly elections in the national capital on 8 February. The BJP's legislature party tonight elected Ms

Gupta as its leader. Her name was announced by the party's two central observers ~ Ravi Shankar Prasad and Om Prakash Dhankhar ~ after a meeting of the BJP legislature party which was attended by all 48 newly-elected party legislators at the Delhi BJP office.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated Ms Gupta on her election as the leader of BJP legislature party.

The PM, other top BJP leaders and several NDA Chief Ministers will attend the swearing-in ceremony at iconic Ramlila Maidan



on Thursday. Rekha Gupta will be the 9th Chief Minister of Delhi. The last BJP government in Delhi was from 1993 to 1998. A firsttime MLA, Ms Gupta will be the fourth woman Chief Minister of Delhi. Sushma Swaraj (BJP), Sheila Dikshit (Congress) and Atishi (AAP) have held the position in

The saffron party registered a landslide victory in the 5 February Delhi assembly elections, the results of which were declared on 8 February, winning a two-thirds majority by bagging 48

the past.

seats in the 70-member assembly.

The AAP suffered a rout with 22 seats while the Congress failed to score for the third consecutive time.

Earlier, hours ahead of the BJP's legislature party meeting in the national capital for electing a new Delhi Chief Minister, the parliamentary board of the party appointed Ravi Shankar Prasad, MP and former Union Minister, and Om Prakash Dhankhar, the party's national secretary, as Central observers for the elec-

The PM, other top **BJP leaders and** several NDA Chief **Ministers will** attend the swearing-in ceremony at iconic Ramlila Maidan on Thursday.

tion of the Leader of the Legislative party in Delhi. The new Chief Minister will take oath at a grand

swearing-in ceremony at the city's iconic Ramlila Maidan on Thursday. The event will commence at 10 a.m. The new CM will be administered the oath of office and secrecy by Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena.

Car drivers, auto drivers and slum-dwellers will be among the key invitees who will garner attention at the oathtaking ceremony. Twenty chief ministers from various NDA-ruled states will also participate in the oath-taking ceremony of the Delhi Chief Minister to be held at the Ramlila Maidan tomorrow.

(Photo: Subrata Dutta)

# Major relief for Siddaramaiah in MUDA case as Lokayukta Police finds no evidence of graft

**LAKSHMANA VENKAT KUCHI** BENGALURU, 19 FEBRUARY

In a significant relief to Karnataka Chief Minister S Siddaramaiah in the MUDA corruption case, the Lokayukta Police indicated on Wednesday that it found no proof of corruption against the Chief Minister and his wife Parvathi BM regarding the alleged fraudulent

allotment of high-value resi-

dential plots in the year 2021. In a notice issued to the RTI activist who filed the case against the Chief Minister, his wife, and two others, Snehamayi Krishna, the Lokayukta Police said that no evidence of corruption had been found. This notice is being viewed as an indication of a clean chit to the power couple and a preparation for closing the investigations, ordered by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot and later ratified by the Karnataka High Court, which directed the Lokavukta to investigate the matter.

In its notice issued to the RTI activist today, the Lokayukta Police said: "As the allegations

against accused-1 to accused-4 are not proved due to a lack of evidence, the final report is being submitted to the competent court. The final report is being submitted to the court under section 173 (8) of the Criminal Procedure Code after investigations into the allegations over the grant of compensatory plots under the 50:50 scheme, from the year 2016 to 2024, by the Mysore Urban Development Author-

ity." Two days ago, the Lokayukta Police sought more time to file the final report on the investigations. But on Wednesday, the police issued a notice

to the RTI activist clearly stating that they could not find any proof of corruption against the CM and his wife and that they would be informing the court of this in its final

If the Lokayukta Police submits its final report when the matter comes up in a special court on 24 February, the final report could be contested by the complainant. Also, it is up to the court to accept or reject the police report.

The Lokayukta Police has examined over 100 witnesses in its investigation since the case was lodged against the accused in September last year after the Karnataka High Court upheld the decision of the Governor to order investigations into the MUDA scam.

The case pertains to 14 sites worth Rs 56 crore that were allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife as compensation by MUDA in 2021 after around 3.16 acres of land gifted to her by her brother in 2010 had been "wrongfully" acquired by the authority in 2014.

## ICC CT 2025: India look for strong start in campaign opener against Bangladesh

TRIDIB BAPARNASH **NEW DELHI, 19 FEBRUARY** 

Fresh from recording a 3-0 whitewash over England in the recently-concluded ODI series at home, India will look to carry forward the momentum in their pursuit of a third ICC Champions Trophy title when they open their campaign against a tricky Bangladesh in Dubai on Thursday.

Despite being pre-tournament favourites, India faces a series of challenges. The absence of bowling spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, the questionable batting form of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, and thus the onus will be on the likes of young turks Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer, Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana to make their mark in the highstakes multi-nation tourna-

For Kohli, Rohit, and even head coach Gautam Gambhir ~ despite being just six months into his tenure, there is little



against New Zealand and Australia continue to cast long shadows over Indian cricket.

However, recent performances offerglimpses of promise. Rohit's century and Kohli's fifty against England, coupled with Gambhir's strategic role in India's dominant 4-1 and 3-0 wins in T20Is and ODIs, hint at a resurgence. Gill's stellar performance as Player of the Series against England, where he scored two fifties and a hundred in three ODIs, further strengthens India's

But the Champions Trophy presents a starkly different challenge. Unlike a relatively passive England side, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and New Zealand—India's Group Aopponents—are highly motivated. Even a single misstep could significantly alter the

> league stage dynamics. Despite India's recent success in ODIs, key selection puzzles remain unsolved. A primary concern is KLRahul's batting position. Should he continue at No. 5, where he

shift to No. 6 to accommodate Axar Patel in the middle order? The team management is expected to maintain a flexible approach based on match situations. However, the most pressing

issue lies in the bowling attack, particularly in the absence of Bumrah. The choice of Mohammed Shami's newball partner is a crucial decision. While Harshit has impressed with his raw pace and bounce, Arshdeep's left-arm angle and variety give him an edge in the race for a starting spot.

India is also expected to field three spinners, with Hardik Pandya playing as the fast-bowling all-rounder. The battle for the third spinner's slot is another contentious point ~ should the team opt for the recent form of mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy or rely on the proven skills of left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav? Kuldeep's impressive net session against top-tier batsmen may tilt the scales

#### Foreign Secretary briefs House panel on PM's US visit

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 19 FEBRUARY** 

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, on Wednesday, briefed the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs about the recent visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the United States and also on present foreign policy developments.

A meeting of the committee, headed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, was held in Samvidhan Sadan.

Talking to a news agency about the meeting, Mr Tharoor said since it was a closed-door meeting, they don't talk in detail about anything discussed during

the meeting. However, the Congress MP said the panel members had a "very good briefing" from foreign secretary on the current foreign policy developments. He said most of the discussion was in the US due to the recent visit of Prime Minister Narendra

#### EAM Jaishankar to attend G20 for eign ministers' meeting in South Africa**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**

**NEW DELHI. 19 FEBRUARY** 

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will visit South Africa to participate in the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting being held on 20 and 21 February.

The minister's participation in the G20 meet will further strengthen India's engagement with the G20 countries and bolster the voice of the Global South in this important forum, the Ministry of External Affairs



expected to hold bilateral meetings with some of his counterparts on the margins of the meeting.

South Africa assumed the G20 Presidency from 1 December 2024, through to November 2025.

The G20 includes Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkiye, the United Kingdom and the United States, in addition to two blocs; European Union and the African Union. The G20 Presidency rotates annually among the members and is selected from a different regional grouping of countries. India hosted the G20 Summit in September 2023.

#### room for error. The setbacks Modi to Washington, DC. batting credentials.

Three of a family found dead at Tangrahome, three others hurt in car crash **STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE** 

KOLKATA, 19 FEBRUARY

Three members of the same family were discovered dead in their home at Tangra in the city, two of them with their wrists slit, while three others of the same family were injured in a vehicle accident, in a shocking incident that has given rise to speculation of a possible suicide pact.

The incident has left the neighbourhood in shock, while the police probe whether this was a case of suicide or something more sinister.

According to police sources, the shocking discovery came to light while investigating a road accident near Abhishikta More on the

EM Bypass earlier in the day. In the accident, a car rammed into a Metro pillar, injuring three men. It is reported that police discovered the bodies of the women when they went to the address of



the injured persons.

Police Commissioner Manoj Verma visited the spot and said police are looking at all possible angles of these deaths to reveal the actual

truth. "Police recovered three bodies, one of them being a minor. No mark of injury was visible in the body of the minor. However both adult women's bodies bore injury marks. Post-mortem

will reveal the details of the

deaths. Police are also looking for the CCTV footage," police commissioner Verma said. Joint commissioner of

police (crime) Rupesh Kumar disclosed that the six indisame family.

collective suicide.

viduals were all from the Preliminary findings indicate that they had planned a

The entire family is said

to have consumed a dessert

laced with sleeping pills before

attempting to take their own

lives. While two women and the teenage girl were found dead at home, the three injured men, identified as brothers Pranay Dey and Prasun Dey, along with another male relative ~ left the house and crashed their car in what

"One of the injured men is conscious, while the other two are semi-conscious. Their statements indicate that they tried to end their lives by

police suspect was another

suicide attempt.

consuming sedatives. After that, they took out their car and deliberately rammed it into a pillar," Rupesh Kumar stated. However, he emphasised that further investigation and post-mortem reports would confirm the actual cause of death. The deceased have been identified as Rumi Dey and

Sudeshna Dey, along with a teenage girl aged around 14 years. Forensic experts, homicide detectives from Lalbazar, and

the dog squad have been deployed to examine the crime scene. Police are also questioning the surviving family members to determine the exact sequence of events. As investigators dig deeper,

questions continue to mount. Why did the entire family attempt suicide? Was financial distress a factor? While initial statements from the injured hint at economic struggles, local sources suggest other-



Hon'ble Chief Minister will also be naming the exhibition centre adjacent to Biswa Bangla Convention Centre as

Rupanno

20 February 2025 New Town, Kolkata 5 pm

**Government of West Bengal** 



# Teaworkers to protest, demand Minimum Wages Act

The Joint Forum's agitation underscores the workers' long-standing demands for fair wages, land rights, and government accountability, as they prepare to mark a decade of unfulfilled promises

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE** 

SILIGURI, 19 FEBRUARY

The Joint Forum, a coalition of over 30 trade unions representing tea plantation workers of north Bengal, has announced an agitation programme to address critical issues in the tea industry.

Significantly, tea workers from Terai, Dooars, and the Hills will observe a protest day on 20 February, wearing black badges to demand the implementation of the Minimum Wages Act. This protest marks a decade since 20 February, 2015 agreement, which promised the finalisation of minimum wages but remains unfulfilled.

Spokesperson of Joint Forum, Ziaul Alam stated: "Since chief minister Mamata Banerjee publicly announced that 30 per cent of tea plantation land will be transferred for other purposes, she must publicly withdraw her plan."



He also emphasised the need for the state government to uphold the statement of former chief secretary H K Dwivedi, who said on 22 February, 2023, that leasehold land would not be converted into freehold land in tea plantations due to the region's heritage and sentiments. Alam added: "The government should notify this

through a gazette soon." Mr Alam further criticised

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

e-NIT No.:- WBIW/EE/MDD/

e-NIT-12(e)/2024-25

On behalf of the Governor, West Bengal

an "as is where is basis," similar directives were not issued for Terai and Dooars, where workers have been demanding rights to their 'ancestral land.' The Joint Forum also

for surveys in GTA areas on

adopted a resolution urging the state government to enforce the Minimum Wages Act, which has been pending for over a decade.

Abhijit Majumdar, a leader of the Joint Forum, said: "The tea industry in North Bengal has a 170-year history. It is a scheduled employment sector. The state government must clarify its stand and implement the Minimum Wages Act for workers."

Another leader, Abhijit Roy, highlighted the government's inaction despite court rulings. He said: "In 2023, the high court directed the government to declare minimum wages within six months, but it was ignored. The Indian Labour Conference and Supreme Court guidelines clearly define the criteria for minimum wages, leaving no room for negotiation. Yet, the government claims nothing can be done without worker-owner consensus, which is unacceptable."

Roy also pointed out the

dire financial situation of tea workers, stating: "Amid skyrocketing inflation, tea workers still earn Rs 250 per day (Rs 220 in hand), unchanged since June 2023. Wages in newly established gardens are even lower. This deprivation has persisted for years, but since 2015, a new chapter of deceit and betrayal began. On 20 February, this deception will mark its tenth year."

The Joint Forum's agitation underscores the workers' longstanding demands for fair wages, land rights, and government accountability, as they prepare to mark a decade of unfulfilled promises.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

KMDA TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No: 25/SE/C-III/R&B/KMDA of

Bids are invited

2024-25 (2nd Call)

Superintending Engineer, Circle-III, R&B

Sector, KMDA, Block-D, 3rd floor,

Unnayan Bhavan, Salt Lake, Kolkata-

individuals contractors, for the work,

Name of Work, Value of the work,

Earnest Money, Time of Completion,

Construction of a Foot Over Bridge at

Patuli Bazar crossing E M Bypass from

Rs. 3,80,68,136/-, Rs. 7,61,363/- [Online

through e-Procurement System of Govt.

of W.B.], 365 days. Last date & time of

Online Bid submission: 13.03.2025 upto

14.00 hrs., for details contact the above

office or visit both websites.(KMDA-1189)

www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA- T3544(3)/2025

East to West. (Tender ID

2025 KMDA 815317\_1),

www.kmda.wb.gov.in

from bonafide,

experienced & resourceful firms

# Ruckus in Assembly as BJP MLAs stage walkout on tea estate tourism issue

**AGENCIES** 

**KOLKATA. 19 FEBRUARY** 

The West Bengal Assembly, on Wednesday, witnessed a ruckus as BJP legislators staged a walkout after the Speaker declined their demand for a discussion on an adjournment motion relating to an issue in the state's tea sector.

The adjournment motion was on the recent decision of the state government to use 30 per cent of land allotted to the tea gardens for the purpose of tourism. Opposing the move, BJP's legislative team wanted to move an adjournment motion seeking discussion on the issue.

However, as the discussion was denied, the BJP legislators started protesting, raising slogans and displaying placards in the House. Later they staged a walkout and continued their protest on the Assembly lawn.

The BJP had been opposing the decision of the state government to allow a portion of the tea garden land for tourism since the beginning. The Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the state Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, is likely to hold a rally in North Bengal

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

e-Tender Notice

The District Manager, West Bengal State

Seed Corporation Ltd., Midnapore has

invited e-tender for appointment of

road transport contractor for WBSSCL

Midnapore District Unit office for

transportation of different seeds and

other agricultural inputs in bags and

cartoons pack within the District &

outside the District and the State as well

i) Tender Ref. No. WBSSCL/MID/NIT-

01/2024-25 ii) Last date of Bid

Submission 12/03/2025 upto 5:30 P.M.

The details are available in website:

wbtenders.gov.in & Notice Board of

WBSSCL, Midnapore, Tender related

information including addendum/

corrigendum, if any, shall also be

available in said website and Notice

Board of WBSSCL, Midnapore.

Sd/- District Manager, WBSSCL,

ICA-T3463(3)/2025

on 23 February on various issues related to the tea sector. At the rally, he is expected to launch an attack against the state government on this issue of tea garden land allot-

The Gorkha Janmukti Morcha supremo Bimal Gurung is also likely to join the rally.

ment for tourism.

Debates on the West Bengal Budget proposals for the financial year 2025-26 are scheduled at the Assembly on Wednesday and Thursday. The LoP will not be able to participate in that debate as he was suspended from the House for a month on Monday allegedly because of unruly behaviour.

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL** 

KMDA TENDER NOTICE

-NIT No : 32/EE/D-III/W&S/KMDA of

2024-2025

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

www.kmda,wb.gov.in

Individual contractors, for the work, Name

Meanwhile, members of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) staged protests in front of the state Assembly against the Chief Minister's comments on the floor of the House on Tuesday where she described Maha Kumbh at Prayagraj in Uttar

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL NOTICE INVITING TENDER

West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting electronic bids for procurement of equipment / item for the Sub-Centre (SC), Primary Health Centre (PHC), Block Public Health Unit (BPHU) and Urban Primary Health Unit (UPHC) of the State of West Bengal as per details indicated in below:

Equipment Name (Qty): Foetal Doppler (8171). Bid Ref. No.: WBMSCL/NIT-119/2025; Dated - 12.02.2025. Last date of submission of online bid: 10.03.2025 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 Sd/- General Manager, WBMSCL & Joint Secretary, ICA- T3437(3)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

NOTICE INVITING OPEN QUOTATION

N.I.Q. No.

WBPWD/EE/NBITD/e-NIQ-37 of 2024-25

WBPWD/EE/NBITD/e-NIQ-38 of 2024-25

3. WBPWD/EE/NBITD/e-NIQ-39 of 2024-25

Executive Engineer, North Bengal IT

Division, P.W.Dte., Siliguri on behalf of

the Governor of West Bengal, invites

open Quotation for the work: 1. Supply,

Installation, Testing & Commissioning of

additional CCTV camera in the premises

of Uttar Dinajpur Divisional Court,

Raiganj, Uttar Dinajpur. Tender ID:

2025\_WBPWD\_815519\_1. 2. Supply,

Installation, Testing & Commissioning of

CCTV camera in the premises of

Islampur Sub-Divisional Court, Islampur,

Uttar Dinajpur, Tender ID:

2025\_WBPWD\_815538\_1. 3. Supply,

Installation, Testing & Commissioning of

CCTV camera for additional safety &

Security purpose in the premises of

Buniadpur Sub-Divisional Court,

Buniadpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Tender ID:-

2025\_WBPWD\_815556\_1, Last date of

25/02/2025 upto 6.55 P.M. and will be

opened on 28/02/2025 on 11:00 A.M.

TAC/E-Tender/Civil/01

Date: 20.02.2025

Date: 20.02.2025

Date: 20.02.2025

**WBSERICL** 

NIT No.: WBSETCL/

TAC/E-Tender/Civil/02

NIT No.: WBSETCU

TAO/E-Tender/Civil/03

submission of quotation(Online) is upto

ICA- T3505(3)/2025

near Hangshaberia Primary School of Mograhat Irrigation Sub-Division under Mograhat Drainage Division within Block-Mograhat-II, P.S.-Mograhat, Dist.-South 24 Parganas.". Details may be had from the office of the undersigned on working days during office hours or on website: https://wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbiwd.gov.in Publishing date :20.02.2025, Sd/- Executive Engineer Mograhat Drainage Division Baruipur, South 24 Parganas, ICA- T3448(Z)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

P.W.(Roads) Directorate

Notice Inviting e-Tender

Superintending Engineer, Eastern

Highway Circle, Purta Bhavan, Salt Lake,

1st Floor, Room No. 104 & 105, Kolkata-

700091 invites online Percentage rate

eNIT No. 13 of 2024-25 of the SE/EHC,

[Tender Id: 2025 WBPWD 816511 1]

for the works:-Construction of Masonry

drain at 0.00 kmp to 1.80 km of Moyna-

Madhabpur Road including

Construction of O1 (one) no. RCC cross

drain under Barasat Highwat Division

No- II in the district of North 24

Parganas, Amounting to

Rs. 1,92,55,272.00. Last date and time of

submission of Bid is on 19.03.2025 upto

1.00 PM. (Tender Application & Financial

bid both concurrently). The details can

be obtained from the website

https://wbtenders.gov.in & Office

Notice Board. Corrigendum or

Addendum if issued will be published

only on website. For any clarification

Bidder may contact PWD e-Tender Help

Desk with following Phone No.

(033) 2223-6236. Sd/- SE/EHC, P.W.(R)

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY

TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)

CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474 • web: www.wbsetcf.in

E-TENDER FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS ARE INVITED:-

Bid documents can be downloaded from 20.02.2025, 06:00 P.M. and bids shall be submitted (online) up to

07:00 F.M., 18:03:2025. Visit the following websites- www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetzl.in for details.

WBSEDCL invites e-Tenders as follows:

(1) NIT No.: PM/RMM/e-Tender/CIVIL/24-25/27, Dt: 12.02.2025 of the Project Manager,

Rammam Hydel Project, St-II, WBSEDCL. Estimated Cost: ₹ 14,37,704/- for (2" Call)

Emergency restoration of Zone-II of Rammam Intake along with thorough repair & maintenance

(2) NIT No.: PM/RMM/e-Tender/CIVIL/24-25/28 (SI. No.: 1), Dt: 12.02.2025 (Tender ID:

2025\_WBSED\_815117\_1) of the Project Manager, Rammam Hydel Project, St-II,

WBSEDCL. Estimated Cost: ₹ 12,21,057/- for (2" Call) 'Repair, maintenance & minor civil

works for the road in-between Link Road and 10" km Milestone towards Dhotrey under

(3) NIT No.: PM/RMM/e-Tender/CIVIL/24-25/28 (Sl. No.: 2), Dt: 12.02.2025 (Tender ID:

2025\_WBSED\_815117\_2) of the Project Manager, Rammam Hydel Project, St-II,

WBSEDCL. Estimated Cost: ₹ 10,85,180/- for (2\* Call) 'Day-to-day and preventive

maintenance, guarding round-the-clock & cleaning of desilting basin at Lodhoma Intake under

(4) NIT No.: PM/RMM/e-Tender/CIVIL/24-25/29 (SI. No.: 1), Dt: 14.02.2025 (Tender ID:

2025\_WBSED\_815982\_1) of the Project Manager, Rammam Hydel Project, St-II,

WBSEDCL. Estimated Cost: ₹ 17,28,373/- for 'Repair, maintenance & minor civil works

for C1 type Quarters and Recreation Hall of Lodhoma Colony under Rammam Hydel Project,

(5) NIT No.: PM/RMM/e-Tender/CIVIL/24-25/29 (St. No.: 2), Dt: 14.02.2025 (Tender ID:

2025 WBSED 815982 2) of the Project Manager, Rammam Hydel Project, St-II,

WBSEDCL. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 15,59,000/- for 'Repair, maintenance & minor civil works, water

supply along with operation and maintenance of water treatment plant of Power House,

switchyard and Dovan Store and Office Complex under Rammam Hydel Project, St-II, WBSEDCL.

(6) NIT No.: PM/RMM/e-Tender/CIVIL/24-25/29 (SI. No.: 3), Dt: 14.02.2025 (Tender ID:

2025\_WBSED\_815982\_3) of the Project Manager, Rammam Hydel Project, St-II,

WBSEDCL. Estimated Cost: ₹12,49,972/- for 'Repair, maintenance & minor civil works for the

road from Lodhoma Car Point to Power House, switchyard, Penstock Road (Lower) under

For details, visit https://wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbsedcl.in

ICA-T3462(3)/2025

of Zone-II Pebble Extruder under Rammam Hydel Project, St-II, WBSEDCL.

Rammam Hydel Project, St-II, WBSEDCL:

Rammam Hydel Project, St-II, WBSEDCL:

Rammam Hydel Project, St-II, WBSEDCL'

St-II, WBSEDCL

house at the following locations:-

Tamluk Area Office.

gistered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 991

Sinking of 150 MM X 80 MM dia deep tube well with submersible pump for

fresh water supply along with distribution network and separate pump

Tamiuk 132 kV sub-station colony complex under Tamiuk Area Office

Contai 132 kV sub-station colony complex under Tamtuk Area Office

Sinking of 150 MM X 80 MM dia deep tube well with submersible pump for

fresh water supply at Bajkul 132 kV sub-station colony complex under

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY

DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED

(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091

CIN: U40109WBJ007SGC113473, www.wbsedcl.in.

ICA-T3488/3)/2025

Bid ref. no.-WBMSCL/NIT-134/2025, Dated-17/02/2025 West Bengal Medical Services

the government's handling

of land surveys for distributing

land rights (patta) to tea

workers. He said: "The admin-

istration has faced resistance

during land surveys. The gov-

ernment must issue a gazette

notification specifying the

purpose of the survey for

land where tea workers

He noted that while a

notification was sent to the

Darjeeling District Magistrate

e-tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, Mograhat Drainage Division from the reliable bonafide and resourceful contractors for the work Repairing of Wooden Bridge over Survapur Inner Channel at Ch.169.00

(i) Sinking of deep tube well (200mm X

eecivil@wbmsc.gov.in or info@wbmsc.gov.in Sd/- Managing Director, WBMSCL. ICA- T3458(3)/2026

https://wbtenders.gov.in & Departmental website only Sd/- Executive Engineer, Midnapur Division, Social Sector, P.W.Dte.

TENDER NOTICE

NIeT No.-09/2024-25 of E.E. Mid.

Divn./SS/P.W.Dte.

The e-Tender is being invited for

100mm) & installation of Pump (3HP)

within the office campus of C.M.O.H. at

Judge Court in the District of Paschim

Medinipur. (ii) Repair work of Academic

cum Administrative Building & Student

Activity Centre at Govt. General Degree

College, Keshiary in the District of

Paschim Medinipur." against Tender Id:

2025 WBPWD 816616 \_1 to 2. Last

Date of Submission of Tender is on

10/03/2025 at 16:00. Other details and

Corrigendum if any will be obtained

from the website

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL** Notice Inviting e-Tender NIT NO. HST/4T-113-2025/BP/2025/339, Dated: 17-02-2025 opening date (online): 12.03.2025.

Sd/- D.D.H.S. (E&S), W.B. ICA-T3443(3)(2026

NIT NO. HST/4T-107-2024/DI-

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154 Bakreswar Thermal Power Project P.O. BkTPP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104 Notice Inviting E-Tender

Midnapore.

Ref No.: WBPDCL/Tend-Adv/24-25/BKTPP/CC-3130 NIT No.: WBPDCL/BKTPP/NIT/E3559/24-25

E- Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by General Manager BkTPP, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies / Companies in bid system for "Overhauling of BHEL Make ESP of Unit No. #1, Unit #2 & Unit#4, BkTPP". Tender Document Download Start Date: 01.02.2025 at 09:00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 24.02.2025 at 05:00 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Indranil Chakraborty, Dy. General Manager Engg-CC, BkTPP, WBPDCL. Mobile: 8373055604. E-mail: cc\_bktps@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit; https://wbtenders.gov.in ICA- T3555(3)/2025

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154 Santaldih Thermal Power Station

P.O. Santaldih Thermal Plant, Dist. - Purulia, Pin - 723146 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCL/Tend-Adv/24-25/STPS/CC-3157

NIT No.: WBPDCL/STPS/NIT/E3884/24-25

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Condenser Water Box Cleaning, Chipping & Painting during upcoming Unit-5 Capital Overhauling in Jan-2026 under TMD, STPS". Tender Document Download Start Date: 07.02.2025 from 11:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 24.02.2025 within 16:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. M. Mondal, Mobile No.: 8336903808, E-mail: m.mondal@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in

(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)

Bakreswar Thermal Power Project

Ref. No.: WBPDCL / Tend-Adv/24-25/SgTPP/CC-3145 Dated: 28.12.2024 Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager. SgTPP, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in three (03) Part bid system for "Boiler Overhauling of Pressure Parts, Safety Valves, Soot Blowers for Boiler efficiency Improvement, Steaming License Renewal of Unit No. 1 in August- Sepember' 2025". Tender Document Download Start Date: 15.02.2025 at 10.00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 10.03.2025 upto 10.00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Jaydeep Kundu, Dv. General Manager (Engg.). Mobile: 8336903930.

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154

P.O. BkTPP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref No.: WBPDCL/Tend-Adv/24-25/BKTPP/CC-3128 NIT No.: WBPDCL/BKTPP/OT/E3523/24-25 E- Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager - BkTPP WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Procurement of different types of HT Fasteners". Tender Document Download Start Date: 05.02.2025 at 11.00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 25.02.2025 at 15:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Sumit Dasgupta, Dy. General Manager, HOD (Purchase Deptt.), BkTPS, WBPDCL.Mobile: 8336903911, E-mail: s.dasgupta@wbpdcl.co.in

purchase bktps@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in JCA- T3557/31/2025 The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited

Mazumdar, Manager (P.S)-Purchase, WBPDCL. Mobile: 731909402. E-mail:

Bakreswar Thermal Power Project P.O. BkTPP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref No.: WBPDCL/Tend-Adv/24-25/BKTPP/CC-3125

NIT No.: WBPDCL/BKTPP/NIT/E3563/24-25 E- Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by General Manager BkTPP, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in bid system for "Overhauling of CT Fan Motors of Unit#1, 2 & 4 during respective Unit Overhauling, BkTPP". Tender Document Download Start Date: 04.02.2025 at 09:00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 25.02.2025 at 05.00 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Indranil Chakraborty, Dv. General Manager Engg. - CC, BkTPP, WBPDCL. Mobile: 8373055604. E-mail: cc bktps@wbpdcl.co.in

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Bakreswar Thermal Power Project

ICA-T3559(3)/2025

For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in

P.O. BkTPP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref No.: WBPDCL/Tend-Adv/24-25/BKTPP/CC-3124 NIT No.: WBPDCL/BKTPP/NIT/E3564/24-25

E- Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by General Manager - BkTPP, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in bid system for "Emergency Break Down Repairing or Replacement of TATA-Back-Hoe-Loader, Model No. 315E-BS-III of HME Section. BkTPP". Tender Document Download Start Date: 04.02.2025 at 09:00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 25.02.2025 at 05.00 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Indranil Chakraborty, Dy. General Manager-Engg. - CC, BkTPP, WBPDCL. Mobile: 8373055604. E-mail: cc\_bktps@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in ICA-T3561(3)/2025

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Kolaghat Thermal Power Station
P.O. Mecheda, Dist. Purba Medinipur, Pin - 721137

Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCL/Tend-Adv/24-25/KTPS/CC-3154 Dated: 08.02.2025 NIT No.: WBPDCL/KTPS/NIT/E3236/24-25

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager, KTPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Blennial Rate Contract for Engagement of one agency for various day to day jobs related to KTPS Testing Department". Tender Document Download Start Date: 13.02.2025 at 14.00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 03.03.2025 at 14.00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Krisanu Gupta, Senior Manager (PS) (Contract Cell), KTPS. Mobile No.: 8336909047. E-mail: kgupta@wbpddl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in ica- r3565(2)/2025

Participation of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at the debate on budget proposals in any of the two days is also unlikely.

Pradesh as "Mrityu Kumbh".

There were scuffles between the police and ABVP supporters over the latter's protest demonstrations. Finally, the protesters were dispersed and some were taken away from the place in police vehicles.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE

Superintending Engineer, South-

Western Circle, P.W. Dte., Midnapore

invites online e-tender for the work

"Link Road between Jhargram-Jamboni

Road and Parihati-Jamboni-Fekoghat

Road from 0.00 Km. to 3.50 Km.-

Widening and Strengthening work in the

district of Jhargram under Jhargram

Division, P.W. Dte. under RIDF-XXX.

Project ID : PD2425292525000.

## GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Corporation Ltd. is inviting online bids for - 'Comprehensive maintenance contract for 3 years of the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), Water Treatment Plant (WTP), Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) and RO Plant at Belda SSH and Debra SSH (Package-A).' Last date of submission of bid (online) - 17.03.2025 upto 02:00 P.M. The tender document can be downloaded from www.wbtenders.gov.in on or after 01:00 P.M. on 20.02.2025. Details of the tender will also be available at www.wbmsc.gov.in Clarification requests, if any may be sent to

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE Tender Ref. No. WBPHED/EE/MAAD/

NIeT\_09 of 2024-2025 Tender ID- 2025\_PHED\_807561\_1 to 2025\_PHED\_807561\_3 Last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid (online): - 25/02/2025 up to 06:30 P.M. Tender invited by the undersigned for three nos. works 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

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL Office of the MSVP, BSMCH, BANKURA, Pin: 722102 e-TENDER NOTICE

MSVP, BSMC&H, Bankura, invites Ebidder may visit the website: www.wbhealth.gov.in/ details. Sd/- MSVP, BSMCH, BANKURA.

Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-T3486(4)/2025

Tender for supply of formula food for term baby use at BSMC&H, Bankura vide Memo No: BSMCH/1125, dated 11/02/2025. Last date of submission 06/03/2025 upto 04:00 p.m. Interested www.bsmedicalcollege.org.in & www.wbtenders.gov.in for further ICA-T3432(3)/2025

E-TENDER FOR PROCUREMENT OF BLEACHING POWDER FOR TWO YEARS FROM THE DATE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT (AOC) AND ITS EXTENSION, IF REQUIRED is invited from the Bidders Interested bidders may visit the website "https://wbtenders.gov.in" or www.wbhealth.gov.in" for further details. Bid submission start date (online) 25.02.2025. Bid submission closing date (online) 12.03.2025. Bid

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL** Notice Inviting Re E-Tender

RT(327)/2024/338; DATED 12-02-2025 Re E-Tender for procurement of drug items under table-A, for two years from

the date of AOC is invited from the Bidders. Interested bidders may visit the website "https://wbtenders.gov.in" or "www.wbhealth.gov.in" for further details. Bid submission start date (online): 24-02-2025, Bid submission

closing date (online): 10-03-2025, Bid opening date (online): 10-03-2025. Sd/- D.D.H.S. (E&S), W.B. ICA-T3441(3):2025

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154 Sagardighi Thermal Power Project P.O. Monigram, P.S. Sagardighi, Dist. - Murshidabad, Pin - 742237 Notice Inviting E-Tender

NIT No.: WBPDCL/SGTPP/NIT/E3227/24-25 E-mail: kundu@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in jca. 73572(3)/2025

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Sagardighi Thermal Power Project
P.O. Monigram, P.S. Sagardighi, Dist. - Murshidabad, Pin - 742237 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCL / Tend-Adv/24-25/SgTPP/CC-3149 Dated: 06.02.2025

NIT No.: WBPDCL/SGTPP/NIT/E3253/24-25 Dated: 10.01.2025 Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager. SgTPP, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in three (03) Part bid system for "Eddy Current Testing & Fluorescent Test of all Condenser Tubes at Unit#1 during Overhauling in Aug, 2025". Tender Document Download Start Date: 16.02.2025 at 10.00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 12.03.2025 upto 10.00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Jaydeep Kundu. Dy. General Manager (Engg.). Mobile: 8336903930. E-mail: jkundu@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in ica-mail: jkundu@wbpdcl.co.in

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154 Sagardighi Thermal Power Project onigram, P.S. Sagardighi, Dist. - Murshidabad, Pin - 742237

Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCL / Tend - Adv/24-25/SgTPP/CC-3150 NIT No.: WBPDCL/SGTPP/NIT/E3276/24-25 Dated: 29.01.2025 -Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager, SgTPP, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies / Companies in three (03) Part bid system for "Service Contract for Underground HT & LT Cables Fault Detection at Plant and Township under EM-OPH, SgTPP". Tender Document Download Start Date: 17.02.2025 at 10:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 05-03-2025 upto 15:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Jaydeep Kundu, Dy. General Manager (Contract Cell). Mobile: 8336903930. E-mail: jkundu@wbodcl.co.in For details please visit : https://wbtenders.gov.in

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Kolaghat Thermal Power Station
P.O. Mecheda, Dist. Purba Medinipur, Pin - 721137

Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCL/Tend-Adv/24-25/KTPS/CC-3151 Dated: 08.02.2025 NIT No.: WBPDCL/KTPS/NIT/E3232/24-25 E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager, KTPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Thorough Renovation & Painting Works (inside & outside) and Roof Treatment Work at ESP Control Building Unit # 5 at KTPS". Tender Document Download Start Date: 10.02.2025 at 11.00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 25.02.2025 at 14.00 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Subhasis Das, Telephone No.: 8336904051. E-mail: cc\_ktps@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in ICA-T3568(Z)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL** 

of Work, Estimated Amount Put to Estimated Amount: Rs. 8,63,95,553.00 Tender, Earnest Money, Time of NIeT No. 13 of 2024-2025 (2nd Call). Completion, Shifting and replacement of Tender ID: 2025\_WBPWD\_816952\_1. Bid submission start date (online) existing 600 mm dia D.I. (K-9) raw water 24.02.2025 from 10:00 Hours. Bid rising main by 600 mm dia M.S. pipe at 6.0 Submission closing date (online) MGD WTP under kanchrapara :17.03.2025 at 15:00 Hours. municipality., Rs.47,02,733/-, Rs.94,055/-Corrigendum If any will be published in 45 days. End date & time for online Bid website only. Details of NieT and Tender submission: 17.03.2025 at 18:45 Hrs., for documents may be downloaded from details contact the above office or visit both http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Tarun Kr. (KMDA-1195) Chakraborty, Superintending Engineer, South-Western Circle, P.W. Dte. www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA-T3546(3)/2025 ICA- T3530(3)/2025 PWD TENDER NOTICE Tender is hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, PWD, Kolkata IT Division, Main Block, Ground Floor, Writers' Buildings, Kolkata-700001 from the eligible

contractors for the following works. 1. "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of CCTV Surveillance System and Allied Infrastructure for The New and Old Hostel Buildings of GNM Training School, Jangipur Sub-Division Hospital situated at Jangipur, Raghunathganj, Murshidabad, West Bengal - 742225 : Contingencies Work. [Job No: KIT/OW/291 of 24-25]." e-TENDER No. WBPWD/EEKIT/E-NIT-276/T/24-25, Tender ID: 2025\_WBPWD\_813712\_1. Bid Submission Closing: 22.02.2025 up to 03.00 P.M. 2. "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of CCTV Surveillance System and Allied Infrastructure for The Newly Constructed (G+7) GNM Students' Hostel Building, attached with GNM Training School, College of Medicine & Sagoredutta Hospital at 578, B.T. Road, Kamarhati, Kolkata-700058 :: Contingencies Work. [Job No: KIT/OW/292 of 24-25]." e-TENDER No. WBPWD/EEKIT/E-NIT-277/T/24-25, Tender ID: 2025\_WBPWD\_813730\_1. Bid Submission Closing: 22.02.2025 up to 03.00 P.M. "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Integrated CCTV Surveillance system along with allied infrastructure at Howrah Govt. Model Madrash (English Medium), Beldubi, Panchla, Howrah. [Job No: KIT/OW/294 of 24-25]." e-TENDER No. WBPWD/EEKIT/E-NIT-278/T/24-25, Tender ID: 2025\_WBPWD\_813869\_1. Bid Submission Closing: 01.03.2025 up to 03.00 P.M. 4. "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Integrated CCTV Surveillance system along with allied infrastructure at Gandhi Ghat, Barrackpore, Kolkata-700 120 [Job No: KIT/OW/295] of 24-25]." e-TENDER No. W8PWD/EEKIT/E-NIT-279/T/24-25, Tender ID: 2025\_WBPWD\_815205\_1. Bid Submission Closing: 04.03.2025 up to 03.00 P.M. "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of CCTV Surveillance System and Allied Infrastructure for The Sub Divisional Court at Diamond Harbour, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal - 743 331 [Job No: KIT/OW/296 of 24-25]," e-TENDER No. WBPWD/EEKIT/E-NIT-280/T/24-25, Tender ID: 2025\_WBPWD\_814614\_1. Bid Submission Closing: 04.03.2025 up to 03.00 P.M. 6. "Providing Recharge of DTH (Direct to Home) Tata Sky TV Service (Direct Broadcast Satellite Television) with full HD & Non HD Mega packs at Banga Bhawan & WIP Guest House (Bangla Bhawan, Chanakyapuri) at New Delhi during the year 2025-26. [Job No: KIT/RW/089 of 24-25]." e-TENDER No. WBPWD/EEKIT/E-NIT-281/T/24-25, Tender ID: 2025\_WBPWD\_815813\_1. Bid Submission Closing: 03.03.2025 up to 03.00 P.M. "Upgradation of Unified Threat Management (UTM) Firewall for WBMDFC Office Building: AMBER, DD-27E, Sector-I, Saltiake, Kolkata - 700064 for 03 (Three) Years. [Job No: KIT/OW/297 of 24-25]," e-TENDER No. WBPWD/EEKIT/E-NIT-282/T/24-25, Tender ID: 2025\_WBPWD\_815979\_1. Bid Submission Closing : 04.03.2025 up to 03.00 P.M. 8. "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Integrated CCTV Surveillance system along with allied infrastructure at Calcutta National Medical College & Hospital, 24, Gorachand Road, kolkata- 700 014 (College Campus, Hospital Campus, Hostel Campus) :: Additional Work [Job No: KIT/OW/298 of 24-25]." e-TENDER No. WBPWD/EEKIT/E-NIT-283/T/24-25, Tender ID: 2025\_WBPWD\_815981\_1. Bid Submission Closing: 24.02.2025 up to 03.00 P.M. 9. "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of CCTV Surveillance System and Allied Infrastructure for The I.P.G.M.E. & R. - SSKM Hospital at 244, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata - 700 020 :: Part-A [Inside Main Campus of I.P.G.M.E. & R. - SSKM Hospital] :: Additional Work [Job No: KIT/OW/299 of 24-25]," e-TENDER No. WBPWD/EEKIT/E-NIT-284/T/24-25, Tender ID: 2025\_WBPWD\_815983\_1. Bid Submission Closing: 24.02.2025 up to 03.00 P.M. 10. "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Integrated CCTV Surveillance system along with allied infrastructure at RG Kar Medical College & Hospital, 1, Khudiram Bose Sarani, Kolkata-700 004 :: Additional Work [Job No: KIT/OW/300 of 24-25]." e-TENDER No. WBPWD/EEKIT/E-NIT-285/T/24-25, Tender ID: 2025\_WBPWD\_815984\_1. Bid Submission Closing: 24.02.2025 up to 03.00 P.M. 11. "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Integrated CCTV Surveillance system along with allied infrastructure at RG Kar Medical College & Hospital, 1, Khudiram Bose Sarani, Kolkata-700 004 :: Contingencies Work :: Part-A [Job No: KIT/OW/301 of 24-25]." e-TENDER No. WBPWD/EEKIT/E-NIT-286/T/24-25, Tender ID: 2025\_WBPWD\_815986\_1. Bid Submission Closing: 24.02.2025 up to 03.00 P.M. 12. "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Integrated CCTV Surveillance system along with allied infrastructure at RG Kar Medical College & Hospital, 1, Khudiram Bose Sarani, Kolkata-700 004 :: Contingencies Work :: Part-8 [Job No: KIT/OW/302 of 24-25]," e-TENDER No. WBPWD/EEKIT/E-NIT-287/T/24-25, Tender ID: 2025\_WBPWD\_815988\_1. Bid Submission Closing: 24.02.2025 upto 03.00 P.M. 13. "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of CCTV Surveillance System and Allied Infrastructure for The I.P.G.M.E. & R. - SSKM Hospital at 244, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata - 700 020 :: Part-B [Outside Main Campus of I.P.G.M.E. & R. - SSKM Hospital] :: Contingencies Work [Job No: KIT/OW/303 of 24-25]." e-TENDER No. WBPWD/EEKIT/E-NIT-288/T/24-25, Tender ID: 2025\_WBPWD\_815990\_1. Bid Submission Closing: 24.02.2025 up to 03.00 P.M. 14. "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Integrated CCTV Surveillance system along with allied infrastructure at ID & BG Hospital, 57 Beliaghata Main Road, Kolkata- 700 010 :: Contingencies Work [Job No: KIT/OW/304 of 24-25]," e-TENDER No. WBPWD/EEKIT/E-NIT-289/T/24-25, Tender ID: 2025\_WBPWD\_815991\_1. Bid Submission Closing: 24.02.2025 up to 03.00 P.M. 15. "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of CCTV Surveillance System and Allied Infrastructure for Chittaranjan Seva Sadan COGCH, 37 S.P. Mukherjee Road, Kolkata- 700 026 :: Additional Work Job No: KIT/OW/305 of 24-25]." e-TENDER No. WBPWD/EEKIT/E-NIT-290/T/24-25, Tender ID: 2025\_WBPWD\_815994\_1. Bid Submission Closing: 24.02.2025 up to 03.00 P.M. 16. "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of CCTV Surveillance System and Allied Infrastructure for Chittaranjan Seva Sadan COGCH, 37 S.P Mukherjee Road, Kolkata- 700 026 :: Contingencies Work [Job No: KIT/OW/306 of 24-25]," e-TENDER No. WBPWD/EEKIT/E-NIT-291/T/24-25, Tender ID:

WBPWD/EEKIT/E-NIT-292/T/24-25, Tender ID: 2025\_WBPWD\_815998\_1. Bid Submission Closing: 25.02.2025 up to 03.00 P.M. 18. "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Integrated CCTV Surveillance system along with allied infrastructure at Beliaghata Campus of Dr. B.C Roy, Post Graduate Institute of Paediatric Sciences, Kolkata-700 054 :: Contingencies Work [Job No: KIT/OW/308 of 24-25]." e-TENDER No. WBPWD/EEKIT/E-NIT-293/T/24-25, Tender ID: 2025\_WBPWD\_815999\_1. Bid Submission Closing: 25.02.2025 up to 03.00 P.M. 19. "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of CCTV Surveillance System for Different Student Hostel attached to NRS Medical College and Hospital at 138, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata - 700 014 :: Contingencies Work [Job No: KIT/OW/309 of 24-25]." e-TENDER No. WBPWD/EEKIT/E-NIT-294/T/24-25, Tender ID: 2025\_WBPWD\_816001\_1. Bid Submission Closing: 25.02.2025 up to 03.00 P.M. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kolkata IT Division, PWD

2025\_WBPWD\_815996\_1. Bid Submission Closing: 24.02.2025 up to 03.00 P.M.

17. "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Integrated CCTV

Surveillance system along with allied infrastructure at Phoolbagan Campus of Dr.

B.C Roy, Post Graduate Institute of Pediatrics Sciences, Kolkata- 700 054 ::

Contingencies Work [Job No: KIT/OW/307 of 24-25]," e-TENDER No.

## Bengal BJP urges Governor to expunge Mamata's 'Mrityu Kumbh' remarks

BJP state chief Sukanta Majumdar wrote two letters to the Governor, urging elected representatives to respect reli-

gious sentiments and avoid causing division in society

**AGENCIES** 

KOLKATA, 19 FEBRUAY

expunge Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's remarks of 'Mrityu Kumbh' from the Assembly records and also intervene in revoking the suspension of four party legislators from the house including the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Suvendu Adhikari.

The BJP state chief Sukanta Majumdar, on Wednesday, wrote two separate letters to the Governor. In the letter regarding the Chief Minister's 'Mrityu Kumbh' comments, Majumdar pointed out that the elected representatives



should uphold respect for religious sentiments and refrain from making statements that might cause division in society.

"Through this letter, I urge you to expunge the statement from the Vidhan Sabha record,

take cognizance of the matter and seek a public apology from the Chief Minister," reads the letter.

Majumdar said that the Chief Minister, through her 'Mrityu Kumbh' remarks, has insulted the sentiments of



the crore of devotees who participate at Maha Kumbh with utmost reverence.

"It is unfortunate that a person holding such a high constitutional position has made a remark that not only disrespects religious traditions

but also creates unnecessary division in society," said Majumdar. In another letter, Majumdar pointed out that the suspension of the four BJP legislators including the LoP raises serious concerns about the fair representation of the people and the democratic functioning of the Assembly.

"While I fully acknowledge the importance of maintaining decorum and discipline within the House, I believe that reconsidering this decision would foster a spirit of constructive dialogue and uphold the democratic principles of our legislature," he said.

He said that the absence of these MLAs deprives the constituents of representation and restricts diverse perspectives in legislative discussions.

"It has become an alarm in the pattern that the Speaker repeatedly suspends MLAs who voice the concerns of the people of West Bengal," he said.

### Suvendu Adhikari disputes Mamata's claims on Jagannath temple in Digha

**AGENCIES** 

KOLKATA, 19 FEBRUARY

Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari, challenged on Wednesday the claims made by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on the floor of the Assembly on Tuesday that the proposed Jagannath Temple at Digha in East Midnapore has been modelled after the

iconic Shree Jagannath Temple

at Puri in Odisha.

"On Tuesday, the Chief Minister questioned my courage in questioning her claims about the proposed temple at Digha which she claims to have been modelled after the iconic temple of Puri. Now, I challenge her to answer my questions regarding her claims on this count," Adhikari said on Wednesday. According to the Leader of Opposition, the CM should clarify why the proposed temple has been named as "Jagannath Dham Cultural Centre" and not as "Shree Shree Jagannath Temple".

"The Chief Minister should immediately give instructions so that the name is changed from 'Jagannath Dham Cultural Centre' to 'Shree Shree Jagannath Temple' in all the related state government documents. The name change should also be made in the tenders and documents of WBHIDCO. responsible for construction of the proposed temple at Digha, the cost of which is borne from the state government exchequer," the BJP leader said. Secondly, Adhikari referred to the traditional practice of only Hindus being allowed inside the Puri temple and suggested that a notification written in five languages is displayed at the main entrance

# Powergrid hands over equipment to Bankura Sammilani Medical College

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE** BANKURA, 19 FEBRUARY

Powergrid Medinipur Jeerat Transmission Ltd (PMJTL, a wholly owned subsidiary of Powergrid) as a responsible corporate citizen has taken a significant step towards public health by signing an MoU with the Bankura Sammilani Medical College and Hospital, Bankura to instal various medical equipments in the hospital under Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative of PMJTL.

The project, estimated at Rs 1.88 crore, will significantly enhance the hospital's ability to deliver critical healthcare



services, underscoring PMJTL's commitment to improving the public healthcare system especially for the people from vulnerable backgrounds.

signed by Prashant Kumar, general manager (HR), Powergrid and Dr Arpan Kumar Goswami, MSVP, Bankura Sammilani Medical College

and Hospital, Bankura. The event was also graced by Dr Panchanan Kundu, principal, Bankura Sammilani Medical College.

PMJTL's CSR initiatives The MoU was formally continue to demonstrate commitment to uplifting public health infrastructure, supporting government hospitals, and ensuring better healthcare accessibility for all.

## ER ensures smooth passage for passengers in Kumbh-bound trains

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE** 

ASANSOL, 18 FEBRUARY

Kumbh Mela, one of the largest religious gatherings in the world, attracts millions of pilgrims from across the country. To facilitate the smooth movement of devotees travelling to the sacred event, Asansol division of Eastern Railway implemented well-planned arrangements at Asansol station, ensuring a hassle-free and organised journey for passengers boarding Kumbh Mela Special

Vehicle entry was restricted, and designated holding areas were developed to

**Eastern Railway's Asansol division** implemented wellcoordinated measures to ensure smooth and organized travel for **Kumbh Mela pilgrims.** 

streamline passenger flow. Temporary sheds were constructed to provide relief from the sun. Passengers were systematically segregated as per their respective trains, and CCTV surveillance was utilised for effective crowd monitoring. Queues were managed efficiently by

MINISTRY OF

COAL



RPF personnel, ensuring an orderly boarding process. Passengers were guided from the holding areas, entering the station one by one under strict supervision.

Adequate drinking water facilities were made available. and a 'May I Help You' booth was set up to assist passengers.

RPF personnel and railway staff provided necessary assistance to ensure a hassle-free and safe boarding experience for passengers of the 03505 Maha Kumbh Mela Special Train from Asansol to Tundla. Additionally, other special trains, including those passing through Asansol also witnessed well-coordinated crowd management.

The coordinated efforts of staff and officers of Asansol division/Eastern Railway ensured that all arrangements functioned smoothly, contributing to a seamless travel experience for pilgrims heading to the Kumbh Mela.

**ESTATE OFFICER** (Appointed by the Central Govt. Under Section 3 of Act 40 of 1971-Central Act) Proceedings No. 2043/D of 2023 Order No. 05 dated 04.02.2025 Smt. Ambica Singh, 64 & 64/A, Chetla Railway Siding. Kolkata-700027

gate of the upcoming temple.

Vill: Dehuri, PO: Marhowrah, Dist: Saran, Bihar, Pin-841481

Whereas proceedings against Smt Ambica Singh, the O.P. herein, have been initiated u/s 7 of the P.P. Act for adjudication of the prayer of Syama (SMPK) for recovery of damages alongwith interest in respect of Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port's land measuring about 38.648 Sq.m (unde Plate No. D-481) situated at Chetla Railway Siding

Whereas the next date of hearing/filling reply to show cause etc., is fixed on 25.02.2025 at 12 PM at Office of the Estate Officer, Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata, at the 1s Floor of 'Fairlie Warehouse', 6 Fairlie Place, Kolkata-700001, failing which the matter would be decided ex-parte without further reference. For further details please refer to SMPK's website www.smp.smportkolkata.in Date: 17.02.2025

> GIVEN UNDER MY HAND & SEAL (RANJAN MAHAPATRA) **ESTATE OFFICER**

#### BiGo partners with BGBS to power sustainable mobility

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE** HOOGHLY, 19 FEBRUARY

Kolkata is alive, its streets are pulsating with a diverse tapestry of cultures and ventures. Yet, as traffic snarled, pollution thickened and logistics services deteriorated, the joy of exploration faded.

BiGo, India's first electric two-wheeler mobility service is making its presence in West Bengal with a bold vision – to introduce sustainable, business-first transport and mobility solutions.

BiGo's journey is led by its founders, Ankit Nevatia, Ankit Jalan and Mr Prateek Agrawal, driven by a dynamic team with rich work experience in the automotive, business management and information technology industry.

At the 8th Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS), BiGo signed a MoU with the West Bengal government which will not only accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) but will also make West Bengal a key player in India's transition to electric vehicles. This MoU also paves the way for BiGo to rapidly expand its



services within the state and also create a solid foundation to launch all over the nation with its roots deeply grounded in West Bengal.

Ankit Jalan said, "BiGo is more than just a mobility service; it's a revolution. Our fullstack approach of owning the fleet, developing the right infrastructure, training drivers, and managing operations, ensures reliability and sustainability. BiGo is empowering businesses to move smarter and faster. We at BiGo would like to thank our chief minister and the government, for the support extended to us."

BiGo plans to invest up to Rs 375 crore by 2026 with larger investments in subsequent years. These planned investments will strengthen our infrastructure and pave the way to expand our fleet to about 2,00,000+ ebikes in the next five years, said an official.

## assault on med staff, vandalism

KOLKATA, 19 FEBRUARY

The accused, including the OC Asraful Sheikh, were produced before the court on Wednesday.

Trouble started on Tuesday night when his mother was brought to the hospital. Asraful, his wife and four other members of their family got involved in a heated exchange of words with an on-duty nurse at the hospital, alleging negligence

He along with his family members turned violent and assaulted several nurses, doctors and other staff of the government hospital. They went on a rampage by damaging government properties at the hospital.

The hospital virtually

turned into a battlefield till midnight. Sensing the situation was getting out of control, a huge police force, led by Atanu Haldar, OC of Lalgola police station (PS) rushed to the spot to bring the situation under control. But the violent family members, led by Asraful, did not spare even his colleagues. They also allegedly attacked Mr Haldar, subinspector (SI) Kalyan Sing-

Asraful allegedly tried to throttle Mr Halder's neck and beat up Mr Singharoy and two civic policemen with bamboo. Mr Singharoy's one

Locals alleged that Asraful, a resident of Lalgola, was drunk and went on a rampage the hospital premises.

According to police sources in Murshidabad district, disciplinary action has been taken against him.

The superintendent of police (SP) in Murshidabad has suspended him, sources

hum district.

## OC, family members arrested for

**TATESMAN NEWS SERVICE** 

An officer in-charge (OC) of district crime record bureau in Birbhum and his family members, including his wife were arrested on Tuesday night on charges of assaulting doctors, nurses and other medical staff of the state-run Lalgola Krishnapur Hospital in Murshidabad district and ransacking the hospital prem-

in treatment of his mother.

haroy and civic volunteers.

finger was fractured.

Earlier, allegations of corruption had also been brought against him when he was posted at Kirnahar PS in Birb-

## "See you at Kalinga Stadium. Kalinga Stadium. Let's run together!" 2nd March 2025 | 4:30 AM Saina Nehwal London Olympics Bronze Medalist **RUN WITH JOSH, FINISH WITH PRIDE! REGISTER NOW Run the Distance with** Saina Nehwal on 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2025, SUNDAY STARTING POINT: KALINGA STADIUM | 4:30 AM Organised by **PRIZE MONEY**

**₹2.5 LAKH** 

and many more Prizes to be won

RACE CATEGORY: 21 KM | 10 KM | 5 KM | 1.5 KM IFUN NUNI

Caps

₹2 LAK

#

Goodie Bag

₹3 LAKH

Medal

**Total Cash Prize** 

## Dedicate life to service of nation: RKM monks

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE** KOLKATA, 19 FEBRUARY

Monks of the Ramakrishna Math and Mission urged the young people to dedicate their lives for the development of the country and uphold the philosophy of service and sacrifice as propagated by Vivekananda.

They were speaking at Sealdah station to commemorate the return of Swami Vivekananda from the West on 19 February, 1897. The programme was organised by the Ramakrishna Math and Mission Belur and the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture Gol Park.

A portrait of Swamiji was placed on a well decorated rath (chariot) which started from Sealdah and commenced at Alambazar Math where a meeting was held. Swami Suviranandaji, general secretary of Ramakrishna Math and Mission addressed the gathering. At Sealdah, a



On this day, after attending the Chicago Religious Conference, Swami Vivekananda returned by train from Budge Budge. As every year, a journey began from Budge Budge station to Kolkata with Swamiji's statue to celebrate the occasion. ■ sns

meeting was held which was addressed by Swami Balabhadranandaji, assistant general secretary of Ramakrishna Math and Mission. Young speakers spoke at the meeting

and portions from Swamiji's messages were read out. A huge procession followed the chariot. The chariot started from Sealdah and reached Maniktala from where it reached College Street via Vivekananda Road. At Swamiji's ancestral residence, flowers were placed at Swamiji's feet. The rally then reached Shyambazar Five Point Crossing via Bhupen Bose Avenue and Girish Avenue.

Swamiji left Chennai on 15 February to reach Budge Budge by steamer. He boarded a special train to reach Sealdah station on 19 February, 1897. At Sealdah, the youth removed the horses of the carriage Swamiji was travelling in and pushed it themselves. Swamiji came to the house of Dr Pasupati Bose in Bagbazar. Swamiji was accompanied by Mrs and Captain Savier and J J Goodwin. Swamiji had huge influence over the youths. In the freedom movement there was not a single youth who was not influenced

by Swamiji. The messages of Swamiji still attract the youth, who do social service of different kinds across the country.

**Snakebite student appears** for exam: Jagannath Mudi, a Madhyamik examinee, bitten by a Russell Viper on Tuesday evening, was allowed to continue in his exam from the **Burdwan Medical College and** Hospital ward on Wednesday. Mudi, a student of Parbatpur High School suffered snakebite while he was returning from his tuition classes on his bicycle. The West Bengal Board of Secondary Education's regional authorities allowed him to appear from the hospital ward.

Child dies after fight in school: An altercation between two classmates of Class X of Champdany Arya Vidyapith took an ugly turn when they resorted to fisticuffs. Abinav Jalan (15) could not bear the deadly blow on his chest from his mate as he fell unconscious. He was rushed to Angus ESI hospital, where the doctors declared him dead. Locals and guardians protested against the teaching staff of the school, blaming them for not maintaining discipline and allowing hooliganism. Senior police officials of Chandannagar commissonrate rushed to bring the situation under control. The school headmaster, Mr Dhirendra Kumar Jha, said ne was not in the school at the time of the incident.

**Another Bangla infiltrator booked**: Another infiltrator from Bangladesh was intercepted by the police in Burdwan on Wednesday. The youth had claimed that he hailed from Tripura but the Agartala police ruled out his claim. Akash Das was arrested from the house of Sheikh Majed Rahaman, the person who was arrested by the police yesterday for harbouring an Awami League member Raju Ahmed.

## City, districts may see rain, thunderstorm: Met

The weather scientists are anticipating light to moderate rainfall at a few places over various districts of South Bengal on 22 and 23 February

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE** KOLKATA, 19 FEBRUARY

'olkata along with other neighbouring districts could get rainfall, thunderstorm or even lightning tomorrow. The weather department has predicted a thunderstorm and lightning accompanied by gusty wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph at one or two places over East Midnapore, Howrah,

Kolkata, South 24-Parganas districts of south Bengal tomorrow.

The Regional Meteorological Centre had forecast thunderstorms and lightning accompanied by hail and gusty winds, speeding up to 40-50 kmph for five districts of South Bengal today, including East and West Midnapore, Bankura, Jhargram, South 24-Parganas and Howrah. Considering the fact, thunderstorms,

rainfall, hail and gusty winds were reported from Kharagpur this morning. The rainfall and thunderstorm, according to the weather scientists, are expected to continue in parts of South Bengal for the next few days. As being anticipated by the weather department, East Midnapore, Howrah, Kolkata, South 24-Parganas districts could get thunderstorm and lightning

accompanied with gusty

wind speed, reaching up to

30-40 kmph while the amount of rainfall and intensity of winds could go higher in parts of Purulia, West Midnapore, Bankura, East Burdwan, West Burdwan and Hooghly tomorrow.

The weather scientists are anticipating light to moderate rainfall at few places over various districts of South Bengal on 22 and 23 Febru-

The drastic change in weather, according to the

RMC, has been brought by a trough running from Gangetic West Bengal to Telangana at 0.9 km above at lower tropospheric levels, during 19-20 February and

mean sea level. "Under its influence and strong moisture incursion from Bay of Bengal thunderstorms with light to moderate rainfall, hailstorm and gusty wind activity are very likely to occur in some districts of South Bengal 22-23 February.



### Police officer found dead under mysterious circumstances in Mayapur

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE** KRISHNAGAR, 19 FEBRUARY

In a shocking incident, an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) was found hanging from the ceiling of his barrack at the Mayapur outpost under Krishnagar police district on Wednesday morning. The deceased, identified as 35-year-old Debashish Garai, was recently transferred from the traffic department to the Mayapur outpost.

According to police sources, the incident came to light around 9.30 a.m. when Garai failed to report for duty. When he did not respond, civic volunteers went to check on him and discovered his body hanging in his room.

Deputy superintendent of police) Rajat Kanti Pal confirmed the tragic incident. "We noticed the matter when he did not turn up for duty. When civic volunteers reached his room, they found him hanging. His body has been sent for autopsy, and we have informed his family members," Mr Pal stated.

**Assistant Sub-Inspector** Debashish Garai, 35, was found hanging in his barrack at Mayapur outpost under Krishnagar police district. He was recently transferred from the traffic department. Authorities discovered his body after he failed to report for duty. An investigation is underway, exploring personal and professional aspects of his death.

Garai shared his barrack with another personnel, who had left for his duty around 8 a.m. as he was assigned to oversee the Madhyamik examination. The police have launched an investigation into the matter and registered a case of unnatural death.

Authorities revealed that Garai was a resident of the Nanoor police station area. While the cause of his death remains unclear, the police are exploring all possible angles, including personal and professional aspects, to ascertain the circumstances leading to the tragic event.

#### Complaint filed against CM Mamata Banerjee for 'threatening' LoP Suvendu Adhikari

**AGENCIES** 

KOLKATA, 19 FEBRUARY

A complaint has been filed with West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose, seeking his intervention on a comment by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee allegedly threatening Suvendu Adhikari, the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the state.

State BJP leader and the counsel of Calcutta High Court Kaustav Bagchi has registered this complaint with the office of the Governor quoting a portion of the Chief Minister's speech while she was delivering her speech on Tuesday in the Assem-

"You are resorting to so much slandering against a particular community. Now if they call for a movement someday, will you be able to handle that?" the Chief Minister was heard saying.

Bagchi has posted that particular video clipping on the wall of his social media account and raised the question "Is the Chief Minister threatening the Leader of Opposition on behalf of the extremists?"



Thereafter, he forwarded a communique to the office of the Governor seeking the latter's intervention in the matter.

On Tuesday, the Leader of Opposition too launched scathing criticisms against the Chief Minister for the latter's comments on these lines.

"She questioned what if the people from a particular community unite against me? I will report to the Union Home Ministry on such a threat with video clippings of the Chief Minister's statement on the floor of the House. I am being provided with security following an

order from the Calcutta High Court. I will also approach the Calcutta High Court with a plea seeking to restrain the Chief Minister from making such provocative statements, Adhikari told media persons on Tuesday afternoon.

The LoP along with three other BJP legislators has been suspended from the House for a month reportedly because of unruly behaviour on Monday. Adhikari has claimed that suspension happened as the LoP is from the BJP and such things never happened earlier when the same chair either belonged to anyone from the Left Front or anyone from Congress.

#### Woman stabs youth to death

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE BURDWAN, 19 FEBRUARY** 

A youth was stabbed to death by a woman on a busy road in broad daylight in Kalna town of East Burdwan today. The police have booked the woman.

Shameem Mondal (34) of Kapurdanga locality in Kalna was attacked on the road by a woman, Nayana Ksetrapal in Ranibondor area in town. She stabbed the youth repeatedly in full public view but before the locals

could come to the rescue, the youth suffered multiple wounds on his chest and head. He was declared dead by the Kalna hospital.

Forty-year-old Nayana maintained a healthy relation with Shameem's family and the youth used to call her 'Didi'. The family members told police that Nayana had intimidated Shameem yesterday at his house over some money.

The police arrested Nayana and seized the knife used for the crime.

#### Mobile phone tower battery theft racket busted, four arrested

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

HOOGHLY, 19 FEBRUARY

In the last few months, the district police had been receiving complaints about the theft of mobile phone tower batteries of a private company. Batteries were stolen from towers in Gurap, Dhaniakhali, Pandua, Purva, Haripal, Purva Burdwan, Jamalpur, and Memari. Following a directive from the district rural police superintendent, special investigation teams were formed at various police stations. Suspicious movements were

captured on CCTV cameras. The Gurap police station team seized a suspected vehicle and its driver and the stolen batteries.

Hooghly district rural DSP (D&T) Priyabrata Bakshi said that the market value of each battery is Rs 80,000, and batteries along with their accessories, worth 15 lakh, were recovered from the seized vehicle.

#### Kamarhati Municipality

Upadhyaya - Jhinjhak of Prayagraj Division.

Advertised value: Rs. 63,89,614.27

Advertised value : Rs. 60,61,885.00

Tender Closing date & Time: 10.03.2025 & 14.00 Hrs

Tender Opening date & Time: 10.03.2025 & 15.00 Hrs

nelpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached

Completion Period: 09 Months

T.No.: 230-TRD-WC-939-2025

Buzurg of Prayagraj Division.

Memo No - 950/KM/PW/24-25

Belghoria, Kolkata-56 Date: 17.02.2025 E-Tender are invited by the Chairman, Kamarhati Municipality,

Bid Security: Rs. 1,21,200.00

Bidding system: Single Packet

323/25(AS)

1, M.M. Feeder Road,

North 24 Parganas for SUPPLY OF SPARE PARTS FOR VEHICLE NIT No - WBMAD/KM/PW/15TH FIN/NIT-32(e)/24-25 Tender ID No - 2025\_MAD\_817341\_1

Bid submission start date: 20/02/2025 at 4:00 P.M. Bid submission end date: 06/03/2025 at 4:00 P.M. Bid opening date: 10/03/2025 at 4:00 P.M.

