

The Statesman



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KOLKATA | NEW DELHI | SILIGURI | BHUBANESWAR





'CONGRESS AIDING BJP'S RISE'

'WOMEN FORCED TO MORTGAGE JEWELLERY UNDER MODI GOVT'

PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

AUS SKIPPER STEVE SMITH RETIRES FROM ODIS

P16

SENSEX 73,730.23▲740.30

P10

NIFTY 22,337.30 \$\rightarrow\$ 254.65

₹ vs \$ 86.93

GOLD 88,955.00

SILVER 1,07,000

BRENT CRUDE (IN \$) 69.31 ▼1.73

WEATHER

Generally clear. Hazy in the evening. Maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be around 30°C and 22°C respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL **RELATIVE HUMIDITY** Max. 84% Min. 70%

TEMPERATURE Max: 36.2°C Min: 29.3°C **SUN RISES SUN SETS** 06:04 hrs 17:36 hrs **MOON RISES MOON SETS** 00:18 hrs 11:05 hrs

Full Moon on 14 March

THUMBNAILS



People gather at shops to buy colours for the upcoming festival of Holi, in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

Successive quakes hit Manipur districts, no casualties reported: Two consecutive earthquakes, including one of 5.7 magnitude, jolted several Manipur districts and adjoining northeastern states, officials said. According to disaster management officials, there was no immediate report of loss of life or damage to property due to the two earthquakes, one of 5.7 magnitude and the other measuring 4.1 on the Richter scale, both taking place in Kamjong district.

India in his sights, Trump talksupreciprocaltariffs

The US President said the reciprocal tax will kick in from 2 April

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI. 5 MARCH**

n what is expected to upset New Delhi after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent successfulvisit to Washington, USPresidentDonaldTrump targeted India and other countries on import duties and announced reciprocal tariffs from 2 April.

In a speech to a joint session of Congress on Tuesday, MrTrump specifically mentioned Indian tariffs on automobile imports, saying: "India charges us auto tariffs higher than 100 per cent".

The US President said the reciprocal tax will kick in on 2 April.

He said that the US has been "ripped off" for decades by nearly every country on earth and vowed not to "letthathappen anylonger."

"Under the Trump administration, you will pay a tariff and in some cases a rather large one. Other countries have used tariffs against us for decades and now it's our turn to start using them against those other countries. On average the European Union, China, Brazil, India,



pean Union, China, Brazil, India, Mexico and Canada...charge us tremendously higher tariffs than we charge them. It's very unfair. India charges us auto tariffs higher than 100

America is back," US President Donald Trump said as he vowed to keep up his campaign of "swift and unrelenting action" in reorienting the nation's ecor omy, immigration and foreign policy in an unyield \cdot ing address before a joint sitting of the US Congress, even as he emphasised his administration's rapid actions, claiming to have achieved more in 43 days than most administrations do in years. "We have just started," he said. (See Page 10)

Mexico and Canada, have you heard of them, and countless other nations charge us tremendously higher tariffs than we charge them. It's very unfair. India chargesus autotariffshigher than 100 per cent," the American leader said.

Therewas no immediate

reaction from the Indian

government. Mr Trump also spoke about the tariffs imposed by the European Union, China, Brazil and Mexico and announced that the USA will impose tariffs on other nations based on whattheyareimposingon

"China's average tariff on our products is twice what we charge them. And South Korea's average tariff is four times higher. Think of that four times higher and we give so much help militarily and in many other ways to South Korea. But that's what happens, this ishappening by friend and foe," he said.

Mr Trump said: "This system is not fair to the United States and never was. And so on April 2nd, I wanted to make it April 1st, but I didn't want to be accused of April Fool's Day. That's not - this one day was-costusalotofmoney. But we're going to do it in April.I'maverysuperstitious person. April 2nd, reciprocal tariffs kick in. And whatever they tariff us, other countries, we will tariff them."

"That's reciprocal, back and forth. Whatever they tax us, we will tax them. If they do nonmonetary tariffs to keep us out of their market, then we will do non-monetary barriers to keep them out of our market. There's a lot of that, too. They don't even allow us in their market."

India will establish National Large Language Model to develop AI capabilities: PM Modi

NIKHIL VYAS

NEW DELHI. 5 MARCH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said India will establish a National Large Language Model to develop artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities adding that the country's private sector also needs to be one step ahead of the world in this direction.

The prime minister was speaking in a post-budget webinar on employment via video conferencing.

He highlighted the importance of the theme of the webinar, "Investing in People, Economy, and Innovation," which defines the roadmap for Viksit Bharat.

"The future of the nation is determined by investments in innovation," said Mr Modi, highlighting that AI has the potential to contribute several lakh crore rupees to India's economy, underscoring the need for rapid progress in this direction.

Mr Modi mentioned the allocation of Rs 500 crore in the budget for AI-driven education and research.

Mentioning the plans to establish a National Large Language Model to develop AI capabilities in India, the prime minister urged the private sector to stay ahead of the global curve in this field.

"The world awaits a reliwhich will foster research able, safe, and democratic and provide opportunities nation that can provide eco-

sector today will yield significant advantages in the future. "India has become the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world," said the prime minister, adding that several measures have been introduced in this budget

to promote startups. Mr Modi mentioned the approval of a Rs 1 lakh crore corpus fund to boost research and innovation. The prime minister emphasised that this will increase investments in emerging sectors through the 'Deep Tech Fund of Funds'.

nomical AI solutions," he

added, emphasising that

investments made in this

Mr Modi noted the provision of 10,000 research fellowships at IITs and IISc,

for talented youth.

The prime minister also highlighted the role of the National Geo-spatial Mission and the National Research Foundation in accelerating innovation. He stressed the need for collective efforts at all levels to elevate India to new heights in research and innovation.

Underlining the significance of the Gyan Bharatam Mission in preserving India's rich manuscript heritage, Modi announced that over one crore manuscripts will be digitized under this mission, leading to the creation of a National Digital Repository. This repository will enable scholars and researchers worldwide to access India's historical, traditional knowledge and wisdom, he added.

Tamil Nadu all-party meet demands freeze on delimitation for 30 years

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE CHENNAI, 5 MARCH

Demanding a freeze on the delimitation exercise for the next three decades, the allparty meeting convened by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Wednesday, resolved to form a Joint Action Committee comprising MPs from southern states to create awareness on the adverse impact of delimitation based on population.

The meeting, attended by 40 registered political parties, barring the BJP and two other minor parties, endorsed the resolutions placed by Mr Stalin. "The Prime Minister must assure in Parliament that the 2000 agreement – where the then Prime Minister guaranteed that constituency distribution would continue to be based on the 1971 population for fairness-will be extended for another 30 years beyond 2026," one of the resolutions said.

Opposing the populationbased delimitation of parliabenefit."



mentary constituencies, another resolution described it as posing "a serious threat to India's federal structure and the political representation rights of Tamil Nadu and other South Indian states."

Further, it said: "It is completely unjust for Tamil Nadu and other South Indian states to have their parliamentary representation reduced solely because they have successfully implemented population control measures for the country's

The all-party meeting called for a Constitutional amendment if increasing the number of MPs is necessary, by addressing the concerns of southern states. "If the number of MPs in Parliament is increased, the Union Government must amend the Constitution to ensure that distribution of constituencies among states follows the same proportional ratio as in 1971, thereby preserving Tamil Nadu's rightful representation," another res-

While making it clear that Tamil Nadu is not opposed to delimitation in principle, it was pointed out that "it should not be implemented in a way that penalises states that have successfully implemented social and economic development policies for over five decades." To carry forward this demand and to take up awareness campaigns among people, the meeting decided to set up a Joint-Action Committee (JAC), comprising MPs from Tamil Nadu and other South Indian states. A formal invitation would be sent to relevant political parties for this purpose. Earlier, speaking at the , meeting, Mr Stalin described the proposed delimitation exercise as a 'conspiracy and a Damocles sword hanging over the Southern states and said the number of Lok Sabha constituencies in Tamil Nadu might go down to 31 from the present 39. If it was carried on a pro-rata basis, the state could get an

SIZZLING KNOCK



Rachin Ravindra scored 108 runs off 101 balls as New Zealand posted a massive total of 362-5 in their Champions Trophy 2025 semi-final against South Africa. The Kiwis won by 50 runs to go through to

Kannada actress arrested for 'smuggling' 14.8 kg gold at Bengaluru Airport

AGENCIES BENGALURU, 5 MARCH

The arrest of Kannada film actress Ranya Rao, daughter of a senior IPS officer in Karnataka, has exposed a major gold smuggling operation. Investigations by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) revealed that the 31-year-old actress used an unusual method to evade security checks -- she attached 14 gold bars to her thighs using adhesive, wrapped them with tape, and concealed them under a crepe bandage.

Officials described her arrest as one of the biggest breakthroughs in recent gold smuggling cases.

So far, authorities have seized 17.29 kg of gold and cash in the case. This includes 14.8 kg of gold worth Rs 12.56 crore recovered at the airport, Rs 2.06 crore worth of gold from her Bengaluru residence, and apart from



that Rs 2.67 crore in cash. Ranya Rao was appre-

hended on Monday night upon her arrival at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru on an Emirates flight from Dubai. The DRI, acting on prior intelligence, deployed a four-member team at the airport, anticipating her arrival.

Sources revealed that she had made four trips to Dubai

in just 15 days, raising suspicions. Investigators suspect she may have been smuggling gold on multiple occasions.

airport. Upon landing, she would

reportedly call police per-

sonnel to pick her up, who

Authorities say Ms Rao exploited her father's position -- Director General of Police (Police Housing Corporation) -- to avoid scrutiny at the then escorted her home. Officials are now probing whether any police officers were complicit in the smug-

gling network. Following her arrest, the DRI raided her upscale Lavelle Road apartment in Bengaluru on Wednesday, where she paid Rs 4.5 lakh in rent. The search led to the discovery of additional

Sources revealed that the actress had made four trips to Dubai in just 15 days, raising suspicions. **Investigators suspect** she may have been smuggling gold on multiple occasions.

total seizure to Rs 17.29 kg of gold and Rs 2.67 crore in cash.

Her father, Ramachandra Rao, has distanced himself from the case, stating they have not been in touch since her marriage four months ago.Ranya Rao, known for her role opposite Kannada superstar Sudeep in 'Maanikya', has also acted

in other South Indian films. She was produced in court on Tuesday and remanded to judicial custody as investigations continue into her smuggling network and possible accomplices.

Kejriwal faces intense criticism for big cavalcade **STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE**

CHANDIGARH, 5 MARCH

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Wednesday said that it was condemnable that a curfewlike situation had been created for farmers who were not being allowed to come to the capital to register their protest even as a red carpet welcome was being accorded to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convenor Arvind Kejriwal with more than 100 vehicles escorting him for a Vipassana session from here to Hoshiarpur.

Asking Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to explain this state of affairs, senior SAD leader Dr Daljit Singh Cheema said in a statement: "The Chief Minister should tell why Kejriwal was being accorded a welcome reserved for heads of states when he did not have any Constitutional authority and had no relation with Punjab." He said the CM should



also tell Punjabis why he had invited farmers for talks and then insulted them by walking out of the meeting in a huff when reminded about the promises made by him and his boss Kejriwal to farmers.

BJP leader Tarun Chugh said: "Arvind Kejriwal has come with his group to Punjab with the ill-intention of looting the state...In what capacity is a cavalcade of 100 vehicles accompanying Kejriwal? How is he holding a meeting of government officials and how is he giving them direction?"

decriminalise over 100 provisions: Sitharaman

Vishwas Bill 2.0 to



AGENCIES NEW DELHI, 5 MARCH

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday that the government is committed to encouraging global economic partnerships, leveraging technology to strengthen traditional sectors and to significantly enhance

the export potential of India.

Addressing a post-budget webinar on the theme 'Regulatory, Investment, And Ease Of Doing Business (EODB) Reforms', she said the government will now bring in the general Vishwas Bill 2.0 to decriminalise more than 100 provisions in various laws. It will further simplify processes for businesses, the minister said.

The Finance Minister emphasised that the government remains committed to ensuring the timely implementation of all budget announcements for the year 2025-26.

Highlighting the focus laid on capex, Mrs Sitharaman said that the pathway for reforms is complemented by the government's unwavering focus on capital expenditure as a driver of economic growth. For the year 2025-26, total effective capex is proposed at 15.48 lakh crores, which is 4.3 per cent of the GDP, with 11.21 lakh crore allocated as core capital expenditure by the Centre, which is 3.1 per cent of the GDP. This unprecedented investment in infrastructure development is already creating jobs, strengthening industries and laying the foundation for private sector participation in India's growth story, the FM said.







gold and cash, taking the





Deepak Nigam, divisional railway manager of Sealdah handed over Rail Seva Puraskar to 69 railway employees for demonstrating outstanding devotion to their duties in Sealdah Division. ■ SNS

Furfura Sharif gets ready: At the initiative of state chief minister Mamata Banerjee, steps have been taken to provide amenities to lakhs of pilgrims at Furfura Sharif in Jangipara of Hooghly district. The state transport minister, Sehashis Chakraborty, said: "Extra lighting arrangements have been made; medical camps and medical team will be present and 12 ambulances together with a trauma care ambulance have been provided. Among the other arrangements, vehicle parking, arrangements for drinking water with five drinking water vehicles will provide sealed water pouches, large number of bio toilets have been set up."

Violence disrupts Higher Secondary exams in Malda

Students attacked teachers over security checks; 11 students involved identified

MANAS R BANNERJEE SILIGURI, 5 MARCH

haos erupted at Chamagram Higher Secondary School in Malda's Baishnabnagar police station area during the Higher Secondary English examination on Wednesday, as students protested against mandatory security checks. The situation turned violent, leaving six teachers seriously injured after a group of examinees allegedly attacked them.

The incident occurred while Chiranjib Bhattacharya, president of the West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education, was inspecting another examination centre in the district under Kaliachak police station. A large police force from Baisnabnagar was deployed to restore order.

According to local sources, students from Kamditola High Madrasah, Char Sujapur Higher Secondary School, and Parlalpur Higher Secondary School were assigned to the Chamagram exam centre. Tensions flared when teachers began conducting security checks using metal

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

e-TENDER NOTICE

N.I.e.T. No. 18 of EE/ED of 2024-25

Executive Engineer, Electrical Division

PHE Dte. has invited an open e-Tender

for "Different works under Electrical

Division, PHE Dte." (i) Tender Reference

No. WBPHED/EE/ED/18/2024-25 (ii)

Bid Submission End Date: 25.03.2025

(iii) Details of NIET available in website:

www.wbtenders.gov.in and

www.wbphed.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA- T4779(3)/2025

EE, Kalimpong Division, PWD invites

online e-Quotation for the work:-

"Consultancy work for preparation of

detailed project report (DPR) for

installation of Fire Hydrant and Fire

Sprinkler system including supervision

for the Work - Construction of New

District Collectorate Building at

Kaimpong in the District of Kalimpong."

e-NIQ No. 08 of 2024-25 of EE,

Kalimpong Division. Tender ID:-

2024_WBPWD_780255_1. Bid

submission start date (online):

06.03.2025 from 09:00 A.M. Bid

submission Closing date (online):

15.03.2025 upto 12:30 P.M.

Corrigendum if any will be published in

website only. Details of N.I.Q and Tender

documents may be downloaded from:

https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- EE, PWD,

Kalimpong Division ICA-T4824(3)/2025

detectors at the main gate. A section of students reportedly resisted the screening, leading to a sudden attack on the teachers and a clash

with school authorities.

When asked about the incident, Mr Bhattacharya termed it "unfortunate" and stated: "Such incidents are unexpected. Out of 2,089 examination centres in West Bengal, this untoward incident occurred at only one centre. The students of Kamditola Higher Secondary School were responsible for the violence. Exams at all other centres proceeded peacefully."

He added: "We have iden-

tified 11 students involved in the incident with the help of CCTV footage. For now, they will be seated in a separate room for their exams. The authorities of both Chamagram and Kamditola Higher Secondary Schools will be summoned for a hearing. If necessary, the 11 students may also be called. Once the

action will be taken." Mr Bhattacharya confirmed that four to six teachers were assaulted and assured that he would personally visit the school if required. "Overall, the examination process is running smoothly. No major

Date Corrigendum

1st Corrigendum Notice regarding Extension

of Dates vide e-NIT/No. eT/18/ SE/GTACIRCLE/

PHEDTE.OF 2024-25 (SL. NO. 01) and ID:

2025_PHED_808317_1 for GROUND WATER

RESERVOIR HAVING CAPACITY OF 20 ML

SONADA TO ACCOMMODATE TWO VILLAGES

UNDER SUKHIA POKHRI BLOCK WITHIN

DARJEELING DISTRICT UNDER KURSEONG

DIVISION. Details, will be available in the

website www.wbtenders.gov.in. The Last date

for submission of tender is 24.03.2025 upto

ICA-T4774(4)/2025

ICA-T4794(3)/2025

02.00 P.M. Sd/- for Superintending Engineer,

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

TENDER NOTICE

Executive Engineer, Murshidabad

Highway Division No.-1, invites online

e-tender for the work of :- Name of

Work: Krishnagar - Debipur - Jalangi

Road at chainage 4.150 Km.