N.B : For details and any other information, please visit Govt. website http://wbtenders.gov.in this advertisement is also given http://Kamarhatimunicipality.org. Chairman Kamarhati Municipality

T. Notice No. 230-Elect/TRD/PRYJ/E-Tender Notice/2025/547 & 548 Date: 17.02.2025

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divi. Electrical Engineer/TRD/N. C. Rly/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following E-Tender, the details of the tenders are as under:-

Description of work: Provision of Monkey Anti Climbing Device to prevent climbing of

Monkey over Traction Installation Structures in between Section Pt. Deen Dayal

Description of work: Provision of Monkey Anti Climbing Device to prevent climbing of

Note: - 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders

shall be available on Website www.ireps.gov.in 21 days prior to the date of opening of

the tender, 2, Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above

tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with

IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate. 3. In case of any difficulty

f North central railways 🌐 www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in 💢 @ CPRONCR

#### EASTERN RAILWAY e-AUCTION NOTICE

Awarding contract for operation of Pay & Use Toilet over Malda Division

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Malda Division. Malda Town Office Building, P.O.Jhaljhalia, Dist-Malda, Pin-732102, West Bengal (Auction Conducting Officer) has published e-Auction catalogue on www.ireps.gov.in for the following work: Name of Work: Operation of Pay & Use Toilet lot at Munger (MGR) station over Malda Division. Auction Catalogue No.: pay-use-2025-03. Auction Start: 03.03.2025 at 11.45 hrs. (1) Lot No.: PnU-MLDT-MGR-Toi-37-24-1. Station: Munger. Prospective bidders are requested to visit IREPS e-auction module for further details.

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Malda (MLD-221/2024-25) Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in Follow us at : @@EasternRailway # @easternrailwayheadquarter

WEST BENGAL AGRO INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD.

(A Govt. Undertaking)

Registered Office: 23B, Netaji Subhas Road, 3rd Floor

Kolkata-700001

NIeT-180 (3rd call) / 24-25 and 299 to 309 /

2024-2025 Dated: 19-02-2025

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 Coochbe-

har, Burdwan, North 24 Parganas, Purba Medinipur, Murshid-

abad, Birbhum, Bankura, Nadia and Hooghly District. Tender

document may be downloaded from http://wbtenders.gov.in

Bid submission start date: 20-02-2025 after 9-00 A.M. Bid sub-

mission end date: 07-03-2025 up to 3-00 P.M.

Date: 19-02-2025

0-1511

## Metro Railway, Kolkata

Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway for the following work: Name of work: "Providing facilitation for the work of Mutation, Reconciliation of land plan and data and Digitization of data of acquired land of Metro Railway / Kolkata in consultation with West Benga Govt. in Joka - B.B.D. Bag (Purple line), New Garia - Airport (Orange line) Noapara - Barasat (Yellow line), Sector - V to Howrah Maidan (Green line corridor and Joka & New Town depot." Approx Cost of Work (Rs.): ₹ 38,11,500 Earnest Money: ₹ 76,200, Completion Period: 12 (Twelve) Months, Date and Time of Closing: 18.03.2025 at 12.00 Hrs. The Tender Document and

Abridged e-Tender Notice No. : Civil-2510-2025 (Open) Follow us at: M/metrorailwaykol /metrorailkolkata

other details can be obtained from the website: www.ireps.gov.in Amendments/

Corrigendum, if any, would be uploaded only on the website.



West Bengal Forest Development Corporation Limited (WBFDCL), KB-19, Sector-III, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700106.

**ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE** 

Details of NITs can be seen at www.wbtenders.gov.in and www.wbfdc.com

he undersigned publishes NiTs for the project 'Carriage of CFC produce 2024-25' on behalf of the Ex-

Officio DM, DFO, Panchet Division, WBFDCL as follows:

NIT No.	Name of Project	Bid Submission Start Date	Last Date of Bid Submission	
WBFOR/PNT/SAL/CFC/ BSP-65[e]/2024-25	Various mouzas/coupes of Bishnupur Range under Panchet Division to Bishnupur Depot of Bishnuur Range.			
WBFOR/PNT/SAL/CFC/ BKD-66(e)/2024-25	Various mouzas/coupes of Bankadaha Range under Panchet Division to Bankadaha, Uporsole and Amdangra Depot under Bankadaha Range.			
WBFOR/PNT/SAL/CFC/ JPR-67(e)/2024-25	Various mouzas/coupes of Joypur Range under Panchet Division to Joypur and Adhkata Depot both under Joypur Range.	20.02.2025	06.03.2025	
WBFOR/PNT/SAL/CFC/ OND-68(e)/2024-25	Various mouzas/coupes of Onda Range under Panchet Division to Chhagulia Depotunder Onda.			
WBFOR/PNT/SAL/CFC/ TLD-69(e)/2024-25	Various mouzas/coupes of Taldangra Range under Panchet Division to Taldangra Depot under Taldangra.			

DM, KFCD, WBFDCL

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

The Chief Project Manager

(Electrical) West Central Railway

Kota for and on behalf of president of

India invites E-tender for following

works. Name of work: EL-KTT

Project-24-PSSA-1R dated

13.02.2025 Request for Proposal

(RFP) for providing Project

Supervision Services (PSS) for

various Sites/ Sections of 2x25kV

upgradation Projects in the

jurisdiction of Dy.CEE/Project, Kota,

BPL & JBP Divisioin of West Central

Railway., Approximate cost Rs.:

156663351, Date & Time of

closing: 10.03.2025 - 15.00 hrs.

Official Website & Address

http://www.ireps.gov.in/ Address

Chief Project Manager [Electrical]

Kota, 1st FLOOR DRM OFFICE

BUILDING, WEST CENTRAL

RAILWAY, KOTA, RAJASTHAN

[INDIA] PIN-324002

Email:cpmelectkota@gmail.com

The offer is accepted only through E

tendering on website

http://www.ireps.gov.in/. The bidder

should have class III Digital

signature certificate and must

registered on IREPS Portal. No

tender is accepted manually. Please

before the tendering.

Dy. CEE (Project). read tender terms and condition

**ि** स्वच्छ भारत अभियान

West Central Railway, Kota

एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

#### EASTERN RAILWAY

e-AUCTION NOTICE

Awarding contract for operation of Parking lots over Malda Division Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Malda Division. Malda Town Office Building, P.O.-Jhaljhalia, Dist-Malda, Pin-732102 West Bengal (Auction Conducting Officer) has published e-Auction catalogue on www.ireps.gov.in for the following work: Name of Work: Operation of Parking lots at Nathnagar (NAT), Sabour (SBO), Sujnipara (SPLE) & Nimtita (NILE) Railway Stations over Malda Division. Auction Catalogue No.: Parking-2025-03. Auction Start: 03.03.2025 at 11.45 hrs. Sl. No. & Lot No.; Station: (1) PARKING-MLDT-NAT-MX-21-22-2; Nathnagar. (2) PARKING-MLDT-SBO-MX-35-23-1; Sabour. (3) PARKING-MLDT-SPLE-MX-53-23-1; Sujnipara. (4) PARKING-MLDT-NILE-MX-54-23-1; Nimtita. Prospective bidders are requested to visit IREPS e-auction module for further details.

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Malda (MLD-220/2024-25) Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @@EasternRailway ? @easternrailwayheadquarter

e-TENDER NOTICE Office of the Block **Development Officer** Kranti Development Block Kranti, Jalpaiguri

e-Tender have been invited by the

EO & BDO Kranti Development Block Kranti, Jalpaiguri

#### NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY ई-निविदा सूचना, सं. S&T/C/All/25/02 भारत संघ के राष्ट्रपति एवं उनकी और से उप मुख्य सिम्मल एवं दुरसंचार विभाग (निर्माण)

undersigned for different works vide e-NIT No. WB / 026 BDOKNT / 24-25 (Retender-NIT-23) Work SI. No. 01 to 07, Dated: 19-02-2025. Last date of submis sion of bid through online: 26-02-2025 up to 17-00 hrs. For details please visit: https://wbtenders. gov.in from 17-02-2025 from 17-00 hrs. respectively.

An E-Tender has been published vide N.I.e.T. No.-695 for some works under MDW. For detail information, bona fide contractors are requested to see the website 'wbtenders.gov.in' up to 14-30

> Block Dev. Officer Joynagar-1 Dev. Block Baharu, South 24 Parganas

#### EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY Advertisement for 01 No. Old & Serviceable Diesel Locomotive for Sale

01 No. of Old & Serviceable Diesel Locomotives (01 no. WDS6-1400 HP) aged 36 Years, is available in Diesel loco shed, Pt. DDU for Sale. Interested Organisation may

Office of the Sr. Divisional Mechanical Deendayal Upadhyay Division East Central

ECR/Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya PR/02138/DDU/Mech./T/24-25/24

#### TENDER

hrs. on 08-03-2025.

please contact :-

Engineer/DSL Diesel loco shed, Pt Railway District: Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh Email: mgssdmed@gmail.com Mobile No. 9794848403

Sr. Division Mechanical Engg. (Diesel)

#### trench, laying of cables in RCC half round pipes/GI Pipe/DWC/HDPE/trench etc. casting of foundations of MACLS Signals/apparatus cases, supplyinstallation of point machines, Apparatus cases, MACLS signals, Electric Lifting Barrier along with Emergency slide boom, Track circuit equipment (DC Track Circuit & single MSDAC in all stations yards), Earthing, Data loggers, ELD, FACS, AFDAS, IoT based RDPMS etc. The work also includes Signalling and telecom work for shifting of existing S&T gears (LC Gates, Signals and location boxes, S&T cables, HASSDAC, etc.) for removal of infringements of S&T gears coming in alignment in c/w New BG Line in Nimach-Badi Sadri Section. The telecom work includes design, supply, installation, configuration, testing and commissioning (SITC) of Telecom indoor and outdoor equipment including IP-MPLS system with power supply arrangement, trenching, laying, jointing and termination of 4\*48 fibre OFC (Two on each side of the track) cable and 6 Quad cable along with provision of passenger amenities and other telecom works at stations, block sections, TSS/SP/SSP etc. in c/w New BG Line in Nimach-Badi Sadri Section of Ajmer Division of North Western Railway. कार्य की अनुमानित लागतः र261136745.78/-बयाना राशि जमा कराने हेतु: ₹14,55,700/-Date of Opening of E-tender will be 13.03.2025. Website particulars and notice board location were completed by

this office. The eligibility criteria for the

tender are mentioned on the tender

document which can be downloaded

w.e.f. 17.02.2025 from the website

olow us on : 🖬 🖾 🗅 /NWRadways 🖼 NWRadways.

"http://www.ireps.gov.in"

उत्तर-पश्चिम रेलवे, अजमेर निम्नलिखित कार्य

हेत् निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर खुली ई-निविदा (दो

पैकेट) आमंत्रित करते है। कार्य का नाम: Design

Manufacture, Supply, Installation

Testing & Commissioning of

Microprocessor based Electronic

Instrument in EI) (RDSO Spec No.

RDSO/SPN/192/2019 Ver. 2 with latest

amendment) at BADI SADRI (alteration

indoor & outdoor work), JALODA JAGIR

CHHOTI SADRI, NARANI, NIMACH

(outdoor work only) stations along with

SITC of various indoor & outdoor

Signalling & Telecom Systems/gears.

The work includes addition/alteration in

(Kyosan make El ) at Badi Sadri Station (Alteration in Existing Kyosan make El &

associated indoor and outdoor works)

and outdoor work at Nimach station in

c/w New BG Line in Nimach-Badi Sadri

Section. The work includes excavation of

#### Email ID- eemdd7gal.chandil@gmail.com ई०-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ई0-निविदा रेफ्रेन्स नं0-WRD/MDD-7/ GALUDIH/F2-03/2024-25, दिनांक 19.02.2025

लघु वितरणी प्रमंडल सं०-७,

1.	विभाग का नाम	जल संसाधन विभाग, झारखंड सरकार।		
2.	कार्य का नाम	Repair and Maintenance of OR- Minor Ex. Km 99.813 CLMC.		
3.	प्राक्कलित राशि	स्त्र 19,66,243.78 ( उन्नीस लाख छियासठ हजार दो सौ तैतालीस रूपये अठहतर पैसा ) भात्र।		
4.	कार्य पूर्ण करने का समय	270 दिन		
5.	वेबसाईंट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	23.02.2025, 12.00 बजे अपराहन से		
6.	ई0-निविदा अमिलेख डाउन लोड/अपलोड करने की तिथि	23.02.2025, से 18.03.2025, 5.00 बजे अपराहन तक		
7.	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य एवं अग्रधन की राशि जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि	18.03.2025 से 19.03.2025, 5.00 बजे अपराहन तक <b>Online Mode</b> द्वारा स्वीक होगी।		
8.	ई0-निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	21.03.2025, 12.00 बजे अपराहन		
9.	ई0 निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता, लघु वितरणी प्रमण्डल संख्या7, गालुडीह ।		
10.	ईo प्रोक्यूरमेंट पदाधिकारी का मोबाईल नंo	7761822355		
11.	ई0 प्रोक्युरमेंट सेल का हेल्प लाईन नं0	0657-2371765		

सिर्फ ई-निविदा स्वीकार होगा। ज्यादा जानकारी के लिए हमारे वेवसाईट http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखें।

प्राक्तित राशि: It may be vary. कार्यपालक अभियंता. लघ् वितरणी प्रमंडल सं0-7, PR346738 (Water Resource)24-25\*D गालुडीह

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR At-Chandikhole, P.O.: Sunguda, Dist.: Jajpur-754296, E-mail id: serw\_kpd@yahoo.com

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

Sd/- Executive Engineer

Repair and Maintenance of Rural Roads under PMGSY e-Procurement Notice

Dtd. 19.02.2025

Lr. No. 340 The Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR, on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road

Agency, invites percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for Repair / Maintenance of the Rural Roads Constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the districts of KENDRAPARA for 1 (One) number of package with estimated cost totalling to Rs. 1.08 Cr including maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways. The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt, preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement dtd. 24.02.2025 (dd/mm/yyyy).

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in http://www.pmgsytenders.gov.in The bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITB with C.C.E., R.W. Circle, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR, on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 10.03.2025 (dd/mm/yyyy) up to 5.00 P.M. (time) For further details please log on to http://www.pmgsytenders.gov.in OIPR-25129/11/0038/2425

> Chief Construction Engineer R.W. Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur

**Jharkhand Govt puts** Pooja Singhal back in key role: In a significant bureaucratic reshuffle, the Jharkhand government has appointed IAS officer Pooja Singhal as the Secretary of the Department of Information Technology and e-Governance, with the additional charge of Chief Executive Officer of Jharkhand **Communication Network** Ltd. (JCN), Ranchi. The decision, taken despite legal objections from the **Enforcement Directorate** (ED), has sparked considerable debate in political and administrative circles. A 2000-batch IAS officer, Singhal was recently reinstated after spending nearly 28 months in judicial custody over her alleged involvement in the MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) scam in Khunti district. The ED had arrested her in connection with a money laundering case, accusing her of amassing disproportionate assets through fraudulent means. The agency strongly opposed her reinstatement, arguing before the court that permitting Singhal to hold a sensitive government position could allow her to influence evidence and witnesses in the ongoing

## 'General Secretaries will be accountable for poll results'

Kharge's statement comes in the wake of the party's performance in the recently concluded Delhi polls



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI, 19 FEBRUARY** 

ongress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday said general secretaries or in-charges will be accountable for the electoral outcome in their respective states, and emphasized on promoting people who stand with the party like a rock even in adverse circumstances.

The statement of the Congress chief comes in the wake of the party's dismal performance in the recently concluded Delhi Assembly polls. The party drew a blank in the polls.

Chairing a meeting of the general secretaries and incharges, in the presence of

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and party's General Secretary incharge of Organisation KC Venugopal, Kharge while mentioning accountability said, "All of you will be accountable for the organisation and future election results of the states under

Stressing on strengthening

your charge.

the party, he said, "It is your responsibility to make the organisation strong from state headquarters to booth as soon as possible. You will have to go to the booth yourself for this work, work hard and interact with the workers. If you yourself go to the booth, mandal, block, district and state level, then you will be able to connect new people there."

Kharge said the party should promote people who are committed to the ideology of the Congress party and stand with it like a rock even in adverse situations.

Claiming that voter list manipulation was happening on a large scale in elections, the Congress chief said Gandhi had also raised this in Lok

Kharge pointed out "how the names of Congress supporters were deleted from the voter list or the names were removed and added in a different polling booth.

Accusing the BJP of adding fresh names just before the elections, he said, "This rigging has to be stopped at all costs."

During the meeting, among others, he also mentioned recent "inhuman" deportation of illegal Indian immigrants from the US.

Attacking the BJP-led government at the Centre over the matter, "Despite Modiji's visit, America is sending back Indian citizens in handcuffs like before. Vegetarian passengers were given non-vegetarian food. Our government has failed to protest properly against this insult."

### Government releases 15th **Finance Commission** grants for rural local bodies



**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 19 FEBRUARY** 

The Union Government has released 15th Finance Commission Grants during Financial Year 2024–25, for the Rural Local Bodies of Bihar, Haryana and Sikkim.

Bihar gets the 2nd installment of Untied Grants amounting to Rs 821.8021 crore and withheld portion of 1st installment of Untied Grants amounting to Rs 47.9339 crore.

These funds would be utilised for all 38 District Panchayats, 530 eligible Block Panchayats and 8052 eligible Gram Panchayats which fulfilled the mandatory conditions for the release, according to a Panchayati Raj Ministry state-

ment on Wednesday. The Rural Local Bodies in Haryana will get, 2nd installment of Untied Grants amounting to Rs 202.4663 crore and the withheld portion of 1st installment of Untied Grants amounting to Rs 7.5993 crore. These funds are for the 18 eligible District Panchayats, 142 eligible Block Panchayats and 6195 eligible Gram Panchayats.

Sikkim will receive the 2nd installment of Untied Grants amounting to Rs 6.2613 crore during Financial Year 2024– 25. These funds are for the four eligible District Panchayats and 186 eligible Gram Panchayats which fulfilled the mandatory conditions for

The Untied Grants will be utilised by Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)/RuralLocal Bodies (RLBs) for locationspecific felt needs, under the 29 Subjects enshrined in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution, except for salaries and other establishment costs.

release.

The Tied Grants can be used for the basic services of sanitation and maintenance of ODF status, and this should include management and treatment of household waste. and human excreta and faecal sludge management in particular. The grants could also be used for supply of drinking water, rainwater harvesting and water recycling.

## Three hardcore women Maoists killed in encounter in Madhya Pradesh



**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE BHOPAL, 19 FEBRUARY** 

At least three hardcore women Maoists were shot dead in an encounter with security forces while some others managed to escape into the forest with injuries in the maoist-infested Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh on

According to ASP Vijay Dabar, the anti-Maoist Hawk Force of MP Police and teams of the local police had an encounter with a naxal group on Wednesday morning in a forested area, about 90km away from the district headquarters.

The officer said that the

security forces succeeded in killing three hardcore women

As per a police statement, the Hawk Force and the police neutralized three hardcore Maoists in an encounter near the Ronda Forest Camp in Supkhar Forest Range under Garhi Police Station

'Security forces have recovered an Indian Small Arms

System (INSAS) rifle, a Self-Loading Rifle (SLR) and a .303 rifle, and other essential daily-use stuff from their possession,' the statement Some maoists were injured

in the encounter but they managed to escape taking advantage of the dense for-

Twelve police teams have launched combing operations to track down the remaining Maoists.

# Rajasthan Budget 2025-26: Welfare and development takes centre stage

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE JAIPUR. 19 FEBRUARY

Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari on Wednesday presented the State Budget 2025-26 in the Assembly, aiming to address the needs of all sections of society while ensuring funds for development and good governance.

Despite a revenue deficit of 31,009 crore and a fiscal deficit exceeding 84,643 crore, the Finance Minister prioritized infrastructure expansion in key sectors, including roads, water, power, urban development, and public amenities.

Delivering her second consecutive budget speech, which lasted 2 hours and 17 minutes, Diya Kumari announced several welfare measures targeting youth, women, farmers, weaker sections, and senior citi-

Emphasizing sustainability, the Green Budget concept was introduced, with an allocation of 27,854 crore for environment-friendly projects in urban development, roads, energy, and agriculture.

The state government has

earmarked 10 crore per

assembly constituency for development projects, with an additional 5 crore for underdeveloped desert regions. She highlighted that the Barmer crude oil refinery is set to transform western

Rajasthan's economy, with

major work nearing comple-

tion and operations expected

to commence by March 2025. Further, 1,000 crore has been allocated to build infrastructure in eight newly created districts, strengthening



administrative facilities at the district level.

The "Clean and Green Eco Cities" project will be launched in 15 cities, including Bundi, Nathdwara, Khatushyamji, Mount Abu, Bhilwara, Balotra, Bharatpur, Bikaner, Sawai Madhopur, Alwar, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Mandawa, Kishangarh, Bhiwadi, and Pushkar, modeled on the Smart Cities initiative. An allocation of 900 crore has been made for this proj-To improve urban and

rural water supply, the budget includes Urban Jal Jeevan Mission launch and CM Jal Yojana extension until 2028; 2 lakh new domestic water connections under the "Har Ghar Jal" scheme; 425 crore allocated for rural water supply expansion; 1,000 tube wells and 1,500 hand pumps to be installed for smaller settlements; Ramjal Setu Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project to be expedited, with work worth 9,400 crore already underway and tenders

issued for 12,000 crore more. Key announcements in the energy sector include increase in free electricity from 100 to 150 units per

month under the CM Free Electricity Scheme, aligned with the PM Surya Ghar Free Power Programme; free solar panels for eligible families, with community solar plants for those without rooftop space; 5 lakh domestic power connections and 50,000 farm connections to be released; and the introduction of the Rajasthan City Gas Distribution Policy, targeting 1.25 lakh new piped gas connections in urban areas.

Rajasthan's road and metro network will be significantly expanded. 12,000 crore allocated for road, metro, and public transport development. 9,600 km of roads will be built and strengthened. Jaipur Metro Phase-2 (Sitapura to Ambabari-Vidhyadhar Nagar) will be launched, with a DPR for extension to Vaishali Nagar and Jagatpura in progress.

## U'khand cabinet passes new land law, will forbid outsiders to buy agri land

P R SINGH

**DEHRADUN. 19 FEBRUARY** 

The Uttarakhand government on Wednesday cleared the much talked about land law to prevent non-state natives from buying large area and agricultural land in the hill

Although the Dhami government did not share the details of the content of the law, officials informed that harsh provisions have been incorporated in the proposed land law with the aim to save agricultural and horticulture land of the Himalayan state.

Key provision of the land law will be to forbid non Uttarakhand buyers to own agriculture and horticulture



lands in the hill areas but for Haridwar, Udham Singh Nagar districts. In other words barring Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar the land will be applicable in all 11 districts of the state.

Another important provision in the land law will be to create a protal for keeping

records of the purchasers from outside the state. The portal will have complete details of all the land purchases made by non Uttarakhand natives. Besides these provisions, the new land law,

action will be taken against

land buyers if they do not use land purchased by them for the intended purposes. In addition to this permission will not be granted to purchase more than 12.5 acres of land in the state.

likely to be tabled in the It also speaks for expediting house in next two days, strict the consolidation and settlement of agricultural lands

Uttarakhand land law will also take away the power of district magistrates to give purchase permission and mandatory affidavit required for land purchases outside the municipal area by the people from other states. Their land will be linked to Aadhaar. In addition DMs will have to regularly submit reports as to the land purchases of all lands to the Revenue Council and the government.

More than one person in a family will not be allowed to buy land in the state. Violation of this provision will lead to the purchased land being acquired by the government.

## India-Egypt Joint Special Forces exercise CYCLONE-III kicks off in Rajasthan

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI. 19 FEBRUARY** 

The third edition of the India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise - CYCLONE-III - is currently underway at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan. The 14day military drill, which began on February 10, will culminate on February 23.

Troops from both India and Egypt are undergoing intensive combat conditioning and tactical training to enhance their joint operational capabilities. The Special Forces from both nations are showcasing exceptional discipline, teamwork, and adaptability, reflecting their strong commitment to operational excellence and readiness for joint missions in

challenging environments. The exercise includes a range of high-intensity training sessions such as Close

Quarter Battle (CQB) Drills, Survival Techniques, Demolition Training, and Combat Medical Skills. These drills are specifically designed to improve the sol-

diers' responses to complex operational scenarios, especially in desert and semidesert terrains. Emphasis is placed on agility, endurance, and precision, ensuring that both contingents operate seamlessly as one cohesive force in realworld combat situations.

Additionally, the exercise offers a valuable opportunity for Egypt's contingent to gain firsthand exposure to India's advanced defence capabilities, showcasing the country's cutting-edge military technology and weapon systems. These collaborations not only boost tactical proficiency but also strengthen diplomatic and military ties between the two nations.

The exercise will culminate in a rigorous 48-hour validation phase, during which both contingents will conduct simulated Counter-Terrorism (CT) operations. This final phase is designed to challenge the troops' ability to plan and execute tactical manoeuvres under high-pressure conditions. The soldiers will carry out joint tactical drills, neutralise simulated threats, and apply their newly acquired skills in a realistic operational environment.

# Parents & daughter, returning from Mahakumbh, killed in NH accident



**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE BHOPAL, 19 FEBRUARY** 

A couple and their daughter from Maharashtra returning from Mahakumbh in Prayagraj were killed after their SUV rammed into a stationary cement truck in the Maihar

district of Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday. Two other family members were seriously injured in the acci-

According to the police, the accident occurred at around 1.30 pm near Narora village on national highway

number 30.

Maihar Kotwali police station in-charge Animesh Dwivedi said the deceased were identified as Sunil Kumar Upadhyay (62), his wife Sarojita Upadhyay (56) and their daughter Sneha Upadhyay

The two injured family members were admitted to the Maihar district hospital for treatment.

According to information, the five occupants of the car were residents of Palava near Mumbai.

#### **SHASHI SINGH RANCHI. 19 FEBRUARY**

In a significant move aimed at wildlife conservation, the Palamau Tiger Reserve (PTR) is preparing to bring back a tiger currently roaming the forests of Dalma. The reserve authorities have sought permission from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for this ambitious translocation, with plans to tranquilise and safely relocate the big cat once the green

signal is received. A special monitoring team from PTR has been camping in Dalma, tracking the tiger's

epaper.thestatesman.com



movements closely. Interestingly, the feline is believed to have reached Dalma through a natural corridor connecting the two forested areas. PTR's Deputy Director, Prajesh Kant Jena, confirmed that according to information from the Wildlife Institute

of India, the tiger originally



belongs to Palamau. "We have requested guidelines from the NTCA and are keeping a vigilant watch on its movement," Jena stated. The concern, however,

lies in Dalma's scarcity of natural prey. With a dearth of deer, chital, nilgai, and bison in the region, the tiger

has been forced to prey on livestock, a situation fraught with risk, both for the animal and the local population. Compounding the issue is the proximity of urban settlements, raising serious concerns about the big cat's safety. Palamau Tiger Reserve, declared a secure habitat for tigers, forms a critical link in the larger landscape corridor that stretches as far as the Satpura forests. Wildlife experts view this translocation as a crucial step towards preserving the region's natural habitat and maintaining the

ecological balance. This is not the first such

Tiger's homecoming: Dalma's stray big cat to return to Palamau operation in the region. In a recent incident, the Simlipal Tiger Reserve in Odisha tranquilised and rescued a tigress from the Jharkhand-Odisha border, though the animal eventually returned to the same territory. Experts note that tigers often establish and traverse corridors spanning 400 to 500 km, making their conservation a complex yet essential endeavour.

> As Palamau gears up for this delicate mission, all eyes are now on when and how Dalma's stray tiger will return home, adding another chapter to India's ongoing story of wildlife preservation.

**Prabhakar slams BJP: Telangana Minister Ponnam** Prabhakar on Wednesday defended the state government's decision to reduce work hours for Muslim employees during Ramzan, stating that similar provisions have existed for the past 25 years. Hitting out at the BJP for politicizing the move, he said, "When your (BJP's) coalition government is in Andhra Pradesh, a GO was issued on February 11 that all Muslim employees could go for Namaz during the month of Ramazan. This is not new; it has been happening for the last 25 years... We also issued a similar order, and now they are doing politics over it... There should be politics on development, and everything should not be about religion..." Meanwhile, BJP spokesperson Prakash Reddy criticized the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh governments for their decision to allow Muslim employees to leave work an hour early during Ramzan, calling it an act of appeasement. BJP spokesperson Prakash Reddy suggested that, while acknowledging the respect for the 'lftar' practice, similar consideration should be given to Hindu festivals, advocating for special leave during occasions like 'Ayyappa Swamy

# Jagan criticises Andhra govt over farmer distress

He claimed that farmers are not receiving MSP for any crop from TDP-led govt



**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE** HYDERABAD, 19 FEBRUARY

SRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday criticized Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, alleging that the state government had abandoned farmers to the mercy of middlemen and brokers.

He claimed that farmers are not receiving minimum support prices (MSP) for any crop under the current TDPled coalition government.

The former chief minister

visited the Guntur Chili Yard, one of the largest chili markets in Asia, and interacted with farmers. Chili farmers are distressed as prices have declined, making it difficult for them to recover their

costs. Speaking to the media, Reddy slammed the state government for failing to provide MSP to farmers for black gram, green gram, tomato, cotton, and other crops.

Brushing aside the discomfort caused by the pungency of chili, Reddy said,

operational during our regime, are now dysfunctional," added Reddy.

He alleged, "Not only chili, even paddy procured earlier was at a lower price. There is no transparency in the system. It has become a broker procurement system, and Chandrababu Naidu is hand in glove with the brokers, subjecting farmers to loss-

The YSRCP claimed that under its government, a record 16.10 lakh tonnes of chili were exported, opening up international markets and stabilizing prices. The previous regime had introduced investment support schemes to reduce the financial burden on farmers.

The administration took steps to improve cold storage facilities and prevent middlemen from exploiting farmers. However, the area under cultivation has now fallen to 180,000 hectares from 241,000 hectares, production has declined by 34.8 per cent, and yield per hectare has fallen by nearly 11 per

Rising input costs, pest infestations, and extreme weather conditions are among the causes of the hardship plaguing chili farmers.

# Telangana Opposition takes cue from Nara Lokesh's 'redbook'



**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE** HYDERABAD, 19 FEBRUARY

The 'red book' of TDP leader Nara Lokesh in which he noted the so-called illegal acts of government officials during the YSRCP regime in Andhra Pradesh, seems to have caught the imagination of the Opposition in Telangana as well.

Both BRS MLC Kavitha and BJP MP Etela Rajender have threatened to note down the alleged irregularities of the government officials in their respective "pink book" and "saffron book."

When he was in the Opposition, Lokesh often showed a red diary to his audience and declared he was noting down all the injustice meted out by the bureaucrats and the irregularities they performed while carrying out the orders of their political masters. He had vowed retribution once TDP came to power.

The Opposition in Telangana seemed to be taking cues from Nara Lokesh and noting down the infractions in the Congress regime.

BRS MLC Kavitha issued a warning to the Congress for indulging in political vendetta and registering cases against BRS leaders during her visit to Jangaon. She said they were maintaining a 'pink book' to document all the misdeeds of the Congress. She said they would retaliate after coming to power and ensure consequences follow

for such harassment. BJP MP from Malkajgiri Etela Rajender also referred

to the "Saffron book" while issuing a stern warning to IAS and IPS officers working in Telangana.

While campaigning for MLC elections Etela Rajender advised the All-India Service officers to follow the law instead of the orders of their political bosses. "We are also maintaining a Saffron book. We are recording the names in it. We will reveal it at the right time with the statistics," said Etela Rajender.

He criticized the previous BRS regime for destroying the education system in Telangana. He further alleged Revanth Reddy was doing the same thing after Congress came to power. He said the people of the state will teach the Congress alesson in the upcoming MLC

## KCR returns after long hiatus

polls around the corner.

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE** HYDERABAD, 19 FEBRUARY

Pooja'

Returning to the party headquarters after a long hiatus BRS supremo K Chandrasekhar Rao today slammed the Congress government as a flop and said Telangana was regressing under current rule. Exuding confidence that his party will certainly return to power he also charted the future course of the party in the coming days. He claimed by elections in the constituencies where defections took place, were imminent. The return of the wily BRS chief to active politics after lying low for months was a boost for the party cadres, particularly with local body

Rao today chaired the meeting of the party's executive body at the Telangana Bhavan and more than what he said it was his presence at the party headquarters that boosted the morale of the rank and file, particularly

after the dismal Assembly and Lok Sabha election results. The defections by party MLAs which had shaken the party have not only been arrested but Rao claimed the defectors will face disqualification and by polls will be held in those constituencies.

Plans are afoot to grandly celebrate its 25th anniversary, kicking off on 27 April which is its foundation day. The party will hold its plenary

on 27 April followed by a huge public meeting. The BRS will also begin its membership drive in April across the districts.

Rao today announced that with delimitation Assembly seats will go up to 160 from 117 and promised to reserve 53 seats for the women. He said a president for the party's women's wing will be appointed soon. He also promised training for the leaders and cadres. Upping the ante against the Congress government Rao said it failed in all sectors and the BRS would hold an agitation every month on key issues.

The former chief minister also submitted his diplomatic passport today and applied for a regular one.

## If Hindi imposition is compulsory, its destruction too is compulsory: Stalin quotes Tamil poet

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE** CHENNAI, 19 FEBRUARY

any distance from Chan-

drababu Naidu's secretariat.

Farmers are not getting min-

were between Rs 21,000 and

Rs 27,000. Today, farmers

are not able to sell even for

Rs 10,000 to Rs 11,000. That

is the plight of the farmers,"

Chandrababu Naidu made,

including Rs 20,000 beyond

the PM Kisan scheme, have

proven to be a lie. The Rythu

Bharosa Kendras, which were

"All the promises that

he said.

"Last year, chili prices

imum support prices.'

Keeping the heat on the Union Government over its rigid stand on the three-language formula and making it mandatory for the release of funds due for Tamil Nadu under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan(SSA) programme, Chief Minister MK Stalin on Wednesday warned that if imposition of Hindi is made compulsory, its destruction will become compulsory.

Quoting a poem of popular Tamil poet Bharathidasan, the Chief Minister made it clear that the manipulation to impose Hindi will never



succeed with the Tamils. Taking to 'X,' he posted the poem, written during the anti-Hindi agitation of the late 60s.