Replacement of damaged Slab Culvert

by double cell 3.0 m x 3.0 m RCC Box

Culvert under Murshidabad Highway

Division No.I. during the year 2024-

2025. NIET NO 29 of 2024-2025 (SI NO 1)

Tender ID:- 2025_SH_822472_1. Bid

Submission start date (Online):

10.03.2025 after 11.00 am. Bid

Submission Closing date (Online):

24.03.2025 upto 1.00 pm. Corrigendum

if any will be published in website only.

Details of NIET and Tender documents

may be downloaded from

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Superintending Engineer, South-

Western Circle, P.W.Dte., Midnapore

invites online e-tender for the work

"Construction of Paddy Godown (2000)

M.T. Capacity) at Pingla in the District of

Paschim Medinipur - Construction of

internal road, Drainage system with

loading platform, Boaring of a tube well,

Construction of toilet block for male and

female, Re-location of weigh bridge

Fixing fire extinguisher and other

ancillary works - Balance works (Civil)

Project ID: FS2425264185000.

Estimated Amount : Rs. 1,51,67,619.00,

NIeT No. 16 of 2024-2025, Tender ID

2025_WBPWD_822193_1. Bid

submission start date (online)

10.03.2025 from 10.00 Hours, Bid

Submission closing date (online)

28.03.2025 at 15.00 Hours

Corrigendum if any will be published in

website only. Details of NieT and Tender

documents may be downloaded from

http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Tarun Kr

Chakraborty, Superintending Engineer,

ICA-T4783(3)/2025

South-Western Circle, P.W.Dte.

PWD TENDER NOTICE

G. T. A-Circle, P.H.E. Dte.

full report is ready, appropriate

issues or complaints regarding the question paper have been reported. The district administration has managed the arrangements well, and no other untoward incidents have been reported so far," he said.

The incident has raised concerns over exam security protocols and student conduct, prompting authorities to review measures to prevent such occurrences in the future.

"Security has been tightened, and the administration is cooperating. CCTV cameras are monitoring exam venues to prevent such incidents," Mr Bhattacharya added.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

NIT No.(1) WBDPL-12018(12)/3/2025

GM-POW(DPL)-DPL/TS/E-319 Dated

26.02.2025 Tender ID

2025_DPL_820667_1 For Roof

Treatment and Allied Masonary Works

in CN and EN Type qtrs. Within 8 Zone of

DPL Township Bid Submission end date

08.03.2025 Bid Opening Date

13.03.2025. NIT No .(2) WBDPL/ DPPS/

PUR/NIT(E)-033 DJ /405/2024-25

Tender ID: 2025_DPL_820634_1. For

Procurement of Various Spares for

Chillers of Unit -8 Bid Submission end

date 15.03.2025 Bid Opening Date

21.03.2025. NITNo.(3) WBDPL/ DPPS/

PUR/NIT(E)-034 DJ /406/2024-25

Tender ID: 2025_DPL_820649_1 , For

Procurement of Single Phase 60kV,

1400mA HV Transformer Rectifier Set for

ESP of Unit -7 under AHP-EM Bid

Submission end date 15.03.2025 Bid

Opening Date 21.03.2025. NIT No.(4)

WBDPL/DPPS/PUR/NIT(E)-040 BP/ 469/

2025_DPL_820619_1. For Procurement

of Unit-7 CW and ACW Motor DE Side

Bearing. Bid Submission end date

08.03.2025 Bid Opening Date

14.03.2025.Date Extension NIT No.(5)

WBDPL-12017/17/2024-GM POW

(DPL)-DPL/PS/E-285 Dated 01.02.2025

Tender ID: 2025_DPL_810217_1. Bid

Submission end date 08.03.2025 Bid

Opening Date 13.03.2025.NIT No.(6)

WBDPL-13.012/3/2025 GM-POW(DPL)-

DPL/WW/E-288 Dated 03.02.2025

Tender ID: 2025~_DPL_810433_1

ishereby treated as cancelled. Visit

https://wbtenders.gov.in /

(ABC) 50-70 sq mm under Domkal Division'.

WESTERL

ICA-T4712(2)/2025

2024-25 Tender

THE DURGAPUR PROJECTS LIMITED

(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)

CIN NO. U40102WB1961SGC025250

Rhino census begins at Jaldapara National Park

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE SILIGURI, 5 MARCH

The forest department launched a comprehensive rhino census at Jaldapara National Park this morning, aiming to assess the population of the endangered one-horned rhinoceros.

The census, conducted with the help of nearly several trained elephants, is being carried out by a team of around 400 personnel, including forest officials and members of over 12 NGOs. The elephants are assisting enumerators in navigating the dense forest terrain, ensuring accurate data collection. The census is a critical step in monitoring the health and growth of the rhino population, which is a key indicator of the park's biodiversity.

Jaldapara National Park, known for its rich wildlife and conservation efforts, is home to a significant number of one-horned rhinos. The census will provide valuable insights into their population trends, habitat conditions, and potential threats.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

e-TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited by the

Commissioner of Police Kolkata for 1.

(inside/outside) for the Special

Executive Magistrate Court situated at

3/1, Taltala Lane, Kolkata-700014,

during the year 2024-2025." 2.

"Renovation of Police Klosk of size

12.00m X 6.00m near Nazrul Mancha,

Kolkata, during the year 2024-2025." 3.

"Uprooting of trees, replacement of

damaged rain water pipe and sewer line

of Block A-22, A-21, A-20, A-18, A-15, A-

14, A-12, A-10, A-09, A-07 of Western

Sector & Block-E,F,G,I,L,M,N,O & B-06,

B-08, B-09, B-10 of Eastern Sector of

Nawdapara PHE, BG Ghosh Road,

Kolkata-700057, during the year 2024-

2025." 4. "Repairing & painting of Brick

Boundary Wall near Block-I, J, M, N, O & P

of Eastern Sector of Nawdapara PHE, BG

Ghosh Road, Kolkata-700057, during the

year 2024-2025." 5. "2nd Call for

Emergent repair of Bituminous Road

within the premises of at Nawdapara

P.H.E at Eastern Sector (Near Gate) &

Near Block B-8 Eastern Sector, during

the year 2024-25." 6. "2nd Call for

Repairing & painting after damp

treatment of Corridor of the Circular

Building within Police Training School,

during the year 2024-2025." The last

date for submission of the e-tenders is

13/03/2025 upto 12.00 hours. The NIT

Document and other details will be

available in the website:

www.wbtenders.gov.in 5d/- for

ICA-T4724(2)/2025

Commissioner of Police, Kolkata.

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY

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WBSEDCL invites e-Tenders as follows:

1) NIT No.: BNDD-I/E-Tender/2024-2025/1903, Date: 03.03.2025 of the Divisional

Manager, Bidhannagar-I Division. Estimated Cost: Rs. 19,49,457/- for the work of

'Augmentation of two nos. 33 kV feeder by laying of 33 kV grade three run single core 1000 sq.

mm Al. XLPE cable replacing single run three core 400 sq mm XLPE cable from Salt Lake AIS

132 kV sub-station to SRC 33/11 kV sub-station (Total route length of 500 Meter) under

2) NIT No.: WBSEDCL/DKL/e-Tender/24-25/04, Date: 03.03.2025 of the Divisional

Manager, Domkal Division. Estimated Cost: Rs. 9,81,000/- for the work of 'Supply &

delivery of 600 nos. GI 11 kV 'V' Bracket for PCC Pole 9M long and 1000 nos. Ins Pierce Con

3) NIT No.: ROPM/Tender/Civil/2024-25/31, Date: 03.03.2025 of the Regional

Manager, Purba Medinipur Region. Estimated Cost: Rs. 9,80,078/- for the work of

'Construction for foundation of Transformer Plinth, VCB, CT and Cable Trench at Kharipukuria

4) NIT No.: DM/SSD/E-Tender-25/2024-2025, Date: 03.03.2025 of the Divisional

Manager, Siliguri Sub-Urban Division. Estimated Cost: Rs. 6,62,183/- for the work of

'Bus Conductor Augmentation (up-gradation) of 33 kV switchyard from ACSR 100 sq mm

Habra Division. Estimated Cost: Rs. 5,37,345/- for the work of 'Construction of new feeder

For details, visit https://wbtenders.gov.in 6 www.wbsedcl.in ICA-T4766(2)/2021

bay for Banipur 33/11 kV sub-station at Banipur, Habra under Habra Division'

33/11 kV sub-station under Contai Division, Dist.: Purba Medinipur'.

"Repairing of entire Court Room

Darjeeling aims to revive orange glory

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE SILIGURI. 5 MARCH

Once renowned for its highquality Mandarin oranges, Darjeeling has seen a decline in orange cultivation over the past few years due to climate change and pest attacks. Frustrated by mounting losses, many local farmers abandoned orange farming.

However, a renewed effort is now underway to revive this iconic crop, with the state government and international experts joining hands to support farmers. The 2nd International

Workshop on Climate-Resilient Orange Cultivation in the Eastern Himalayas, held today at Cluny Women's College in Kalimpong, brought together experts from Nepal, Bhutan, the US, Iran, and China. Organised by the Directorate of Cinchona & Other Medicinal Plants, Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA), and the department of food processing industries & horticulture, the two-day event aims to equip farmers with innovative techniques and global best practices to rejuvenate orange farming.

Minister-in-charge of food processing industries and horticulture, Arup Roy, was also present at the workshop today after inaugurating it.

GTA chief executive Anit Thapa, who attended the workshop, highlighted key focus areas, including strategies for disease-free saplings, climate-resilient farming techniques, and sustainable growth for the farming community. "This initiative marks a significant step toward securing the livelihood of our farmers and ensuring a thriving orange cultivation ecosystem in the Eastern Himalayas," Thapa said.

He also emphasised the commitment to holding annual workshops to strengthen efforts in making orange farming more sustainable and prosperous. "Together, let's work towards a greener, resilient, and prosperous future for our farmers," Thapa added.

The workshop underscores a collective push to restore Darjeeling's orange legacy, offering hope to farmers and revitalising a key agricultural sector in the region.

Dated: 27.02.2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL TENDER NOTICE

E.E. Purulia Division, Social Sector P.W.Dte invites e-Quotation for 1(One) no work vide No- W8PWD/55/EE/PUR/ NIQ 05/2024-25 and Tender ID: 2025_WBPWD_822655_1. Estimated Amount: NIL Last date of submission of bid is 17.03.2025 upto 6.55 PM. For details, visit the website: http://wbtenders.gov.in and office notice board during office hrs. 5d/- E.E., Purulia Division, Social Sector, P.W. Dte.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL **GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL** PWD TENDER NOTICE **PWD TENDER NOTICE**

The E.E. South 24 Pgs. Divn., Social Sector, P.W.Dte. invites online e-tender for the works of "Repairing and Renovation of Installation works for the building of quarters, Sub-Centre, including Hospital of Momrejgarh PHC under Padmerhat RH, Jaynagar Block-I in the district of South 24 Parganas." Estimated amount put to Tender: Rs. 43,64,102.00, eNIT No. 23/EE/SOUTH 24 PGS/SS/PWDTE OF 2024-2025, Tender ID 2025_WBPWD_822937_1. Bid submission Start Date (online) 07.03.2025 at 2.00 P.M. Bid Submission Closing Date (online): 21.03.2025 upto 2.00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in the website only. Details of N.I.T. and Tender Documents may be downloaded from www.wbtender.gov.in Sd/- EE S24P SS ICA-T4831(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL Deputy Director of Agriculture (S&WM), NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER e-NIT No. 07-AGRI-DDA-SWM-BWN-2024-25

vide Memo No: 130 dt 03.03.2025 Excavation of W.H.S in different mouza of Jamuria and Ausgram-II Block under the Different Scheme Project under Paschim and Purba Bardhaman District. Last date for downloading tender papers:-10.03.2025 (4:00p.m.). Last date for online submission tender papers:-11.03.2025(3:30 p.m.). Bid Opening date: 11.03.2025 (4:00 p.m. on or after online). Details of advertisement will be available at Deputy Director of Agriculture (Soil & Water Management), 4TH Floor, Krishi Bhavan, District Seed Farm Campus, Kalna Road, Purba Bardhaman & Website www.paschimbardhaman.gov.in, www.purbabardhaman.gov.in

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL WRI&DD. e-NIT Executive Engineer (A-I), Bankura (A-I)

Division, WRDD invites e-tenders for the Supply works : - Supply and Delivery of 3 sets of DGPS Survey Instruments [Trimble DGPS Model R12i (1 Base + 1 Rover + 1 Controller and software)] including 4 (four) days on field training for each set for different offices under Bankura (A-I) Circle. at Bankura vide e-NIT Ref. No. WBWRIDD/EE (A-I) /BANKURA/ e-NIT 13/CS/2024-25, Tender 2025_WRDD_823280_1, Value of works 57,52,500.00 ; Last dropping date is 28.03.2025 up to 11.00 AM. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website http://wbtenders.gov.in for details.

> Bankura (A-I) Division, Bankura ICA- T4837(3)/2025

Executive Engineer (A-1)

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE

NIeT No. 22 of EE/EMD of 2024-25 Tender ID: 2025_PHED_822373_1 to 12 | Irrigation Division, I&W Dte. has invited e-Tender is invited by Exe. Engr., EMD. | tender notice against SNIT(e) PHED of P-16, India Exchange Place (Extn.), C.I.T. Annex. Bldg., (2nd FL.). Kolkata-73 on behalf of Governor of West Bengal for "Production of packaged drinking water from R.O. based fully automatic drinking water bottling plant with an hourly Production capacity 3600 bottles of 1000 ml 500 ml/ 2000 ml. capacity at Haringhata and others round the clock O & M Southern and Northern Sector etc. in the district of Nadia, P.H.E. Dte." The last date of bid submission (both technical & financial) :-20/03/2025 upto 13.00 hrs. Details may be had from the office notice board & official website : www.wbphed.gov.in and www.wbetenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Eastern Mechanical Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA- T4769(2)/2025

The Executive Engineer-I, Joynagar

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Abridged SNIT(e)

No-WBIW/EE-I/JOY/SNIT-23(e)/2024-25 on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal for 06 (Six) Nos. Emergent Restoration of S/E at Gosaba and Basanti Block under his jurisdiction from the eligible outside bonafide contractors. Estimated costs put to Tender From 5,78,630.00 to 28,68,681.00 only. *Last date of bid submission online-08.03.2025 upto 17:30 Hrs. *Technical Bid opening date-10.03.2025 after 14:00 Hrs. Other details may be available from the office of the undersigned during office hours on any working days & websites: www.wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbiwd.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer-I, Joynagar Irrigation Division, Baruipur, South 24 Parganas. ICA- T4708(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

e-TENDER NOTICE The Executive Engineer 8MS Division invites on percentage rate basis online TENDER, vide WBUD&MA/BMS/NIT-19(e)/2024-25(2nd Call) of Executive Engineer/Bidhannagar Municipal Services Division. for the work : 5l No: 1 "Removal of sludge from all sludge drying beds at B.S.T Plant under Salt Lake Roads sub-Division of B.M.S Division. (Tender Id: 2025_UDD_820779_1). Tender Amount: Rs. 17,84,745.00. Date of publication is on: 06/03/2025 at 11:00 A.M. Bid submission end date is on 20/03/2025, upto 17:00 Hrs. All documents can be seen/obtained from the website: https://wbtenders.gov.in Detailed information can also be seen in website www.wburbanservices.gov.in and

office Notice Board of Bidhannagar Municipal services Division, Nirman Bhawan, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700091.

5d/- Executive Engineer, Bidhannagar Municipal Services Division.

ICA- T4691(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL NOTICE INVITING TENDER

H&FW Dept.