A rough translation of the poem reads thus: "Hindi, if you step into the Dravidian land of happiness, your feet

will be chopped off Coming to hinder us, Hindi,

succeed with us

Forcing it on our youth by making it mandatory, when they open their mouth to learn Tamil, the nectar, Your

your manipulation will never

clause of the Constitution

destruction too is compul-

The Chief Minister's warning came a day after the ruling DMK and its allies staged a massive demonstration against the Modi Government's persistent attempt to thrust Hindi. It was a swift response to the Union Education Minister's stand that funds for Tamil Nadu will be released only if the state accepted the National Education Policy (NEP) and its three-language formula. It has invited condemnation from across the political spec-

trum barring the BJP. Earlier, Stalin had questioned Pradhan that which

mandates a three-language formula and pointed out that Hindi imposition would undermine federalism.

Speaking at the protest, Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin had warned the 'fascist' BJP- led Union Government of another language war against Hindi imposition. He also said, "We are not seeking alms or demanding your property, but only our legitimate right.."

Tamil Nadu has been following the two language formula - mother tongue Tamil and English. The state also boasts of the highest Gross Enrollment Ratio in higher education in the country.

BIRBHUM ZILLA PARISHAD

### Classified

**PUBLIC** 

NOTICE

URGENT NOTICE

To Whom It May Concern

This is to inform or declare that, we

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I. Premises No. 1C, Brajendra Lal

Ganguly Lane, P.S. Charu

2. Premises No. 24B, Deshapran

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claims, interest or title and

whatsoever, please feel to contact

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7(seven) days maximum from the

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Sasmal Road, P.S. Charu

premises as below mentioned -

Market, Kolkata - 700033

Market, Kolkata - 700033.

#### **TENDER**

E-Tender Notice E-Tenders are invited by Principal vide ID-2025 UMM 816873 1 from the registered suppliers for supply of Udaynarayanpur Madhabilata Mahavidyalaya Howrah-711226 For details visit http://wbtenders.gov.in

**LEGAL NOTICE** 

Principal

NOTICE IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE 2ND SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, PURI 2" AO (SD) I.A.No.205 of 2023 Sanjib Sarkar ...... Plaintiff

Shrabani Sarkar and others

Shrabani Sarkar, aged about 39 years, D/o:Late Arun Kumar Sarkar, At: 3, Mrigendralal Mitra Road, Park Circus, P.O: Park Street, P.S: Beniapukur, Dist: 24 Pragana, Kolkata-700017, West

Whereas Sanjib Sarkar, aged about 59 years, S/o: Late Arun Kumar Sarkar, resident of 3,Mrigondralal Mitra Road, Park Circus, P.O: Park Street, P.S. Beniapukur, Dist. 24 Pragana, Kolkats-700017, West Bengal has instituted a suit against you for "declaration of Right, title interest with recovery of possession and for permanent injunction" you are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person, or by pleader duly instructed, and able to answer all material questions relating to the suit, or who shall be accompanied by some person able to answer all such questions, on the 31# day of March, 2025 at 11 O' clock in the noon, to answer the claim; and you are directed to produce on that day the documents upon which you intend to rely in support of your defence. Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned the suit will be heard and I determined in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of the court, this day of January 2025

2nd Senior Civil Judge, Puri

### **NOTICE**

## **Change of Name**

Asha Rani Kerketta. hereby declare that, I have changed the name and surname of my daughter according to the affidavit made before the Notary, dated 07-02-2025 and 'Rini Anjela Prasad' and 'Aria Anjela Kerketta' is same one and iden-

PUBLIC NOTICE

tical person.

It is to inform to all that my client Pratima Biswas, wife of Nirmal Kumar Biswas, residing at East Chandmari, 3rd Lane, P.O. - N. C. Pukur, P.S. Titagarh, Dist. North 24 Parganas, Kolkata- 700122, purchased land measuring 1 Cottah 2 Chittacks of Mouza- Chanak, J.L. NO. 4, R.S. & L. R. Dag No. 7744 under R. S. Khatian no. 340 and L.R. Khatian No. 897 from Rabindra Nath Sannasi through his registered Constitute Attorney (IV-304), Ajit Kumar Mondal Vide Deed No. 4816/1985. The above said 2 Deeds were duly registered before A.D.S.R.O. Barrackpore. Now my client is going to record her name before BL&LRO, BKP-II, Sodepur, If any objection regarding this matter respective person may apply before the BL&LRO Bkp-II. Sodepur, North 24 Parganas, with corroborating supporting

> Rabin Malo Advocate Barrackpur Court

documents within one month

#### **LEGAL NOTICE**

**LEGAL NOTICE** This to inform you that, my client, Smt. Supriya

Singharoy, wife of Santi Singharoy, sold the property situated under Dist.: Hooghly, P.S.: Uttarpara, Mauza-Basai, J.L. No. 2, under R.S. & L.R. Dag No. 183, L.R. Khatian No. 104, by different deeds of sale, as the attorney of Sri Samit Singharoy, son of Santi Singharoy, Smt. Sanchita Chandra, wife of Amarjit Chandra & Sarita Singha (Singharoy), wife of Chandranath Singha, by registered Power of Attorney, vide Deed No. 184 for the year 2004, registered at A.D.S.R. Serampore, Dist.: Hooghly. So, if any person have any objection, then inform me within fortnight from the date of publish of this notice.

**Sunit Sarkar Advocate Serampore Court** Serampore, Hooghly Mob.: 9433136340

LOST & FOUND

SHRI Soham Chakraborty, son of Subrata Chakraborty, residence of 141, North Station Road, Agarpara, Kolkata-700109, hereby declare that my Pass Certificate and Statement of Marks for ISC in the year 2023 from St. Xavier's Institution, Panihati have been lost from my custody since 12-12-2024.

Name-Bablu Chakraborty, resident of Baishnab Para, Sonarpur, Kol.-700150, Dist.: 24 Pgs(S), do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that to change name of my spouse from Rita Roy to Rita Chakraborty as per affi-ICSE in the year 2021 and davit (No. 12446) date 14-2-25 in the Court of the Ld. First Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore, 24

The Statesman ed 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

#### **CHANGE OF NAME**

I, SWARUPA Barua, W/o. Subhabrata Banerjee, residing at 82, Sreerampur Road North, Garia, Post Office: Garia, Police Station: Patuli, Kolkata-700084. District: South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Swarupa Barua Banerjee as declared before the Ld. First Class Magistrate Alipore Court vide Affidavit 12478 dated 14th February, 2025. Swarupa Swarupa Banerjee Swarupa Barua Banerjee are the same and

IC/ARMY No. 10212197-P, Rank-SEP, Kumar Parganas (South).

Readers are request-

PASCHIMBANGA AGRI MARKETING CORPORATION LIMITED SUFAL BANGLA PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT 2nd Floor, Uttarapan Civic Centre Maniktala, kolkata-700 054 sufalbangla@gmail.com NIQ No: PD/PMU/SB/78/2024-25 Date:19.02.2025

behalf of Paschimbanga Agri-Marketing Corporation Ltd, West Bengal invite: item rate (inclusive of all taxes) Quotation from the experienced and as a body builder of goods vehicle for "Fabrication of Light Goods Vehicles (LGV) (Newly Purchased) (Mahindra Supro Mini Profit Truck VX 856.2" as per specifications as detailed in the tender delivered to Sufal Bangla Project Management Unit at Tapashi Malik Krishak Bazar, Singur, Dist. Hooghly, West Bengal, Date, Time and Place of Pre-bid meeting: Date 24/02/2025 at 12:30 P.M. at the Office of the undersigned. Bid submission closing date and time:- 28/02/2025 at 03:00 P.M. The detail information regarding e-NIQ is available on the website: https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Project

The Project Director, Sufal Bangla or

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE TENDER ID-2025\_PHED\_805281\_1 to 31 (JJM Work). Electronic Notice Inviting Tender No.\_26/WBPHED/EE/ BD-I/2024-25. Last date of Documents load/sell closing date (Online) is on 03.03.2025 upto 11:00 A.M. Date of opening of technical Proposals (Online) on 05.03.2025 at 11:30 A.M. Further details will be available in our website www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Berhampore Division-I, P.H.E. ICA-T3480(3)/2025

Pirector, Sutai bangia. ICA-T3553(2)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL** Irrigation & Waterways Directorate ABRIDGED NOTICE INVITING TENDER (WBIW/EE/e-NIT-17 /EE/M.D. D-II of

Drainage Division No.-II, Jalasampad Bhawan, 7th floor, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-91, I. & W. Dte. on behalf of the Govt. of West Bengal from eligible and resourceful contractors having sufficient credential of execution of similar nature of works at least 30% of Si. No.-1 of Amount put to Tender for WBIW/EE/e-NIT-17/EE/M.D.D.-II of 2024-25. Details of WBIW/EE/e-NIT-17/EE/M.D.D.-II of 2024-2025 and Tender document may be downloaded from www.wbiwd.gov.in or https://wbtenders.gov.in or seen at Office Notice Board on and from 20.02.2025 at 10:30 hours. The date of download start date on and from

20.02.2025 at 16:30 Hrs. and the last

date of Bid submission on 06.03.2025 at

16:00 Hrs. Sd/- EE/MDD-II, I & W Dte.,

Govt. of West Bengal. ICA- T3436(3)/2025

#### O/O the Superintending Engineer, PWD South-Western Electrical Circle, Midnapur-721101

No.- WBPWD/SE/SWEC/NIQ72/2024-25 Tender ID: 2025 WBPWD 816601 1 25.02.2025 upto 14:30 Hrs. Name Of Work: Servicing & Overhauling of Electrical Sub-Station of Midnapore Medical College under Medinipus Medical college Electrical Sub-Division PWD. Further details can be seen in the above mentioned office during working hours or in Official Website www.pwdwb.gov.in For all details and online tender submission visit https://wbtenders.gov.in 5d/-S.DAS SE, SWEC, PWDte. ICA- T3507(3)/2025

e-TENDER NOTICE Engineer, Mechanical Electrical Division Berhampore P.H.E. Dte vide Ref. No. WBPHED/EE/MEDB/NieQ-41 OF 2024 25 and Tender ID 2025\_PHED\_B08157\_1 to 13 for Electro Mechanical Works for Jal Jivan Mission in different W/S. Scheme. Last date for hission of Technical and Financial Bid (online): 20.02.2025 upto 3:00 P.M. Dated of Opening technical proposa online): 24.02.2025 after 3:00 P.M. NB All others of the above NIeQ will remain

unchanged. All details can be seen from

the website: http://wbtenders.gov.in &

www.wbphed.gov.in ICA-T3482(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGA

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL Notice Inviting E-Tender NIT NO. HST/4T-114-2025/KITS/ 2025/340, Dated : 17-02-2025 E-TENDER FOR PROCUREMENT OF SOME KITS, CHEMICALS & REAGENTS FOR TWO YEARS FROM THE DATE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT (AOC) AND ITS EXTENSION, IF REQUIRED is invited from the Bidders. Interested bidders may visit the website "https://wbtenders.gov.in"or

"www.wbhealth.gov.in" for further

details. Bid submission start date

(online):28-02-2025 Bid submission

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL** 

closing date (online): 17-03-2025 Bid opening date (online): 2024-25, Dated-17/02/2025) Sd/- D.D.H.S. (E&S), WB Electronic submission of Bid is invited by ICA-T3445(3)/2025 the Executive Engineer, Metropolitan

> **TENDER NOTICE** NIT No. 196/STBT-15/1/ 2023-WBSB (Notice No. 12) e-Tenders (2nd Call) are invited by the Administrative Officer, West Bengal State Council of Science & Technology, Dept. of Science & Technology and Biotechnology, Go W.B., for "Supply and installation of DM Water Treatment Plant of 1000 KLD capacity at Kolkata Biotech Park including 3 years CAMC", from the reliable bonafide resourceful suppliers. Details available at the website: https://wbtenders.gov.in/ https://etender.wb.nic.in Publishing date: 19.02.2025. Last Date of submission of e-tender: 05.03.2025 at 14:00 Hrs. Sd/- Administrative Officer,

> > ICA- T3451(3)/2025

#### BIRBHUM ZILLA PARISHAD SURI, BIRBHUM Abridged Notice Inviting e-Tender Memo no:-510/3(1)BZP. Dt:-18/02/2025 Online Tender ID-2025 ZPHD 816329 Additional Executive Officer, Birbhum Zilla

downloading and uploading time are available from the website www.wbtenders.gov.in. Sd/- Additional Executive Officer Birbhum Zilla Parishad dense No-31(3)/Inf(adv()/Bir, Dated1-19/02/2025

works. Detailed information including

Memo no:-509/3(1)BZP. Dt:-18/02/202 Online Tender ID-2025 ZPHD 816323 Additional Executive Officer, Birbhum Zilli Parishad invites e-Tenders for 05 (Five) no of Parishad invites e-Tenders for 09 (Nine) no of works. Detailed information including downloading and uploading time are available from the website www.wbtenders.gov.in. Sd/- Additional Executive Officer Birbburs Zilla Parishad. Memo No-31(3)/Infludyty/litr. Dated1-19/02/2025

Kakina road from 14.00 km to 20.00 km in stretches) under Cooch Beha fighway Division in the district of Cooch Behar during 2024-25. (2nd Call). NO No. 13 (E) 2nd Call of 2024-25, (5l No.1 Estimated Amount: Rs. 25,14,398.48 Tender ID: 2025\_5H\_816762\_1. Bid submission Start date (online): 22/02/2025 from 9:00A.M., Bid submission closing date (online) 07/03/2025 up to 06:00 P.M Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender focuments may be downloaded from https://wbtenders.gov.in

Highway Division, Cooch Behar.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE

Executive Engineer-I, P.W.Dte., Central

Kolkata Health Electrical Division, P-12,

C.I.T Road (1st Floor), Kolkata-14 invites

e-tender (online) for the work of

(1) Electrical repairing and renovation

work at Pediatric Medicine Department

of the purpose of MUSQUAN at Calcutta

National Medical College, Kolkata. vide

e-tender no. WBPWD/EE-

I/CKHED/eNIT117/24-25. Tender ID:

2025\_W8PWD\_816655\_1. Bld

submission end date (online) for the job

is 05/03/2025 upto 2.00 P.M. Detail

available from the website:

http://etender.wb.nic.in.

http://wbtenders.gov.in &

http://pwdwb.in Sd/- Aindam Haldar,

Executive Engineer-I, Central Kolkata

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGA

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender is invited by The Executive

Engineer, Mechanical Electrical Division

Berhampore P.H.E. Dte vide Ref. No.

WBPHED/EE/MEDB/NIeQ-43 OF 2024-

25 and Tender ID

2025\_PHED\_811154\_1 to 8 Electro-

mechanical works for Jal Jivan Mission in

different W/S Scheme. Last date for

Submission of Technical and Financial

Bid (online): 27.02.2025 upto 10:00

A.M. Dated of Opening technical

proposal (online): 03.03.2025 after

11:00 A.M. NB : All others of the above

NIeQ will remain unchanged. All details

can be seen from the website:

http://wbtenders.gov.in &

www.wbphed.gov.in ICA- T3484(3)/2025

Health Electrical Division, P.W.Dte.

nformation/download/upload will be

1st Corrigendum against NIeT No. WBPWD/EE/HCD/eNIT(Item Rate) 01/2024-25 of Executive Engineer P.W.D, Howrah Construction Division 1) Name of Work:- Engagement of guarding at Howrah Construction Sub Division-I & II and Office of the Executive Engineer, Howrah Construction Division P.W.D. 2- M.G. Road, Howrah-711101 Tender ID: 2025\_WBPWD\_811464\_1 Bid Submission end date extended up to 3.00 P.M. of 01.03.2025. Details will be available from the website http://wbtenders.gov.in and notice within office hours. 5d/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Howrah Construction

Security Personnel on purely temporary basis for 24 Hours (Round the Clock) board of this office on all working days ICA-T3522(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL BIRBHUM ZILLA PARISHAD SURL BIRBHUM bridged Notice Inviting e-Tender Tender Notice No. BHM-N-44-2024-25 Memo no:-508/3(1)BZP. Dt:-18/02/2025 Online Tender ID-2025 ZPHD 816322 Additional Executive Officer, Birbhum Zilla Parishad invites e-Tenders for 11 (Eleven) no of works. Detailed information including downloading and uploading time are available from the website www.wbtenders.gov.in. Sd/- Additional Executive Officer,

Birbhum Zilla Parishad

Memo No-31(3)/Inf(advt)/Bir, Dated1-19/02/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL** E-Tender being invited by Howrah procurement Equipments. Details available in https://wbtenders.gov.in & https://howrah.gov.in with 2025\_DSE\_814972\_1 2025\_DSE\_815137\_1 2025\_DSE\_815339\_1.



# CM Omar warns of worsening water crisis across J&K

Jammu & Kashmir residents cannot take water for granted, he wrote on X

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE** 

JAMMU, 19 FEBRUARY

nticipating a draughtlike situation in Jammu and Kashmir **A**due to negligible rain and snow this winter, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday warned of a worseningwater crisis in the Union Territory (UT) and called for collective efforts to tackle the alarming situation.

"J&K residents cannot take water for granted," he wrote on X.

Omar's concern has come after reports of many natural springs and waterbodies drying up across the UT. This has resulted in a severe drinking water crisis in many areas of the Kashmir valley and also the Jammu region.

The Chief Minister wrote on X: "J&K is staring at a water crisis this year. It's not a recent phenomenon, actually it's been building up for a few years now. While the government will have to adopt a



more proactive approach for water management & conservation, it can't just be a government centric approach. All of us residents of J&K will have to change the way we take water for granted. I'll be reviewing the measures the Jal Shakti (PHE) Dept intends to take to deal with the developing crisis & I'll also be talking

to the people of J&K over the next few months about what we can do collectively".

The prolonged dry spell has not only dried up water bodies but has also triggered forest fires in several areas.

Due to insufficient snowfall on the ski-slopes of Gulmarg, the government was forced to postpone the Kashmir edi-

tion of the Khelo India Winter Games.

The meteorological department has predicted a possibility of drought in the Kashmir valley due to a dry winter and about 80% precipitation deficit in January and February. The river bed of Jhelum was visible

announced that "We will provide free of cost water through at many places in Kashmir. tankers to areas of Jammu which are facing shortage". Several natural water springs

## India now a leader in innovations in multiple sectors: Jitendra Singh



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI. 19 FEBRUARY** 

India is no longer just a follower but is now setting global benchmarks, offering leadership and pioneering innovations across sectors, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday.

At a function here, he highlighted the remarkable advancements India has made in recent years, in the fields of space, biotechnology, and nuclear energy etc, positioning itself as a key player on the world stage.

Dr. Jitendra Singh pointed out that India's space sector has witnessed an unprecedented transformation, with a surge in ambitious missions and international collabora-

tions. The Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) is a testament to India's technological progress, paving the way for future space missions, including *Gaganyaan*, Chandrayaan-4, and the Bhartiya Antriksh Station, India's upcoming

India has also emerged as a preferred destination for satellite launches, earning global credibility. The nation has successfully launched 433 foreign satellites, of which 396 were deployed in the last decade alone, generating \$157 million and 260 million in revenue from 2014-2023.

international space station.

The historic success of *Chandrayaan-3*, which made India the first country to land near the Moon's south pole, has positioned ISRO at the

forefront of lunar exploration. The world's leading space agencies, including NASA, are now awaiting India's findings from the Moon's southern pole, a milestone that underscores the nation's rising dominance in space research.

The minister also highlighted India's pioneering role in biotechnology and bioeconomy. India became the first country to develop a DNA-based COVID-19 vaccine, demonstrating its leadership in vaccine research and development. Furthermore, India has introduced the first herpesvirus vaccine for cervical cancer, reinforcing its position as a leader in preventive healthcare.

India's bioeconomy has surged from \$10 billion in 2014 to nearly \$140 billion today, with projections to reach \$250 billion in the coming years. The number of biotech startups has skyrocketed from just 50 in 2014 to nearly 9,000 today, making India a global hub for biotech innovation. In bio-manufacturing, India now ranks third in the Asia-Pacific region and 12th globally, with its influence expanding rapidly.

## Uttarakhand Assembly takes to digital e-Vidhan Sabha, MLAs face challenge to operate tablets

#### **PR SINGH**

**DEHRADUN, 19 FEBRUARY** 

The Uttarakhand state Assembly's move to go digital has apparently not gone down well with the legislators as they are unable to use their tablets beyond logging in. The Assembly Speaker had to organise a special training session for them to operate the tablets set up at their desks.

The Uttarakhand legislature for the first time took to 'e-Vidhan Sabha' under the National e-Vidhan Application (e-NeVA) begining with its budget session 2025 on 18 February.

However the e-Vidhan Sabha has emerged as big challenge for the MLAs. Tablets mounted at their desks in the House have

Seeing the inability of the state legislators to explore digital services through e-Vidhan Sabha, Speaker Ritu Khanduri had to intervene to help them learn. Khanduri asked the Assembly secretariat to depute two Information Technology **Development Agency (ITDA) officials to assist** and teach the MLAs how to operat the tablets and use the e-Vidhan Sabha Portal smoothly

to be used by them.

More than 50 MLAs of the 70-member state Assembly could not even browse through these gadgets beyond logging in. On Day One, MLAs found it too difficult to read the governor's address online on their tablets and preferred to leaf through the booklet provided to them.

It's significant that the MLAs attempted once or twice to open the tablets

become too difficult a puzzle and watch the governor's address online but found it too difficult to do so. As a result they gave up their efforts and read the governor's

> copy kept at their desks. Seeing the inability of the state legislators to explore digital services through e-Vidhan Sabha, the Speaker Ritu Khanduri had to intervene to help them learn.

> speech through the hard

Khanduri asked the assembly officials to depute two

Information Technology Development Agency (ITDA) officials to assist and teach the MLAs how to operat the tablets and use e-Vidhan Sabha Portal smoothly. Later, Ritu Khanduri said:

"e-Vidhan Sabha in Uttarakhand Assembly has just began. It's not possible to make session paperless completely. A one hour training program has been arranged every morning to impart lessons as e-Vidhan application for the MLAs at the assembly campus."

The Speaker added: "Presently only the day's business agenda and questions to be taken up in the house are being made available on their tablets. The digital process will bring transparency along with improvement in the parliamentary functioning.'

in South Kashmir, which flow into the lakes and rivers flowing

across the valley, have already

Chenab river, which is other-

wise known to be one of the

most turbulent rivers in the

world, is likely to hit power

generation as most hydro-

electric projects were located

on this river. It will also hit

drinking water supply in atleast

six districts of the Jammu

villages affected due to drinking

water shortage have already

started particularly in South

Kashmir. The Achhabal water

spring has dried up. The spring

and the Aripath rivulet are

the source of drinking water

to atleast a dozen villages.

The Aripal spring has also

Javed Ahmed Rana, has

Minister for Jal Shakti,

reportedly dried up.

Protests by residents of

Low water discharge in the

dried up.

region.

NORTH EASTERN INDIRA GANDHI REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH & MEDICAL SCIENCES

Dated: 28th January, 2025 ADDENDUM TO ROLLING ADVERTISEMENT FOR FACULTY POSTS NO. EST-II-RFAC0FSEL/1/2004-ESTT.II DATED 21-11-2024

continuation to Institute's Rolling Advertisement for recruitment of faculty posts dated 21-11-2024, the following faculty posts as been added as vacancy:

11	Departments	No. of posts			
lo.		Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor	
	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	8	計	
	Pharmacology	162	1 UR	-	
	General Surgery	u.E.		1 UR	
fode	of Recruitment :				
I. No	Post				
	Professor, Obstetrics & Gynaecology		Deputation / absorption basis.		
Ĭ.	Associate Professor, Pharmacology		Direct recruitment failing which by		
į.	Assistant Professor, General Surgery		Deputation / absorption basis		

For further details regarding prescribed application form, application fee, pay scale, age, reservation, relaxation, essential qualification, experience etc. is as per Rolling Advertisement No. EST-II-RFAC0FSEL/1/2004-Estt.II dated 21-11-2024 available on NEIGRIHMS website: http://neigrihms.gov.in The other terms & conditions shall be as per Rolling Advertisement dated 21-11-

All the applicants are advised to keep visiting NEIGRIHMS. Shillong website on regular basis for any further updates. The last date for submission of application is 18th March, 2025 till 5-30 p.m.

CBC 17119/11/0020/2425

Director, NEIGRIHMS

# INFORMATION WANTED



This is the photograph of Poonam Das Father's Name - Vishnu Shankar Pandey, of A/14, Ramkrishna Park PO- Sodepur, PS- Ghola, Near Bhuter RAja Dilo Bor Resturant, North 24 Parganas, who has been missing since 03.10.2024 at about 12.00 hrs from Residence, Under Ghola PS Description of this missing person is Age-31 Years, Complexion-Shallow Height- 5 Feet, 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-D329(3)/2025

#### राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा एजेंसी NATIONAL TESTING AGENCY

Excellence in Assessment National Testing Agency

National Testing Agency (NTA) invites eligible and experienced service providers to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) for providing various exam-related services. The brief scope of services includes, but is not limited to, the following:

ment of CCTV cameras at exam centres for secure and transparent examination processes. Biometric Capturing: Deployment of manpower to capture

CCTV Surveillance: Installation, monitoring, and manage-

biometrics data of the candidates for candidate identification and verification. Frisking & Crowd Management: Ensuring safety and order

during exam events through professional frisking and effective crowd management. For further details, visit tender section of NTA website i.e.

https://nta.ac.in/Tender

CBC 21354/12/0008/2425

Sd/- Joint Director

#### NOTICE

#### NOTICE

This is to inform that Rajkishore Yadav proprietor of Modern Industrial Infrastructure Private Limited has been accorded The Environment Clearance from the WBSEIAA for his proposed Telenda sand block, with production capacity 1st year 1,02,600 m3 & 2nd to 5th year 75,308.4 m3/Year, at Telenda, P.S-Mejhia, Dist.- Bankura, West Bengal. EC Identification No. EC24B0107WB5958252N dated 05.02.2025. The copy of said clearance is available with the



This is the photograph of Tinku Das, Father's Name- Pran Krishna Das of Satin Sen Road, Ramkrishnapur, PO-Natagarh, PS- Ghola, PIN- 700113, dist-24 Parganas (North), West Bengal who has been missing since 17.01.2025, at about 04.15 hrs, from his residential area, Description of this missing person is : Age- 39 Years, Complexion-Fair, Height- 5 Feet, B Inch, Language-Bengali, Wearing- Blue jeans pant and gray colour Jacket. Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhaban Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D325(3)/2025



This is the photograph of Anup Dey, @ Pintu. Father's Name- Lt. Debendra Chandra Dey of 49/19, Kankpul, PO- Kankpul, PS Ashoknagar, WB., who has been missing since 18.01.2025 at about 13.00 hrs. from Residential area, Description of this missing person is: Age-38 Years, Complexion-Fair, Height- 5 Feet, 5 Inch, Language-Bengali Wearing- White and Blue coloured T shirt and Black colour Barmuda . Identifiaction Mark/ Nature- Mental imbalance. Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

Basudev, Father's Name-Sudhanna Sanpui of Vill Kadarat, Narendrapur St. P.O Ramkrishna Pally, PS- Nerendrapur, Dist- South 24

ICA-D327(3)/2025

# INFORMATION WANTED

This is the photograph of Sidhika Gupta, @ Basudev, Father's Name - Lt. Subash Prasad Gupta, of 110, P.B. Ghar Road P.O. Kamarhati, PS- Kharda, Dist- North 24 Parganas, who has been missing since 08.09.2023 at about 09.30 hrs from Residence, Under Kharda PS Description of this missing person is Age-14 Years, Complexion-Fair, Height 5 Feet, Language-Hindi, Wearing Black colourtop & jeans. Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhaban Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D328(3)/2025

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

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL KOLKATA (DRT 3) 8th Floor, Jeevan Sudha Building, 42-C, Jawahar Lal Nehru Road, Kolkata-700071 Case No.: TA/658/2014

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

#### Exh. No.: 4707 BANK OF BARODA VS PIJUSH KUMAR KANODIA AND ORS

(1) RAJIB SARKAR, 275, DAKSHIN DUMDUM, KOLKATA, NORTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS, WEST BENGAL-700074

WHEREAS, TA/658/2014 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on

WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs 54,48,880/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed). In accordance with sub-section(4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are

(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application; (iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application,

pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original

application without the prior approval of the Tribunal; (v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security

You are also directed te file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 04/09/2024 at 10:30A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 06/08/2024

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons.

NEXT DATE 09.04.2025

Registrar-In-Charge Kolkata Debts Recovery Tribunal-3

This is to inform that Tahid Alam proprietor of M/S Reliance Stone Product has been accorded The Environment Clearance from the WBSEIAA for his proposed Darbardanga sand block, with production capacity 1st year 57,710 m3 & 2nd to 5th year 43,167.08 m3/Year, at Darbardanga, P.S- Jamuria, Dist.-Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal, EC Identification No. EC24C0107WB5266109N dated 11.09.2024. The copy of said clearance is available with the Parivesh Portal of MOEF&CC.

Parivesh Portal of MOEF&CC.

#### **SELECTION & ENGAGEMENT OF** SENIOR RESIDENT DOCTORS

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for a 'WALK-IN-INTERVIEW' on 10.03.2025 (Monday) at 11 a.m. at VIP Room of Medical Director's office, Central Hospital, South Eastern Railway, 11, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-700043 for selection and engagement of 06 (Six) post of Senior Resident Doctor (General Medicine-02, Plastic Surgery-02, General Surgery -01, G&O-01=06). Detailed advertisement with terms & conditions. format of application form, enclosures etc. are available on South Eastern Railway website (www.ser.indianrailways.gov.in under head Department Medical). Other terms & conditions are as follows: 1. Educational qualification: Post Graduate Degree/DM/ McH/DNB or Diploma in the concerned speciality, from University recognized by State/Central Govt. If such candidate are not available in particular speciality, then without PG qualifications but having at least three years experience after MBBS out of which one year Junior Residency in Government Hospital or MCI recognized private hospital in the concerned speciality can be considered for a period of one year only subject to the condition that fresh selection process has to be done by end of one year. Extension for another year will be allowed to these MBBS doctor with three year experience if again no candidate with Diploma/PG/ DNB/DM/applies. The total period of such extension will be limited to three years of total senior residency as in senior residence scheme. \*(See further details in website). 2. Age limit: Not more than 37 years on the date of application and may be extended up to 45 years if no suitable candidates available & relaxation up to 5 years for SC/ST candidates. 3. Tenure: The contract of appointment will be for one year which is renewable up to a maximum period of three years, subject to renewal/extension every year. 4. Emoluments: According to 7th CPC pay level 11 and other allowances as admissible for senior residency scheme under Ministry of Railways. 5. The candidates are required to bring the filled-in application form and all original documents, mentioned in the website, along with a set of attested photocopies while appearing for the Walk-in-Interview.

Medical Director, Central Hospital, Garden Reach

South Eastern Railway We serve with a smile

#### ICA-D326(3)/2025



Chowdhury, Father's Name- Late Nikhil Ranjan Samadder Chowdhury of 306/A, Ashoknagar, PO+PS= Ashoknagar Dist-24 parganas (North), West Bengal, who has been missing since 22.12.2024, at about 14.00 hrs, from Residential area, Description of this missing person is: Age-68 Years, Complexion-Shyamla, Height-5Feet, 5 Inch, Language-Bengali, Wearing- Chocolate colour full pant & Ghee colour Sweater. Identification Mark/Nature-There is a mole on the left cheek under the eye. Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D324(3)/2025

INFORMATION WANTED

This is the photograph of Arsana Khatun,

Father's Name - Azad Molla, of Narayani

Rajarampur, PO- Kodalia Sibpur PS- Falta,

Dist- Diamond Harbour Police District who

has been missing since 04.07.2024 at about

10.00 hrs. from Residence, Narayani

Rajarampur, PO- Kodalia Sibpur PS- Falta,

Dist- Diamond Harbour Police District,

Description of this missing person is: Age-16 Years, Complexion-Fair, Height- 5 Feet, Wearing - Sky colour Churidar, Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-

ICA-D317(3)/2025

2450-6120.

epaper.thestatesman.com

## INFORMATION WANTED



This is the photograph of Bijoy Sutradhar, Father's Name- late Mahadeb Sutradhar of Prataphagar Puja Mandap, PO-Natagarh, PS- Ghola, Dist- North 24 Parganas, who has been missing since 08.01.2025, at about 09.30 hrs, from Residence Under Ghola PS, Description of this missing person is: Age-65 Years, Complexion-Shyamla, Height-5 Feet, 9 Inch, Language-Bengali, Wearing- White blue Shirt & Lungi. Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-

ICA-D323(3)/2025



This is the photograph of Mosammat Ayesha Khatun, Father's Name Mohabbat Ali Sk , of Vill Kadipur, PS-Kalna, Dist- Purba Bardhaman, who has been missing since 07.10.2024 at about 17.10 hrs. from Residence under Kalna PS, Description of this missing person is : Age-17 Years, Complexion-Fair, Height- 5 Feet, 2 Inch, Language - Bengali, Wearing -Green Salwar & Green Pant. Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D318(3)/2025

# This is the photograph of Basudev Sanpui, @

Parganas, who has been missing since 23.01.2025 at about 10.20 hrs. from Residence under Narendrapur PS, Description of this missing person is: Age-75 Years, Complexion-Shyamla, Height-5Feet, 3 Inch, Language-Bengali, Wearing- Yellow colour check full shirt & Meroon colour jacket with Blue Pant & Green colourshoe. 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 Argha Bhattacherjee, @ Gamla, Father's Name-Chandan Bhattacharjee of Vill- Fultala | Manikdip, PS- Khanakul, Dist- Hooghly, who Sachi Dakhinat Apartment, PO- Fultala, PS- Baruipur, South 24 Parganas, who has been missing since 08.11.2024, from Residence Under Baruipur PS, Description of this missing person is : Age-35 Years, Complexion-Fair, Height-5 Feet, 5 Inch, Language-Bengali, Wearing- Shirt & Pant, Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D322(3)/2025

INFORMATION WANTED

# INFORMATION WANTED

This is the photograph of Kartick Giri, Father's Name- Nishikanta Giri of Vill has been missing since 21.11.2024 at about 16.00 hrs. from his rented house Rajhati, PS- Khanakul, Description of this missing person is : Age-24 Years, Complexion-Shyamla, Height- 5 Feet, 2 Inch, Language-Bengali, Wearing-Green Colour T-shirt & Jeans . Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D321(3)/2025

#### INFORMATION WANTED



This is the photograph of Achinta Das, Father's Name- Ashim Das of Vill Baksi, PS-Bagnan, Dist- Howrah, who has been missing since 03.11.2024 at about 18.30 hrs. from Hauli Bagan under Panchla PS, Description of this missing person is : Age-27 Years, Complexion-Dark, Height-5 Feet, 6 Inch, Language-Bengali, Wearing-Full pant & half sleev T-shirt . Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D319(3)/2025



This is the photograph of Archana Jha, @ Babita Debi, Father's Name - Paban Kumar Jha, of Rania Sukanta Kanan, PO- Boral, PS- Narendrapur dist- 24 Parganas (South) who has been missing since 29.06.2024 at about 08.00 hrs. from Residential area, Description of this missing person is : Age-35 Years, Complexion-Fair, Height- 6 Feet, Language-Hindi, Wearing - Red colour Sharee & Reb Colour Blouse, Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D320(3)/2025

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

#### **Silver Dividend**

ndia stands at a demographic crossroads. While much attention has been given to its youthful population, the country is also witnessing a significant rise in its elderly demographic. By 2031, over 13 per cent of India's population will be aged 60 and above. This shift presents both a challenge and an opportunity. If harnessed effectively, India's aging workforce could become a powerful economic asset ~ a "silver dividend." Unfortunately, current policies and labour market structures have yet to fully tap into this potential. Despite increasing life expectancy and improving health conditions, labour force participation among India's elderly remains low. According to recent surveys, only about a quarter of people aged 65 and above are part of the workforce, with stark differences between rural and urban areas. In rural India, labour force participation among the elderly has risen, more due to necessity than choice. Many older adults in villages continue working in agriculture, construction, or informal service jobs to supplement meagre pensions or inadequate social security benefits. Women, in particular, have seen a notable rise in workforce participation, often driven by economic compulsion. Conversely, in urban areas, elderly workforce participation has stagnated. Retirees from the formal sector often find themselves excluded from re-employment opportunities, despite possessing valuable skills and experience. Unlike developed economies that have structured programmes to reintegrate older professionals into the workforce, India lacks systemic efforts to facilitate second careers for its aging population. Several countries have successfully leveraged their aging workforce through innovative policies. Japan, for instance, has established Senior Human Resource Centres, offering part-time and flexible job opportunities for retirees in sectors like administration, maintenance, and community services. The United States has developed encore career programmes, which enable retirees to take up advisory or mentorship roles. European nations like Germany and Sweden have flexible retirement policies, allowing older individuals to extend their working lives voluntarily. India can learn from these models and tailor solutions to its own socio-economic realities. For instance, retired professionals from sectors like defence, education, and healthcare can be engaged in mentorship or consulting roles. The corporate sector can introduce phased retirement programmes, allowing employees to transition gradually rather than exiting the workforce entirely. To harness the silver dividend, India needs a multi-pronged strategy. First, social security programmes must be expanded to ensure financial stability, reducing the need for elderly individuals to engage in low-paying and physically demanding jobs. Secondly, reskilling programmes should be introduced to help older workers transition into new roles, especially in the digital economy. Thirdly, labour laws should be reformed to promote age-friendly workplaces and flexible work arrangements. India has long benefited from its youthful workforce, but the time has come to recognise the economic value of its aging population. With the right policies, the country can transform its growing elderly demographic from a perceived burden into a productive and engaged segment of the economy.

### **Ukraine's Future**

he high-level talks between the United States and Russia in Riyadh marked a significant step in efforts to end the war in Ukraine. While Ukraine was not present at the meeting, US officials, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio, have assured that Kyiv and Europe will be part of the process moving forward. The key question now is whether the negotiations will lead to a lasting and just resolution that respects Ukraine's sovereignty. Following the talks, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov reiterated Moscow's firm stance, emphasising that Nato must not only keep Ukraine out but also formally revoke its 2008 pledge that Kyiv would one day join the alliance. He also made clear that Russia would not accept any military presence of Nato countries in Ukraine, even under "another flag" ~ of a peacekeeping mission. This signals that Moscow will continue to push for concessions that reshape the region's security architecture in its favour. For Ukraine, the negotiations ahead will test both its resilience and the strength of its alliances. President Volodymyr Zelenskky has consistently maintained that Nato membership remains the best security guarantee for Kyiv. However, with Washington and Moscow focusing on territorial discussions and long-term security arrangements, Ukraine will need to ensure that its core interests are not compromised. The challenge will be to balance diplomatic flexibility with firm red lines ~ ensuring that any settlement strengthens, rather than weakens, Ukraine's sovereignty and independence. On the US side, National Security Advisor Mike Waltz acknowledged that discussions in the coming weeks will involve issues of territory and security guarantees. While Washington has not explicitly ruled out Ukraine reclaiming occupied land, the focus on territorial negotiations suggests that compromises may be on the table. This pragmatic approach could facilitate progress in talks, but it also raises concerns about how any agreement might be perceived ~ especially if it appears to reward Russia's invasion. A key outcome of the talks was the decision of both sides to appoint high-level teams to continue working on a framework for ending the war. Mr Rubio emphasised that any final agreement must be acceptable to all parties, including Ukraine. While fears remain about Kyiv being sidelined, the US has signaled that Ukraine will be directly involved in the critical phases of negotiation. Looking ahead, European involvement will be crucial. With the European Union imposing its own sanctions on Russia and considering future security measures in the region, its role in shaping the peace process cannot be ignored. Meanwhile, Russia's push for broader concessions suggests that the path to a deal will not be straightforward. Ultimately, peace must be both sustainable and just. The diplomatic process is now gaining momentum, but the challenge remains to ensure that Ukraine's sovereignty and security are not undermined in the pursuit of an agreement. The coming weeks will be decisive in determining whether these negotiations can lead to a resolution that is not only practical but also principled.

# Averting Disasters

One of the biggest challenges in crowd management in India is the absence of strong regulatory frameworks. To prevent future tragedies, India needs a robust policy framework that institutionalizes crowd management at all levels. A centralized body, possibly under the National Disaster Management Authority, should be established to research, develop, and implement crowd management guidelines. Event organizers should be required to submit comprehensive crowd control plans as part of the approval process, and realtime crowd monitoring should be made mandatory for religious events, festivals, and mass gatherings.

n 15 February 2025, a tragic stampede at New Delhi Railway Station claimed the lives of at least 18 people and left many others critically injured. The incident followed closely on the heels of another catastrophe at the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, where over 30 people perished. These back-to-back disasters have once again exposed the glaring gaps in India's crowd management, raising urgent questions about public safety and administrative preparedness.

Mass gatherings are intrinsic to Indian culture ~ whether for religious events, political campaigns, or daily commuter traffic at transit hubs. However, frequent tragedies due to mismanagement, lack of planning, and infrastructural shortcomings show that lessons from past disasters are not leading to effective actions.

Despite recurring disasters, authorities continue to depend on short-term solutions rather than addressing underlying systemic vulnerabilities. To prevent future calamities, it is imperative to move beyond reactive measures and adopt proactive, sustainable, and technology-driven crowd management strategies.

India has a long history of stampedes at religious gatherings, railway stations, and public events. Over the past two decades, hundreds of people have lost their lives in such incidents. The Kumbh Mela, one of the world's largest religious gatherings, has witnessed multiple fatal stampedes, including the 1954 Allahabad tragedy which resulted in over 800 deaths.

Similarly, railway stations ~ especially those in major cities ~ frequently experience overcrowding, leading to chaos and tragedy. A 2013 stampede at Ratangarh Temple in Madhya Pradesh killed over 115 devotees, and in 2011, a tragedy at Sabarimala in Kerala claimed more than 100 lives.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report, Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India, a total of 3,074 lives were lost due to stampedes across the country between 2001 and 2022. Of these, 2,169 victims (70 per cent) were men, while 900 (30 per cent) were women. Notably, four states ~ Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu ~ account for half of the total fatalities recorded during this period.

At New Delhi Railway Station, the stampede occurred due to an overwhelming influx of passengers trying to board trains to Prayagraj. Witnesses reported that railway authorities underestimated the crowd size and failed to deploy adequate security personnel.

Kumbh Mela, where millions of devotees gathered, inadequate crowd control measures failed to prevent a stampede on the most auspicious bathing day. Poor planning and insufficient ness about safe movement and



**AMAL** 

**CHANDRA** 

The writer is a policy

analyst, columnist and author of 'The Essential'

tributed to the loss of life in both cases.

Several countries that regularly host massive gatherings have developed effective crowdmanagement strategies. Saudi Arabia, which manages the annual Hajj pilgrimage, employs meticulous crowd simulation models to anticipate potential

Over 2.5 million pilgrims visit Mecca each

year, and authorities use artificial intelligence (AI) and facial recognition to track crowd movement, ensuring smooth flow and early identification of risk areas.

Japan, known for its precision in crowd control, has implemented AIbased surveillance in Tokyo's bustling train stations to detect unusual

crowd behaviour. The 2012 London Olympics demonstrated how smart infrastructure planning can ensure the seamless movement of large crowds.

Indian railway stations and event venues should implement similar infrastructural upgrades, ensuring multiple access points, automated crowd flow management, and staggered entry-exit mechanisms to prevent bottle-

While India deploys security forces during large events, their training in crowd psychology and emergency response is often inadequate. Saudi Arabia employs over 100,000 security personnel trained in crowd control during Hajj, ensuring efficient management of millions of people. India should establish specialized crowd management units within its police forces and train personnel accordingly.

Additionally, countries like Brazil educate the public on safety measures through widespread media campaigns. Government agencies must proac-Similarly, at the Maha tively educate citizens on safety protocols, including what to do in case of overcrowding and how to navigate emergency exits

during large events. The lack of public aware-

opposed the creation of inde-

pendent Bangladesh.

regulation of movement con- emergency response remains a crucial factor in stampede fatal-

> One of the biggest challenges in crowd management in India is the absence of strong regulatory frameworks. To prevent future tragedies, India needs a robust policy framework that institutionalizes crowd management at all levels. A centralized body, possibly under the National Disaster Management Auth-

> > ority (NDMA), should be established to research, develop, and implement crowd management guidelines. Event organizers should be required to submit comprehensive crowd control

plans as part of the approval process, and real-time crowd monitoring should be made mandatory for religious events, fes-

Urban railway stations and event venues must be redesigned to accommodate large crowds safely. Technologies such as automatic gates, digital ticketing systems, and real-time tracking of crowd density should be implemented.

tivals, and mass gatherings.

AI-based surveillance and predictive modelling should be mandatory for all major public events and transit hubs. In the Mumbai suburban railway network, which carries over 7.5 million passengers daily, deaths due to overcrowding are common. The implementation of automated crowd control systems, similar to those used in Japan's Shinjuku Station ~ the world's busiest railway station ~

can significantly reduce risks. Stampedes often occur due to a sudden surge in movement, panic, or misinformation spreading through crowds. Implementing real-time crowd communication systems ~ such as mobile alerts and public announcement systems ~ can help guide large crowds during peak congestion periods.

The use of drone surveillance to track crowd density and deploy security forces accordingly has been successful in large-scale events such as the

raise their voice of protest against

this ongoing injustice.

Rio Carnival in Brazil. India must adopt these models to enhance real-time crisis management.

Security personnel and event management teams should undergo periodic training in crowd psychology and emergency response. Mock drills should be conducted regularly at railway stations, religious sites, and stadiums to test the effectiveness of crowd management plans. In South Korea, after the Itaewon Halloween crowd crush in 2022, the government overhauled its crowd control policies, incorporating regular simulation drills for security forces and event organizers. India must adopt a similar proactive approach to handle

large gatherings. Mass awareness campaigns should educate citizens on basic safety measures in crowded places. Community volunteers can be trained as first responders in densely populated areas to assist during emergencies. In countries like Germany and Singapore, citizens are taught emergency protocols for mass gatherings through school curriculums and public workshops. Implementing similar programmes in India could significantly en-

hance public preparedness. India's infrastructure limi tations further exacerbate crowd control issues. Many railway stations, temples, and stadiums were not originally designed to accommodate modern-day crowds. A major overhaul of transit and religious site infrastructure is required. Creating wider entry and exit points, installing emergency response systems, and ensuring the availability of medical assistance are crucial steps that need immediate implemen-

The stampedes at New Delhi Railway Station and the Maha Kumbh Mela are stark reminders of the preventable loss of life caused by poor crowd management. As India continues to host some of the world's largest gatherings, it must embrace a holistic and proactive approach

to public safety. Learning from global best practices, investing in technology-driven solutions, training, and enforcing strong policy measures can mitigate the risks associated with mass gatherings. The time for piecemeal responses is over; India must now commit to a comprehensive, longterm strategy for crowd management that prioritizes human lives above all else.

Addressing the recurring tragedies of stampedes requires a coordinated effort from policymakers, law enforcement agencies, and event organizers. Without significant reforms and infrastructural upgrades, stampedes will continue to claim lives. It is time for the government to take decisive action and implement a structured, wellregulated, and technology-driven crowd management system to ensure public safety in a rapidly growing nation.



### **Munich Security Conference** needs reforms

he Munich Security Conference has become an important annual conference on global security. Launched in 1963, the conference organizes high-level discussions, and fosters agreements and transnational cooperation on global security. Despite these traits, the MSC needs reforms to regain its status in global security management.

The MSC operates in a center-periphery power structure: the G7 member states set the core agenda, while the countries of the Global South often remain passive recipients. Long-term Western dominance has led the MSC to neglect the views and interests of some non-Western countries, and turn into a platform for the West to promote its values and policies. As such, some developing countries are reluctant to take part in the conference.

The selective approach of the MSC, especially on key issues, exposes the structural flaws of the conference. The MSC claims to reach strategic consensuses through closed-door meetings among developed countries. But in today's multipolar world, the platform lacks institutional power-sharing dialogue mechanisms and the capacity to check major power competition. Hence, it cannot meet the security demands of small and medium-sized countries. No wonder disagreements on multiple topics and doubts about the conference being fair and effective have increased. The conference's efficacy in

promoting agreements and suggesting viable solutions to burning issues has

The international community still expects the MSC to promote fair and equitable security dialogues. For instance, in 2024, about 700 representatives from more than 120 countries and regions attended the conference, including about 50 heads of state and government, because they expected to find answers to their questions at the MSC. The MSC faces many challenges including geopolitical differences, increasingly complex security issues, and outdated security mechanisms because of the declining trust between countries. While the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the Israel-Palestine conflict are new major geopolitical hotspots, emerging cybersecurity threats, artificial intelligence, national security issues and climate change have further complicated the security agenda.

The rising differences in the stances and interests of, and the lack of trust between Western and non-Western nations have made it even more difficult to reach a consensus, leading

to a deadlock in dialogues at times. The MSC's problems are a result of the rapid changes in the world order. Globalization is accelerating. Nonstate actors have emerged. BRICS member states account for a bigger percentage of the global economy. Global South countries have refused to take sides between Western and non-Western nations. And the world is incapable of addressing the complex security challenges with traditional security mechanisms and geopolitical confrontation

The MSC must evolve beyond traditional thinking and frameworks to promote cooperation in security. Otherwise, it will become a club for the West to amuse itself. The MSC needs to expand the scope of security discussions. Traditional security thinking focuses on state-centric military confrontations and territorial security while underestimating economic, social and environmental security. Today, the impact of non-traditional security threats including cyberattacks, financial insecurity, resource shortage and climate change is as much as that of traditional security threats.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

mer Razakars; they vehemently Bangladesh must collectively

## Injustice

**SIR,** This refers to Smruti Pattanaik's article "Erasing all traces of Awami League" (17 Feb). Bangladesh had snatched freedom from the iron clutches of West Pakistan under the leadership of Mujibur Rahman. This is history and nobody can distort it.

Those who are calling the shots today in Bangladesh are for-



India, with Mrs. Indira Gand-Yours, etc., Aranya Sanyal, hi at the helm, extended a helping Siliguri, 18 February.

editor@thestatesman.com

hand and East Pakistan was turn-**SCARRED SOULS** ed into Bangladesh. Now these Razakars are trying their utmost **SIR**, Apropos the edit 'Campus to erase the role of both the torture', watching school children Awami League and Mujib from bully the weaker ones even in the pages of the history of lower classes makes me wonder Bangladesh. They should know if sadistic pleasures are a part of that history cannot be wiped out the human genetic make up.

This tendency may be disguised in later years but on occasion erupts in places like prisons and even colleges, especially if there are no consequences. Antiragging laws have had little effect in stemming the rot.

One thing about us is that we commit all kinds of brutalities in our homes but will never admit it. The college authorities are not so worried about the trauma such

brutalities cause but only if they are reported in the press and 'spoil' the good name of the college. It is also common to find the victims of ragging become the raggers in the next year.

Everybody needs to put their heads together including stu-

dents, their parents, college administrations and a host of academicians to try to put an end to this ever growing menace which leaves more marks on the soul than on the body.

Yours, etc., Anthony Henriques, Mumbai, 18 February.

#### **WORSE, NOW**

**SIR,** The present government has been the foremost critic of corrupt practices in the country. Over ten years of governance, the government has taken stringent measures to curb corruption in public offices. But India's recent standing of 96th position in the Corruption Perception Index tells a different story. To put things into perspective, India is still grappling with corruption and all these measures that the government has taken have turned out to be futile. It has dropped 20 places from 76th in 2015 to 96th in 2024. Big talk looks good when you have data to prove it and seems the present government has no positive data to prove that it has won the war against corruption. It has made things worse.

Yours, etc., Noopur Baruah, Tezpur, 18 February.







# Tough bargains ahead in ties with America

**GOURI SANKAR NAG AND** ARPAN BHATTACHARYA

Tt's really difficult to describe the recently concluded compact between the two democracies with **L**a suitable acronym although in practical ways the meeting between Donald Trump and Narendra Modi marked a new chapter in their relationship. So, the residue of the mega Howdy Modi show in 2019 could only be counted as a nostalgic factor while Trump 2.0 finds America's external affairs in a state of turbulence. It is like a prestige fight for Trump to appear in a new avatar in which his rhetoric to take Gaza, Panama Canal and Greenland has already evoked strong reactions.

In the circumstances, the Indian quandary has also accentuated because i) Trump appears to be excessively transactional, ii) the US has started scrutinizing its trade imbalances with different countries and iii) the US has already initiated steps to deport illegal Indians back to India, which will mount pressure on the MEA.

On the other hand, morally speaking India has no locus standi to protest against such Trumpian moves because Modi's government too had securitized the Rohingya issue and barred refugees from seeking security in India under the principle of non-refoulement. So, if Trump's decision is found to be precipitously harsh, India's stand on the refugee issue can't be exonerated from the charge of being equally discriminatory and contradictory.

However, for a middle power like India what is more important to understand is the direction of the transition of international politics. Here we find the emergence of new features that cannot be simply regarded as post-Cold War unipolarity but a uni-multipolar world where multiple great powers would vie for power to rejig the balance of power regionally but which ultimately will act as second fiddle to the sole superpower. So, it is simultaneously India's predicament as well as an

opportunity to strike a chord with the US-favoured world order which allows her space to dominate in South Asia while getting pressured and the Americans on the economic and trade fronts since India due to its sheer size offers an extensive market for the American business interests.

By now it is clear that Trump's second term would be fraught with major disruptions that might cause seismic shifts within the post-World War II liberal democratic spirit or the credo of the open market. However, this American exceptionalism should not be construed to ignore competitive capitalist growth because Trump's new entourage includes business magnets like Elon Musk of Tesla, while Vice President J D Vance's recent remarks at the Munich Security Conference that ignored the expected agenda of ending the Ukraine conflict were also startling.

Thus, signals we get from unexpected distractions create a kind of smokescreen underneath which the President's unsettling experiments with a new set of regulations, aid cuts, conservative protectionism with coercive tariffs and anti-foreigner discrimination, amount to a deep liberal paradox because more trade and globalization of communication are bound to give rise to a flow in terms of migration too. Hence whatever the aggressive posture might be, Trump's policies can't be nativist although it requires a regime of immigration reform because unauthorised migration is a liability altogether different from guest workers to whom one needs to be respectful.

But the problem arises from the contradiction when one prioritises the need to be economically open and leverage through the transportation revolution but politically behaves xenophobically. Thus, India's large market with its sizeable middle-class population has been drawing Uncle Sam to strike deals with New Delhi while it tightens its visa policy for Indian workers.

So, however we might wish to use window dressing with the rhetoric of

human rights or mutual trust or commitment to values of freedom, what brought both sides together was a pragmatic motive spanning across trade, defense and technology to lay the foundation of the comprehensive partnership. Undoubtedly there is a high probability that during Trump2.0, the US would be in the driver's seat while New Delhi's dealings with Washington would involve difficult bargaining.

Nevertheless, both sides must be prescient about the benefits of cooperation on critical and emerging technologies. This spirit was exhibited in the recent meetings that affirmed commitment to enhancing supply chain resilience. Here a point to be noted is that both India and the US want to reduce their dependence on the Chinese network of commodity supply chains. Similarly, the Modi-Trump talks emphasized sorting out tariff disputes.

The most significant recent development, however, is the plan to negotiate a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT). Following challenging experiences with World Trade Organization talks and an unsuccessful attempt at a Bilateral Investment Treaty during the final months of George W. Bush's administration, there has been minimal enthusiasm for ambitious trade discussions. Even the near-completed "mini-deal" during Trump's first tenure was more akin to a ceasefire than an agreement to expand market access.

However, India's smart gesture was revealed as Prime Minister Modi demonstrated increased receptiveness to genuine trade negotiations. Regarding defense collaboration, the leaders have pledged to pursue new initiatives, including negotiating a mutual defense procurement agreement and collaborating on autonomous systems.

It is remarkable that the joint statement resonated with mutual faith and consensus of working together with express commitment "to break new ground to support and sustain the overseas deployment of the U.S. and Indian militaries in the Indo-Pacific". This



could indicate significant advancements in defense cooperation as the two nations enhance interoperability and jointly improve regional security.

Another key point in the joint statement was the U.S.'s intent to reassess its policy on sharing fifth-generation fighter aircraft and undersea systems. President Trump explicitly mentioned a potential pathway for selling F-35 fighter jets to India. Joint efforts to create defense equipment are still on the agenda, even though it was not inevitable. The leaders emphasized ongoing collaboration on nuclear energy for civilian purposes in sync with India's recent announcement to modify the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act of 2010.

The INDUS-X platform for expanding defense innovation cooperation has been renamed INDUS Innovation. Collaboration on "trusted and resilient supply chains" for critical and emerging technologies remains a bilateral priority. Space cooperation continues to be a crucial component of the agenda, bolstered by recent collaborative agreements. The Biden administration heavily promoted the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET). Noticeably while the joint statement echoes some priority sectors and workstreams, it does not explicitly mention iCET.

However, observers are rendered despondent because both sides were reticent on climate cooperation, a burning issue of global governance on which President Trump has a dismal record. The statement also omitted mention of important dialogues such as the U.S.-India Forum, the U.S.-India 2+2 Ministerial, Trade Policy Forum, and the U.S.-India Commercial Dialogue, leaving their status uncertain. In conclusion, the meeting keeps alive optimism. Substantial work lies ahead, as most key announcements, including the potential trade deal, are expected to yield concrete results by year-end.

India might face additional trade pressures in the coming months, such as when the study related to the Trump administration's "Fair and Reciprocal Trade" policy concludes. However, regarding the overall U.S.-India relationship, the positive aspects at the start of President Trump's second term significantly outweigh the anticipated challenges. India will have to decide whether to stand by and watch from the sidelines or stand up to its principles and ideology, much like it did when the US tried to pressure India not to buy oil from Russia in 2022. The contours of India's approach may become clearer in days to come.

(The writers are, respectively, Prof & Head, Dept. of Political Science, SKB University, Purulia, and Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science, Ramananda College, Bishnupur, Bankura.)

#### **100 YEARS AGO**

#### **OCCASIONAL NOTE**

THE term Bolshevik is now applied to any demoralizing influence, and it does not follow because the adjective is used with reference to recent troubles in Shanghai and Hongkong that agents from Moscow have been busy in those quarters. It is, however, none the less serious that Japanese should have been attacked by a Chinese mob in Shanghai, and Indians by Chinese soldiers in Canton. Although civil war of one kind or another has been raging in China for the last thirteen years, the combatants have till quite recently agreed mutually to leave foreign residents undisturbed, for the reason that the Treaty Ports provided real cities of refuge, to which victors could resort to enjoy their spoils and the vanquished to escape death. Further, all parties in China were at one time anxious to obtain at least the moral support of the Foreign Powers. However antagonisms have now gone so far and demoralization is now so widespread that less and less respect is shown for foreign residents. Shanghai has only just escaped becoming a battle-ground. There are grave reasons to fear that events may take place in China in the near future to force a foreign intervention.

#### **NEWS ITEMS**

#### **RUHR INDUSTRIALISTS**

## **PAYMENTS BY GERMAN**

THE question of payments by the Government to Ruhr industrialists during the period of inflation has been attracting considerable attention in Germany along with other financial scandals.

A memorandum submitted to the Reichstag by the Government points out that these payments were in the nature of compensation to certain industrial firms in the Ruhr and other occupied territories on account of deliveries in kind made by them to the Inter-Allied Commission of Control over works and mines on the cessation of passive resistance. The memorandum denies the Press allegations that 700 million Reichsmarks were repaid in December, and says the agreement for immediate payment provided for a reduction of debt by over 200 million Reichsmarks, and out of 220 million Reichsmarks paid in December only one half was cash.

The Government has decided for reasons of economy to pay the balance and now asks the Reichstag to sanction payments already made.

**ANGLO-GERMAN TRADE** 

LORD D'ABERNON, British Ambassa-

dor at Berlin, in a speech at a banquet on

the occasion of the opening of the British

Board of Commerce at which prominent

British and German merchants, the Burgomaster and Consular officials were present,

referred to the danger to England of Ger-

man competition, and said there must be

absolute equality and reciprocity of treat-

treaty had agreed that the liberal tariff and

customs duty accorded to German goods

by England should be reciprocated by Ger-

many, whilst the arbitrary regime of prohi-

bitions and licenses should be abolished.

He was convinced that if the stipulations

of the Anglo-German agreement were car-

ried out in good faith, Anglo-German trade

would exceed past records to mutual

advantage. It was in these circumstances

that the British Board of Commerce at

Hamburg came into existence, and he felt

sure that it would render service to both

**ENGLAND'S TEST VICTORY** 

The negotiators of the Anglo-German

ment between the two countries.

**RECIPROCITY OF** 

**NEED FOR** 

HAMBURG, FEB. 17.

TREATMENT

## Words obliterated from the lexicon

**GRACE KAO** 

olitically. Historical. Gender. Female. Women. Race and Ethnicity. Barriers. Cultural Differences. Equality. Inequality. Socio-Economic Status. LGBT.

These are words that appear regularly in sociological articles, books and classes. They are basic concepts that describe features of modern societies. Since sociology is the study of society, we cannot avoid these words and basic concepts.

They are also on the list of over 100 words and phrases that have been given to staff at the National Science Foundation (one of the US government agencies that awards research grants) to flag when reviewing grant proposals. The words have been published in many places, including a Washington Post article, and this initiative has been widely reported. This is part of President Trump's initiative to scrub all diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives from every government agency and non-government entities that receive government funds. These include schools, universities and non-profit organizations. However, these words and concepts go far beyond DEI initiatives. It makes it impossible for sociologists, other social scientists and humanities scholars to do their work. Even medical and public health researchers who study group differences in outcomes will be harmed.

Interestingly, white, male and heterosexual are still acceptable. This means we can still study white straight men. What a relief.

There are also sweeping changes to data availability and data collection. The US Census website was down for a day or two last week. The Centers for Disease Control also disappeared. The US Department of Education's Institute of Education Services, which, among its many tasks, collects and reports data on educational outcomes of Americans from preschool (actually birth) to Ph.D. graduates, information on teachers, school districts, disciplinary actions and every other facet of the educational experience, is being shut. I have spent my entire career studying young people and their educational outcomes and interactions by race, immigrant status, gender and class using the data sets produced by IES, so I feel this loss profoundly and personally.

Currently, many researchers are trying to download as many data sets as possible, but not everything is downloadable. We anticipate that even in the best-case scenario where data continues to be available, important measures such as race, gender, immigrant status and class backgrounds might disappear.

In that case, if you want to know about how Korean Americans fare relative to whites, you won't get to find out. If you want to gauge unemployment rates, income differences and health outcomes by race and gender, you may no longer receive grant money to do your research. It's not just grant money, but we can't write about these subjects anyway because the data might disappear. What about health outcomes -- do we care if minority groups are more likely to die of certain cancers than whites? After all, if we do not measure race, gender, and class, we can pretend these differences no longer exist.

They also want to shut down the Department of Education.

There is so much else going on under the Trump administration that it is overwhelming for me and my fellow colleagues to follow. Many of us in the social science and general scientific community are scared and angry. I have never felt as hopeless as I do right now about the fate of scientific research and reporting in the US.

I'm terrified that our undergraduate students will be discouraged from learning about the society in which they live and inequalities by race, gender and class, among so many other subjects. I worry that our graduate students won't be able to do their work or will be blacklisted from receiving grants, publishing articles and books or jobs despite their Ph.D.s. The "America first" attitude of this administration is also a grave threat to our international student community. I suspect that student visas will be on the chopping block.

While they seem to be actively suppressing intellectual and scientific







Equity

Inclusion

activities, they (including Elon Musk) are promoting AI and bots as a way to replace federal workers. So, the American humans will become dumber while our machines will become smarter. I'm not sure who is going to operate the AI infrastructure - likely Elon Musk thinks it's him.

We can pretend everyone is fully employed if we don't measure unemployment. If we don't measure test scores, we can pretend that American children are the best in terms of math achievement. We can also pretend children are not going to die from measles or polio since we are going to discourage vaccinations if we don't measure child mortality. Better yet, let's just stop measuring mortality rates altogether and pretend that Americans are immortal. Problem solved.

I don't know if President Trump has read Isaac Asimov's Foundation

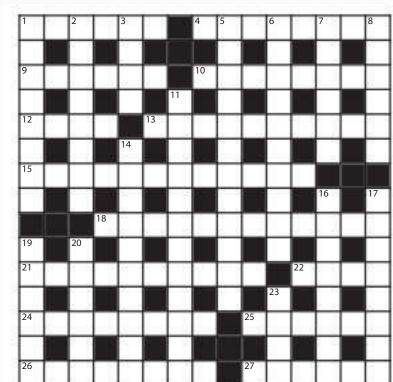
trilogy, but I know Elon Musk has. He once said the first of the series was one of his favourite books, and this may be the only thing he and I have in common. Asimov describes a time when the Galactic Empire eventually outlaws scientific thinking. However, Hari Seldon, a "psychohistorian," uses models to predict the future of human response on a group level. Without his intervention, his models show that there will be a 30,000-year-long dark age, but with some intervention, he may be able to shorten that time period. It was already too late to prevent it altogether. I think of Hari Seldon as a sociologist since he modeled grouplevel behavior, so I hope we can move to at least minimize the damage that

The Korea Herald/ANN

has already been done.

#### NO-293054

## **CROSSWORD**



#### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



### **ACROSS**

1/4 Flop about pitch, obscuring right of way (6,8) 9/10 Fairytale character

getting ready to welcome new church cleaner

12 Heartlessly ransacks

building sites 13 Side of stage for

audience worth a full renovation (6,4) 15 School idiot left home for right direction (7,5)

#### 18 Possibly magnolia, `m thinking, is higher back in village east of the Shire

(8,4)21 Tin ore smelted by colleague from the east (10)

22 Official report advances conspiracy theory, angering

24/25 Capriciously, I held child`s ear and arms here (8,6)

#### 26/27 With these, Windows can hide death caught by the Spanish journalist

#### **DOWN**

(8,6)

Work at university accepted by local area people

(2,2,4)

#### Objectively, I would keep old Peruvian ready to meet deadline

3 Small island`s lifting gear has top missing

> Like impractical thinker who'd roll tyre round

a sea 7/16 Suggesting lama in

Marx Brothers film 8/17 Selassie is again

defended on air, being much respected (6,8)

complaint (10)16 See 7 6 Train Henry to swim in 17 See 8

14 Angrily slam a

large city`s

(12)

11 Exchanging very

small talk, maintaining

historic buildings

19 Understood this classic old language

20 Tops of mosques in Riyadh require gold reflector (6)

23 Author puts down a dish of lentils (4)

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

#### **AUSTRALIAN CHANGES FOR LAST MATCH**

("TIMES" SPECIAL SERVICE.) LONDON, FEB. 18.

countries.

The Times cricket expert states that it would be difficult to over-estimate the moral value of England's Test match victory. Although the "rubber" is lost, Gilligan's men will be able to commence the final test with refreshed confidence in themselves, having proved that the Australians are not unbeatable.

It is useless, the writer adds, to regret

the failure to get the dozen runs at. Adelaide that would have made the final match the most inter-esting in the history of cricket. This may be said without admitting for a moment that these extended fights represent the best side of the great game. Something is lacking when batsmen can score at their own pace and not think of the clock. The Australian system assures a definite result but is a loss as well as a gain.