West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting electronic bids for procurement of different medical equipment for Calcutta National Medical College and Hospital as per details indicated in below: SI No.1. Equipment Name: 07 types of different medical equipment Bid Ref. No.:-WBM5CL/NIT-176/2025; Dated-01.03.2025. Last date of submission of online bid:- 28.03.2025 upto 05:00 PM. Remarks:-2nd call of Bid Ref. No. WBM5CL/NIT-031/2025 Dated-10.01.2025. 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-T4701(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE

EE/PWD/TD, invites e-Tender for oles of M.N. road from 0.00 to 2.50 kmp in stretches under Tamluk Division, PWD in the district of Purba Medinipur in the year 2024-25. NieT No. 41 of 2024-2025, Tender ID 2025 WBPWD 822741 1. Bid submission start date (online) 05.03.2025 from 10.00 Hours, Bid Submission closing date (online) 17.03.2025 at 14.00 Hours Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIeT and Tender documents may be downloaded from http://whtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.Dte., Tamluk Division ICA-T4819(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE NIEIRT No. 34 of 2024-25, E.E. - II, Alipore Division, PWD. Name of Work - Providing Housekeeping staff / personnel of Minister's Quarter Building and its surrounding premises, at 28 Raja Santosh Roy Road, Alipore , Kolkata-700027, for a period of 01 (one) years under Alipore Division, PWD, during the year 2024-25. (Earnest Money Rs. 1,70,000/-) ii) Providing Security personnel of Minister's Quarter & in surrounding premises at 28, Raja Santosh Roy Road, Alipore, Kolkata -700027, for a period of 01 (one) year under Alipore Division, PWD during the year 2024-25. (Earnest Money Rs. 1,10,000/-) Bid Submission end date 25.03.2025 upto 15.00 hrs. Tender ID: 2025 WBPWD_822556_1 & 2 Details will be available from the web site http://wbtenders.gov.in and notice board of this office on all working days within office hours, 5d/- Executive Engineer-II, Alipore Division, PWD. ICA- T4801(3)/2025

http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Murshidabad Highway Division No. I, P.W. (Roads) Directorate

Notice Inviting Tender e-Tender No. WBSEPS/DMS/e-14/ 24-25/B.Wall/BBSH/Sntn Director & Member Secretary, West Bengal State Export Promotion Society invites e-tender from bonafide, reliable and experienced contractors/agencies/ organizations for undertaking the dismantling of existing broken boundary wall and construction of new boundary wall near ladies dormitory and necessary surface drain around broken boundary wall near ladies dormitory at Biswa Bangla Shilpi Haat, Shantiniketan, Birbhum, Detailed e-Tender notice and corrigendum, if any are available in the official website of West Bengal State Export Promotion Society: www.wbseps.com and Government of West Bengal e-tender portal: http://wbtenders.gov.in from 08/03/2025 at 10 A.M. Last date and

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

West Bengal State Export Promotion Society

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL E-TENDER NOTICE NO- WBFOR/DFOPUR/NIT40/SP/ 2024-25(PROJECT NO. 01)(4TH CALL) MINOR REPAIR OF WATCH TOWER AT JHALDA RANGE UNDER STATE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME OF PURULIA DIVISION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-25

time for submission of e-tender:

18/03/2025 at 10.00 PM. Sd/- Director &

Member Secretary. ICA-T4725(2)/2925

(PROJECT NO.01)(4TH CALL) E-Tender Notice in the prescribe format is invited by the Divisional Forest Officer, Purulia Division from bonafide P.W.D Supplier/Firm for E-TENDER NOTICE NO- WBFOR/DFOPUR/NIT40/SP/ MINOR REPAIR OF WATCH TOWER AT JHALDA RANGE UNDER STATE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME OF PURULIA DIVISION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-25 (PROJECT NO. 01)(4TH CALL) as per enclosed list. Necessary information about the tender may be seen in the office of the undersigned. The date of publication of tender is 06.03.2025. The last date of submission of Bid 13.03.2025. The date of opening of tender is 17.03.2025. For terms and conditions and other details visit e b s i t e https://www.wbtenders.gov.in and

office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer, Purulia

ICA-T4728(3)/2025

Ref. No.: WBPDCL/Tend-Adv/24-25/KTPS/CC-3238

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

NIT No.: WBPDCL/KTPS/NIT/E3277/24-25

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 "Replacement of CW and ACW Pipe Lines, Bends, Reducers etc. during Unit#4 Overhauling at

KTPS", Tender Document Download Start Date: 03.03.2025 at 11.00 hrs. Bid Submission

End Date: 04.04,2025 at 16.00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Krisanu Gupta, Senior Manager

(PS)(Contract Cell), KTPS. Mobile No.: 8336909047. E-mail: kgupta@wbpdcl.co.in

Superintending Engineer, South-

Western Circle, P.W.Dte., Midnapore Medinipur. Estimated Amount 2024-2025, Tender ID submission start date (online) Submission closing date (online) South-Western Circle, P.W.Dte. ICA- T4782(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

invites online e-tender for the works (1) Construction of one number 2m x 2m Box Culvert along with construction of Storm Water Drain from east side of Collectorate Gate to west side of Collectorate Gate on Midnapore Town Link Road under Midnapore Division in the District of Paschim Medinipur. Estimated Amount : Rs. 1,02,11,364.00 & (2) Construction of Storm Water Drain at Hoomgarh More (892 m), Keyabad (350 m), Chemia (526 m), Deriapur (250m) and Amlasuli (400 m) of total length 2418 m of Hoomgarh - Amlasuli Road under Midnapore Division, P.W.Dte., in the district of Paschim Rs. 1,78,98,427.00. NIeT No. 17(2) of 2025_WBPWD_822289_1 & 2. Bid 10.03.2025 from 10.00 Hours, Bid 28.03.2025 at 15.00 Hours. Corrigendum If any will be published in website only. Details of NIeT and Tender documents may be downloaded from http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Tarun Kr. Chakraborty, Superintending Engineer,

Dated: 27.02.2025

ICA-T4834(2)/2025

epaper.thestatesman.com

(DOG) conductor to ACSR 200 sq mm (PANTHER) conductor i.r.o. Khaprail 33/11 kV substation under Siliguri Sub-Urban Division'. NIT No.: DM/HBD/TECH/2024-25/13, Date: 03.03.2025 of the Divisional Manager,

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1965SGC039154
Bakreswar Thermal Power Project
P.O. BkTPP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref No.: WBPDCL/Tend-Adv/24-25/BKTPP/CC-3229 NIT No.: WBPDCL/BKTPP/NIT/E3603/24-25

E- Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by General Manager BkTPP, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Execution" of miscellaneous Electrical Jobs of Unit-4, Unit-2 & Unit-1, BkTPP during Respective Unit Overhauling". Tender Document Download Start Date: 01.03.2025 at 09:00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 21.03.2025 at 03:00 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Indranil Chakraborty, HOD - CC, BkTPP, WBPDCL. Mobile: 8373055604. E-mail: cc_bktps@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in HCA- T4735(2)/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-3240 NIT No.: WBPDCL/SGTPP/NIT/E3297/24-25 E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager SqTPP, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 3 (three) Part bid system for "Procurement of various spares of Roller Screen of Stage-II and Pump Coupling & Spider of different Pumps of CHP-MM Department, SgTPP, WBPDCL". Tender Document Download Start Date: 22.02.2025 at 03.00 PM. Bid Submission End Date: 10.03.2025 at 03.00 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Arun Mandal, Senior Manager (Purchase). Phone: 8336903813. E-mail: amondal@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in ICA- T4751(2)/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-3186 NIT No.: WBPDCL/KTPS/NIT/E3267/24-25

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 "OH of Bottom Ash System, Wet Ash System and Dry Ash System of Unit-4" Tender Document Download Start Date: 27.02.2025 at 14.00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 28.03.2025 at 14.00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Krisanu Gupta, Senior Manager (PS)(Contract Cell), KTPS. Mobile No.: 8336909047. E-mail: kgupta@wbpdcl.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 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-3235

NIT No.: WBPDCL/SGTPP/NIT/E3280/24-25 Dated: 31.01.2025 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 "Supply of Twelve (12) Skilled Manpower (ITI Operator) for Pre-treatment Plants (both Stages) & Stage-II RO Plant for a period of two (02) years at SgTPP." Tender Document Download Start Date: 26.02.2025 at 10:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 22.03.2025 upto 10:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Jaydeep Kundu, Dy. General Manager (Contract Cell). Mobile: 8336903930. E-mail: kundu@wbpdci.co.in For details please visit : https://wbtenders.gov.in #CA-T4741(2)/2825

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154 P.O. Tribeni, Dist. - Hooghly, Pin - 712503

Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCL/Tend-Adv/24-25/BTPS/CC-3227 Dated: 27.02.2025 NIT No.: WBPDCL/BTPS/NIT/E2500/24-25 E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General

Manager, BTPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 (two) Part bid system for "Biennial Rate Contract for LT Motor Maintenance under EMOPH Department at BTPS", Tender Document Download Start Date: 04.03.2025 at 15.00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 02.04.2025 at 15.00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Sujit Saha, Dy. General Manager (Contracts), Phone: 033 2684 2342/2312. E-mail: contract.btps@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in

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

P.O. BkTPP, Dist. - Birbhum, Pin - 731104 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref No.: WBPDCL/Tend-Adv/24-25/BKTPP/CC-3233 Dated: 27.02.2025

NIT No.: WBPDCL/BKTPP/NIT/E3600/24-25 Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by General Manager - BkTPP

WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in bid system for "Deployment of Manpower for Clinker related job of Boiler Unit#1 to 5 and Repairing/Refurbishment job of AHP for a period of 2 years, BkTPP". Tender Document Download Start Date: 27.02.2025 at 09:00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 21.03.2025 at 05:00 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Indranil Chakraborty. Dy. General Manager – Engg-CC, BkTPP, WBPDCL. Mobile: 8373055604. E-mail: cc_bktps@wbpdci.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in ICA-T4739(2)/2925

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

[N.I.T. NO.: WBTC/JMD/NIT-477/2024-25 (2nd call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-478/2024-25 (2nd call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-558/2024-25 (2nd call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-482/2024-25 (2nd call) to WBTC/JMD/NIT-485/2024-25 (2nd call),

WBTC/JMD/NIT-490/2024-25 (2nd call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-493/2024-25 (2nd call) to WBTC/JMD/NIT-496/2024-25 (2nd call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-498/2024-25 (3rd Call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-499/2024-25 (3rd Call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-524/2024-25 (3rd Call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-532/2024-25 (3rd call) to WBTC/JMD/NIT-540/2024-25 (3rd call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-542/2024-25 (3rd call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-453/2023-24 (4th call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-459/2023-24 (4th call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-546/2024-25 (3rd call) to WBTC/JMD/NIT-548/2024-25 (3rd call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-554/2024-25 (3rd call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-404/2022-23 (5th Call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-407/2022-23 (5th Call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-427/2022-23 (5th Call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-428/2022-23 (5th Call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-505/2023-24 (5th call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-506/2023-24 (5th call) and WBTC/JMD/NIT - 512/2023-24 (7th call)] (Abridged e-Tender)

e-Tender, in prescribed from in two parts viz. Technical & Financial Bids are invited for the works: Infrastructural development works (Civil) at different depots / terminus under CTC& CSTC, Civil work for upstream power connection for installation of e-Bus charging station at different depot/terminus of WBTC (CTC & CSTC), sinking of deep tube-well at various locations, maintenance works (Civil, Sanitary & plumbing and Electrical) at different depots & terminus under CSTC, replacement / renewal of damaged tram track at Maidan Line, renovation works at Howrah Depot of WBSTC, augmentation of Civil and Electrical Infrastructures at different depots & terminus under WBTC (CTC & CSTC) in connection with shifting of STU's bus parking from Esplanade. Published on 06/03/2025 at 09:00 A.M. Please visit website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Managing Director, For WBTC ICA- T4762(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Directorate of Forests Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Silviculture (South) Division Midnapore-721101 e-TENDER NOTICE

Online applications are invited by Divisional Forest Officer, Silviculture (South) Division, Midnapore from bonafide Contractors/Agencies having sufficient credentials and financial capabilities for below mentioned works. Start and Last Date for online submission of application are 06.03.2025 at 02:30 P.M. and 13.03.2025 at 02:30 P.M. respectively. Detail information is available at the office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Silviculture (South) Division, Midnapore, & Collection (downloading) and Submission (uploading) of e-Tender can be made online through the website: https://wbtenders.gov.in only. SI No.1. NIT No.:-WBFOR/Silvi(S)/NIT05/2024-25 (1st call). Particulars of Tender:- Rejuvenation of medicinal plant beds for herbs and shrubs over 100 beds at Amlachati Ex-situ Medicinal Plant Conservation Site. Project Cost:- 8,50,000.00. SI No.2. NIT No.:-WBFOR/Silvi(S)/NIT06/2024-25 (1st call). Particulars of Tender:- Rejuvenation of medicinal plant beds for climber species over 25 beds at Amlachati Ex situ Medicinal Plant Conservation Site, Project Cost:- 3,50,000.00. Si No. 3. NIT No. WBFOR/Silvi(5)/NIT07/2024-25 (1st call). Particulars of Tender:- Procurement of materials required for rejuvenation of medicinal plants beds at Amlachati Ex-situ Medicinal Plant Conservation Site Project Cost:- 2,54,030.00. Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer, Silviculture (South) Division. ICA-T4688(3)/2025

HC directs police to register FIR on plaint filed by JU student

Justice Ghosh also directed the state government to file a detailed report on the violence which happened when minister Bratya Basu was present inside the campus



Parents of students, teachers and students take out a procession demanding conducive teaching atmosphere on campus and justice for the injured students, on Wednesday six six

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA. 5 MARCH

alcutta High Court on Wednesday directed Kolkata Police to register an FIR based on the complaint filed by Indranuj Roy, the student of Jadavpur University (JU) during the ruckus within the university campus on 1 March after being hit allegedly by the vehicle of education minister Bratya Basu.

The single-judge Bench

of Justice Tirthankar Ghosh gave this direction acting on a petition filed in his Bench earlier this week accusing the Kolkata Police of conducting a "biased and one-sided probe" in the 1 March ruckus within

the university campus. In the petition, it was alleged that all the seven FIRs filed were either registered suo motu by the cops against the students or on the basis of the complaints filed against the students by the Trinamul Congress-affiliated West Bengal College & University Professors' Association (WBCU-

Justice Ghosh also directed the state government to file a detailed report in the matter. The next hearing in the matter will be on 12 March, while the state government and the petitioner will have to file their respective affidavits in the matter to the court on the same day.

During the hearing, Justice Ghosh also made some observations on the intelligence

failure on the part of the Special Branch of the Kolkata Police that they did not have prior information about students' agitation while the

education minister was there. Drawing a reference to the recent students' movement in Bangladesh, Justice Ghosh also observed that if such intelligence failures continue, the situation in the state might turn into a serious matter as it happened in the neighbouring country.

The ruckus broke out within the university campus on 1 March when the minister's car was allegedly stopped after it entered the campus,

and a scuffle followed. The students were demanding immediate elections for the university's students' coun-

The agitating students alleged that while Basu decided to leave the campus in the face of the protests, his vehicle deliberately hit the two agitating students, following which they were severely injured and had to be hospitalised.

Amid the protests, the minister received minor injuries and fell sick. He was taken to the state-run SSKM. Medical College & Hospital and was discharged later.

JU stakeholders hold protest, demand normality inside campus

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 5 MARCH

With participation of teachers, non-teaching employees and parents of students the ongoing protests at the Jadavpur University intensified further on Wednesday, four days after the violence inside the campus.

Showing solidarity with the protesting students belonging mainly to the CPI-M-backed SFI and other leftleaning students unions like AIDSO teachers associated with the Jadavpur University Teachers' Association (JUTA),

parents of students and other

employees brought out a

protest march inside the

campus on Wednesday after-

noon. Prof Amit Roy, father of the injured student, Indranuj, was also part of the march, demanding immediate restoration of normal academic environment and democratic ambience inside the campus. They also demanded holding of students' union

elections in the varsity soon. "Saturday's incident was

shocking but some people

are doing politics with the injury of Indranuj. I am requesting them not to play politics. Our top priority should be how to bring back democratic and normal academic environment in the campus," Prof Roy said.

Indranuj has been undergoing treatment at a private hospital since 1 March.

The protests erupted following campus violence on 1 March, when two students, including Indranuj and Abhinab were injured, allegedly after the car of the education minister Bratya Basu grazed past them.

Trinamul Congress leader Debangshu Bhattacharya has denied the injuries of Indranuj, raising questions on how can it be possible when someone (Indranuj) sustains injuries on his eye only if a big car runs over him? No one can believe it,

he claimed. The agitating students warned of intensified protests if Prof Gupta did not turn up on the campus to meet them within the stipulated time. They claimed that the VC and university authorities

had shown no urgency to resolve the crisis.

"Vice-chancellor Bhaskar Gupta has not shown any courtesy or urgency to meet us. We have given a 4-p.m. deadline, after which we will decide the next course of action," a protesting student

said. The students' demands include registering a case against education minister, withdrawal of police cases against students and release of those arrested.