# Uhrld

# Trump's envoy arrives in Kyiv as US policy shifts toward Russia

Kellogg's trip came a day after U.S. President Donald Trump suggested that Kyiv was to blame for the war

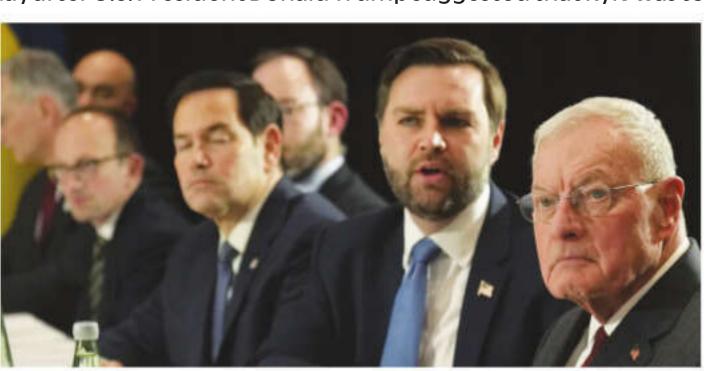
**ASSOCIATED PRESS** 

KYIV, 19 FEBRUARY

eith Kellogg, the U.S. special envoy for Ukraine and Russia, arrived in Kyiv on Wednesday for talks with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and military commanders, as the U.S. shifted its policy away from years of efforts to isolate Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Kellogg's trip came a day after U.S. President Donald Trump suggested that Kyiv was to blame for the war, which enters its fourth year next week, and talks between top American and Russian diplomats in Saudi Arabia sidelined Ukraine and its European supporters.

Trump's comments are likely to vex Ukrainian officials, who have urged the world to help them fight Russia's



full-scale invasion that began 24 Feb., 2022.

The battlefield has also brought grim news for Ukraine in recent months. A relentless onslaught in eastern areas by Russia's bigger army is grinding down Ukrainian forces, which are slowly but steadily being pushed backward at some points on the 1,000-kilometre(600-mile) front line.

Trump told reporters at his Florida residence Tuesday that Ukraine "should have never started" the war and "could have made a deal" to prevent it.

Kellogg said his visit was

of joining NATO in order to ward off Russian aggression after reaching a possible peace agreement won't happen. Zelenskyy says any settlement will require U.S. security commitments to keep Russia at "We understand the need

for security guarantees," Kellogg said in comments carried by Ukrainian public broadcaster Suspilne Novyny on his arrival at Kyiv train sta-

"It's very clear to us the importance of the sovereignty of this nation and the independence of this nation as well. Part of my mission is to sit and listen," the retired three-star general said.

Kellogg said he would convey what he learns on his visit to Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio to "and ensure that we get this one right."

## Hamas says it will free 6 living hostages and hand over 4 bodies, accelerating Gaza releases

Hamas leader Khalil al-Hayya,

in prerecorded remarks

released Tuesday, said the

dead would include the "Bibas

family" — two young boys

and their mother who for

many Israelis have come to

symbolise the plight of those

taken captive. Israel has not

confirmed their deaths, and

the prime minister's office

urged the public not to dis-

tribute "photos, names and

rumours" after the announce-

have been in turmoil," sur-

viving members of the Bibas

family said in a statement

released Tuesday by a group

"In the past few hours, we

ment by Hamas.



**AGENCIES** 

CAIRO, 19 FEBRUARY

A top Hamas official says the militant group will free six living Israeli hostages on Saturday and return the bodies of four others on Thursday, a surprise acceleration in releases apparently in trade for Israel's allowing mobile homes and construction equipment into the devastated Gaza Strip.

The six are the last living hostages set to be freed during the ceasefire's first phase in exchange for hundreds of Palestinians held in Israeli prisons.

The announcement by

living hostages set to be freed during the ceasefire's first phase in exchange for hundreds of Palestinians held in Israeli prisons.

The six are the last

representing the relatives of hostages. "Until we receive definitive confirmation, our journey is not over."

Israel has long expressed grave concern about Shiri Bibas and her sons, Kfir and Ariel, who Hamas claimed had been killed in an Israeli airstrike early in the war. Husband and father Yarden Bibas was kidnapped separately and released this month.

Kfir, who was 9 months old at the time, was the youngest hostage taken in Hamas' 7 October, 2023, attack that killed 1,200 in Israel and ignited the war. A video of the abduction showed Shiri swaddling her redheaded boys in a blanket and being whisked away by armed men.

## Sidelined by Trump, Macron tries to rally Europe on Ukraine, but divisions run deep

#### **AGENCIES**

French President Emmanuel Macron painted a veneer of European unity by inviting a small number of handpicked European leaders to the Élysée Palace, while the Trump administration sidelined the continent by moving ahead with direct negotiations on Tuesday with Russia on the war in Ukraine.

One question loomed: Could Europe take charge of its own security, or would it remain reactive to U.S. and Russian decisions?

From Macron's push for European-led defense to Keir Starmer's "third way" diplomacy, Giorgia Meloni's bal-

ancing act between Brussels His proposal for European and Washington, and Olaf Scholz's resistance to breaking with NATO, Europe remains divided on its next move.

By hosting the Monday

summit in his Parisian palace, Macron reinforced his bid to become the dominant voice on Ukraine and European security. With Germany's Scholz politically weakened and potentially soon out of office, the U.K. outside the EU, and Italy leaning toward Trump, Macron has emerged as the bloc's defacto leader in a push for strategic autonomy. Macron has a presidential mandate until 2027 and France's nuclear arsenal makes

it the EU's only atomic power.

'security guarantees" fits into his broader push for a continent less dependent on Washing-

But forging consensus is proving difficult: Germany is resisting, key frontline EU nations were left out of the summit, and Trump's unpredictability clouds Europe's security outlook.

"Macron has sought to impose himself as Europe's strongman," said French political analyst Jean-Yves Camus.

Keir Starmer is charting a different course, positioning himself as Europe's key link to Washington—while maintaining a firm pro-Ukraine stance.

## Kash Patel moves a step closer to FBI directorship

#### **AGENCIES**

WASHINGTON, 19 FEBRUARY

"a chance to have some good,

substantial talks." Zelenskyy

cancelled his planned Wednes-

day trip to Saudi Arabia in

what some analysts saw as

an attempt to deny legitimacy

to the U.S.-Russia talks about

signaled that Ukraine's hopes

American officials have

the future of his country.

Kash Patel moved a step closer to becoming the first Indian American to head the FBI with the US Senate narrowly voting on a procedural measure to advance his nomination for a full vote of confirmation.

The US Senate, which must confirm the nomination, voted 48-45 along party lines to open debate on the nominee, starting the countdown for 30 hours of discussion before Patel is expected to receive final approval Thursday.

Patel, who is 44 years old, has been one of the most controversial of those named by President Donald Trump to his cabinet and administration.

The others — Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard Health Secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr and defence secretary Pete Hegseth were confirmed in party-line voting that is also expected to put Patel over the finish line as well.

Republican senators who had seemed opposed to some of these controversial nominees had all fallen in line with the president and confirmed every one of his nominees except Matt Getz, who was nominated to head the justice department as attorney general.

He was forced to withdraw his nomination when it became clear several Republican senators remained unconvinced of his fitness



for the job in the light of a barrage of negative news reports about his sexual relations with minors.

Patel is a former public defender who has seen a meteoric rise in the power structure of Washington DC

in recent years, rising up to be the chief of staff at the department of defence and deputy director of national intelligence in President Trump's first term. Patle has now been nominated to head the FBI, an agency that invesPatel is a former public defender who has seen a meteoric rise in the power structure of Washington DC in recent years, rising up to be the chief of staff at the department of defence and deputy director of national intelligence in President Trump's first term.

tigated Trump for alleged mishandling of classified documents after leaving office in 2021 and for trying to overturn the 2020 election defeat to President Joe Biden.

## Justice Department and New York City mayor face judge's scrutiny in bid to dismiss criminal charges

#### **AGENCIES**

**NEW YORK, 19 FEBRUARY** 

Justice Department lawyers and New York City Mayor Eric Adams (photo) are set to face a federal judge who is signalling that he's unlikely to rubber stamp their request to drop the mayor's corruption charges weeks before an April trial.

Judge Dale E. Ho in Manhattan scheduled the Wednesday afternoon hearing after three government lawyers from Washington made the dismissal request on Friday. Manhattan's top federal prosecutor resigned after she refused an order to do so.

Ho already indicated that the hearing was likely to be only an initial step when he wrote in an order Tuesday that one subject on the agenda will be a discussion of "procedure for resolution of the motion." Also set for discussion are the reasons for the request to dismiss the indictment against the Democrat that charges the first-term mayor with accepting over \$100,000 in illegal campaign contributions and lavish travel perks from a Turkish official and business leaders seeking to buy his influence while he was Brooklyn borough president. He has pleaded not guilty.



Early last week, Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove told prosecutors in New York in a memo to drop the charges because the prosecution "has unduly restricted Mayor Adams' ability to devote full attention and resources to the illegal immigration and violent crime." He said charges could be reinstated after November's mayoral election. Two days later, then-interim U.S. Attorney Danielle Sassoon wrote to saying Bove's request to drop charges in return for assistance in enforcing federal immigration laws would betray Bondi's own words that she "will not tolerate abuses of the criminal justice process, coercive behavior, or other forms of misconduct." "Dismissal of the indictment for no other reason than to influence Adams's mayoral decision-makingwould be all three," Sassoon, a Republican, said of what she called a "quid pro quo" deal as she offered to resign. She also said prosecutors were about to bring additional obstruction of justice charges against Adams.

Attorney General Pam Bondi,

### Australian spy boss says 3 foreign governments plotted to harm people in Australia

#### **AGENCIES**

**MELBOURNE, 19 FEBRUARY** 

An Australian spy agency had discovered three foreign governments plotting to physically harm people living in Australia, a security boss said on Wednesday.

Mike Burgess, Director General of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, the nation's main domestic spy agency known as ASIO, did not name the countries in his latest annual address outlining threats to the coun-

One government attempted to trick a human rights advocate into traveling from Australia

fears for the life of the person being targeted," Burgess said in a speech at ASIO headquarters in the national capital Canberra.

"In a small number of cases, we held grave

to a third country where plotters planned to injure or kill their target. ASIO intervened to prevent the travel.

"In a small number of cases, we held grave fears for the life of the person being targeted," Burgess said in a speech at ASIO headquarters in the national capital Can-

Another government planned to harm or kill one or more people in Australia as part of a broader plot to eliminate critics around the world. Working with international security agencies, ASIO disrupted the operation at an early stage.

In both cases, the plotters were offshore and beyond the reach of Australian law. Burgess didn't detail the

third country's plot. In a wide-ranging speech, Burgess revealed ASIO had alerted U.S. authorities to a

12-year-old boy plotting mass

shootings in the United States.

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

Howrah Station Old Complex

1331/1332 (Auto Telephone

7412/3542/2581 (manual).

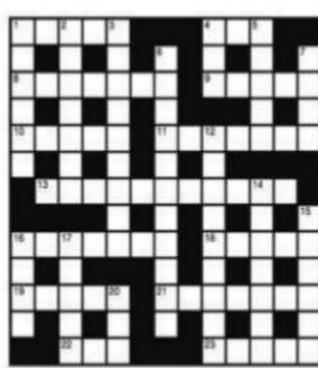
Sealdah: 2350-3535/3537

Numbers), 1310, 2638-

1912 and 4403-1912

## **E** LEISURE

### 10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



**ACROSS** Lustrous gem (5) Female sheep (3) Lawn game (7) Respond (5) 10 Ostentatious (Informal) 11 Edible crustacean (7) 13 Gibberish (Informal) 16 Admit (7) 18 Adult female (5) 19 Compare (5) 21 Circus swing (7) 22 Flatfish (3) 23 Go into (5)

1 Placate (6) Alligator pear (7) Ludicrous (9) 4 Transgress (3) 5 Precise (5) 6 No matter what happens (2,3,6) 7 Celebrity (4) 12 Large mammal (4,5) 14 Remark (7) 15 Cause to be loved (6) 16 Young male horse (4) 17 Bare (5) 20 Point of a pen (3) 12 Medicine 15 Strength 2 Old wives'

**SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD** ACROSS 13 lce age 3 Beat, 5 Wrap 18 Gulag 3 fileak 16 Helot (Booby trap), 19 Allegro. 4 Answering 17 Agog. 9 Undress, 10 Radio 6 Red sky at 11 Stickle night, nent with The Independent Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required

### **BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker**





#### RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson HOP IN, POKEY, AND WE'LL

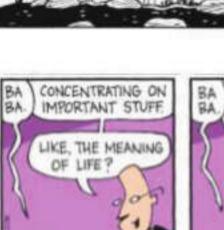


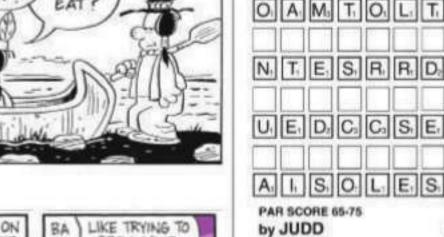


## DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski









# GROW YOUR HAIR AT WILL

#### NEED TO KNOW

FD Block Association (Amb) 9830452536, 9830181286 Happy Calcuttans 24400160 City Point Nurses Centre 2567-4113, 9831142623

24 hrs Medical Oxygen

People's Relief Committee

BOC India Ltd. 9831277777 **Blood Banks** 

Ashok Laboratory 24720333 Fire Service Station Salt Central Blood Bank 23510619 Lake: 2357-5293;

Room) 22143230 S. P. (North 24-Pgns) 25423005 S.P. (South 24-Pgns) 2479 3333/1311 Bhawani Bhawa 24791761/9, 24791933

FOUR RACK TOTAL

TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

used as any letter have no point value

MICK 1 - 57

HHOK E = 10

6605 F - 83

9454 x - 9

JUDD'S TOTAL

DODGER

Life Care 2284-6940 Peoples Blood Bank

RK Mission Seva Pratisthan

Announcement 1951,1952,1953 Taxi Refusal

Howrah 2666-8111; Behala

Kolkata Municipal Corporation: 2286-1000 Water: 2543-1602

Calcutta Telephones

Changed Number

**Civic Services** 

SMS 575756: Complaint and registration

Conceptis SudoKu

6

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

8

2



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

# US tech giants supply Israel with AI, raising warfare concerns

Militaries have for years hired private companies to build custom autonomous weapons

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** 

TEL AVIV. 19 FEBRUARY

quietly empowered Israel to track and kill many more alleged militants more quickly in Gaza and Lebanon through a sharp spike in artificial intelligence and computing services. But the number of civilians killed has also soared, along with fears that these tools are contributing to the deaths of innocent people.

Militaries have for years hired private companies to build custom autonomous weapons. However, Israel's recent wars mark a leading instance in which commercial AI models made in the United States have been used in active warfare, despite concerns that they were not originally developed to help decide who lives and who dies.

The Israeli military uses AI to sift through vast troves of intelligence, intercepted communications and surveillance to find suspicious speech or behaviour and learn the movements of its enemies. After a surprise attack by Hamas militants on 7 October, 2023, its use of Microsoft and OpenAI technology skyrocketed, an Associated Press investigation found.

The investigation also revealed new details of how AI systems select targets and ways they can go wrong, including faulty data or flawed algorithms. It was based on internal documents, data and exclusive interviews with current and former Israeli officials and company employees.

Israel's goal after the attack that killed about 1,200 people and took over 250 hostages was to eradicate Hamas, and



used in warfare," said Heidy

Khlaaf, chief AI scientist at the

AI Now Institute and former

senior safety engineer at Ope-

nAI. "The implications are

enormous for the role of tech

in enabling this type of unethical

and unlawful warfare going

Microsoft has had an especially

close relationship with the

Israeli military spanning

Among U.S. tech firms,

forward.'

critical

road.

technology.

attacked all the main Con-

golese army positions on the

road to Butembo, a city of

150,000 people, and the sit-

uation was rapidly deterio-

rating, said Auguste Kombi,

a civil society leader in Kit-

sombiro, a town along the

enemy will advance to Butem-

metres (130 miles) north of

Goma, the city of over 2

million people that the M23

rebels seized last month as

bo," Kombi said.

"We're afraid that the

Butembo is about 210 kilo-

its military has called AI a "game changer" in yielding targets more swiftly. Since the war started, more than 50,000 people have died in Gaza and Lebanon and nearly 70 per cent of the buildings in Gaza have been devastated, according to health ministries in Gaza and Lebanon.

"This is the first confirmation we have gotten that commercial AI models are directly being

firms, Microsoft has had an especially close relationship with the Israeli military spanning decades. decades. That relationship, alongside

Among U.S. tech

those with other tech companies, stepped up after the Hamas attack. Israel's war response strained its own servers and increased its reliance on outside, third-party vendors, according to a presentation lastyear by Col. Racheli Dembinsky, the military's top information technology officer. As she described how AI had provided Israel "very significant operational effectiveness" in Gaza, the logos of Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud and Amazon Web Services appeared on a large screen behind her.

# Pakistan wants to expel all Afghan refugees from the country, says Afghan embassy



ISLAMABAD. 19 FEBRUARY

Pakistan wants to remove all Afghan refugees from the country and they face expulsion in the near future, the Afghan embassy in Islamabad warned Wednesday.

The embassy issued a strongly worded statement about Pakistan's plans, saying Afghan nationals in the capital, Islamabad, and the nearby garrison city of Rawalpindi have been subjected to arrests, searches, and orders from the police to leave the twin cities and relocate to other parts of Pakistan.

"This process of detaining Afghans, which began without

any formal announcement, has not been officially communicated to the Embassy of Afghanistan in Islamabad through any formal correspondence," it said.

"Ultimately, officials from Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed that there is a definitive and final plan to deport all Afghan refugees not only from Islamabad and Rawalpindi but also from the entire country in the near future," the embassy said.

There was no immediate comment from the Pakistani government on the embassy statement.

The latest development follows Pakistan's threat to deport Afghans living in the country illegally. Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif approved a deadline of 31 March to deport those awaiting relocation to third countries unless their cases are swiftly processed by the governments who have agreed to take them.

The Afghan embassy criticized "the short timeframe" given and "the unilateral nature of Pakistan's decision".

Besides the hundreds of thousands living illegally in Pakistan, some 1.45 million Afghans are registered with the UNHCR as refugees. Pakistan says those who were registered earlier had their stay extended until June 2025, and will not be arrested or deported at least until the extension expires.

Earlier this month, Shafqat Ali Khan, the spokesman at Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said: "This resettlement problem can't be indefinite. So, for us, the Afghans who are here, awaiting resettlement, also has to be a transitory phase. This is not a permanent

#### Man who attacked Japan's ex-PM Kishida is convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison

**AGENCIES** 

TOKYO, 19 FEBRUARY

A Japanese court on Wednesday convicted a man who threw a homemade pipe bomb at Japan's former Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at a 2023 campaign event, sentencing him to 10 years in prison, court officials said.

Ryuji Kimura, 25, was found guilty of attempted murder in the 15 April, 2023 attack on Kishida at a small fishing port in the western city of Wakayama, as well as four other crimes including violations of laws on explosives and other weapons.

At stake was whether Kimura intended to commit murder.

The Wakayama District Court said in the ruling that Kimura was aware of the potential for a fatality in his attack, according to the



Kyodo News agency. The ruling said the attack at an election campaign event was a serious challenge to democracy and posed a significant danger to many people, Kyodo said.

Kimura, at an opening session of the trial in early February, pleaded not guilty to attempted murder, saying he didn't intend to kill Kishida. He said he was dissatisfied with Japan's election system and that he only wanted to get public attention by targeting a famous politician.

The then-prime minister was unhurt, but two people sustained minor injuries. Kimura was arrested on the

The attack came about a year after the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during a campaign speech in Nara, another city in western Japan.

Prosecutors said Kimura had a murder intent, noting that the bomb Kimura threw at Kishida was potentially lethal, and demanded a 15year prison term.

Gun-related crime is rare in Japan because of strict gun control laws, but there has been a series of highprofile knifings and other attacks using homemade guns and explosives.

Residents say Rwanda-backed rebels are advancing on a third city in eastern Congo **AGENCIES** about 3,000 people were killed.

The advance on Butembo DAKAR, 19 FEBRUARY means the rebels are spanning out both north and south of Rwanda-backed rebels appeared to be heading toward Goma. The rebels this week seized another provincial a third major city in eastern Congo, residents said Tuesday, capital to Goma's south, as international pressure rose Bukavu, near Burundi. The region is rich in gold and over the M23's expansion in a mineral-rich region that's coltan, a key mineral for the for global production of capacitors used in most consumer electronics The M23 rebels on Tuesday such as laptops and smart-

phones.

Also Tuesday, the M23 captured the town of Kamanyola, about 25 kilometres (15 miles) south of Bukavu, after they overcame resistance from the Congolese army in the evening, said Steve Mubalama, a civil society representative in the town.

Mubalama expressed fears that the M23 rebels would advance a further 75 kilometres (45 miles) to the south to take the strategic city of Uvira.

The M23 is the most prominent of more than 100 armed

groups vying for control of eastern Congo's trillions of dollars in mineral wealth. The rebels are supported by about 4,000 troops from neigh-

as Congo's capital, Kinshasa, over 1,000 miles away. "We're worried because we're in danger of experiencing a situation similar to that in Goma, with the loss of human lives," said Kambale Nyuliro,

a Kitsombiro civil servant.

boring Rwanda, according

to U.N. experts, and at times

have vowed to march as far

He told the AP that Lubero town, on the way to Butembo, was surrounded on three sides by M23 fighters but still under Congolese army con-

"Since the fighting began, the enemy has only advanced," he said.

Analysts have said the rebels are eyeing political power, unlike their brief capture of Goma, a major security and humanitarian hub, in 2012.

The rebel-appointed mayor

of Goma said Tuesday they would carry out a census, in a sign of their intention to maintain control of the city. And ferry service resumed between Goma and Bukavu, the only way to travel between them for now.

Rwanda has accused Congo of enlisting ethnic Hutu fighters responsible for the 1994 genocide in Rwanda of minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus. M23 says it's fighting to protect Tutsis and Congolese of Rwandan origin from discrimination and wants to transform Congo from a failed state to a modern one. Analysts have called those pretexts for Rwanda's involvement.

On Tuesday, the U.K. Foreign Office summoned the Rwandan ambassador in London and in a statement condemned the rebel gains, calling them "an unacceptable violation of (Congo's) sovereignty and territorial integrity.'

### Brazil's former President Bolsonaro charged over alleged coup that included a plan to poison Lula

RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 FEBRUARY

Brazil's prosecutor-general on Tuesday formally charged former President Jair Bolsonaro with attempting a coup to stay in office after his 2022 election defeat, in a plot that included a plan to poison his successor and current President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and kill a Supreme Court judge.

Prosecutor-General Paulo Gonet alleges that Bolsonaro and 33 others participated in a plan to remain in power. The alleged plot, he wrote, included a plan to poison Lula and shoot dead Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes, a foe of the former president.

"The members of the crim-

inal organisation structured a plan at the presidential palace to attack institutions, aiming to bring down the system of the powers and the democratic order, which received the sinister name of 'Green and Yellow Dagger,'" Gonet wrote in a 272-page indictment. "The plan was conceived and taken to the knowledge of the president,

Bolsonaro is often seen in Brazil's yellow-and-green national soccer jersey and the colours have become associated with his political

and he agreed to it."

Bolsonaro's defense team said it met the accusations with "dismay and indignation," adding in a statement that the former "President has never agreed to any movement aimed at deconstructing the democratic rule of law or the

institutions that underpin it."

Bolsonaro's son, Flávio Bolsonaro, who is a senator, said on the social platform X that the indictment was "empty" and there was no evidence of wrongdoing. He accused the Prosecutor-General's Office of serving "the nefarious interests of Lula."

In November, Brazil's Federal Police filed a 884-page report with Gonet detailing the scheme. They allege a systematic effort to sow distrust in the electoral system, drafting a decree to provide legal cover for the plot, pressuring top military brass to go along with the plan and inciting a riot in the capital.

### Leading Myanmar opposition organisation blames local resistance group for killing of Catholic priest

**AGENCIES** 

BANGKOK, 19 FEBRUARY

The main organisation coordinating resistance to Myanmar's military government says its forces have arrested 10 members of a local resistance group suspected in the killing of a Catholic village priest last week in the country's northwest.

Father Donald Martin Ye Naing Win, 44, is believed to be the first Catholic priest targeted for killing in the civil war that erupted after the army seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi four years ago. He served in a village church in Shwebo township in Sagaing region, a stronghold of the armed resist-

The Home Affairs and Immigration Ministry of the shadow National Unity Government, the leading opposition organisation, said in a statement Monday that the suspects were captured by the Shwebo branch of its armed People's Defense Force and other local resistance groups on Friday, the

day of the killing. The statement said an initial investigation found the suspects were members of a local defense force, and the shadow government's Defense Ministry will investigate further. It said nothing about a possible motive for the attack.

### Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah [See Regulation-15 (1)(a)]/16(3

KOLKATA (DRT 3) 8th Floor, Jeevan Sudha Building, 42-C Jawahar Lai Nehru Road, Kolkata- 700 07 Case No.: OA/674/2024 Summons under sub-section (4) of sectio

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rul 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993. Exh. No.: 5463

STATE BANK OF INDIA ASHOKE BERA

(1) ASHOKE BERA D/W/S/O - S/O Phanibhusan Bera 2-184C, BIJOYGARH COLONY 74/2/153, SRI RAM THAKUR ROAD BIJOYGARH MARKET, Kolkata

SUMMONS

WHEREAS, OA/674/2024 was liste before Hon'ble Presiding Office Registrar on 16/01/2025. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for

recovery of debts of Rs. 2039134/ (application along with copies of In accordance with sub-section (4) or section 19 of the Act, defendants are directed as under:-(i) to show cause within thirty days of

the service of summons as to why relie

prayed for should not be granted; (ii) to disclose particulars of properties of assets other than properties and asset specified by the applicant under serio number 3A of the original application; (iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclose under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and

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

disposal of the application for

attachment of properties;

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

You are also directed to file the writte statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 21/05/2025 at 10:30 A.M failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 28/01/2025.

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

Stalls/Outlets at Stations over Sealdah Division Under 'One Station One Product' Scheme

hereby invites application in sealed packet (single) and in prescribed format from Individuals, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Marginalized or weaker sections of society etc. dealing with indigenous products for participation in "One Station One Product" Scheme at 102 nos, stations over Sealdah Division. Salient features of the scheme:- (1) Duration of Project: 30 days (2) Tenure Start Date of the One Station One Product Stalls at various stations: Tak Road - 30 days starting from 01.03.2025. Tala, Baranagar- 30 days starting from 03.03.2025. Majerhat, Taherpur, Aranghata 30 days starting from 04.03.2025. Akra, Santoshpur, Komagata Maru Budge Budge - 30 days starting from 05.03.2025. Dhubulia 30 days starting from 06.03.2025. Subhasgram - 30 days starting from 09.03.2025. Dakshin Durgapur, Netra, Champahati, Ghutiari Shariff, Magrahat - 30 days starting from 11.03.2025. Bangaor Jn., Duttapukur, Bamangachi, Guma, Bira, Dakshineswar - 30 days starting from 12.03.2025. Baharu, Kakdwip, Dakshin Barasat Basirhat, Kalyani Simanta, Madanpur, Barasat - 30 days starting from 14.03.2025. Kalyanpur, Hotor - 30 days starting from 15.03.2025. Majhergram, Bally Ghat, Eden Gardens, Lalgola Cossimbazar - 30 days starting from 18.03.2025. Chandpara Gangnapur, Bagbazar, Shasan Road, Surjyapur, Paglachandi Gede, Kalinarayanpur Jn., Habibpur, Jagaddal, Titagarh, Ichhapur 30 days starting from 19.03.2025. BBD Bag, Princepghat, Simurali Bidyadharpur, Piali - 30 days starting from 20.03.2025. Kashinagai Halt, Bhagwangola, Taldi, Muragacha, Beldanga, Bethuadahari Debagram, Rejinagar, Plassey, Shantipur, Majhdia, Birnagar Payradanga, Brace Bridge, Nangi, New Alipore - 30 days starting from 21.03.2025. Gopalnagar, Burra Bazar, Patipukur, Kalikapur Basuldanga, Dhapdhapi, Bagula, Banpur, Palpara -30 days starting from 22.03.2025. Badkulla - 30 days starting from 24.03.2025. Gobardanga, Thakurnagar, Ashoknagar Road, New Barrackpore 30 days starting from 26.03.2025. Bisharpar Kodalia - 30 days starting from 27.03.2025. Jiaganj-30 days starting from 28.03.2025 Krishnapur, Murshidabad, Berhampore Court, Phulia, Kalyani Ghoshpara, Ballygunge Jn., Baghajatin, Gocharan, Namkhana Deula, Dhamua, Diamond Harbour, Sangrampur, Canning Jaynagar Majilpur, Mallickpur - 30 days starting from 29.03.2025 (3) Token Registration Fee: Rs. 2000/- only inclusive of GST for the allotment period of 30 days for each stall. (4) Infrastructure: (i) Stalls/Outlets shall be provided by Railways. (ii) A maximum of 20 units of electricity per One Station One Product outlet shall be permitted for one spell of 15 days as basic facilitation subsumed in the registration charges. For additional units of electricity over and above the limit of 20 units, the applicable charges shall apply on actual basis. (5) Submission of applications: Within 15:00 hrs. of 28.02.2025. Applications in the letterhead of the organization/ plain white sheet of paper along with photocopy of document (as mentioned in Eligibility Criteria) addressed to the Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, DRM Building, Room No. 44, Kaiser Street, Kolkata-700014 to be submitted in sealed envelope at designated place in the Office of Station Master/Station Manager/Booking Supervisor of concerned stations In case of receipt of more than one application: Open lottery public draw of lots to be done at above mentioned place at 16.00 hrs. on 28.02.2025. Name of station with Identified products eligibility criteria for participation & supporting documents and EOI documents along with the detailed terms & conditions can be seen & downloaded from the official website

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Sealdah

DOARS TO DIRECT REPAIL DAVANTA Follow us at : M @EasternRailway ? @easternrailwayheadquarter

www.er.indianrailways.gov.in and also can be seen at the Notice

Board in the Office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern

Railway, Sealdah.

## Migrant groups say racist attacks increase in German city after deadly Christmas market violence

**AGENCIES** 

MAGDEBURG, 19 FEBRUARY

When Haben Gebregergish first immigrated to the German city of Magdeburg seven years ago, the Eritrean immigrant was walking to the supermarket with her child when an intoxicated woman approached her on the street.

At the time, Gebregergish did not speak German well enough to comprehend what the woman was saying. But Gebregergish says that when the woman threw a beer bottle at her head, she immediately understood. It was one of her first

encounters with racism, but certainly not the last. In the aftermath of a deadly attack at a Christmas market in Magdeburg late last year, Gebregergish and other migrants who have settled in the city say they have experienced a sharp increase in racism and anti-immigration

"We are the same as you," Gebregergish said earlier this month. "We are not different. Just like you, we have feelings. Sometimes we are sad, sometimes we are happy, just like everyone else."

The Christmas market vio-

The suspect arrived in Germany in 2006 and had received permanent residency, and authorities say the suspect does not fit the usual profile of perpetrators of extremist attacks. He is being held in custody as authorities inves-



lence was one of five highprofile attacks committed by immigrants in the past nine months that have made migration a key issue as the country heads toward an early election on Sunday. The suspect, a Saudi doctor, drove into the holiday market teeming with shoppers and left five women and a 9-year-old boy dead and 200 people injured.

Just one day after the 20 December violence, there was a large right-wing demonstration in Magdeburg, and verbal and physical attacks on people with a migrant background have increased significantly in the city since then, according to the Ger-

ZURUCK

man-Syrian Cultural Association in Magdeburg. "The migrant community and the advice centers report that attacks have increased by more than 70% here in

the city," said Saeeid Saeeid, who came to Germany from Syria seven years ago and is a member of the association. "Racism already exists here and everywhere. But it has increased enormously since the attack."

Ketevan Asatiani-Hermann, newly elected chair of the board for the Advisory Council for Integration and Migration in Magdeburg, said victims of racist attacks in the city often do not feel

support from politicians or police. "The hatred has always

been there, people just didn't dare to say it so clearly before," said Asatiani-Hermann, who came to Magdeburg in 2011 from Georgia.

Officers sometimes target or search the victims first before the perpetrator, she alleged, and they also worry reporting an attack could have a negative impact on their residence status.

The Magdeburg Police Department did not respond to multiple requests for com-

Mayor Simone Borris, in a statement, said: "Cohesion and community are fundamental values of a city that are inviolable." The mayor also referred media to online services for migrants, and said the city's Cooperation with the Advisory Council for Integration and Migration will be expanded.

Godrej strengthens foot**print in eastern India:** Interio is set to strengthen its presence in the institutional, healthcare and education furniture segment in Kolkata and the eastern region. With the office furniture market in the region projected to reach Rs 1,500 crore by FY25, growing at 7 per cent annually, Interio aims to leverage emerging trends such as wellness at work, flexible spaces, and ergonomically designed furniture. With the current revenue of Rs 100 crore from Kolkata in the past 10 months in a Rs 500 cr market, Interio will continue to focus on social office furniture.

Chinese Wok's East India **Expansion**: Chinese Wok under Lenexis Foodworks is now gearing up for sustained expansion in the eastern region. Having successfully established outlets in key locations such as Newtown, Chinar Park, Park Street, and Metropolis Mall, Chinese Wok is committed to strengthening its footprint in Kolkata and beyond, bringing its signature flavours to even more food lovers across East India. With a strong presence across 220+ locations in 35+ cities, Chinese Wok is aggressively scaling its footprint, targeting a sales run rate of Rs 650 crore by March 2025 and an ambitious Rs 1,000 crore by FY26.

## Stockmarketextends losses in fourth session

Among the sectors IT, Auto, Healthcare, Pharma, and FMCG indices ended in the red

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 19 FEBRUARY** 

he Indian stock market on Wednesday extended the losses in the fourth session and ended marginally lower in the highly volatile session. At close, the Sensex was down 28.21 points or 0.04 per cent at 75,939.18, and the Nifty was down 12.40 points or 0.05 per cent at 22,932.90.