Prof Gupta is not coming to office JU after his blood pressure shot up abnormally. He held an online meeting with teachers belonging to both JUTA and Trinamul Congress-backed West Bengal College and University Teachers Association (WBCUPA) on Tuesday to take stock of the situation in the campus.

Today, Prof Gupta was admitted to a private hospital along the EM Bypass because of his abnormally high blood pressure. Earlier, he had a mild cerebral attack, according to sources. Mr Basu visited him at the hospital this evening.

National Safety Week observed at Kolkata port

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 5 MARCH

The 54th National Safety Week was kicked off today at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMP Kolkata). The programme inaugurated by chairman, SMP Kolkata, Rathendra Raman at the Netaji Subhas Dock of SMP Kolkata today is to last till 10 March. The theme of the programme, this year, is 'Safety and Well-being Crucial for Viksit Bharat.'

The SMP has planned various programmes from 5-8 March, both in Haldia Dock Complex and Kolkata Dock System of SMP Kolkata for



the port employees and dock workers to promote safety. In the Kolkata dock system, quiz competitions on safety protocols for port employees, fire mock drills, safety training, free medical camps and awareness training on AIDS as well as seminars on road and transport safety will be organised by the port authority. In Haldia dock complex, training programmes on fire safety, awareness sessions, quiz competitions, seminars on environmental aspects and plays on safety have been organised during the safety week. The valedictory ceremony of the National Safety Week is to be held on 10 March.

KMC to extend pisciculture facilities at waterbodies for natural balance

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 5 MARCH

Aiming to preserve the ecological balance, the environment department of Kolkata Municipal Corporation is working on schemes to extend pisciculture in various waterbodies.

The civic body has around 8,040 water bodies spread over an area of around 1,71,30045 square metres. The waterbodies that have been geo-tagged by the municipal corporation, cover around 8.36 per cent of the KMC area. The environment department is said to have solved 25 cases in the past year, including relocation of waterbodies. The municipal corporation also carried out satellite surveys along with ground verification using photo documentation for maintaining an inventory of the water bodies in across

wards 1 to 144. As a part of the initiative



of curbing filling of ponds From testing the water within the KMC limits, the quality to fencing the watercivic body has undertaken bodies and taking care of measures of pisciculture in those, the fishermen would 70 waterbodies. The municbe provided knowledge of ipal corporation is now capacity building by the fishmulling plans to extend the eries department. With the measures to other waterhelp of experts, the departbodies with the help of the ment and the civic body state fisheries department. would also help in taking For this, local youths from those fish stocks to the marvarious clubs and even interketplaces. ested fishermen are to be provided pisciculture training. Apart from this, the fishermen would also be provided with

The KMC is also to take measures for cleaning of the water bodies and maintaining them to prevent human interventions.

Students' body condemns police action

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 5 MARCH

The AIDSO demanded punishment of all the guilty police officers, including the OC of Midnapore Kotwali women's police station involved in the brutal atrocities committed in police custody of students, who supported the college-university student strike.

The All India Democratic Students Organisation held a press conference today to condemn the torture on its members. The West Midnapore (North) organizational district secretary Tanushree Bez, along with Susrita Soren, Ranushree Bez and Varnali Nayak were present at the

The state president of the organisation, Manishankar Patnaik, said, "On 1 March, in protest against the incident of the state education minister's car running over the chest of a protesting student at Jadavpur University, a student strike was held on 3

Vidyasagar University, the police arrested the organisers. A female organiser was punched on the chest and made her unconscious. One of the organisers was arrested in an injured state. No medical treatment was provided after the arrest. The women were taken to the Midnapore Women's Kotwali police station. While making the women organisers sign the arrest memo, wax from a burning candle was poured on their hands and feet. They played Bollywood songs during torture. We condemn this behaviour of the police administration and demand punishment for all the police

March. During picketing at

Ranushree Bez, one of the detainees, said, "I have never come across such torture before. They warned as of discontinuing such protests and concentrate on getting a job. They even asked to warn our fellow colleagues not to be part of protests in

officers."

Mine subsidence hits

locality in Durgapur

Oxford University later this month **AGENCIES**

Mamata to deliver lecture at

KOLKATA, 5 MARCH

Mamata Banerjee will visit the United Kingdom to deliver a lecture at the historic Oxford University. The invitation to deliver

West Bengal chief minister

the lecture there was sent to the chief minister's office (CMO) last year. As per the schedule, the

chief minister will fly to

Dubai first from Kolkata on

21 March, and from Dubai to London. "Besides delivering the lecture at Oxford University, the chief minister has some other scheduled programmes in the UK. She is also expected

industrialists and discuss the potentials of their investments in West Bengal," said a state government official. However, it is not yet clear on which subject the chief

to meet some UK-based



university.

She was also invited in 2021 to deliver a lecture at Oxford University, however, the Trinamul Congress alleged that the programme was cancelled by the central government.

Earlier in 2015, the chief minister had visited the United Kingdom. There he was accompanied by a number of members of her cabinet, including the then state finance minister Amit Mitra.

In 2023, the chief minister visited to Spain to scout minister will be delivering investments for the state.

Adhir urges railway minister for

special Eid trains

KOLKATA, 5 MARCH Senior Congress leader and erstwhile Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, has urged today railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to introduce special trains on the Malda, Murshidabad, and Dinajpur (North and South) routes ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr to accommodate the surge in passenger traffic during the festive season. In a letter addressed to the railway minister, Chowdhury highlighted that Murshidabad district has the highest concentration of Muslim population in the country, and with the ongoing Ramzan month, passenger traffic to these regions has already risen significantly. The demand is expected to escalate further as people travel to reunite with their families and partake in Eid celebrations, he noted.



tools for fishing.

Stars descend on a tram at the Esplanade depot on Wednesday Moul Mondal

ECL blames pre-nationalisation mining, initiates coalmine areas of Durgapur as a school building, one concrete residential house and ures.

Subsidence fear gripped the two temporary structures have started sinking. It poses a threat to at least 1,500-odd residents of the locality in Kajora, about 25 km from Durgapur town.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

DURGAPUR, 5 MARCH

The residents panicked after a large surface area of Anjirbagan locality in Kajora, under Andal PS developed horizontal cracks. Yesterday late afternoon, a portion of a school building cracked and started going down. Further surface cracks devastated the locality this morning. Eastern Coalfields, the functioning Coal India subsidiary erected fencing to prevent entry of the residents to the locality. The ECL runs two mine pits, No. 10 & 11 of Khas Kajora colliery there. The affected Anjirbagan is a bit away from

rescue and security measthe currently working mines. ECL field officials blamed that dearth of adequate sand filling in the pre nationalisation

era (prior to 1973) invited the

menace of subsidence in the

Subsidence in Durgapur's

Kajora threatens 1,500

residents as buildings sink;

The Khas Kajora mine pits currently operate on the 'R-8' underground coal seam but, in the pre-nationalisation era, the private mine operators had worked desperately on 'R-9' seam at much shallow level. Prashant Kumar, general manager, Kajora Area of ECL said: "We've already rescued the residents, the trapped vehicles, furniture and valuables and have deployed security personnel." The authorities are set to initiate dozing operations there.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

 Applications are invited by the Superintendent of Police Krishnanagar Police District for engagement of 02 (two) numbers of Senior Legal Consultants for Krishnanagar Police District on contractual basis. For further details an application proforma visit https://wbpolice.gov.in 2. The application along with the relevant enclosure should be sent addressing to the Superintendent of Police Krishnanagar Police District through mail spkngrpd@gmail.com within 14 (fourteen) days after publication of the said Notice.

Yatri Sathi app cab offers service with mobile-free booking at airport

RAJIB CHAKRABORTY KOLKATA, 5 MARCH

In a groundbreaking move to enhance passenger convenience, the West Bengal government has launched the Yatri Sathi app cab service at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) Airport, Kolkata.

The initiative aims to assist international and domestic passengers who often face difficulties in booking app-based cabs due to phone battery issues or the absence of an active SIM card while travelling abroad. The Yatri Sathi app cab service has collaborated with a Bengaluru-based IT company to introduce a special bookingkiosk at Kolkata Airport. Passengers without a mobile phone can visit the front office of the kiosk, where an executive



will generate a special OTP and book a cab on their behalf. The system does not require the passenger to use their own mobile number or any appenabled device. This service comes at no additional cost, and passengers will be informed in advance about their route,

fare, and payment details before confirming the booking.

A senior official from the IT company behind the Yatri Sathiapp, revealed that major airports like Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, and Bengaluru are also being considered for implementing this service having mobile-free booking. Many international travellers face difficulties in booking app cabs due to non-functional roaming SIMs, making this initiative highly beneficial. State minister of information technology and electronics

minister Mamata Banerjee has emphasised the need for high-quality transport services for international passengers, business delegates, and tourists arriving at Kolkata Airport from Yatri Sathi app cab. Speaking at the launch

Babul Supriyo stated that chief

event, Supriyo introduced "The Clean Cab Promise," highlighting Kolkata's nostalgic connection with taxis. "Taxis have a historic and sentimental value in Kolkata. International tourists and travellers from across India have a special fondness for them. That's why we are ensuring clean and well-maintained taxis at the airport," he said. To support this, free cleaning kits have been provided to ensure cabs remain spotless. Sukesh Kumar Jain, IG traffic, clarified that Yatri Sathi is not competing

with private app-based cabs but aims to provide an affordable and accessible transport solution. The initiative has already on-boarded 90,000 drivers, and additional bike taxis have also been introduced. Beyond Kolkata, the Yatri Sathi service will soon be available at Bagdogra Airport, allowing passengers without mobile phones to book cabs seam-

lessly. Moreover, major railway stations, including Howrah, Sealdah, Asansol, Durgapur and Siliguri will also offer mobile-free cab booking services. This initiative is expected to redefine public transport accessibility, ensuring that passengers, especially foreign travellers and those facing mobile connectivity issues can travel hassle-free across Bengal.

Shah likely to visit city this month, set roadmap for polls

Amit Shah is expected to hold meetings with state BJP leaders and finalise key election strategies

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 5 MARCH

Bengal Assembly elections in sight, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has begun its preparations to strengthen its foothold in the state. Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat has recently visited Bengal, and now Union home minister Amit Shah is likely to arrive in Kolkata this month to strategise for the upcoming polls.

During the 2021 Assembly elections, BJP's top leadership, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, made several visits to Bengal, aggressively campaigning against the ruling



Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar and Bengal coobserver Amit Malviya met home minister Amit Shah on Tuesday evening in New Delhi ■ sNs

Trinamul Congress. Despite their efforts, the TMC secured

a landslide victory, winning 214 out of 294 seats and form-

ing the government for the third consecutive term. However, the BJP is determined not to concede an inch in the 2026 polls.

Shah is expected to hold meetings with Bengal BJP leaders to assess the party's preparedness and finalise key strategies. Although the exact dates of his visit are yet to be confirmed, political observers believe this trip will be important. Meanwhile, the TMC has also started preparing its roadmap for the 2026 elections. At a mega meeting in Kolkata's Netaji Indoor Stadium, chief minister and party chief Mamata Banerjee issued directives to leaders and grassroots workers, outlining the party's election

strategy. Other political parties in Bengal have also begun gearing up for the crucial polls.

In Delhi, West Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar and the party's state coobserver Amit Malviya met Amit Shah yesterday to discuss the state's current political situation. Speaking to the media, Majumdar indicated today that Shah's visit has high probability, adding that the home minister has been closely monitoring Bengal's evolving political landscape. With both the BJP and TMC setting their strategies in motion, the political heat in Bengal is expected to rise as the battle for 2026 inches closer.



A woman sells roses on a city street while tending to her child on Wednesday afternoon in Kolkata ■ BISWAJIT GHOSHAL

ER records 9 pc growth in passenger volume



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA. 5 MARCH

Eastern Railway registered a nine per cent growth in passenger volume compared to last year. The ER is said to have recorded a passenger volume of 1144.962 million from April to February in the financial year 2024-25 compared to 1050.116 million passengers during corresponding period of previous financial year in 2023-24. According to the ER, the passenger revenue of the zonal railway has also

recorded a 7.36 per cent growth in this fiscal recording a revenue earning of Rs 3517.64 crore during April 2024 to February 2025 compared to Rs 3276.52 crore earned during corresponding period of the financial year 2023-24. The other coaching revenue of Eastern Railway has also recorded an increase of 14.28 per cent which stood at Rs 358.53 crore for the period April 2024 to February 2025 compared to Rs 313.74 crore during the corresponding period of previous fiscal.

Event manager's death: Victim's mother approaches Calcutta HC seeking fair probe

AGENCIES KOLKATA. 5 MARCH

Tanushree Chattopadhyay, the mother of dancer-cumevent management professional Sutandra Chattopadhyay, who died in an accident last month allegedly while escaping drunk youths, on Wednesday, approached a single-judge Bench of the Calcutta High Court seeking

the matter. The single-judge Bench of Justice Tirthankar Ghosh had admitted the petition and the matter is expected to come up for hearing during the current week.

a fair probe by the cops in

On the early morning of February 24 this year, Sutandra died on the National



Highway at Panagarh in West Burdwan district after the driver of the vehicle in which she and her colleagues were traveling increased the speed of the car and took evasive action in an attempt to save her from drunk youths chasing them in another vehi-

Although the fellow passengers of the victim gave this statement to both the

police and the media persons, the investigating officials claimed that the accident happened because of overtaking attempts in which the driver lost control. The victim's mother since

the beginning had been

claiming that the investigating

officers had been trying to shield the youths probably because of their influential connections. Now she has approached the Calcutta High Court seek-

ing a fair probe in the matter so that her daughter gets justice. In her petition, she had

claimed that the death of her daughter was a virtual murder and those chasing her including the driver of the chasing vehicle were

खली निविदा के द्वारा

1 04244592

2 04230000

पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध है ।

drunk and were constantly making objectionable statements about her.

"There is a mystery behind her death. This is not a simple case of an accident. This is a case of virtual murder," the victim's mother had stat-

On 27 February, almost 72 hours from the time of the mishap, the cops arrested the owner-cum-driver of the chasing vehicle Babul Yama, a businessman and a dealer in automobile spare parts.

He has a criminal record as in February 2024, he was arrested by police at Budbud Police Station in West Burdwan in connection with a deal on smuggled automobile spare parts. However, he was released on bail soon.

दिनांक 03.03,2025

की तिथि

निविदा जारी की निविदा बंद

02.03.25/00:00:48 24.03.25

28.02.25/19:16:54 24.03.25

तिथि एवं तिथि

वरिष्ठ सामाग्री प्रबंधक/कैरेज एण्ड वैगन

Crocodile dies at Burdwan zoo



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE **BURDWAN. 5 MARCH**

A male crocodile in a fight against three other male partners died inside the Burdwan Zoological Park enclosure today.

"It's a case of infighting as it appears from multiple wounds along its entire body," said Sanchita Sharma, divisional forest officer, Burdwan. The seven-feet-long creature, as explained by veterinary surgeon Tapan Ghosh of the Zoological Park: "The crocodile had marks of bite wounds in its muscular tail, snout and

even some bites pierced through it's tough skin." Inquest of the dead creature was performed inside the zoo premises and samples were dispatched to Kolkata for further examination to ascertain whether any other factor was responsible for its death.

The zoo had five crocodiles. One of the young crocodiles had suffered wounds a few days ago after infighting and was kept in a separate enclosure, the officials said. The zoo accommodates three leopards and those currently were suffering from skin infection, the officials said.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

T. Notice No. EL-TRD-160KMPH-PRYJ-25-02/E-Tender Notice/01 Date. 28.02.2025 E-TENDER NOTICE

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

T. No : EL-TRD-160KMPH-PRYJ-25-02 Description of work: Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Along

Feeder. Gantries and necessary OHE modification for feeding supply to 2x25 kV OHE with Gantry of new 2x25 kV TSS/SP/SSP in between Jhinjhak (JJK) (Excluding JJK SSP)-Ghaziabad (GZB) of Prayagraj Division.

Advertised Value : Rs. 23,71,25,741.48 Bid Security : Rs. 13,35,600.00 Completion Period: 18 Months Bidding system: Two Packet Tender Closing date & Time: 01.04.2025 & 15:00 Hrs

Tender Opening date & Time: 01.04.2025 & 16:00 Hrs 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 helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 🖪 North central railways 🕮 www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in 💢 @ CPRONCR

DASTIDIRN RATIAWAY

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Asansol Division,

Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 invites open E-Tender through IREPS

portal vide website www.ireps.gov.in for awarding the contract. Details

of which are as under: Category of Auction: Leasing of Parcel Space

(SLR). e-Auction Catalogue No.: ASN-PARC-180325. Date of Auctions

start: 18.03.2025, 11.00 hrs. Train No. & SLR: (1) 12376 (Jasidih-

Tambaram) FSLR-1. (2) 15625 (Deoghar-Agartala) FSLR-1. (3) 17322

(Jasidih-Vasco da Gama) FSLR-1. (4) 12235 (Madhupur-Anand Vihar

Terminal) FSLR-1. (5) 22459 (Madhupur-Anand Vihar Terminal) FSLR-

(6) 13507 (Asansol-Gorakhpur) RSLR-1. (7) 13507 (Asansol-Gorakhpur)

FSLR-2. (8) 11428 (Jasidih-Pune) FSLR-1. All prospective bidders are

advised to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in for full details and to

participate against the above mentioned e-Auction as per schedule give

Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at: @@EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

Kamarhati Municipality 1, M.M. Feeder Road, Belghoria, Kolkata-56 Memo No - 985/KM/PW/24-25

Date: 03.03.2025 E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited by the Chairman, Kamarhati Municipality, North 24 Parganas for different works within Municipal area under 14th Fin fund.

NIT No - WBMAD/KM/PW/14th Fin/NIT-22(e)/24-25 (2nd call) Tender ID No - 2025 MAD 822432 1 to 3 Bid submission start date: 06/03/2025 at 5:00 P.M Bid submission end date: 13/03/2025 at 5:00 P.M Bid opening date: 17/03/2025 at 5:00 P.M.

Tender ID No - 2025 MAD 822432 4 to 5 Bid submission start date: 06/03/2025 at 5.00 P.M. Bid submission end date: 20/03/2025 at 5.00 P.M. Bid opening date: 24/03/2025 at 5.00 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

Kolkata-700001

NIeT-324 to 332 / 2024-2025 Dated: 05-03-2025

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 Hooghly, Malda, North 24 Parganas, Paschim Medinipur, Murshidabad and Nadia District. Tender document may be downloaded from http://wbtenders.gov.in Bid submission start date: 06-03-2025 after 9-00 A.M. Bid submission end date: 13-03-2025, and

Date: 05-03-2025

Executive Engineer

Letter.No.Mktg./2789

Dt.05.03.2025 The Aska Co-operative Sugar Industries Ltd., Aska in intends to procure the transportation of Country Liquor Bottle to different OSBC depots. Please visit our website www.askasugar.com for detailed Quotation Call Notice. The last date for submission of Quotation is 5.00PM on 25.03.2025 and the same will be opened at 11.00AM on 26.03.2025. Managing Director

मध्य

मंडार सामग्रियों की आपूर्ति हेतु ई-टेन्डर सूचना - में सहमागिता "आई आर इ पी एस" के वेब पोर्टल

योग्य निविदाकर्ता आईआरईपीएस के वेब पोर्टल www.ireps.gov.in पर अतिम तिथि एवं समय के

पूर्व अपना ऑफर ऑन--लाईन दे सकते हैं । प्रेषिती और सामग्री का विवरण गिविदा सुचना में उपरोक्त

THE ASKA COOPERATIVE SUGAR INDUSTRIES LTD.

P.O. Nuagam (Aska) - 761111, Ganjam District, Odisha

email:askasugar@yahoo.co.in,

GSTIN: 21AAAAT5989L1Z0

TENDER CALL NOTICE

www.ireps.gov.in के द्वारा सभी निविदाओं के बन्द होने का समय 14:00 बजे ।

सामग्री का विवरण

मोडिफाइड इलास्टोमेरिक पैंड ट्

ओमरहॉलिंग किट फोर डम्प भला

शर टी एस ओ

पीजार/2232/एचक्य्/स्टोर/टी/24-25/40

एकटीआरटीआइएल

वैच संख्या - 48/24

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HOOGHLY RIVER BRIDGE COMMISSIONERS

NIeT No. HRBC/04/DIRPLDN/2024-2025

Online e-Tenders are invited by the Director (Planning & Design), HRBC from bonafide and resourceful Civil Engineering Firms having adequate experience in soil investigation, topographical survey and supplying design and working drawings of similar nature for the work of "Conducting soil investigation, topographical survey and supplying design and working drawings for the proposed new 2-Pump Fire Station at 3 nos. locations viz., Nonadanga, Gazole and Manteswar in different districts of West Bengal". Earnest Money/Bid Security is

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (Abridged)

Rs.10,000.00. Bid submission closing date (Online): 13.03.2025 at 1.00 P.M. NIeT details can be obtained from https://wbtenders.gov.in and www.hrbc.org.in.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SAMBALPUR Tel.: 0663-2548268, E-mail id: serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com e-Procurement No. 730 / Dated: 03-03-2025

(ASN-362/2024-25)

: Periodical maintenance of 5 year completed PMGSY Road under Incentive Grant for

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle Sambalpur, on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency (OSRRA), invites the percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for Repair / Maintenance of the Rural roads constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for each of the following works from the eligible and approved contractors registered with State PWD CPWD / MES / Railways (The registered bidders of outside Odisha may submit bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities of State Govt. before signing the contract).

- No. of packages : 06 Nos. of Package. **Estimated Cost** : Approximately varies from Rs. 54.20 lakh to Rs. 315.03 lakh (Information in DTCN will
- : Rs. 10,000 (non-refundable) per set of package. Bid submission fee

the year 2024-25.

: As mentioned in Annexure.

Name of work

Class of Contractor

Mode of submission of tender : Only through online in website: www.pmgsytenders.gov.in

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding		Last date & time for seeking clarification	Last date & time of submission	Date & time of opening of tender	
		From	То	SUPERCECTOR IN	of original documents	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle Sambalpur	PMGSY- Online- RWCSBP- 19/2024-25	10.03.2025 from 11.00 A.M.	24.03.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	21.03.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	27.03.2025 by 5.00 P.M.	25.03.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

- Special conditions: 1. EPF registration is mandatory before drawal of agreement. 2. Rate quoted by the contractor shall be excluding GST, 3, EMD, Bid submission fee and original affidavits should be submitted at the O/o. Chief Construction Engineer. Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur or O/o. Executive Engineer / Superintending Engineer of Concern Rural Works Division.
- Details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: www.pmgsytenders.gov.in Subsequent modification / corrigendum / addendum if required shall be appeared in the website only.
- OIPR-25091/11/0039/2425 Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur

WEST BENGAL AGRO INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD. (A Govt. Undertaking)

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

21-03-2025 up to 3-00 P.M.

e-TENDER NOTICE KADAMBAGACHI GRAM PANCHAYAT

Tender ID: 2025 ZPHD 823575 1 to 3. Last date of Bid submission: 12/03/2025 (4.30 PM). Estimated value: 2539130.00 Details on https://wbtenders.gov.in Mob: 8617210059 Sd/- Prodhan

NIT NO: KGP/001/BEUP/2024-25.

Kadambagachi Gram Panchayat, Barasat-I Block, North 24 Parganas Government of West Bengal

WBSRDA, BANKURA DIVISION ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE Sealed percentage rate tender invited by Executive Engineer, WBSRDA, Bankura Division, Post DLP Maintenance through e-Marg module PMGSY roads under Bankura Division under e-NIT No. - 66/WBSRDA of 2024-2025 (2nd Call). For details visit https://wbtenders.gov.in.

> Sd/-E.E. WBSRDA, Bankura Div.

St. Georges Gate Road, Kolkata-21

Director (Pl. & Dn.), HRBC

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. JHS/Br/L/2024-25/21 Date 28.02.2025 E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE (Two Packet System)

Dy. Chief Engineer/Bridge/Line/Jhansi, North Central Railway, Jhansi for and on behalf of President fo India invites open E-Tenders on the prescribed forms for the under noted work:-Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 42.43 Crore/-Tender no. Br-JHS-2024-24

Name of work: Jhansi-Gwalior section-Construction of ROB in lieu of level crossings

no. 409 at km 1205/15-13. Bid Security (Earnest Money): Rs. 22,71,900/-

Date of closing of Tender: 27.03.2025 Completion period: 18 Months

Eligibility Criteria for similar work: Construction of any type of bridge. Note: (1) The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website www.ireps.gov.in up to 15:00 hrs. on the due to date of tender closing i.e. 27.03.2025. (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 issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. (3) Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. (4) Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. (5) Payment of Bid Security (Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in respect of etendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway or bank guarantee only. (6) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. (7) Tender on line can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs. on dated

CPRONCR F North central railways Ocproncrity CPRONCR www.ncr.indiantallways.gov.in

JAGADIS BOSE NATIONAL SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH

1300, Rajdanga Main Road, Kolkata-700107, Tel.: 033-24428270

(N.I T no. JBNSTS/9-1/2024-25/47 Date. 06/03/2025) Sealed tenders are invited by the Director on behalf of JAGADIS BOSE NATIONAL

SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH, Kolkata from reliable & resourceful agencies for enlistment of Suppliers / Vendors for supplying School Bag, Laptop Bag & Backpack during different programmes for students and teachers. For details, please visit our website: www.jbnsts.ac.in

Last date of submitting quotation: March 18, 2025 up to 12.00 noon (IST) Opening of quotations: March 19, 2025 at 03.00 pm (IST)

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY Kolkata-700 032

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER NIT No.: JU/UE/24/24-25 Dt: 04.03.25 e-Tenders are invited from the eligible contractors for civil works related. Tender ID as under: 1. 2025 JU 822346 Rs.1,10,922/-. EMD Amount : INR 2,200/-. Last date of e-submission is 13.03.25 upto 14.00 Hrs. Please contact

visit https://wbtenders.govt.in

office of the University Engineer,

Jadavpur University for physical

Verification of the work site. For detail

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY Kolkata-700 032 NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER NIT No.: JU/UE/25/24-25 e-Tenders are invited from the eligible contractors for civil works related

Tender ID as under: 1. 2025_JU_820867 Rs.1,95,942/-. EMD Amount : INR 3,900/-. Last date of e-submission is 11.03.25 upto 14.00 Hrs. Please contact office of the University Engineer, Jadavpur University for physical Verification of the work site. For detail visit https://wbtenders.govt.in

HOWRAH MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 4, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD, HOWRAH-711181

033 2638 3211 / 12 / 13 Fax: 033 2641 0830 www.hmcgov.in Abridged EOI Notice for Paper Publication

Executive Engineer, HMC, invites EOI for 1 (One) No. Building Work of HMC Intending tenderers are to submit offers along with PAN Card, Trade License & up to fate GST Certificate & Return (Current Quarter), PTCC, ITCC & Credentials. Name of the work: EOI of the Demolition Contractors.

Ref: EOI No.: 01 / EE / Bldg. / 24-25, Dated: 03-03-25.

The interested parties are requested to attend before Executive Engineer (Building) 6th floor of the annexed building of the HMC Headquarter] at 3-00 p.m. or 11-03-2025 with all relevant documents as stated above along with your writter ubmission in a sealed envelope. For detail please follow website: www.hmcgov.in Secretary, Howrah Municipal Corporation

Kamarhati Municipality 1, M.M. Feeder Road, Memo No - 984/KM/PW/24-25

North 24 Parganas for different works of SWM within Municipal area under 15" Fin NIT No - WBMAD/KM/PW/15th FC/NIT-19(e)/24-25 (2nd call) Tender ID No - 2025 MAD 822459 1

E-Tender are invited by the Chairman, Kamarhati Municipality,

Bid opening date: 17/03/2025 at 5:00 P.M. Tender ID No - 2025 MAD 822459 2 Bid submission start date: 06/03/2025 at 5:00 P.M. Bid submission end date: 20/03/2025 at 5:00 P.M.

Bid submission start date: 06/03/2025 at 5:00 P.M.

Bid submission end date: 13/03/2025 at 5:00 P.M.

Bid opening date: 24/03/2025 at 5:00 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

Belghoria, Kolkata-56

Date: 03.03.2025



West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education

Vidyasagar Bhavan 9/2, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700 091

Tender Notice No.: 21/E-Tender(2nd call)/2024-25

QUOTATION NOTICE Council has decided to invite online quotation from reputed agencies for renovation and remodelling a room of Kolkata Regional Office of the W.B.

Council of Higher Secondary Education having it establishment at 2nd floor, North Block of Bikash Bhavan, Salt Lake Kolkata. Interested agencies are requested to visit Council Website wbchse.wb.gov.in and W.B. Govt. Website https://wbtenders.gov.in w.e.f. 07.03.2025 for

W.B. Council H.S. Education

Congress demands Prahlad Patel's resignation: Opposition Congress in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday sought the resignation of Madhya Pradesh Minister Prahlad Patel over his "begging remark" and announced protests across the state. Prahlad Patel is the Panchayat and Rural Development Minister in Chief Minister Mohan Yadav's cabinet. Addressing the media, senior Congress leader and former minister Mukesh Nayak said despite being a senior politician, Patel "insulted" people of the state by calling them "beggars", and therefore, should be expelled from the cabinet. "The Congress workers will stage a massive protest against Prahlad Patel to demand his resignation from the cabinet. The protest would be held in Bhopal and several other parts of the state on March 8," Mukesh Nayak, in-charge of MP Congress' media cell, told IANS. Addressing a press conference in Rewa, senior Congress leader Arun Yadav on Wednesday asked the party workers to take this "issue" to the people and "expose" the BJP. Notably, Patel is the minister-in-charge for Rewa district. Patel, who had earlier defended his remark, saying that he had said nothing wrong and instead blamed Congress and a section of media for twisting his statement, took a Uturn on Tuesday, saying that

IAS officers always want supremacy over IPS/IFS: SC

The remarks by Justice Gavai came in the course of the hearing of a matter relating to misutilisation of funds

PARMOD KUMAR NEW DELHI, 5 MARCH

lluding to the clash of egos between the servants **L**belonging to the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and the India Forest Service (IFS), the Supreme court on Wednesday said that the IAS officers always attempt to show their supremacy over IPS and IFS officers.

Referring to the clash of egos between the IAS, IPS and the IFS, Justice B.R. Gavai, heading a bench also comprising Justice Augustine George Masih remarked: "IAS always wants to show their supremacy over IPS or IFS. This is from my experience as a government pleader and judge as well. This conflict is there in all states and there is heartburn among IPS and IFS that 'though they are from the same cadre, why should they be listening to IAS'."

The remarks by Justice Gavai came in the course of the hearing of an environmental matter relating to mis-utilization of Compensatory Afforestation Fund

Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) fund for buying things inadmissible under the scope of the fund.

The Solicitor General Tushar Mehta who was present in the hearing of the matter assured the Court that it will try to resolve such internal conflicts between the officers.

In a related matter, the bench took exception to the mis-utilisation of CAMPA fund for inadmissible purposes in Uttarakhand where the fund meant for increasing the green cover across the country was spent on buying iPhones, laptops, fridges, coolers, renovation of buildings and other things.

Calling for an explanation

from Uttarakhand Chief Secretary as to why the funds were utilised for inadmissible purposes, the bench said: "The CAMPA fund is to be utilised for increasing the green cover. Utilization of the same for non-admissible activities and not depositing the interest as per the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016, with the state compensatory afforestation funds (SCAF) is a matter of serious concern. We therefore

The top court order cane as it took note of the report submitted to it by the amicus curiae K Parmeswar referring

direct the Chief Secretary

of the State to file an affidavit

on these aspects by the next

date" – March 19, 2025.

to a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) pointing out that the forest department in Uttarakhand diverted the CAMPA fund to purchase iPhones, laptops, fridges, coolers, renovation of buildings and the court cases, and other things.

Perusing the report of

the amicus curiae Parmeswar, the bench noted: "In the said report, the CAG has pointed out various irregularities in the utilization of CAMPA funds. It points out that a huge amount is spent in inadmissible manner on ... renovation of existing buildings, expenses on personage, visits, court cases, purchases of iPhones, laptops, fridges, coolers, etc...the

report further points out that though as per Section 4(5) and 4(6) of Compensatory Afforestation Funds Act, the state had to deposit interest under balance available under state compenafforestation satory funds...scrutiny of records of state authority show that the state government did not discharge the interest liability of Rs.275.34 crores for the period between 2019-20 to 2021-22. It is stated that even though the state authority had requested state government for ..z]from time to time, the said has not been done. The report further shows that the government has accepted the said fact and stated that in July 2023, the interest liability of Rs.150 crores has been deposited..."

The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority has been created under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016, is a part of India's environmental policy framework, that is aimed at balancing the country's developmental needs with the imperative of conserving its forest resources.

Women forced to mortgage their gold jewellery under Modi govt, alleges Kharge



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 5 MARCH

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday said women have been forced to "mortgage" their gold jewellery under Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre.