Nifty 50 recovered 118 points during the day, marking a minor decline of 0.05 per cent at close compared to the previous close. Sensex gained 357 points from its low and ended the session with a marginal loss of 0.04 per cent.

Nifty Midcap 100 concluded the session with a gain of 1.56 per cent, settling at 50,527, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 index finished at 15,525, gaining 2.36 per cent compared to Tuesday's closing level. Over 380 stocks touched their 52-weeklow on the BSE. These included Natco Pharma, Zydus Life, Timken India, Grindwell Norto, Carborundum Universal, Aether Industries, Star Health, Kirloskar Oil, Can Fin Homes, PVR INox, Mahindra Life, Sun Pharma Advanced,

**NSE NIFTY BSE SENSEX** Intra-day on February 19, 2025 Intra-day on February 19, 2025 76.338.58 23,049.95 -28.21 22,945.30 22,814.85

Ratnamani Metal, Kajaria Ceramic, Godrej Consumer, KNR Construction, Central Bank, Elgi Equipments, Sonata Software, among others.

On Nifty index, the top gainers were Bharat Electronics (3.60 per cent), Hindalco Industries (2.43 per cent), Eicher Motors (1.93 per cent), Larsen & Toubro (1.73 per cent), and Axis Bank (1.73 per cent).

The top losers were Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (2.63 per cent), Tata Consultancy Services (2.30 per cent), Infosys (2.22 per cent), Hindustan Unilever (1.99 per cent), and Adani Enterprises (1.78 per

The Bank Nifty closed at 49087.3, reaching an intraday high of 49628.25 and a low of 48804.0.

Among the sectors IT, Auto, Healthcare, Pharma, and FMCG indices ended in the red, with the Nifty IT index being the top laggard, which ended down 1.30 per cent. The index was dragged by Persistent Systems, and Cofoge.

IT stocks witnessed selling pressure in today's trade after French IT consulting firm Capgemini reported a weaker-than-expected financial performance for the full year

Pharma stocks tumbled after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to impose tariffs on drug imports.

Nifty Realty index jumped 1.67 per cent, followed by Nifty Media with a gain of 1.33 per cent. Nifty PSU Bank and Nifty Metal also ended the session with gains of 1.33 per cent and 1.25 per cent, respectively.

Defence stocks also saw a sharp rebound as investors eye FDI policy boost in the sector.

Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) shares experienced a significant surge of nearly 11 per cent, snapping its threeday losing streak.

Shares of Swiggy surged 7 per cent in trade after international brokerage CLSA said the food delivery player, along with rival Zomato, were among its top ideas for the longterm.

TVS Motor Company shares continued their downward trajectory, slipping over a percent to Rs 2,330 in early trading. Investors focus is now shifting to the Federal Reserve's January meeting minutes for clues on how policymakers view the growing risk of a broader trade war on economy.

# Impact of US reciprocal tariffs to be limited on India, say rating agencies

noted three ways in which

India can get impacted. The

first is country-level reciprocity,

with an increase in tariffs on

all US imports from India by

the weighted average tariff

differential. Second is the

product-level reciprocity,

where the US matches India's

tariffs on each product import-

the average tariff differential

by ~11.5pp, but would be

more complicated with a

Further the third is reci-

procity including non-tariff

barriers like administrative

barriers, import licenses,

projection, YeeFarn Phua,

Director, Sovereigns and Inter-

national Public Finance Rat-

ings, Asia-Pacific S&P Global

Speaking on India's growth

export subsidies etc.

longer implementation time-

"estimate this may increase

ed from India.

line," it said.



**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI. 19FEBRUARY:

The impact of the US reciprocal stariff will be limited on India as the economy is domestically oriented with less reliance on exports, S&P Global Ratings said on Wednesday.

Further, Goldman Sachs also said India may face an impact of up to 0.6 per cent of GDP from the US reciprocal tariffs calculating various scenarios of the tariff imposition.

"We estimate a potential domestic GDP growth impact of 0.1-0.3pp under different scenarios of increase in average US effective tariff rate on Indian exports (under country-level reciprocity and product-level reciprocity), and different estimates of price elasticity of US demand for Indian exports," Goldman Sachs said in a report.

said India will clock a 6.7-6.8% GDP growth over the next two years.

He said the fiscal 2025-26 budget will boost growth for the next few years, largely by domestic demand through tax cuts for households and GDP growth is now normalising to a more "sustainable level".

"The government remains very much focused on investment-led growth and also on agriculture sector reforms. However, we do think that economic expansion in India is startling to normalise towards a more sustainable level after real growth had averaged 8.3% over the last three years post-pandemic," he said.

Goldman Sachs has also said India's bilateral goods trade surplus with the US has doubled in level terms over the last 10 years to \$35 billion (~1.0% of India's GDP) in FY24, largely driven by electronics, pharmaceutical products, and textiles.

India's tariff rates are higher than the US on most products (6.5pp on a trade-weighted average basis), with the differential being the highest in agricultural products, textiles, and pharmaceutical products.

### Reliance subsidiary signs 10 GWh battery PLI deal with Heavy Industries Ministry

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, 19 FEBRUARY

Reliance New Energy Battery Limited, which is a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited, has signed a deal with the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI), under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme to manufacture Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) batteries on February 17, according to an official release.

The deal was signed after a competitive global tender process and makes the Reliance subsidiary eligible to receive incentives under India's Rs 18,100 crore PLIACC scheme. However, the exact amount of subsidies which the company is eligible to receive, has not been disclosed.

"This brings the total allocated capacity to 40 GWh out of the planned 50 GWh under the national program," a ministry spokesperson stated. The remaining three beneficiaries received their allocations in July 2022 following the first bidding round.

Industry analysts have noted that the scheme's technology-agnostic approach allows manufacturers flexibility in choosing appropriate technologies while ensuring cost competitiveness. The initiative primarily targets supporting electric vehicles and renewable energy storage systems. The deal has been signed

after the FY2025-26 Union Budget, which exempted 35 additional capital goods for EVbatterymanufacturingfrom Basic Customs Duty. These measures aim to strengthen domestic lithium-ion battery production capabilities.

"We're seeing significant interest beyond the PLI beneficiaries. More than ten companies have already begun setting up additional manufacturing facilities with a combined capacity exceeding 100 GWh," an industry expert said.

The initiative represents part of India's broader strategy to reduce dependence on imported battery cells while creating a robust domestic supply chain in the rapidly growing energy storage sec-

The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage represents a strategic investment in India's energy future.

The programme addresses critical gaps in domestic battery manufacturing capabilities by incentivising production, to reduce import dependency while building local expertise in advanced battery technolo-

The economic implications extend beyond manufacturing. The PLI scheme creates opportunities for auxiliary industries, employment generation, and technology transfer. It also positions India competitively in the global battery market.

## India's power sector needs \$700 bn to achieve 2070 net-zero pledge: Moody's

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 19 FEBRUARY** 

Moody's Ratings on Wednesday said India's power sector, which is the biggest carbon emitter, will need massive USD 700 billion investment over the next 10 years to help the country achieve its 2070 net-zero pledge.

It said the power sector accounts for around 37 per cent of carbon emissions in the country, and the investments required by the power sector during fiscal 2026-51 to be of the order of 1.5 per cent to 2 per cent of GDP (around 2 per cent for the next 10 years), which is manageable for India.

"Our expectation of strong economic growth over the next 10 years implies an expansion of India's coalbased power generation capacity in that period, hindering



carbon transition," it said. In a note, Moody's pegged the power sector's annual investment requirement between Rs 4.5 trillion to Rs 6.4 trillion (\$53 billion to \$76 billion) of investment until fiscal 2034-35, and around Rs 6 trillion to Rs 9 trillion annually over fiscal 2026-51.

51," it said. "We estimate India's power

this represents 2 per cent of sector investments... would be in the range of Rs 4.5 trillion to Rs 6.4 trillion (\$53 billion to \$76 billion) until fiscal 2034-35 (total investment "These investments are

Moody's said annually,

of around \$700 billion over

the next 10 years), and Rs

6.0 trillion to Rs 9.5 trillion

annually over fiscal 2025-

real GDP over the next 10 years, and 1.5-2 per cent of GDP over fiscal 2026-51.

significant and will be funded jointly by the public and private sectors and foreign and domestic capital."

The per capita consumption of electricity in India

(1,255 kilowatt-hours (KWH) in fiscal 2022) is around onethird of the world average, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). This is expected to increase with the growing economy and improved living standards of India's population.

"Our projection of an increase of around 450 GW of renewable energy capacity over this period would be insufficient to meet such demand, implying that India's coal-based power generation capacity will continue to expand by 35 per cent (from 218 GW to around 295 GW) over the next 10 years," it

Notably, Moody's expects India's economy to grow at around 6.5 per cent per annum over the next 10 years, with a compound annual growth rate for power demand of around 6 per cent.

## SBI forecasts GDP growth for Q3 FY25 at 6.2-6.3 per cent

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 19 FEBRUARY** 

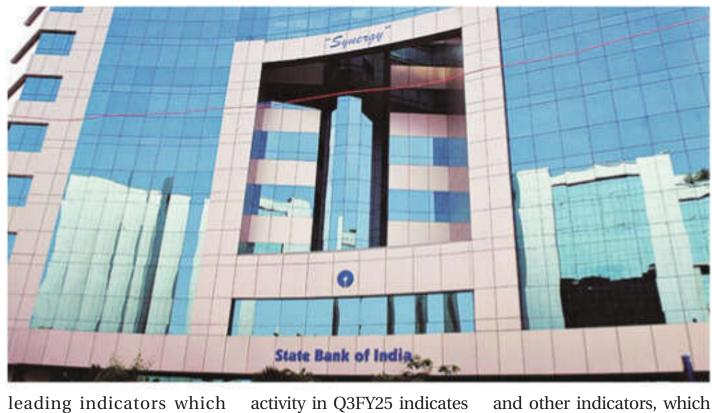
The State Bank of India (SBI) has forecast GDP growth for Q3 FY25 at 6.2-6.3 per cent. "Assuming there are no major revisions in Q1 and Q2, estimates, we are expecting FY25 GDP at 6.3 per cent", SBI said in its research report.

and Q2 estimates in its 28 February 2025 release of the 2nd Revised estimate of FY25 GDP. The SBI report said that

The NSO may revise Q1

the leading indicators show strong upward movement across all domains including consumer economy, investment demand, industry, and services – signaling robust momentum. The GDP Growth as per

SBI composite leading indicator (CLI) Index (a basket of 36



includes parameters from almost all the sectors) based on monthly data shows a slight uptick in economic activity in Q3. This increase in economic

GDP may grow in the range of 6.2-6.3 per cent.

SBI tracks 36 leading indicators in consumption and demand, Agri, Industry, service indicate a spike in Q3FY25 growth. The percentage of indicators showing acceleration has increased to 74 per cent in Q3FY25 vs 71 per cent in

The report highlighted that the slowdown in current household inflation expectations encourages higher discretionary spending and drives demandled growth.

Moderation in declining consumer confidence suggests that households are now optimistic about global developments, disinflation process, and economic prospects enablinglong-term sustainable growth, it said.

The report further said around 4000 Corporate firms in listed space reported revenue growth of 6.2 per cent while EBIDTA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) and profit after tax (PAT) grew by around 11 per cent and 12 per cent respectively in Q3FY25 as compared to Q3FY24.

#### TRIFED partners with Meesho, IFCA &MGIRI to facilitate tribal businesses opment Federation of India

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 18FEBRUARY** 

The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd (TRIFED) has entered into a strategic partnership with Meesho, Indian Federation of Culinary Associations (IFCA) and Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Rural Industrialization (MGIRI) to facilitate tribal businesses.

This is a significant move to transcend from B2C to B2B approach for tribal communities, Ministry of Tribal Affairs said in a statement.

It further said the principal objective of the Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with Meesho is to facilitate the onboarding of tribal products onto their social commerce



platform, accompanied by training and capacity-building initiatives for tribal suppliers.

Whereas the Indian Federation of Culinary Associations (IFCA) will assist in establishing long-term collaborations with culinary professionals and hotel chains through their technology platform.

Furthermore, the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Rural Industrialization (MGIRI) has partnered with the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Devel(TRIFED) as the knowledge partner to conduct training and capacity building for arti-TRIFED is an organization

under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, dedicated to the socio-economic development of tribal communities through the marketing development of tribal products.

These MoUs were exchanged by General Managers of TRIFED with Prachi Bhuchar, Head of Public Policy & Government Affairs, Meesho, Chef Manjit Gill, IFCA and Dr. Ashutosh A. Murkute, Director, MGIRI respectively in the presence of Ashish Chatterjee, Managing Director, TRIFED.

## SMFG India Credit creates Guinness World Record for 'Largest Cattle Welfare Lesson'

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE** 

KOLKATA, 19 FEBRUARY

In what can be billed as a new milestone for the company, SMFG India Credit Co. Ltd. (formerly Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd.), a leading NBFC - Investment and Credit Company (NBFC-ICC) registered with the Reserve Bank of India and a wholly owned subsidiary of SMFG, has now hit a Guinness World Record for organising the 'Largest Cattle Welfare Lesson (Multiple Venues)' with 517 participants across 6 venues in India. The company has been

operating in India since 2007.

The new milestone was accomplished as part of the company's 7th edition of Pashu Vikas Day (PVD), the largest one-day cattle care camps across the country. These camps were simultaneously held in 500 locations across 16 states, benefiting around 1,90,000 beneficiaries (1,50,000 cattle and 40,000 cattle owners).

"I would also like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to each of our dedicated employees for their outstanding commitment and hard work in achieving the Guinness World Record for the Largest Cattle Welfare Lesson across multiple venues. It is truly heartening to see that this year's Pashu Vikas Day not only surpassed expectations in cattle care, but also introduced specialized knowledge sessions across multiple venues in India, which earned us the Guinness World Record," said Shantanu Mitra, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of SMFG India Credit.

"At SMFG India Credit, we remain steadfast in our commitment to championing social initiatives that create



tioned in these regions. In a meaningful impact. With fact, over the last two years, a strong Pan-India presence we have added around 300 of 1000+ branches, our primary focus is on Tier-2+locabranches, all located in Tier-2+ geographies. Our goal is tions, with nearly 90% of our branches strategically posito drive financial inclusion

and financial solutions, enabling us to serve communities at every stage of their life cycle," added Mitra. Interestingly, In India,

by providin the right products

approximately 65-70 per cent of the rural population relies on agriculture or agriculture-related activities for their livelihood. Hence, cattle and livestock play a crucial role in their livelihood generation activities and financial wellbeing. Recognizing this unbreakable bond, SMFG India Credit celebrated the 7th edition of Pashu Vikas Day under the theme 'Mera

Pashu Mera Parivar,' reinforcing the importance of livestock in the lives of these rural families.

The annual PVD event also saw active participation of more than 6,000 employees, reinforcing the company's commitment to rural wel-

"The recognition received from Guinness World Records for holding largest cattle welfare lesson across multiple venues is a proud and defining moment for each and every one at SMFG India Credit. As a company, we have etched our name in the history books

on an international level, and it gives us the belief to continue working towards uplifting the communities we serve at large through innovative and sustainable socio-economic initiatives. Setting a world record on Guinness World Records also reaffirms our dedication to rural welfare and motivates us to continue empowering communities by providing financial access through our financial solutions across their life-cycle," said Swaminathan Subramanian, Chief Operating Officer of SMFG India Credit.





# SC adjourns hearing on pleas challenging law appointing ECs

On 3 Dec 2024, the Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna had recused himself from hearing the challenge to the 2023 law

**PARMOD KUMAR** 

**NEW DELHI, 19 FEBRUARY** 

ne Supreme Court, Wednesday, adjourned the hearing on a batch of petitions including one by the NGO Association of Democratic Reforms challenging the validity of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act 2023, that excluded the Chief Justice of India from the panel for the selection of the Chief **Election Commissioner and** the Election Commission-

A bench of Justice Surva Kant and Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh adjourned the matter without giving any date for hearing. The matter was listed for hearing today but could not be taken up as the court was hearing another case.

Under the Chief Election

Commissioner and Other **Election Commissioners** (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act 2023, that was notified on 28 December, 2023, the penal for the selection of CEC and the ECs includes the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition, and a Central Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister, thereby giving a clear majority to the government in the selection panel.

The 2023 law was brought to dilute 2 March, 2023, a  $five\mbox{-}judge\mbox{ }constitution\mbox{ }bench$ judgment that had directed that the panel for the selection of the CEC and the ECs would include Prime Minister, leader of opposition and the Chief Justice of India.

The petitioners, challenging the validity of the law, have stated that the provisions of the new law are violative of the principle of free and fair elections since it does not provide an "independent



mechanism" for the selection of the CEC and the ECs.

Excluding the Chief Justice of India from the selection process, the 2 March, 2023, unanimous judgment of a five-judge constitution bench stands diluted as the Prime Minister and his nominee will always be "the deciding factor" in the appointment of the CEC and the ECs, the petitioners have said questioning the validity of the law.

The 2023 law was passed by Rajya Sabha on 12 December and the Lok Sabha on 21 December, 2023, amidst the suspension of a large number of opposition law-maker in the lower house.

On 3 December, 2024, the Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna had recused himself from hearing the challenge to the 2023 law.

Earlier on 12 January, 2024 -a bench comprising Justice Khanna (now CJI) and Justice Dipankar Datta while issuing notice to the Central government on the petitions, had refused to stay the operation of the law.

The 2023 law has been challenged by the NGO the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), Jaya Thakur - General Secretary of the Madhya Pradesh Mahila Congress Committee, Sanjay Narayanrao Meshram, and Dharmendra Singh Kushwaha, and advocate Gopal Singh.

# Uttar Pradesh government to table budget proposals for 2025-26 today



**STATESMAN NEWS SREVICE** LUCKNOW, 19 FEBRUARY

The Uttar Pradesh government will table its budgetary proposals for 2025-26 in the state assembly on Thursday, with the budget size likely to cross Rs 8 lakh crore.

State Finance minister Suresh Kumar Khanna will table the budget in the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Khanna on Wednesday said the budget will be in line with public sentiments.

"There will be projects related to public interest, and the poor and middle

According to sources, the size of the fourth budget of the Yogi government 2.0 can

class will be taken special

care," he hinted.

exceed Rs 8 lakh crore. Last year, the state government presented a budget of Rs 7.36 lakh crore and adding two supplementary budgets, the overall budget size reached Rs 7.66 lakh

crore in this financial year. In the new financial year,

the budget size can range from Rs 7.80 lakh crore to Rs 8.10 lakh crore.

A finance department official said that the government will have more focus on the ongoing schemes and projects in the budget. New schemes require extra budget. In such a situation, the government will amend the ongoing schemes this year and include

it in the budget proposal. The budgetary proposals could include Swami Vivekananda youth empowerment scheme in which Rs 3000 crore for giving tablets and smartphones to youths.

There can be a budget of Rs 2000 crore for power supply in summer while free electricity promise on private tubewells can be fulfilled.

Budget can be given for the expansion of metro rail in Lucknow, while a budget of Rs 2000 crore can be given for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).

There can be a provision of Rs 800 crore for the Chief Minister's Housing Scheme (Rural).

(file photo)

#### PM Modito in augurate SOUL Leadership Conclave on Friday



**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 19 FEBRUARY** 

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the first edition of the SOUL Leadership Conclave on Friday at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

He will also address the gathering on the occasion. Prime Minister of Bhutan Dasho Tshering Tobgay will deliver the Keynote Address as the Guest of Honour.

The two day SOUL Leadership Conclave on 21-22 February will serve as a premier platform where leaders from diverse domains like politics, sports, arts and media, the

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE** 

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister

Yogi Adityanath delivered a

sharp and impactful rebuttal

to the allegations from the

Opposition surrounding

Mahakumbh in the state

assembly on Wednesday

claiming that Sangam water

is suitable not only for

bathing but also for 'Aach-

claims to the contrary as

baseless, misleading, and

anti-Sanatan Dharma, anti-

Mahakumbh, he said, "It is

like playing with the faith of

the crores of people who

have taken a holy dip at the

ongoing Mela in Prayagraj."

Control Board (CPCB) on

Monday informed the Nation-

The Central Pollution

Dismissing the Opposition

Ganga, anti-

LUCKNOW, 19 FEBRUARY

spiritual world, public policy, business and the social sector will share their inspiring life journeys and discuss aspects relating to leadership.

The conclave will foster an ecosystem of collaboration and thought leadership, facilitating learning from both failures and successes, to inspire young audiences.

School of Ultimate Leadership is an upcoming leadership institution in Gujarat to enable authentic leaders to advance public good. The aim is to broaden the landscape of political leadership in India through formal training and to include those who rise through merit, commitment, and passion for public service and not just from political lineage. SOUL brings in insights, skills and expertise necessary to navigate the complex challenges of leadership in today's

to the primary water quality

for bathing with respect to

the level of faecal coliform.

However, the chief minister

said all the drains in and

around Sangam have been

taped and the water is being

released only after purifi-

Board is continuously moni-

toring the water to maintain

its quality. As per today's

reports, the amount of BOD

near the Sangam is less than

three, and the Dissolved Oxygen

The Chief Minister empha-

sised that while the House

was engaged in a discussion,

over 56.25 crore devotees had

is around 8-9," he added

"The UP Pollution Control

## Centre approves ₹288.93 crore aid for Tripura flood relief amid recovery efforts

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE** AGARTALA, 19 FEBRUARY

The Centre has sanctioned an additional Rs 288.93 crore to Tripura under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) as an aid to recover from the devastating floods that struck in August 2024.

The approval of the aid follows a meeting between Tripura Chief Minister Prof. Dr. Manik Saha and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, where the extent of the damage and the urgent need for assistance were discussed.

The floods, triggered by incessant monsoon rains, left thousands of people displaced, severely impacted infrastructure, and caused extensive damage to agricultural lands and livelihoods.

Yogi calls Sangamwater fit for bathing, accuses Oppn of rumour mongering

India itself.

already taken a holy dip in

the sacred Triveni. He asserted

that such actions are not just

an attack on Sanatan beliefs

but a direct affront to the faith

of 56 crore devotees and the

spiritual essence of India itself.

Mahakumbh is not an event

tied to any particular party or

He further stated that the



Chief Minister Saha took to social media to express his gratitude to the Centr. Stating that the additional Central assistance would provide the much-needed relief to those affected, he wrote: "This financial aid will be instrumental in

government but a grand cel-

ebration of society. The gov-

ernment's role, he emphasised,

is that of a humble facilitator,

dedicated to fulfilling its respon-

sibilities with utmost sincer-

vants entrusted with this duty

and will discharge it with com-

"We see ourselves as ser-

The petitioners in particular

have challenged Sections 7

and 8 of the Chief Election

Commissioner and Other

**Election Commissioners** 

(Appointment, Conditions

of Service and Term of Office)

Act, 2023, that lays down the

procedure for the appointment

earlier Election Commission

(Conditions of Service of Elec-

tion Commissioners and

Transaction of Business) Act,

The 2023 law replaced the

of the CEC and the ECs.

rebuilding what was lost and ensuring that the state's development goals, disrupted by the floods, remain on track. I wholeheartedly thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for their unwavering support to Tripura."

plete commitment. Our deep

reverence for India's eternal

traditions makes it our respon-

sibility to honor and uphold

despite all the negative prop-

aganda, the nation and the

world embraced the event,

elevating it to unprecedented

devotees who lost their lives

in the 29 January stampede

as well as those who were vic-

tims of road accidents while

travelling to and from Mahas-

nan in Sonbhadra, Aligarh

and other places during Praya-

graj Kumbh expressing deep

anguish.

He paid homage to the

The chief minister said

them," he said.

The floods, triggered by incessant monsoon rains, left thousands of people displaced, severely impacted infrastructure, and caused extensive damage to agricultural lands and livelihoods.

The state government is expected to utilise the funds for the restoration of essential infrastructure, compensation to affected families, and strengthening disaster preparedness measures to mitigate future calamities.

With this assistance, Tripura aims to accelerate its recovery process and reinforce its resilience against extreme weather events.

Tender No.: EL-MLDT-E-Tender-340 dated 18.02.2025. Open e-Tender is invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer(G) Eastern Railway, Malda Town Office Building, P.O. Jhajhalia, Dist. Malda, Pin-732102 (WB) from Firms/Agencies Contractors of repute having experience and financial solvency for the following work : Name of Work : Augmentation o Elec. sub-station, electrical assets with other ancillary work under jurisdiction of SSE/E/G/Bhagalpur. Tender Value ₹ 79,74,516.36. Earnest Money ₹ 1,59,500/-. Cost of tender document Nil. Date & time for submission of e-tender: From 26.02.2025 to 15.30 hrs of 12.03.2025. Website particulars & Notice Board: Website: www.ireps.gov in Notice board: Sr. DEE(G), Eastern Railway, Malda Town's office. Tenderer: are requested to go through the detailed Tender Notice & document on the website www.ireps. gov.in No manual offer will be

accepted in any circumstances (MLD-223/2024-25) Tender Notice is also available at websites www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in Follow us at : 🔣 @EasternRailway ■ @easternrailwayheadquarter

#### UP Council LoP evicted from Upper House over Mahakumbh issue

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, 19 FEBRUARY

An uproar was witnessed in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council on Wednesday when Leader of Opposition Lal Bihari Yadav was forcefully evicted from the house.

The incident took place when the opposition was seeking more time to discuss the Mahakumbh, which was opposed by the upper House

leader and Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Maurya.

When Chairman Manvendra Singh refused to give time, citing the rules, Lal Bihari Yadav and other SP leaders came and sat in the Well. Annoyed by the act of the opposition members, the Chairman asked the LoP and other Samajwadi Party members to leave the House. When the opposition members refused, the Chair asked mar-

shalls to evacuate the LoP.

#### **GVK POWER (GOINDWAL SAHIB) LIMITED**

Regd. Office: Plot No. 10, Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad-500003 Telangana, India CIN: U40109TG1997PLC028483 (A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL)

Dept.-HOD, Chemistry GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the work of: Tender Enquiry No. 015/GATP/CHEM/20016867, dated 19-02-2025.

(A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)

Tender for supply of Alum (Non-Ferric) – Commercial Grade (Pre-Treatment Chemical)\* at 2x270MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt. Tam Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

Note: Corrigendum and addendem, if any, will be published online

### **NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**

**Tender Notice** 

Open Tender No.: JHS-RCNK-M-AFL-24-25-16

Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern

Railway, Howrah, DRM Building, near

Railway Station, Howrah-711101 (for the

jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/1/Howrah) from

Tenderers having experience of Simila

capabilities including those Registered with

Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES or any public

sector undertaking for the following work

SI. No. 1. NIT No. 326\_2024-25, dated

18.02.2025. Description of work

(i) Improvement and provision of amenities

for Divyangian Passenger, improvement

of toilets and provision of signage in the

section of AEN/Liluah & (ii) Replacement

of old and overaged OFC Container with

New OFC Room over Howrah Division

(Phase-I). Approx Cost: ₹ 2,48,19,474.24

Earnest Money: ₹ 2,74,100/-. St. No. 2.

NIT No. 346\_2024-25, dated 18.02.2025.

Description of work : Drainage improve-

ment works for water logging subway/LHS

including shed work in the LHS approaches

from Belur to Hooghly & Tarakeswar branch

under AEN/Liluah, Approx Cost

₹ 2,04,35,927.90. Earnest Money

₹ 2,52,200/-. Cost of Tender Form : Ni

for both. Completion Period: (06) Six

E-Tenders are invited by Chief Workshop Manager, Rail Coach Naveenikaran Karkhana, Jhansi from experienced and/or interested contractors on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work-

Name of work: Provision for AMC for Forklifts and Platform Trucks. Cost of work Bid Security | Time of completion ₹49,26,612.05/- (Including GST) | ₹98,500/-Twenty Four Months Online tender closing date and time: 13.03.2025 at 11.00 Hrs. Detailed information about tender and tender format is available at website www.ireps.gov.in.

🜃 North central railways 🛛 🔀 @CPRONCR 🕮 www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

### Government of West Bengal

OFFICE OF THE PASCHIM MEDINIPUR ZILLA PARISHAD

Notice Inviting Tender is hereby called from sourceful and eligible bove NIT(s). Intending bidders may lownload tender documents of PMD/N 70/2024-25 to 291/2024-25, 221/2024-2 3rd call) & 222/2024-25 (4th call) from a procurement portal from 20.02.2025 at 10-00 Hours to 27.02.2025 upto 18.00 Hours For etails visit e-procurement portal of Go-

Sd/- District Engineer Paschim Medinipur Zilla Parishad femo No.- 235(3)/Advt/ICA/Paschim Medinipur

#### al Green Tribunal (NGT) that various locations in Prayagraj during the ongoing Maha Kumbh were not conforming

206-DK/25

T E N D E R

Metro Railway, Kolkata

ity.

Corrigendum-1

The Chief Minister emphasised that while the

House was engaged in a discussion, over 56.25

crore devotees had already taken a holy dip in

the sacred Triveni. He asserted that such

actions are not just an attack on Sanatan

beliefs but a direct affront to the faith of 56

crore devotees and the spiritual essence of

Open Tender Notice No. S&T/Works/23-2024-Retender published earlier by Principal Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer for "Dismantling, Shifting, Supply & Re-installation of VRLA Batteries for OCC and DCC for UPS (02 sets for each) at Central Park Depot of East-West Metro Railway/Kolkata\*. Tender Closing Date & Time should be read as 25.02.2025, 15:00 hrs. instead of 20.02.2025 at 15:00 hrs.

Follow us at: M /metrorailwaykol () /metrorailkolkata

## NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE For and on behalf of the President of India, Chief Administrative Officer (Const.), 5th Floor, North Western Railway Headquarter office, Near Jawahar Circle, Jaipur-302017 (Rajasthan) invites Online Open Tenders on IREPS portal (Two packet) for the following work on prescribed electronic form:- (1) Tender No.: NWR-SC-PUHT-MEC-T-3, (2) Name of the work with its location: Earth work in bank/cutting including Blanketing, Construction of Minor/Major Bridge/s, RUB/LHS, Trolley refuges. Toe wall, Retaining wall, Pitching, Station buildings and Other structures, Platform, Platform sheds, Staff Quarters and other ancillary works from Pushkar (Excluding) to Riyan (Excluding) between km 25/7 to km 55/7 in connection with construction of New Line between Pushkar-to-Katyasan (Merta) in Aimer division of North Western Railway (3) Mode of Tender: Online Open Tenders on IREPS portal (Two Packet) (4) Estimated Project Cost: ₹202,29,97,752.13/- (Rupees Two Hundred Two Crore Twenty Nine Lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Two and Paisa Thirteen only) (5) Bid Security: ₹1,00,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Only) (6) Construction Period: 18 (Eighteen) Months (7) Tender Closing Date and Time: 12/03/2025, 15:00 Hrs., Opening date & time 12/03/2025 at 15:30 Hrs. (8) Website particulars where complete details of E-tender can be seen: www.ireps.gov.in Note: No manual tender/s will be accepted.

ofow us on: [] 🖾 🖸 /WRailways 🐯 MWRailway

#### OFFICE THE COMMISSIONER **MUNICIPAL CORPORATION** Raipur (C.G.)

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Main Portal: http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in (3rd Call)  NIT No. 689/SBM/RMC/2024  Craine bids are invited for the following works of works up to 03-03-2025 at 17-30 hours.						
S No.	System Tender No.	Name of work / Description of work	Probable amount of contract	Class of Contractor registered in P.W.D.C.G.	Tender form	S.O.R. Applicable
1	165054	Construction of Aspirational Tollet Block-6 seater at 03 locations (List enclosed)	Rs. 50.76 Lakh	"D" & Above	Form 'A&B'	P.W.D. Building S.O.R. 01.01.2025 (up to date Amendment) & NON S.O.R.
2	165055	Construction of Aspirational Toilet Block-10 seater at 10 locations (List enclosed)	Rs. 282.00 Lakh	"B" & Above	Form "A&B"	P.W.D Building S.O.R. 01.01.2015 (up to date Amendment) & NON S.O.R.

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh e-Procurement Portal https://eproc.ogstate.gov.in from 19-02-2025 10.30 Hours (IST) onwards.

For more details on the tender and bidding process you may please visit the abovementioned portal. All eligible/interested contractors are mandated to get enrolled on e-Procurement portal.

Contractors can contact Help Desk for any clarification of their doubts regarding the process of Electronic Procurement System. Help Desk at Tol ree No. 18002582502 or through Email ID helpdesk.eproc@cgswan.gov.in Corrigendum and Amendment for above NIT shall not be issued separately in newspapers and correction of any, would be published on website

Physical document should be essentially submitted by Registered for / Speed Post only. Courier Services and other means are not accepted. For More Details please download NIT details

Contact No -9407608463 Clean City, Green City, Dream City

**Executive Enginee** MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, RAIPUR (C.G.)

#### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Empanelment of Private Hospitals/Diagnostic centers Notice No.: H/Tie-UP/Pvt. Hospital/DRH/MLDT/2025

Date: 18.02.2025

Chief Medical Superintendent, Divisional Railway Hospital, Malda, Eastern Railway cordially invites "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST" (EOI) from the owner of Private Hospitals Diagnostic center (NABH & NABL) for their empanelment with (1) Divisional Railway Hospital, Eastern Railway, Malda, (2) Health Unit, Sahibganj / Eastern Railway and (3) Health Unit, Bhagalpur/Eastern Railway, who are willing to provide cashless treatment and pathological/ Radiological investigation including MRI/ CT Scan / PET Scan & Haemodialisys to the Railway Beneficiaries on referral in emergency situation on CGHS/Kolkata Rates List. The owner of the private Hospital(s) needs to apply within 21 (twenty-one) days from the date of publication of the advertisement in newspapers of (West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar) India.

The willing Private Hospital(s)/Diagnostic centers should have accredited by NABH/NABL and well equipped and registered with Govt. of West Bengal or Jharkhand or Bihar. For detail mandatory conditions please follow the link attached below : er.indianrailways.gov.in → Divisions → Malda → Departments → Medical → EOI (Expression of Interest) The contract will be valid for 02 years subject to selection of the private hospital(s) observing all procedures as per Railway Board guidelines time to time.