Recalling Prime Minister's "snatching mangalsutra" remarks during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Kharge said, "Narendra Modi ji, you talked about 'stealing the mangalsutra'. That has now come true. Under your rule, women have been forced to mortgage their gold jewellery."

Notably, Modi during the general elections had said that Congress wants to snatch "mangalsutra" of women as part of its intention to redistribute wealth.

"Between 2019 and 2024, four crore women have taken loans worth Rs 4.7 lakh crore

by mortgaging their gold. Gold loans will account for 38 per cent of the total loans taken by women in 2024. RBI data in February 2025 showed that gold loans increased by a massive 71.3 per cent in a year," the Congress chief said.

Kharge, who is also the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha while attacking the Prime Minister said: "First you made the women's 'stridhan' disappear by implementing demonetization, now due to inflation and falling household savings, they are forced to mortgage their most valuable thingtheir jewellery."

He also accused the Prime Minister of worsening the condition of the economy to such an extent that the middle-class families who bought two-wheelers are now unable to pay their

Munde will be back in Cabinet after case cools down: Sena mouthpiece

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, 4 MARCH

the public is akin to God.

An editorial piece which appeared in the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena's Marathi daily print newspaper 'Saamna' claimed on Wednesday that the resignation of Dhananjay Munde on Tuesday was a mere "eyewash" scripted by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy CM Ajit Pawar to hoodwink people, after assuring Munde that he would be taken back into the ministerial cabinet after the Massajog village official Santosh Deshmukh murder case cools

Minister Devendra Fadnavis nor NCP leader and Deputy CM Ajit Pawar can claim that Munde's resignation was sought on moral grounds,

Therefore, neither Chief



the editorial stated.

The 'Saamna' editorial called '*Agralekh*' in Marathi stated that instead of seeking Munde's resignation, he should have been sacked

from the cabinet and his claim of having quit on moral grounds is a "cruel joke". Incidentally, Thackeray-

led Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut, who is the executive editor of the Marathi daily, is widely believed to have written the editorial, sources said. The editorial also alleged

that the controversial remarks made by the Samajwadi Party MLA Abu Azmi about Mughal emperor Aurangzeb was scripted and choreographed by the Maharashtra chief minister as a "diversionary tactic" to prevent the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) from taking credit for Munde's resignation.

"A contract was given to Samajwadi Party MLA Abu Azmi and as soon as Azmi made a statement on Aurangzeb, the BJP started

a ruckus criticising Azmi's statement. When the Opposition raised its voice about Munde's resignation, a diversion was created by the ruling party and the assembly meeting came to an end in that ruckus. At the national level, people like Owaisi and at the state level, people like Abu Azmi are the BJP's brand ambassadors. The BJP's moral bubble burst in the Munde case and the Aurangzeb controversy was created by the government. Do you think people are stupid," the 'Saam-

na' editorial stated. Meanwhile, veteran politician Sharad Pawar's daughter and NCP MP Supriya Sule has demanded that Dhananjay Munde must be made a co-accused in the Massajog village official Santosh Desh-

mukh murder case. In a related development, Maratha activist Manoj Jarange Patil also made a serious allegation on Wednesday that Valmik Karad, who is the main accused in the Santosh Deshmukh murder case, had called up Dhananjay Munde after Deshmukh was murdered. He also said that since Valmik Karad was looking after all extortion-related businesses on behalf of Dhananjay Munde, the CID and SIT must investigate Dhananjay Munde.

He alleged that it is Dhananjay Munde had helped the still absconding accused number 8, Krishna Andhale, escape. It is necessary to get a call details record (CDR) of eight days before the Deshmukh murder and the time from the murder to Munde's resignation, he said, adding that many things will be revealed if it is done.

8 men arrested in Rajasthan for

raping, threatening woman



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE JAIPUR. 5 MARCH

The Rajasthan police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested eight men from Bhilwara district of the state for allegedly sexually abusing a woman and threatening her since the last one year.

According to the FIR lodged at the Kotwali police station on Sunday night, the victim had visited a cafe at Badla square of Bhilwara in March last year, where two of the accused spiked her drink. They then raped her and filmed the act.

The duo later threatened the victim with the video and raped her. The accused also went on to share the video with their friends who all blackmailed the woman and subjected her to more brutality, police said.

The police nabbed the culprits on Monday and Tuesday. All the eight men were produced before the trial court Tuesday evening from where they were remanded in police custody for two days. District police superintendent Dharmendra Yadav has ordered the setting up of a special investigation team (SIT) for a comprehensive probe in the case.

Revisiting the Indian Ocean

Tsunami 20 years later

Rijuta Dev

ESTATE OFFICER AMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE pointed by the Central Govt. Under Proceedings No. 2126, 2126/D of 2024 Order No. 02 Dated 27.02.2025

To M/s. V.Madhukar & Co. 48, Ezra Street, Kolkata-700 001 AND Any person's interested in

Whereas proceedings against M/s. V Madhukar & Co.,the O.P. herein, have been initiated u/s 4 & 7of the P.P.Act for adjudication of the prayer of Syama Prasad and recovery of dues & damages alongwith interest in respect of Syama Prasad

Whereas the next date of hearing/filing reply to show cause etc is fixed on 20.03.2025 at 3 PM at Office of the Estate Officer, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata, at the 1st Floor of 'Fairlie Warehouse', 6 Fairlie Place, Kolkata-700 001, failing which the matter would be decided ex-parte, without further reference. For further details please refer to SMPK's website

Mookerjee Port's land measuring about 3427.19 Sq.mts (Under Plate No. HL-230

situated at eastern side of Foreshore Road

Date: 04.03.2025. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND & SEAL

(SWARUP NANDY) ESTATE OFFICER

ECI to devise unified IT architecture to facilitate stakeholders

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 5 MARCH

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday said that a unified IT architecture with a customised dashboard would be devised to facilitate different stakeholders.

The decision was taken during the two-day conference of CEOs of all States/UTs at the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM), which concluded here today.

"In line with Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar's vision and conviction to deploy technology to bring in system efficiencies in elections, it was decided that a unified IT architecture with a customised dashboard would be devised to facilitate different stakeholders. The single window platform would



streamline input and output flow of information with rolebased access," the ECI said in a communiqué.

This will smoothen communication between the functionaries with in-built crossverification to minimise any human error, it said.

Adopting a modern approach to capacity building, it was also decided that a capsule of animated videos will be produced for each stakeholder, comprehensively covering all aspects of elections related to them. These animated

videos will be a handy way for

each stakeholder for selfpaced continuous learning. On the last day of the

conference, the CEC, along with Election Commissioners (ECs) Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, reviewed the actionable points presented by each CEO for the

timely delivery of key deliverables. Each CEO has been assigned a distinct stakeholder.

Kumar reiterated that all officials should work as per the existing constitutional and legal framework, including the RP Act 1950 and 1951, the Registration of Elector Rules 1960, the Conduct of Election Rules 1961, and the instructions issued by the ECI from time to time.

"The sessions also signaled a renewed energy to be channeled into strengthening communication at CEO and DEO level for quick response to misinformation and local issues within their domain. The CEOs also discussed the need to enhance reach on social media for continuous engagement with voters in the fast-evolving media landscape," the ECI said.

across much of Asia. But the catastrophe's particular agonizing moments that it was all in my head. I was impact on me lingers on, decades later. I was part of a group of 50 school students from the wall, it was just after 6.30 am, right about the same Loyola School, Jamshedpur, visiting Port Blair (now time that the earthquake had struck on December 26. Sri Vijaya Puram), the capital of the Union Territory of Over the next two decades, this recurring nightmare Andaman and Nicobar Islands, in December 2004.

be more memorable that any of us had bargained for. The morning of December 26 was supposed to be the the frequency. It could catch me unaware at any time of day we would take a ferry ride to a neighboring island. I night, my body holding onto the trauma of that often think about the vagaries of fate, and what would December morning with a stubbornness that continues have happened if the earthquake measuring 9.1 on the to surprise me.

Richter scale had hit just an hour later.

were jolted awake, and we ran down the stairs of our asking for reassurance that the earth was not shaking hotel as the building continued shaking ominously, be it my college roommates or later my partners, they Such was the terrible rush that most of us hardly had all had to tell me decisively; "No, it is just in your time to wear proper clothes or footwear. I had fled sans head." But just because it was in my head did not make my eyeglasses, and it was doubly discomfiting to be it less real. The crippling fear I feel is the same, and unable to see the contours of the buildings or even the though this does not happen every night, I have become road that we were standing on. It is that sense of being used to self-soothing, opening my eyes wide and rudely awakened, the amorphous terror of realizing willing it to see beyond what my brain shows; that the that I am not safe, that has continued to haunt me, world is not spiraling out of control. "It is not real," I literally and metaphorically, for the next twenty years. For a few years after the earthquake and the ensuing London, or New York. tsunami, I would approach a beach tentatively, and feel uneasy looking at the unending maw of the seemingly seems to have seeped deep into my bones, because it

coaxed gently by my university friends, I swam off the the world. coast of England. My feet cut into the pebbly beach of Brighton after my swim, but I felt invigorated by the in the summer of 2023 and came across a memorial of a realization that the vast ocean had held me and let me village that had been devastated by the cruel waves that explore as my heart desired. The waves were ceaseless had appeared out of nowhere and left unimaginable but remained in a form I could rely on.

were completely cut off from the rest of the world, the azure sea with a smile on my face. Our tremendous Roads had cracked open, and we heard that the tenacity in the face of precariousness is what keeps us runways in the small airport were not in a condition to going. The normal and the quotidian can turn terrifying support rescue flights. I called my mother from a phone in a moment, but our resilience forces us to find our booth two days later, blithely informing her I was ok, footing every time, even the ground beneath us insists and complained that the ferry ride was never on shifting. rescheduled. She did not tell me that the earthquake had unleashed monster waves that had wreaked havoc Author bio - Rijuta Dey is a business journalist who in multiple countries. Instead, I heard her sobbing has worked across three countries and multiple trude quietly, and I assured her I was unharmed.

After the initial shock had worn off, we students Jazeera, The Times of India, and The Hindu. She mostly had fun, camping under the open skies in a local lives in New York City. park, as the hotel buildings were too damaged for us to sleep in. We were the first ones to be evacuated, after Jamshedpur-based Tata Steel bigwigs had a word with authorities at Indian Airlines that a bunch of their employees' children were stuck in a disaster zone.

wow does one re calibrate their place on earth It was only after we had been rescued off the when the ground beneath them shifts? It has beleaguered island, and I rested my head on my own Labeen just over 20 years since a vicious bed, that the recurring nightmares began. The morning earthquake shattered the seabed in the Indian Ocean after I was back in my childhood home, I got up in a and set off killer tsunami waves that destroyed lives panic, feeling the bed shake, and realized after several safe on terra firma, and when I glanced at the clock on

took on an insidious life of its own. After the first few That trip, the first one away from parents, turned out to months, I was no longer woken up in the mornings by apparitions of an earthquake. The time shifted, as did

Anyone who has shared a bedroom with me has When the earthquake struck, my roommate and I witnessed it; me waking up in absolute panic and have told myself repeatedly, be it in New Delhi,

I have gone months without the nightmare, but it always resurfaces, like a monster of the deep which I overcame my fear of the open ocean only when, awakens every time something is awry with the state of

I was driving across Sri Lanka's sun-drenched coast destruction in its wake. I remember taking in the quiet In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, we calm of the honey-hued beach, and then walking into

publications. Her work has been published in Al

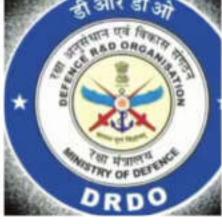
DRDO successfully conducts high-altitude trials of indigenous integrated life support system for LCA Tejas

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI. 5 MARCH

In a major breakthrough for India's defence aviation sector, the Defence Bio-Engineering and Electro Medical Laboratory (DEBEL), a Bengaluru-based laboratory under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has successfully conducted high-altitude trials of the Indigenous On-Board Oxygen Generating System (OBOGS)-based Integrated

Life Support System (ILSS) for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Teias.

The cutting-edge ILSS, designed to generate and regulate breathable oxygen for pilots, eliminates reliance on traditional liquid oxygen cylinder-based systems. The system underwent rigorous testing on the LCA-Prototype Vehicle-3 aircraft, developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA). Trials were conducted



at extreme altitudes of up to 50,000 feet Above Mean Sea Level, along with high-G maneuvers, ensuring com-

pliance with stringent aeromedical standards.

Performance evaluations included testing oxygen concentration levels, demand breathing, availability of 100% oxygen, and full functionality of critical components such as the Anti-GValve and Breathing Oxygen System (BOS) during various flight phases, including taxiing, take-off, cruise, G-turns, and landing. The trials followed flight clearance from the Centre for Military Airworthiness

and Certification (CEMILAC) and successfully met all specified parameters. Beyond OBOGS, the ILSS

incorporates 10 Line Replaceable Units, including the Low-Pressure Breathing Regulator, BOS, Emergency Oxygen System, Oxygen Sensor, and Anti-G Valve, among others. These components work together to ensure realtime oxygen generation, significantly enhancing pilot endurance and operational

effectiveness.

Kerala anti-ragging meas**ures**: Expressing concern at the present set of ragging laws, the Kerala High Court on Wednesday orally pointed out that rules need to be framed under the Kerala Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1998, to effectively tackle the menace. The court also pointed out that the UGC has come up with detailed guidelines to curb ragging in colleges and the state might need to look into the need to introduce changes into the existing law. It asked for a notice to be sent to the UGC and the case posted for further hearing on March 19. Incidentally, on Tuesday, the court said that it will constitute a special bench to hear ragging cases in the state. A division bench, headed by Chief Justice Nitin Jamdar, made the announcement while considering a PIL filed by the Kerala State Legal Service Authority (KeLSA) to curb the issue of ragging in the state. The court on Wednesday said that the state can consider constituting a working group from different disciplines and can invite suggestions from the public for the purpose of formulating the rules. The working group should also look into whether the existing state legislation needs to be

Congressaiding BJP's rise, says Kerala CM

Satheesan said Cong has always maintained an uncompromising stance against the Sangh Parivar

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 5 **MARCH**

enior CPI-M leader and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has Wednesday launched a scathing attack on Congress, questioning its credibility regarding secularism and its ability to hold together a broad alliance of secular and regional forces against the BJP, both at the national and state levels.

In an article written in the party mouthpiece, 'Desab*himani*' published ahead of the 24th state conference of CPI-M that begins in Kollam on Thursday, CM Pinarayi Vijayan said that secular forces could no longer trust the Congress. He pointed out that it was Congress which had ensured the victory of the BJP in Delhi and Haryana.

"Congress claims that only they can resist the Sangh Parivar. But, what is the truth? In the states of Rajasthan, Harvana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra, the farmer anger against central policies significantly impacted the BJP in the last Lok Sabha elections and subsequent assembly elections.



Despite this, it is Congress's policy that brought the BJP to power in those places," Pinarayi Vijayan said in the article.

"In both 2015 and 2020, Congress failed to win even a single seat in the Delhi Assembly. Yet, instead of focusing on defeating the BJP, Congress made its primary goal the defeat of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which is the main opposition force in Delhi. Congress leaders openly stated that helping AAP win was not

their job," he alleged. He claimed that the Left has been at the forefront of resisting and exposing the anti-people policies of the Sangh Parivar-led central government, mobilising the public while also challenging the Congress's claim of being the

the Congress.

Coming out strongly against the criticisms leveled against the Congress by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, senior Congress leader and Opposition Leader in the Kerala assembly VD Satheesan said that the only party that has compromised with the BJP is the CPI-M, the party of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Addressing a press conference here. Satheesan said that the Congress has always maintained an uncompromising stance against the Sangh Parivar.

"Where has Rahul Gandhi

ever compromised with the BJP? It is Pinarayi Vijayan's CPI-M that has made settlements with the BJP. "The party that has compromised with the BJP is Pinarayi Vijayan's party. While all other opposition parties in India, except CPI-M, have taken a firm stance that Narendra Modi's government is a fascist government, the CPI-M is the only party that has taken a position saying the BJP is not a fascist party. The stand taken by former General Secretary Sitaram Yechury that the BJP is a fascist party, has now been rejected by the CPI-M," Satheesan said.

Karnataka govt to give four per cent reservation for Muslim contractors



LAKSHMANA VENKAT KUCHI

BENGALURU, 05 MARCH

The Congress governments in the states, the few remaining ones that is, appear to compete with one another in giving a handle to the BJP to beat it with - on minority appeasement. After Telangana gave time off to minority office goers to participate in Ramadan, Karnataka government presented the BJP with fresh ammunition with its proposal to give 4 per cent reservation for muslim contractors in government tenders of value upto Rs 1

The Karnataka government is likely to introduce this reservation through an amendment to the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, like it already exists for contraactors from scheduled caste and scheduled tribe.

Even before the government can come forward with the formal proposal of amendment it has been hit by an

avalanche of criticism from the BJP, with its state president BY Vijayendra accusing the Congress of indulging in "appeasement politics". The Congress government perceives minorities as only Muslims ignoring other genuinely underrepresented minority communities, the BJP leader said. Earlier Muslims may have been a minority, today they are well-

ident said. It is clear that Muslims are a significant vote bank for the Congress and this is why the party gave reservations in jobs and education, against the spirit of the Constitution. It is the same appeasement tactics at work in this reservation for contractors, Vijayendra alleged.

organised and stay in the

forefront, the BJP state pres-

Demanding that the government withdraw this proposal immediately, the BJP state unit chief said the move would divide society and the state along religious lines. His party colleague

and MLA Mahesh Tenginkai said after Congress came to power two years ago, the influence of Muslims and alleged that the Hubli incident happened only because of the muslims.

Predictably, the Congress defended the decision saying that it aimed to provide equal opportunities to all disadvantaged sections of the society. Congress MLA Rizwan said: "We believe in giving equal opportunities for every minority community, particularly the weaker sections of society. It's not for huge contracts. Small contractors should also get Rs 50 lakh. Small contracts should be available for the multiple small minorities also.'

The Congress MLA said that the contracting business is dominated by the upper class. And the Congress government is providing opportunities to the disadvantaged people from various sections like backward classes and Dalits. Every small disempowered and marginalised community should be given this opportunity, and which is why the Congress is thinking of this 4 percent reservation for Muslim contractors. At present the proposal is before the cabinet for discussion, and it is expected to clear it, the government sources said.

Will fight legally, says advisor to CM Siddaramaiah on MUDA case review plea

AGENCIES

amended, it added.

BENGALURU, 5 MARCH

Responding to the development of filing an appeal writ petition against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and others in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam, the Legal Advisor to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, legislator C.S. Ponnanna on Wednesday said the petitioner has the right to appeal in the case and they will fight it legally. Speaking to the media

here, Ponnanna noted: "The law provides in terms of appeal or revision. The petitioner in the MUDA scam is entitled to appeal, subject to its maintainability. We have always maintained that we fully respect the due process of law and bow down to the decisions and judgments made by the courts

of law. If the petitioner is the Lokayukta police or go adopting due process, no one can object, and we don't object to it."

of the High Court, ADGP and battle, he is entitled to and we will defend it," he stated.

Ponnanna said: "But the whole issue is, they are creating a case for politicising and political gains, which is condemnable. We criticise it. The petitioner makes an allegation that the Lokayukta police are colluding. He is the one who went to the Lokayukta and sought an investigation by the Lokayukta police. Overseen by the judge IGP level officer probed it. Now he wants to make allegations against them which are political...One should not mix the two issues. Legal

When asked where the MUDA case stands at this stage, whether the court can accept the closure report by

for a trial, Ponnanna stated: "The final report of the investigation is before the court, the court can decide to take cognizance in the matter,

decide to accept the closure report. It can also decide to direct further investigation. There are various options available to the court in law, and it also depends on what the complainant is going to do...We do not know what the complainant is going to do," he said. Ponnanna stated while

answering a question: "About the judgment in the issue relating to transfer of investigation of the MUDA case to the CBI...the order of the quashing the appeal for CBI probe, has been already passed by learned judge, that is the law of the land and that needs to be followed."

Pawan Kalyan names Naga Babu as Jana Sena candidate for MLC polls **AGENCIES**

sole force capable of countering

the BJP. Pinarayi Vijayan fur-

ther claimed that from resisting

bulldozers on Delhi's streets

to leading the legal battle

against religious-based citi-

zenship laws in the Supreme

Court, the Left has been at

the forefront of key struggles,

including the historic farmers'

protest, the fight to restore

Jammu and Kashmir's state-

hood, and the challenge against

the BJP's corporate-funded

has consistently been at the

vanguard in defending India's

secular and democratic fabric

from these relentless attacks,"

he claimed in the article, and

urged secular parties, especially

the Indian Union Muslim

League (IUML), to reconsider

their alliance

"At every stage, the Left

Electoral Bond Scheme.

AMARAVATI, 5 MARCH

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has announced his brother K. Naga Babu as his Jana Sena's candidate for the Legislative Council election.

Pawan Kalyan, who is the Jana Sena President, cleared the candidature of Naga Babu, who is a General Secretary of the party.

Naga Babu, the elder brother of Pawan Kalyan and the younger brother of actor Chiranjeevi, is also an actor and film producer. He had actively campaigned for the party in the last year's elections.

TVK chief Vijay calls for freezing number of Lok Sabha seats based on 1971 census: Tamil actor and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) President Vijay, on Wednesday called for the indefinite freezing of Lok Sabha seats based on the 1971 Census. In a statement, he emphasised that any delimitation exercise based on new population data would disproportionately disadvantage southern states. Vijay pointed out that the 84th Constitutional Amendment Act had already frozen the number of Lok Sabha seats until 2026, ensuring representation remained aligned with the 1971 Census. However, with the Union government expected to begin the delimitation process next year, he expressed concerns over the lack of transparency regarding the methodology and criteria that would be used. The TVK chief strongly opposed any move to revise seat allocation using updated population data, arguing that it would penalise states that had successfully implemented policies for healthcare, education, and population control over the past five decades. "If the number of seats in southern states is reduced while states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar gain disproportionate representation, it would be an unjust outcome," Vijay stated.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER [(N.I.T. No. 801/CE(M)/WBSTC dated-04.03.2025)]

(Abridged e-Tender) -Tender, in prescribed from in two parts viz. Technical & Financial Bids are invited for the work: 1. Leasing of Jetties for Cruise Vessel Operation on long term basis. Tender I.D.: 2025_WBSTC_820146_1. To be Published on 06.03.2025 at 09.00 A.M. Please visit website www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- OSD & EO Chief Engineer (Marine), For W.B.S.T.C. ICA- T4764(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PW(R)D TENDER NOTICE eNIT No. 28 of 2024-25 of EE/BHD-I/PW(R) Dte. for 02(Two) Nos. Road Safety works & 1(One) No. Construction of Box Culvert work under Barasat Highway Division No.1, inviting from bonafied bidders having credential for similar nature of work. Bid submission closing date (online) will be on 26/03/2025 upto 13.00 hrs. Tender id; 2025_WBPWD_822519_1/2/3 Other details may be seen from website https://wbtenders.gov.in & http://wbpwd.gov.in 5d/- EE/BHD-

aban, Alipore, Kolkata-700027 TENDER NOTICE

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT

WEST BENGAL

for procurement of 08 (eight) nos. of Real Time Viewing System (RTV5) for BDDS Unit, CID, West Bengal. Tender documents will be uploaded in NIC website https://wbtenders.gov.in in the month of March, 2025. Sd/- Spl. Supdt. of Police (HQ), CID, West Bengal.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL Publication of E-Tender of Supply of Protective Kit for VCT and Uniform for VST, Supervisors under Vector Bome Diseases Control Programme at different Blocks, vide this office Notification No. 743 / E-Tender / DPHC

For detailed information regarding terms & conditions in this regard, please login to South 24 Parganas Zilla Parishad's official website i.e. www.zps24pgs.wb.gov.in s24pgs.Nov.in

Memo No. 450(3)/DICO/S-24 PGS. Dt.: 05-03-2025 ICA-T4798(3)/2025

74 / VBDCP(H) dated: 05-03-2025. Tender ID:- 2025_WBPWD_822569_ Bid submission start date (online) 05.03.2025 from 09:00 A.M. Bid

Secretary

South 24 Parganas Zilla Parishad

ENGINEERING OFFICE OF THE

22.03.2025. upto 12:30 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T and Tender documents may be downloaded from https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- EE, PWD Kalimpong Division ICA-T4804(3)/2025 GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

submission Closing date (online)

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RESOURCES DIVISION

Janaswasthya Karigari Bhawan (NIJALAYA).

C.N.B. STREET NO- 18, CN BLOCK, SECTOR-1

BIDHANNAGAR, Kolkata-700 091.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NO. - WBPHED/EE/R5/e51/2024-25

TENDER ID: 2025_PHED_819621_1

Jokeepment and Management of WB

JM Applications & Dashboard through

suitable Data Integration, Visualization

and Customized Data Analysis Pre

qualification, Technical & Financial bid

Submission starting date (online)

qualification, Technical & Financial bid

(24.03.2025 upto 2.00 pm). For detail

Logon to : www.etender.wb.nic.in

5d/- Executive Engineer, Resources

Division, Public Health Engineering

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

e-TENDER NOTICE

WBSDB/EE/CED-II/NIT-22(e)/2024-25

-Tenders are invited by the Executive

Engineer, Civil Engineering Division No.-

Sundarban Development Board from

the reliable bonafide resourceful

contractors for the Construction of B.P.

Road & Providing utility services and

maintenance of garden in Sagar,

Kakdwip, Namkhana & Patharpratima

Block of South 24 Pargana, West Bengal.

Details may be had from the office of the

EE/CED-II/SDB on working days during

office hours or in website:

https://wbtenders.gov.in Publishing

date : 07.03.2025 at 18.00 hrs. Bid

submission start Dt.- 08.03.2025 at

11.00 hrs. Bid submission end Dt.-

21.03.2025 at 15.00 hrs. 5d/- Executive

Engineer, Civil Engineering Division No.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Tender No. 13 of 2024-25 Dated,

Agriculture, Soil Conservation, Suri,

Birbhum, 3rd Floor, Golbari Market

Complex, Suri, Birbhum & Website

www.birbhum.gov.in ICA-T4709(2)/2025

I, Sundarban Development Board.

ICA- T4776(3)/2025

ICA- T4718(3)/2025

Directorate, Govt. of West Bengal.

(24.02.2025 from 6.00 pm), Pre-

EE, Kalimpong Division, PWD online e-Tender for the work:- " Slope stabilisation work to protect landslide at 31.60 km of 12th Mile to Nimbong Fatak Road Kalimpong Division, PWD in the district of Kalimpong" Estimated Amount:- Rs.11,28,416.00 e-NIT No 33 of 2024-25 of EE, Kalimpong Division. Tender ID:- 2025_WBPWD_822563_ Bid submission start date (online)

website only. Details of N.I.T and Tender https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- EE, PWD

=== Classified ====

LEGAL **NOTICE**

LEGAL NOTICE

Samujh Sharma son of Satya Narayan Manorama Dev wife of Ram Samuji Sharma of C/13-14 Taratala K.O.P.T. Colony, P.O.- Brace Bridge, P.S.-Taratala, Kolkata- 700088, District- South 24 Parganas, Had purchased Scheduled land/property byDeed No. I-4011/2022 om POA, holder Maniit Kaur Baryar wife of Balbir Singh Baryar, Bearing POA No. 2590, Consulate General of India, Vancouver BC. (Canada). If anybody has any objection on Mutation of said land/ property, please inform office of the BL & LRO, Kolkata Block K.M.C. Building, Room No. 328, 5, S.N. Banerjee Road, Kolkata- 700013 in writing or over e-mail bllroatm@gmail.com within

this advertisement.

one month from the date of

All that piece and parcel of M/L 02 cottahs 08 chattaks sali land comprised in R.S. Dag No. 500, L.R. Dag No. 500 under Mouza- Ganipur, J.L. No. 13, R.S. No. 382, under P.S.- Maheshtala, District- South 24

ADVOCATE F-1493/1321 of 2004 WB / 221 / 2005 **CALCUTTA HIGH COURT**

NOTICE

PUBLIC

PUBLIC NOTICE

and Sri Asit Kumar Singha alias Asit Singha, both son of late Anil Kumar Singha on 21/09/2007 appointed Sri Santosh Kumar Agarwal as his constituent attorney vide Bengali Ammoktranama or General Power of Attorney being no. 00711 for the year 2007 the said Sri Santosh Kumar Agarwal being the constituent attorney of Sri Shyam Sundar Singha and Sri Asit Kumar Singha alias Asit Singha on 04/04/2008 sold a Plot of Land admeasuring about 16.5 Decimal at R.S. Dag No. 874 corresponding to L.R. Dag No. 903 under L.R. Khatian no. 33, Mouza Unsani, J.L. No. -10, P.S. Jagacha to my client K.B. Motors Pvt. Ltd. by virtue of the Deed of Conveyance being no. 04985 for the year

SCHEDULE

Parganas. **RAJIV BHATTACHARYYA**

Sri Shyam Sundar Singha

2008, registered in D.S.R. Howrah, The said K.B. Motors Pvt. Ltd. had applied for mutation of its name in

the record of B.L. & L.R.O.,

Bally Jagacha, Howrah vide

case no. 1606/25. If any

persons have any

objections in regards to that

may contact the Office of

the B.L. & L.R.O., Bally

Somnath De

Advocate

9477421132

Jagacha, Howrah.

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NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE That my client TASNEEM AKHTAR, W/o. Rizwan Akhtar, of 39D, Broad Street, P.S.: Karaya, Kol.-19, want to purchase land with two storied building measuring 1 cottah 6 chittacs at Premises No. 16B

Ustad Bade Golam Ali Khan Sarani, Ward No. 065, Kol. 19, from Shikha Ghosh, W/o. Sushib Ghosh & Lipika Das, W/o. Subir Kumar Das, both <mark>daughter of Lt. Dwijendr</mark>a Nath Dey, of 16/B, Broad Street, Kol.-19, if anybody has any claim or demand please contact me within 15 days from this notice. **ABDUL RAHAMAN** Advocate

CHANGE OF NAME

Mb. No. 8617732591

MINTU Nandi. S/o. Late Shabu Nandi, R/o. Flat 13A. the 1st Class Magistrate, Alipore on dated 05-02-

I, PRADIP Mondal, S/o. Kanai Mondal, residing at Vill.: Tepul, P.O.: Khantura, P.S.: Swarupnagar, North 24 Parganas, vide an affidavit from Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Basirhat Court, North 24

Parganas dated 18-01-25.

Prodip Mondal & Pradip

CHANGE OF NAME

Mondal is the same and identical person and father's name Kanailal Mondal Kanailal and Mandal and Kanai Mondal is the same and identical per-

I, DIPAK Kr. Choudhary, S/o. Nagina Choudhary, residing at 25/A L.B.S. Road, Serampore, Hooghly shall henceforth be known as Dipak Kumar Choudhary before 1st Class Judicial Magistrate Serampore, vide No. 1933 12th Feb., 2025. Dipak Kr. Choudhary and UTTAR Banga Krishi

W/o. Debashis Chakraborty, R/o. E.C.T.P. Phase-IV, Flat-

are same person.

BL-B, Priya Twin, 182, M.G. Kolkata-700107, declare For details please visit: Road, Kolkata-104, declare that I am mentioned as www.ubkv.ac.in that my father name Shabu Sangita Chakrabarty in www.wbtenders.gov.in Nandi and Sk. Sabubakkar some records, and that are the same and identical Sangita Chakraborty and person, vide affidavit before Sangita Chakrabarty is the same and identical person, vide affidavit before Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Alipore, No. 17548, dated 04-03-2025.

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

SITUATION VACANT

Vivekananda Street Cooch Behar-736101 West Bengal, India Walk-in interview for the position of one JRF under WBDST, will be held at Dept. of Physics, CBPBU on 10th

March, 2025. For details visit: http://cbpbu.ac.in/advertisement.php Registrar Ref. No.: F23.V1/REG/0203-25 Date: 05-03-2025

For online application click or https://admission.cbpbu.ac.in

TENDER

Dipak Kumar Choudhary Viswavidyalaya, Pundibari, Cooch Behar - Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) -Offline tenders are being invited from reputed agencies for disposal of Live I, SANGITA Chakraborty, trees & fire woods and online corrigendum published for Tender ID: B 12/5, P.S.: Anandapur, 2025_UBKV_821758_1.

The Statesman

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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 nwners 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

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE

I/PW(R) Dte.