The EOI with all necessary documents containing of registration certificate experience with signature of the owner of the private hospital duly signed on every page must be sent through Indian Postal Service in the sealed envelope to the office of The Chief Medical Superintendent, Divisional Railway Hospital, Eastern Railway, Jhaljhalia, Maida, PIN-732102.

Chief Medical Superintendent, Divisional Railway Hospital, Malda

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Tender Notice No.: ELD-125-WC-OT-17A-24, dated 18.02.2025. E-tender is invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Eastern Railway, 4th floor, Rail Yatri Niwas, near Howrah Station, Howrah-71 101 against Tender No. ELD-125-WC-OT-17A-24 for the following work: Name of the work with its location: OHE modification in connection with construction of bypass line at Nalhati in between Chatra station and Takipur station in Howrah Division of Eastern Railway. Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 5,10,85,463.50. Earnest Money/BidSecurity to be deposited : ₹ 4,05,400/-. Cost of tender form : NIL Completion period of the work: 18 (Eighteen) months from the date of issue of LOA. Tender Closing Date & Time: 15.00 hrs. on 12.03.2025. Opening of tender: Tender will be opened at any time after closing of tender. Tenderers may visit website www.ireps.gov.in for full detail description/specification of the tenders and submit their bid online. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected (HWH-613/2024-25)

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in Follow us at : XX @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

months for both. In case the date of closing mentioned in the Notice Inviting Tender is declared a holiday/bandh/strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tender online will be done on the next working date. Closing date and time of tender: 11.03.2025 at 14.00 hrs. The details of tender are available at website www.ireps.gov.in Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. Payment of EMD and TDC -Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Tender Document Cost (TDC) in respect of E. tendering should be accepted through

Tender Notice is also available at websites: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in Follow us at : Z @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

net banking or payment gateway only. No

(HWH-615/2024-25)

manual offer will be accepted.

# Law

# Defying the legislature

Many of the Trump administration's actions directly challenge the US Congress' 'power of the purse', says ZACHARY PRICE

ecause of the Trump administration's efforts to cut staff and spending, Congress' "power of the purse" has been in the news lately. Many of these actions have been challenged in court.

I'm a law professor who has written about Congress' power of the purse and some of the legal and constitutional issues that surround it. Here's a brief explanation of the concept – and of why you should care about it.

Under the U.S. Constitution, Congress holds what's commonly called the "power of the purse." Congress, in other words, holds the authority to control government expenditures.

Concretely, Congress may enact laws that raise revenue through taxes and import duties, and it may also spend money for "the common Defence and general Welfare," terms in the Constitution that are understood to cover almost any spending that Congress thinks is a good idea.

The Constitution, however, provides that "[n]o Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law." Because of this clause, officials may not spend any government money unless a statute "appropriates," or makes available, specific funds for the relevant purpose.

Although the Constitution forbids any appropriation for the Army that lasts longer than two years, Congress can choose in other contexts whether to provide an appropriation permanently or only for a prescribed length of time. Some benefits programmes such as Social Security today have permanent appropriations, but most government agencies receive funds for their operations

for just a year at a time. Why does all of this matter?



Historically, the British Parliament's control over government funds created a powerful check on the crown, and Parliament developed the practice of annual appropriations to ensure that it would always have leverage over royal

Reflecting this history, James Madison, the fourth president and a leading figure in the Constitutional Convention, wrote in the Federalist Papers that the power of the purse was "the most complete and effectual weapon with which any constitution can arm the immediate representatives of the people, for obtaining a redress of every grievance,

and for carrying into effect every just and salutary measure."

This sort of leverage over policy still matters. American presidents today exercise vast powers. Over time, Congress has conferred extensive regulatory authorities on administrative agencies that operate under the president's supervision.

Congress has also established a large Army, Navy, and Air Force over which the president is commander in chief. Presidents, moreover, have claimed the power to employ these armed forces in significant ways even without a declaration of war or other specific authorization

Changinglaws to curb dissent

from Congress.

Congress' power of the purse gives it a say in how these powers are exercised. If Congress doesn't like what an administrative agency is doing, it can cut its budget or deny funds for enforcing certain regulations – something it does regularly.

Likewise, Congress can deny funds for certain military operations or impose constraints on military activities—something it also does with some regularity. In the 1970s, Congress helped end the Vietnam War in part by withholding appropriations for military activities in Indochina.

Annual appropriations also give rise to the frustrating phenomenon of government "shutdowns": If annual funding runs out before Congress enacts new appropriations, government agencies generally must halt operations.

On the whole, however, annual appropriations continue to serve much the same purpose in the United States that they did in Britain: They provide a potent check on the executive branch.

Given how strong this check is, it may not be surprising that presidents have sought ways to get around it

have sought ways to get around it.

Based on debatable legal claims,

President Barack Obama continued certain health insurance subsidies under the Affordable Care Act even after Congress denied appropriations for them. President Joe Biden attempted massive student debt relief without clear authority from Congress. Courts blocked both those actions, but now the new Trump administration has adopted several controversial policies that implicate Congress' power of the purse.

has apparently offered many federal employees nine months of paid leave if they agree to resign from federal service. But the legal basis for these offers is unclear, and it may be that no current appropriation by Congress provides funds for them.

On the other hand, the administration

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On the other hand, the administration has attempted to "pause" certain government spending, even though existing appropriations made by Congress may require at least some of this spending

These actions could violate not only Congress' constitutional power of the purse but also specific statutes that Congress has enacted to reinforce its constitutional power.

The buyout offers could violate a law called the Anti-Deficiency Act that makes it unlawful, and sometimes criminal, for government officials to commit to spending money without an appropriation providing the pressent funds

priation providing the necessary funds.
For their part, the pauses could violate a 1974 law called the Impoundment Control Act that generally forbids the government from delaying or withholding spending that Congress has mandated. Courts are now considering challenges to these actions based on these laws and other issues.

Trump may be hoping that Congress will cure any legal problems by ratifying these actions after the fact in its next round of appropriations legislation. But if Trump is indeed defying Congress' spending laws and yet faces no consequences, his actions could chip away at Congress' authority to check presidential policies in the future through its spending choices.

James Madison would not have been pleased.

(The writer is Associate Professor of Law, University of California College of the Law, San Francisco. This article was published on www.theconversation.com)

# When laws meant to curb lies are used as political tools, the cure can be worse than the disease, says

**ASAD BAIG.** 

he date was 22 June 2016, just past 11am. Moving through the hallways of Pakistan's Parliament House and ascending the staircase, we arrived at one of the rooms where the Senate Standing Committee, chaired by then senator Shahi Syed, was set to convene.

Earlier that month, civil society had petitioned the Senate highlighting the perils of the proposed Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Peca) Bill, 2016, a law that despite its stated intent carried far-reaching implications for press freedom and digital rights. In response, the committee had summoned the petitioners to hear their concerns.

Despite our repeated warnings, the government representatives defended the bill, subtly yet pointedly accusing us of everything from aligning with extremists to pushing a foreign agenda, narratives all too familiar to those advocating for media and digital freedoms in Pakistan.

Less than 18 months later, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, now on the receiving end of the very law his government had championed, publicly condemned the arrest of his party's activists over their social media posts, proving our concerns valid.

Little did we know the story would repeat itself in 2022 when Imran Khan's party, which had previously allied with us in demanding reforms to the Peca bill in 2016, would not only abandon those calls but also strengthen the law through an ordinance, making defamation a non-bailable offence.

Albert Einstein famously equated insanity with repeating the same actions while expecting different results. While his words weren't specifically about politics, they fit the situation well. Time and again, governments enact policies

thinking they will work in their favour, only to later find themselves trapped by the very measures they once championed.

The recent amendment to the Peca Act, 2016, is yet another attempt at proving Einstein right, this time by a political party that once fiercely opposed a far milder version of expression-related criminalisation when it was promulgated through an ordinance by the former government.

The Peca amendments take a decisive step towards tightening control over digital expression. Section 26(A) criminalises the dissemination of "false information" that could cause fear or unrest, with penalties of up to three years in prison or a Rs 2 million fine, though what qualifies as 'false' remains conveniently vague.

A new Social Media Regulation and Protection Authority will have broad discretion to block or remove content, raising concerns about selective enforcement. Meanwhile, FIA's Cybercrime

Wing is being replaced by the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency, expanding the government's oversight of online spaces.

Critics argue these changes could be used to curb dissent rather than protect digital integrity but beyond the risk of Peca being weaponised against dissent, one might wonder, what's wrong with legislating against 'fake news'? After all, disinformation is a pressing global issue, shaping narratives, fuelling unrest, and inciting violence.

Whether it is the viral spread of fabricated rape allegations in Punjab or sensational claims of another 'Jallianwala Bagh massacre' in Islamabad, misinformation can have real-world consequences. So much so that the World Economic Forum has labelled disinformation a major global threat, warning that it has the potential to destabilise societies and erode democratic institutions. The simple answer is: when laws meant to curb falsehoods are vague, selectively enforced, or wielded

as political tools, the cure can often be

worse than the disease. Firstly, criminalising 'misinformation' is a dangerous precedent, effectively handing governments the power to dictate truth. The first question is: who defines 'fake news'? When the state assumes this role, laws meant to combat disinformation often become tools to suppress dissent and silence criticism. Vague definitions mean entire forms of speech, including satire, political commentary, even fiction could be criminalised. Would Orwell's 1984 be banned for portraying state repression? Would a journalist questioning official claims face legal action? Imagine being a journalist or an opinion maker in the US in the lead-up to the Iraq war, calling the government's narrative of weapons of mass destruction 'fake news'.

Opinions could also potentially fall under such vague laws. A columnist writing that government policies are responsible for worsening inflation despite official claims of economic stability could be accused of spreading false information that incites panic. A climate activist arguing that the government isn't doing enough to combat environmental degradation could be charged for undermining public confidence in government's policies. When truth becomes a legal matter, the line between fact and opinion is erased, leaving room for targeting journalistic expression and silencing dissent under the guise of 'combating misinformation'.

Secondly, and importantly, legislating against fake news isn't just a dangerous precedent, it's a futile exercise and a waste of time and resources. Misinformation isn't a legal problem; it is a societal and technological challenge rooted in education, media literacy, and evolving digital landscapes. When governments attempt to tackle misinformation through legal frameworks, they often end up creating laws that are either ineffective or dangerously broad, leading to selective enforcement

Misinformation has always been part of the political dis-

rather than

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course, media narratives, and

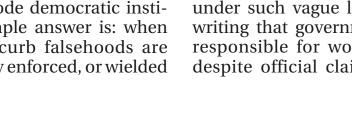
even casual conversations. The digital

age has only accelerated its spread. Criminalisation does not stop falsehoods, it simply shifts the power of defining 'truth'. History shows that official 'truths' are often rewritten with time, and what is dismissed as fake news today can become an accepted fact tomorrow. One could also say, if misinformation were truly a criminal matter, then governments themselves would be among the biggest

offenders. More so, investigating and prosecuting misinformation requires legal teams, enforcement mechanisms, and regulatory bodies, all of which divert funds from far more pressing issues like actual cybercrime and cybersecurity threats. Such laws often serve as box-checking exercises, allowing governments to claim they are taking action against disinformation while doing little to address its root causes. Laws cannot change the fact that people will continue to believe and spread false information, especially when their trust in institutions is already low.

The most effective way to combat misinformation is through stronger media literacy programmes, independent fact-checking bodies, and transparent access to information. A well-informed public is far more resilient to fake news than a society where truth is dictated by legal authority. Existing civil defamation laws already provide an avenue for those seeking recourse against claims of reputational damage or tangible harm. Strengthening these frameworks ensures accountability without discouraging discourse. But when governments choose censorship over education, they are not fighting misinformation, they are fighting free speech.

(The writer is the founder of Media Matters for Democracy.)







## ISL: Jamshedpur FC take on Mohammedan Sporting, aim to inch closer to second spot

Currently at the third position on the points table, JFC are aiming to finish the league stage on a high note

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 19 FEBRUARY

Jamshedpur FC will aim to reduce the gap with secondplaced FC Goa when they bottom-placed Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata in an Indian Super League (ISL) clash on Thursday.

The Red Miners are third in the points table with 34 points from 20 matches.

However, they have ended up losing thrice in their previous five encounters.

They are currently five points behind FC Goa.

Their away form has been concerning, having faced six defeats on the road, but Mohammedan SC have not really optimised their home advantage either.

In fact, the Kolkata-based side are presently on a fourgame-long losing streak and have garnered just 11 points from their 20 games until now, with both of their wins coming away from home.

In the reverse fixture, the Khalid Jamil-coached team had clinched a convincing 3-1 win, and they will have to iron out their offensive concerns, having gone scoreless in their previous two outings, to repeat that feat.

Another game without a goal would see them go three encounters without finding the back of the net for the first time since December 2022.

Mohammedan Sporting Club, on the other hand, eve their first win in 11 attempts at home-having drawn thrice and lost seven times in their backyard this season.

Jamshedpur FC are realistically chasing a secondplaced finish, but they trail FC Goa (39) by five points.



Ending up in the second spot will see them qualify directly for the semi-finals and not participate in the one-legged knockout, but they cannot afford to drop any more points hereon for that.

Mohammedan SC have given away seven goals to substitutes in ISL 2024-25, with only Chennaiyin FC (8) having conceded more. This shortcoming could prove costly if Jamshedpur FC banks on their bench strength for the game.

Mohammedan SC have struggled up front this season, but the 23-year-old is their joint-highest scorer with two goals.

He has also produced 17 goal-scoring opportunities and averaged 18 passes per game at 76 per cent accura-

Jamshedpur FC have conceded 19 goals in away fixtures, which is their joint-worst defensive record in a single ISL season (matching the 2019-20 campaign).

They will take respite from Mohammedan SC being the least-scoring team (10) of the campaign.

Mohammedan SC's Indian assistant coach Mehrajuddin Wadoo praised Jamshedpur FC and the season they had had so far.

"We know Jamshedpur FC have performed well this season. It's not going to be an easy game for us, but we are going to try our best to put our best foot forward," he said.

Jamshedpur FC's head coach Khalid Jamil assured that his side is committed to getting a win from this game away against Mohammedan

"It's an away game. We need to get a positive result. Everyone is working hard and the team needs to continue doing that moving forward," he said.

#### Hero WPGT: Shweta Mansingh takes one-shot lead after third leg



**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE PUNE, 19 FEBRUARY** 

Shweta Mansingh, who has more than once come close to winning her maiden title on the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour, put herself in pole position after the first round of the third leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour 2025 at the Poona Club Golf Course.

Shweta shot 2-under 69 and took a one-shot lead over Sneha Singh and Vani Kapoor, who carded 1-under 70 each. Experienced Neha Tripathi (71) was tied third with Hitaashee Bakshi, winner of the Hero OOM last year, but making her first start this season, who opened with a bogey but closed with a birdie for a round of 71.

Four players Amandeep Drall, Kriti Chowhan, Shagun Narain and Vidhatri Urs were tied for sixth place with scores of 1-over 72 each. Seher Atwal (73) was tied for tenth with the top amateur of the day, Saanvi Somu.

Shweta, who was tied for second with Sneha in Leg

16 of the 2023 season at TNGF, was also tied for second earlier at Leg 15 of the 2021 season at RCGC. Shweta, who is based out of Gurugram, dropped an early bogey on the second, but she made up with three birdies in four holes between the fourth and the seventh. She turned in 2-under and added another birdie on the 10th to go threeunder. A late bogey on the Par-5 18th hole pulled her back as she finished at 2under 69. Sneha, winner of the second Leg this season, had one bogey on Par-5 but made up with birdies on the 10th and the 13th to ensure she was under par for the day. Vani Kapoor, who was runner-up behind Sneha in the second leg, saw all the action on the front nine with one bogey on the third and birdies on the fourth and the ninth. She parred the entire back nine. Neha Tripathi's four birdies were undone by two bogeys and a double bogey, while Hitaashee Bakshi had two each of birdies and bogeys.

## FIH Pro League: Indiaride Gurjant Singhstrike to beat Germany

**BHUBANESWAR, 19 FEBRUARY** 

India won their second match in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024-25 (Men) season after beating World Champions Germany 1-0 on Wednesday.

Gurjant Singh scored the only goal of the match as India climbed to seventh in the standings. It was a good response from India after they had succumbed to a 4-1 loss to Germany on Tuesday. The Indian defence, marshalled by Captain Harmanpreet Singh, put in a solid display to secure an important win. After a bright start, India took the lead four minutes into the match as Gurjant Singh scored in backto-back matches. Rajinder Singh sent the ball into the circle hoping for Mandeep Singh to put it into goal. Mandeep's effort was saved by Alexander Stadler but the German goalkeeper did not clear the loose ball away. An unmarked Gurjant dove in to sweep the ball into the empty

India deployed a half-court



press as they looked to protect their lead and pounce on any German mistakes. Germany nearly got the equaliser as Thies Prinz showcased his incredible 3D skills to beat his markers. Krishan Bahadur Pathak stood tall and swatted away Prinz's attempt before Florian Sperling scooped the loose ball over the goal. Germany won the first penalty

corner of the match with 46 seconds left in the quarter but Gonzalo Peillat's drag-flick flew wide of the goal as the first quarter ended 1-0 in India's favour.

India resorted to sitting deeper in their half and forcing the Germans to try and find ways to penetrate the circle. Suraj Karkera, who replaced Pathak in the Indian goal in the second quarter, was rarely called into action.

It was India who had the better chances from counter attacks as Shilanand Lakra, Nilam Sanjeep Xess and Raj Kumar Pal tested Stadler. India won three penalty corners in the final minute but the German defence made sure they went into the break trailing only by the solitary goal.

Germany began the third quarter with more urgency and it needed an instinctive save from Pathak to deny Prinz a goal in the 32nd minute. Pathak was called into action a couple of minutes later as he denied Peillat a penalty corner with a superb save with his foot.

India had a big chance to double their advantage towards the end of a cagey third quarter. However, Stadler pulled off an incredible double save to deny Sukhjeet Singh and Vivek Sagar Prasad.

The Indian defence was tested early in the fourth quarter as Germany won a penalty corner in the 46th minute. Karkera did well to save Peillat's drag-flick. India won a penalty corner two minutes later but Amit Rohidas sent his drag-

flick wide. With time against them, Germany upped the ante in the final five minutes. The World Champions won a penalty corner with four minutes to go but captain Harmanpreet successfully used India's review to reverse the decision.

# Indian eves gear up for Pink Ladies Cup clash against Jordan

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE** 

**NEW DELHI, 19 FEBRUARY** 

The senior India women's national football team are back in action in the FIFA International Window, and are gearing up to face Jordan in the first match of the Pink Ladies Cup 2025 in Sharjah.

India head coach Crispin Chettri feels his side is currently in a transitional team and are breaking barriers by participating in the tournament as they strive to get better. "It's a transitional phase for the team, where we have brought in a lot of new players. We are all willing to suffer for the overall good of the team. I think it's important to support and encourage these girls because most of them are breaking a lot of barriers just by being here. We must focus on the positives

right now," said Chettri. The Indian team landed in Sharjah on Tuesday. The match will kick off at the Al

Hamriya Sports Club Stadium. India will play two more matches against Russia and the Korea Republic on 23 and 26 February respectively.

"Jordan have progressed in a good way over the last few years, but I think these are matches that we have to win if we want to progress," said Chettri. "We have a good mix of young and experienced players, so it will be a competitive game."

India women had a 10day camp in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, before travelling to Sharjah, where they will have two training sessions before their first match. The 44-year-old feels that women's football, especially the national team, has benefitted from the shift to a longer Indian Women's League season.

"We could only get a 10day camp before the Pink Ladies Cup, but the good thing is that the players are already in mid-season, so we don't have to spend any time on their fitness," he said. "We could straight away get into working on certain tactical areas and how to organise as a unit.

Fullback Sanju was in agreement with the coach.

"This is something that we, the players, have benefitted from. Playing regular matches is the most important thing, and we have been doing that in the IWL. Now that we are in the national team, we can straight away get into playing our system, rather than spend time on fitness. Every player is in peak physical form," she said.

India are ranked 13th in Asia (69th in the world), while Jordan are 14th in the continent (74th in the world). Chettri, however, brushed aside talks of the difference in rankings of the teams, choosing instead to focus on the fact that the Blue Tigresses are currently going through a transitional phase.

## Cricket Branding: The ICC Champion's Trophy and IPL Mantra

**CHAITANYA K. PRASAD** NEW DELHI, 19 FEBRUARY

In India, cricket isn't merely a sport what started out as a gentleman's game has turned into a grand festival that brings life to a standstill, transforming ordinary days into celebrations and streets into stadiums. As the ICC Champions Trophy unfolds and the IPL season beckons in 2025, the nation once again readies itself for this magnificent carnival of cricket, where every match is a festival within itself, complete with its own rituals, heroes, and fervent devotees. Yet, beneath the dazzling lights and thunderous cheers that mark this seasonal euphoria, a profound metamorphosis has occurred.

From a simple bat-and-ball game into a sophisticated marketing spectacle worth billion, where every boundary, every wicket, and every strategic timeout is tuned not just for sporting glory, but as a precisely

calculated branding opportunity. In a country of 1.4 billion people, where cricket flows through the veins of every generation, we find ourselves at a fascinating intersection where tradition meets commerce, and the sacred turf of cricket grounds increasingly resembles a canvas for corporate storytelling. The relationship between

cricket and branding has

evolved dramatically over the decades. What began as modest sponsorships on cricket boards and team jerseys has exploded into an all-encompassing marketing spectacle. Today, cricket serves as a massive canvas for brand visibility, with every conceivable space from the pitch to the players carrying commercial messages. The numbers speak for themselves: IPL's brand value hit \$12 billion in 2024, up 13 per cent from last year and a giant leap from \$2 billion in 2009. IPL franchises are thriving too, with the top 10 teams more than doubling



their combined revenue to 6,797 crore in FY24. Even streaming platforms are cashing in as one major OTT player expects to rake in 6,000 crore from ads during the Champions Trophy and IPL alone. The IPL has revolutionized how cricket interfaces with commercial interests. Each team has been crafted as a distinct brand, complete with carefully chosen colour schemes, memorable anthems, and star-

studded rosters of players and

coaches. The tournament's

very identity, signalled by its iconic trumpet call, has become a brand in itself, instantly recognizable to millions across the nation. These elements work in concert to create deep emotional connections with viewers and fans, transforming casual watchers into passionate supporters who proudly display their team allegiances.

However, this transformation raises important questions about the balance between sport and commerce. The cricket field has become a

mosaic of corporate logos and sponsorships, ensuring that every camera angle captures some form of branded content. Players, once celebrated purely for their sporting prowess, now serve as walking billboards, their jerseys and equipment adorned with multiple sponsor This saturation of branding

has reached a point where some argue it distracts from the game's essential nature.

The global reach of cricket, particularly in the digital age, has created unprecedented opportunities for brand engagement. Modern cricket tournaments operate on multiple platforms simultaneously traditional broadcasts, social media, digital streaming, and mobile applications. This multi-channel presence allows brands to craft diverse campaign strategies and leverage influencer collaborations in ways that were unimaginable

in previous eras. For commercial brands, cricket offers an unparalleled platform for reaching the masses. The sport's aspirational value, particularly in India, creates a perfect storm of visibility, engagement, and emotional connection.

Young cricketers dream of following in the footsteps of their heroes, while fans feel deeply connected to their favourite teams and players. This emotional investment makes cricket an incredibly attractive vehicle for brand messaging. The 2025 season promises to push these boundaries even further. Both the Champions Trophy and IPL are set to showcase new approaches to brand integration, utilizing advanced digital marketing interfaces and sophisticated segmentation strategies.

The challenge for strategic managers lies in achieving perfect placement and positioning of brands within this increasingly crowded space. Yet, this intensive branding

carries both opportunities and risks. While it has undoubtedly contributed to cricket's financial health and global appeal, there's a growing concern about saturation. The challenge lies in maintaining the delicate balance between commercial interests and the sport's integrity. Too much branding risks

alienating purists and overwhelming viewers, potentially diminishing the very engagement that makes cricket attractive to sponsors in the first place. Nevertheless, cricket's position as India's beloved sport remains unshaken. The anticipation surrounding India-Pakistan matches continues to bring the nation to a standstill, and the IPL's twenty-over format has created its own unique brand of excitement. The sport's ability to unite people, generate passion, and create shared experiences remains its most valuable asset.

Looking ahead, the key for stakeholders will be to find innovative ways to integrate

brands without compromising the viewer experience. The future of cricket branding lies not just in visibility but in creating meaningful connections with audiences. Successful brands will be those that enhance rather than intrude upon the cricket-watching experience, adding value to both the sport and its followers. As we enter this new phase of cricket's commercial evolution, it's crucial to remember that at its heart, cricket remains a sport that captures imaginations and inspires millions. While branding and commercial interests are now inseparable from modern cricket, the game's essence—its ability to unite, entertain, and inspire must always take centre stage. The challenge for the future will be maintaining this delicate balance, ensuring that the commercial aspects of cricket enhance rather than overshadow the sporting spectacle that continues to captivate millions around the world.

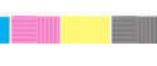
























# KOLKATA THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2025 The Statesman /

**THUMBNAILS** Former Mumbai captain Milind Rege passes away: Milind Rage, who returned to captain Mumbai in domestic cricket after suffering a heart attack at 26, passed away after a second attack on Wednesday, days after turning 76. He is survived by his wife and two sons. Rege, an off-spinning all-rounder who featured in 52 First-Class matches for Mumbai, was part of five consecutive Ranji Trophy title-winning seasons. His career was briefly cut short due to cardiac issues but he made a stellar comeback into the side, and went on to lead the Mumbai side. During his playing career, spanning between 1966-67 and 1977-78, Rege took 126 wickets with his right-arm off-break bowling. He also contributed with the bat, scoring 1,532 runs at an average of 23.56. Off the field, Rege also served Mumbai cricket in several roles through his career and was also associated with the **Mumbai Cricket Association** as a cricket advisor. He was among the first people to spot several cricketers, including batting legend Sachin Tendulkar. In a social media post, hailing the contribution of Rege, Tendulkar wrote, "Sad to hear about Milind Rege Sir's passing. He was a true Mumbai cricketer with immense contri-

butions to the city's cricket.

He and other CCI members

saw potential in me and

asked me to play for CCI,

which, as I look back now,

my career."

was a landmark moment in

## Champions Trophy: Dominant Kiwis snuffout brave fight by Pakistan

New Zealand defeat hosts by 60 runs in tournament opener to start campaign with a win

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KARACHI, 19 FEBRUARY

ew Zealand made a strong start to their Champions Trophy campaign, defeating hosts Pakistan by 60 runs in a Group A clash in Karachi on Wednesday.

Chasing a target of 321 runs, the hosts put up a brave fight, riding halfcenturies by Babar Azam and Khushdil Shah along with a gutsy performance by the lower-order before the Kiwi bowlers managed to dismiss them for 260 runs in 47.2 overs.

Earlier, New Zealand posted a formidable total of 320/5. The innings was anchored by brilliant centuries from Will YoungandTomLatham, who guided the Kiwisto a challenging total after early setbacks.

Afterwinning the toss, Pakistan opted to field first. Their decision seemed to pay off initially as spinner Abrar Ahmed struck first, dismissing Devon Conway for 10 with the score at 39. Just an overlater, Naseem Shah removed Kane Williamson for a single, reducing New Zealand to 40/2 in 8.1 overs. The Kiwis reached 48/2 at the

end of the first powerplay. Daryl Mitchell was the nextto fall, managing just 10 before being sent back by Haris Rauf. At 73/3 in 16.2 overs, New Zealandwere in a tricky position. However, opener Will Young and wicketkeeper-batter Tom



Latham steadied the innings, forging a crucial 118-run partnership. Youngled the recovery with a century, scoring 107 off 113 balls, including 12 fours and a six. His innings ended when Naseem Shah struck again, dismissing him when New Zealand were 191/4 in 37.2 overs. Soon after, Latham made century, completing it in just 95 balls. He remained unbeaten on 118 off 104 deliveries, hitting 10 fours and three sixes. Glenn Phillips provided the finishing touch with a quick-fire 61 off 39 balls, smashing three fours and four sixes to take New Zealand past the 300-run mark. The Kiwis made 113 runs in their last ten overs. Among Pakistan's bowlers, Naseem Shah was the standout performer, finishing with figures

of 2/63 in his 10 overs. Haris Raufalso picked up two wickets but was expensive as he finished with 2/83, while Abrar Ahmed claimed one. Shaheen Afridi had an off day, going wicketless in his 10 overs, conceding 68



### Gill replaces Babar as No.1 ODI batterahead of CT 2025 opener

**STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 19 FEBRUARY** 

The ODI rankings witnessed a major shake-up on the opening day of the ICC Champions Trophy with India's Shubman Gill and Sri Lanka's Maheesh Theekshana rising to the top of the batting and bowling charts, respectively in the latest update released on Wednesday. Shubman overtook Pakistan's Babar Azam to rise to the top of the ODI batting rankings while Theek-

shana took the premier position

among the ODI bowlers for the first time by surpassing Afghanistan tweaker Rashid Khan.

Gill slammed two half centuries and a century in the recently-concluded home ODI series against England, that India won 3-0, making him the top run-getter in the series. He came up with scores of 87, 60 and 112 to aggregate 259 runs at an average of 86.33 and a strike rate of 103.60.

The next highest scorer, Shreyas Iyer, was 78 behind Gill with 181 runs.

# Ranji Trophy: Rathod, Wadkar lead Vidarbha fighback against Mumbai after top-order wobble



#### **AGENCIES**

NAGPUR. 19 FEBRUARY

An unbroken 91-run partnership between Yash Rathod (59 batting) and Akshay Wadkar (31 batting) helped Vidarbha recover from a dramatic toporder collapse as they ended Day 3 of their Ranji Trophy semi-final against Mumbai at 147 for 4, extending their overall lead to 260 runs.

After being reduced to 56 for 4, Vidarbha looked in danger of squandering their first-innings advantage, but Rathod and Wadkar absorbed immense pressure to guide them to stumps unscathed. Their partnership came against a Mumbai attack that had its tail up, especially with spinners Shams Mulani and Tanush Kotian exploiting a surface showing increasing signs of variable bounce and turn. Earlier, Mumbai's fightback was led by wicketkeeper-batter Akash Anand, who displayed remarkable resilience with a hard-fought 106 off 256 balls. Resuming at 188 for 7, Mumbai's hopes rested on Anand, and he delivered by forging a crucial 69-run stand with Tanush Kotian (33) for the eighth wicket. Anand, who had opened the innings and remained on the field throughout, was eventually dismissed as the ninth batter out. His effort was instrumental in

they were bowled out for 270, conceding a 113-run firstinnings lead to Vidarbha. Leftarm spinner Parth Rekhade, who had rattled Mumbai on Day 2, returned to take the key wicket of Kotian before the lower order folded quick-

With a significant lead, Vidarbha's second innings began on a disastrous note as Shardul Thakur struck second ball, removing Atharva Taide right before the tea break. Danish Malewar (29) provided some fluency but fell to Mulani, chipping one back while attempting a flick against the turn.

Vidarbha's troubles deepened when Karun Nair and Dhruv Shorey fell in quick succession, both trapped lbw—Nair to Mulani and Shorey to Kotian—as the Mumbai spinners made full use of the wearing pitch. At 56 for 4, the match was evenly poised, with Mumbai sensing an opportunity to claw back into the contest. However, Rathod and Wadkar ensured Vidarbha finished the day on top with a determined stand that blunted a tiring Mumbai attack. Rathod, registering his second fifty-plus score in the match, played with composure, while Wadkar's gritty 102-ball stay frustrated the visitors.

Meanwhile in Ahmedabad,

reducing Mumbai's deficit as Priyank Panchal's magnificent unbeaten 117 off 200 balls to lead Gujarat's strong response to Kerala's imposing firstinnings total of 457. At 222 for 1 at stumps on Day 3, Gujarat now trails by just 235 runs, with the experienced opener firmly anchoring their chase. Panchal's knock was the centerpiece of Gujarat's

ing they stayed in control heading into a crucial Day 4 of the Ranji Trophy semifinal. Gujarat's openers approached the innings with a clear game plan—maximise scoring while the pitch remained benign. Kerala, banking on early breakthroughs, opened with offspinner Jalaj Saxena, setting

point and leg slip, expecting However, the rollers used before play had settled the surface, neutralizing much of the assistance the spinners had hoped for. Taking full advantage, Panchal and Aarya Desai stitched together a 131-run opening stand, playing fluent drives

> vacant third-man region. Aarya, standing tall and elegant, played with confidence against Kerala's experienced spinners, reaching his halfcentury off 82 balls. However,

and accumulating runs clev-

resilient batting display, ensur-

an attacking field with a silly

his innings was cut short when Basil N.P. got one to angle across, forcing an inside-edge onto the stumps. Dismissed for 57, Aarya's knock laid the foundation Gujarat needed.

Losing his partner didn't slow Panchal down. He took over the scoring mantle, cutting anything outside off-stump with precision. A rare moment of luck saw him survive an outside edge at 78, as the ball pierced the gap between the wicketkeeper and slip.

However, there was no stopping him as he lofted Aditya Sarwate over the ropes to reach his 29th First-Class century, Panchal let out a deafening roar, celebrating an innings of grit, patience, and class. His teammates rose in applause, acknowledging their skipper's invaluable knock. With Manan Hingrajia (30 batting off 108) providing steady support, Gujarat negotiated the tricky final phase without further damage. Both batters survived close calls, with edges falling just short of the slip cordon, but they ensured that only one wicket fell all day—a testament to their control over the innings.

Earlier, Kerala's plans to erly—particularly through the extend their total past 500 suffered an immediate blow, as Chintan Gaja struck in just the fourth over, clean bowling Aditya Sarwate to reach his 200th First Class wicket.



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