Superintending Engineer, South Western Circle, P.W.Dte., Midnapore Construction of 3 Cell 3 M x 3 M Box Culvert at 0.820 Km. of Tanga Road under Jhargram Division, P.W.Dte. in the District of Jhargram." Estimated Amount Rs. 1,02,35,848.00 NIeT No. 18 of 2024-2025 Tender ID 2025_WBPWD_822679_1, Bid submission start date (online) 10.03.2025 from 10.00 Hours, Bid Submission closing date (online) 28.03.2025 at 15.00 Hours Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIeT and Tender documents may be downloaded from http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Tarun Kr. Chakraborty, Superintending Engineer, South Western Circle, P.W.Dte.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE

ICA- T4814(3)/2025

Executive Engineer, PWD, Alipurduar Division invites online e-tender for the work of NIET no. 29 of 2024-25 of EE/PWD/APDD. Face Lifting of the University Old Building of Alipurduar University in the district of Alipurduar. Tender ID:- 2025_WBPWD_ 822538_1 Estimated Amount Rs. 9,95,758.00 Bid submission start date (online) 07.03.2025 from 02.00 P.M. Bid submission closing date (online) 14.03.2025 up to 04.00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIET & Tender documents may be downloaded from http://wbtender.gov.in Sd/EE,PWD,

Alipurduar Division. ICA- T4800(2)/2025

NOTICE INVITING e-QUOTATION

NIQ No. 06/WBTDCL OF 2024-25 (OPERATION)

Tourism Development Corporation

ICA- T4699(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited. (A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking)

Tender ID-2025_WBTDC_822323_1 WBTDCL invites e-Quotation for the work: "Up-Gradation & Refurbishment of the 18-Seater FORCE TRAVELLER AC Coaches (02 nos.) for comfort and convenience of the tourists." From the reputed, bonafide and experienced agencies in similar works, Start date & time of documents download : 06.03.2025-11:30 Hrs. Last date & time of Bid Submission: 20.03.2025- 16:00 Hrs. Details are available in website : lies entirely with advertisers and not with the www.wbtdci.com/wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- General Manager, West Bengal

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE Executive Engineer, PWD, Alipurduar Division invites online e-tender for the work of (i)Alipurduar-Volka Road from 11.275 km. to 17.70 km. (in stretches) Restoration of damaged shoulder due to thorough trench cutting for laying pipe line by P.H.E. Department, Govt. of West Bengal under Alipurduar Division, P.W.D. in the District of Alipurduar NIET no. 30 of 2024-25 of EE/PWD/APDD Tender ID:-2025_WBPWD_822582_1 Estimated Amount 10,41,883.00 Bid submission start date (online) 07.03.2025 from 12.00 P.M. Bid submission closing date (online) 21.03.2025 up to 04.00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

website only. Details of NIET & Tender

documents may be downloaded from

http://wbtender.gov.in Sd/EE,PWD,

Alipurduar Division. ICA-T4810(4)/2025

TENDER NOTICE E-Tenders is invited by the undersigned for the work "Annual Maintenance of the Electrical Installation of Main Building, Annex Building-I & Annex Building-II within Sales Tax Complex, Beliaghata---Special repairing and renovation of garden Light, gate light and allied electrical installation works." NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER No: WBPWD/EE/63/IR/T/KCED/II of 2024-25 & Tender ID- 2025_PWDE_822357_1 Bid Submission end date - 21.03.2025 upto 02.00 P.M. Website: http://www.pwdwb.in for details contact at the office of the undersigned Corrigendum if any will be published only the said website, 5d/- B.Mandal. Executive Engineer, PWD, Kolkata

ICA- T4780(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER E-TENDER FOR Mechanized / automated

Central Electrical Division

cleaning of toilets & closets as special cleanliness drive (deep cleaning) of selected toilets & closets" in Medical College & Hospitals Kolkata-73 Vide NIT NO: MCH/E-TEN/2446 Dated 03.03.2025. The Organization/Farm/ Cooperative society/experienced agency may visit the Website https://wbtenders.gov.in & 'www.wbhealth.gov.in" on and from 06.03.2025 for further details. Bid submission start date (online): 08.03.25. Bid submission closing date (online): 14.03.25. Sd/- Medical Superintendent Cum Vice Principal, Medical College &

Hospitals, Kolkata. ICA- T4703(3)/2025

Tender Id: 2025_DMB_823294_1 to 2025_DMB_823294_3. **Block Development Officer**

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

ANNEXURE

B.D.O. Khandaghosh, Purba Bardhaman invites e-tender for 03

Khandaghosh Development Block

emp No. 104/3(2)/ICA/PUB/BDN(ADVT), Date: 05-03-2025

Nos. works, for details visit: www.wbtenders.gov.in ref.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL EE, Kalimpong Division, PWD invites online e-Tender for the work:- "Slope stabilisation work to protect landslide at 7.20 km of 12th Mile to Nimbong Fatak Road Kalimpong Division, PWD in the district of Kalimpong" Estimated Amount:- Rs.14,43,609.00 e-NIT No 34 of 2024-25 of EE, Kalimpong Division

05.03.2025 from 09:00A.M. Bid submission Closing date (online): 22.03.2025. upto 12:30 P.M Corrigendum if any will be published in documents may be downloaded from:

Kalimpong Division ICA- T4802(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL The Executive Engineer, Bankura Highway Division, Public Works (Roads)

Directorate invites online e-Tender for Rangamati Road, 0.10 km to 0.40 km, Construction of storm water drain under Bankura Highway Division in the district P.W. (Roads) Directorate in the District of Bankura. e-NIT No. 18 of 2024-25 of the Executive Engineer, Bankura Highway Division, P.W.(Roads) Directorate Tender Ids: 2025 WBPWD 822055 1 Bid submission start date (online): 10-03-2025 at 10.00 A.M. Bid submission closing date (online): 24-03-2025 up to 2.00 P.M. corrigendum, if any, will only published accordingly. Details of NIT and NIT documents may be downloaded from: http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Bankura

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL.

Highway Division, Public Works (Roads)

WRI&DD. e-NIT

ICA-T4822(3)/2025

Executive Engineer (A-I), Burdwan (A-I) I&P Division, WRDD invites e-tender for Re excavation & Development of WHT04 nos. under Matir Srishti Programme in the district of Paschim Bardhaman vide e-NIT No 06/MS/WRIDD/BWNIP/2024-25, Group I JI, III, IV. Tender ID- 2024 WRDD 822718 1 2024_WRDD_822718_2, 2024_WRDD_822718_3, & 2024 WRDO 822718 A respectively. Last date of bid submission is 21.03.2025, 18.00 Hours and intending bidders are requested to visit the website http://wbtenders.gov.in from

07.03.2025, 09.00 Hours on wards for further Executive Engineer (A-I) Burdwan (A-I) I&P Division

THE DURGAPUR PROJECTS LIMITED

(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)

CIN NO. U40102WB19615GC025250

ICA-T4716(3)/2025 GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

24/02/2025, Excavation of 1 No. of Water Harvesting Structure, on community basis at different places of Md. Bazar Block in Birbhum District Under BIRBHUM(WDC2)/01/2021-22, WDC-PMKSY 2.0. PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY OF BIDDING DOCUMENT WEBSITE [https://wbtenders.gov.in]: 25/02/2025 TO 10/03/2025 UPTO 2.00 P.M Details of advertisement will be available at Assistant Director of

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) Date Extension NIT No.(1) WBDPL DPPS/PUR/NIT(E)-122 SR/341/2024-25 Tender ID: 2025 DPL 811623 1. Bid Submission end date 08:03:2025 Bid Opening Date 12.03.2025. Date Extension NIT No. .(2) WBDPL/PP/T/ 12015(12)/3/ 2025/ CHP EM/E/324 Dated 28.02.2025 Tender ID 2025_DPL_821325 _1. Bid Submission end date 08.03.2025 Bid Opening Date 11.03.2025. Date Extension NITNo.(3) WBDPL-12017/6/2024-GM-POW(DPL) DPL/P5/E-304 Dated 13.02.2025 Bid Submission end date 10.03.2025 Bid Opening Date 17.03.2025 . Visit https://wbtenders.gov.in www.dpl.net.in ICA- T4713(2)/2025



Furious BJP MLAs walk out from J&K Assembly

After Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather expunges remarks of Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE Jammu, 5 March

ll BJP legislators walked out from the J&K Assembly on Wednesday after Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather expunged the "derogatory remarks" on the 13 July "martyrs" made by Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Sharma.

The House witnessed noisy scenes over the remarks made by Sharma, also a BJP leader.

BJP MLAs later staged a walkout after the Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather expunged his remarks.

During the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the Lieutenant Governor's address, People's Democratic Party (PDP) MLA Waheedur-Rehman Para, demanded restoration of the 13 July Martyrs Day holiday.

As Para concluded his speech, Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma stood up and objected to his demand.

"They were not martyrs but," Sharma said, evoking widespread protests from the Treasury benches as well as from Kashmir-based opposition parties. The leaders demanded that the remarks be expunged from the records of the House.

"These remarks were humiliating and divisive and should be withdrawn or expunged from the records," demanded MLA Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat.

Amid continuous sloganeering between the treasury benches and BJP, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather announced that the remarks had been expunged from the records of the House.

All BJP MLAs staged a Abdullah.



walkout from the House in protest against the expunging of Sharma's remarks.

Later, Peoples Conference MLA Sajad Gani Lone demanded that the House pass a resolution for the restoration of holidays on Martyrs Day and on the birthday of National Conference founder Sheikh Mohammad

Cutting across party lines, the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly members expressed grave concern over the rising drug addiction in the region, prompting Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather to order a discussion to seek suggestions from the House on anti-drug

Several MLAs questioned the effectiveness of existing

measures.

mechanisms to combat the drug menace. They called for the establishment of an expert panel and a House committee to examine the issue in depth.

Minister for Health Sakina Itoo said: "There has been an alarming increase in drug addiction among the youth of J&K. However, after the launch of 'Nasha Mukt Abhiyan', records indicate a slight decline in new registrations."

The Health Minister made the statement responding to a question by National Conference (NC) MLA Mubarak Gul during the Question Hour.

She informed the House that 25,402 drug addicts have been receiving treatment at various centres in Jammu and Kashmir over the past three years.

investigations are underway

to trace both backward and

forward linkages in the smug-

of Police (DIG) Border Range

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gling network.

Nuclear energy critical for India's net zero goal: Jitendra Singh



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 4 MARCH

Pointing out the crucial role of nuclear energy in India's transition to clean energy and achieving net zero emissions by 2070, Union Minister for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh on Tuesday called for private sector participation, regulatory reforms, and sustained public engagement.

The Union Minister further announced the launch of a Small Modular Reactor (SMR) R&D Mission, with the objective of developing five SMRs by 2033. These reactors, known for their adaptability, could

be deployed in industrial zones, remote areas, and hard-toabate sectors like cement and steel manufacturing.

Addressing a post-budget webinar organised by NITI Aayog, Dr. Singh emphasised that Nuclear energy is critical for India's Net Zero goal.

He highlighted the Union Budget 2024-25's vision for India's nuclear power expansion, which sets a target of achieving 100 GW by 2047.

Highlighting the growing energy demand, Dr. Singh said India's electricity needs are expected to increase four to five times by 2047. While renewable energy sources are

expanding, they alone cannot meet the base-load demand, making nuclear power a key component of India's energy

"Achieving 100 GW of nuclear power will require a focused and determined approach, adding around 4 GW annually from now onwards," Dr. Singh said, expressing confidence in meeting the goal with proper planning and execution.

A major shift in India's nuclear policy is the proposed involvement of the private sector in designing, building, and operating nuclear power plants.

The Union Minister acknowledged that legislative amendments to the Atomic Energy Act, Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, and Electricity Act would be required to enable this participation. "Opening up the nuclear sector will send a strong policy signal to industry players, boosting investor confidence and encouraging long-term investments," he noted.

Haryana DGP reviews crime control measures

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, MARCH 5

Haryana DGP Shatrujeet Kapur on Wednesday held a meeting of officers of the State Crime Branch (SCB), and sought a report from officers regarding the action taken so far regarding the pending major cases in the State Crime Branch.

In the meeting, the DGP directed the officers to complete the investigation of the pending cases in a timebound manner.

This meeting was held at the Police Headquarters located in Sector 6, Panchkula. ADGP-SCB, Mamta Singh, along with DIG-SCB Hamid Akhtar, SsP Mohit Handa, Amit Dahiya, Pooja Dabla, Dhaarna Yadav, Sandeep Malik along with DSsP and Inspectors participated in

discussions were held regarding major cases related to economic crimes and corruption. During the meeting, officers gave detailed information about the investigation or police action taken so far in the cases.

investigating any case, the officer should go to its root so that appropriate action

cases. He clearly said that the investigation of the case should be fair so that no innocent person faces any

Kapur asked the officers

sending a strong message that drug-related activities won't be tolerated in Jalandhar. The CP

Jalandhar further revealed that Dharminder is a habitual offender with six cases registered

against him under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. ■ SNS

Kapur said that before

and prepare a blueprint of when, what and how they have to investigate the case can be taken against the guilty person. He also guided the officers regarding solving the pending

kind of problem.

to set a time limit for the In the meeting, detailed investigation of the case and try to ensure that the investigation is completed during this period. He asked ADGP Mamta Singh, who was present in the meeting, to review the pending cases in SCB every week so that the investigation process can be expedited. Legal experts can also be consulted for the investi-

> Kapur said that the State Crime Branch is a strong and important unit of Haryana Police, so it is very important to investigate any case thoroughly. He said that the team of the State Crime Branch should study all aspects of the cases carefully. Along with this, they should work by establishing better coordination with their subordinate officers and employ-

gation of cases.

Punjab Police demolish illegal construction of drug peddler in Jalandhar: In the ongoing crackdown on drug peddlers, Commissionerate Police Jalandhar, in coordination with the municipal corporation, on Wednesday, demolished an illegal property belonging to a drug smuggler. The encroached structure, constructed on government land alledgely using drug money, was razed as part of the ongoing campaign "Yudh Nashian Virudh." Divulging the details about the case, Commissioner of Police Jalandhar stated that the municipal corporation received information about an illegal construction on government land by a notorious drug smuggler, Dharminder, son of Mohan Lal, a resident of Dhankiya Mohalla, Jalandhar. The property was reportedly built using proceeds from his illegal drug trade. Acting on the info, teams of the municipal corporation and police swung into action and demolished the encroachment,

HC anguished over failure of J&K, Ladakh in filing response on 'poor' health facilities STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, 5 MARCH

Taking serious note of the authorities' failure to file their response on "poor medical facilities", a division bench of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on Wednesday expressed anguish over the non-serious approach of the Union Territories (UTs) of J&K and Ladakh regarding the issue. The court directed that if the needful is not done within two weeks, the Administrative Secretaries of both UTs must appear in person before the bench on the next date of hearing on 24 March.

During the hearing of a petition, Advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed highlighted the ordeal of a tribal woman who delivered a baby on the road in broad daylight in the Inderwal constituency of Kishtwardis-

The division bench comprised Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice MA Chowdhary.

The bench was hearing a PIL titled Balwinder Singh v/s UT of J&K and Others regarding inadequate health infrastructure and the shortage of doctors and paramedics in rural areas of J&K and Ladakh.

The bench expressed displeasure over the failure of both UTs to file their response as per its order dated February 4, 2025, which had directed them to respond to petitioner Balwinder Singh's suggestions for improving health infrastructure in the erstwhile state of J&K.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 CrPC

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Sisir Kumar Dey S/o Lt. Prakesh Chandra Dey, Prop. of M/s Sisir Kumar Dey Bijoy Palli Kalna Road (Hafijulla Road North) Bardhaman Sadar, Distt.-Burdwan, West Bengal, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in CT No. 649/2017, U/S 138 NI Act, P.S. Patel Nagar, West Distt., New Delhi-08 and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Sisir Kumar Dey cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Sisir Kumar Dey has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);

Proclamation is hereby made that Sisir Kumar Dey the said accused of CT No. 649/2017, U/S 138 NI Act, P.S. Patel Nagar, West Distt., New Delhi-08, is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 22.04.2025.

Sh. Shubham Gupta Judicial Magistrate First Class (NI Act)-4, DP/1936/CD/2025 West Distt, Room No. 04, Annexe-I (Court Matter) Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

CALL FOR EMPANELMENT OF NATIONAL WASH EXPERTS BY SPM NIWAS, KOLKATA

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water & Sanitation (SPM-NIWAS), Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Gol, Kolkata, invites online applications from sector experts for Empanelment as National WASH Experts under the following cate-

- gories: Regional / Bulk Water Supply Expert
- In-Village Water Supply Expert
- Hydrogeology Expert Solid & Liquid Waste Management Expert
- Community Mobilization Expert
- Water Quality Expert

Eligibility:

Maximum age 69 years as of 01-04-2025 Engagement till the maximum age of 70 years

Last date for submission of online application: 11-03-2025 till 6 P.M. IST. How to Apply:

Applications must be submitted online only at https://tinyurl.com/NWE25app



Detailed eligibility criteria, terms & conditions may also be seen in above URL.

any other mode shall be ignored without any notice. SPM NIWAS, near IIM Calcutta, D.H. Road, Joka, Kolkata-700104,

E-mail: spm.niwas@gov.in

Only online applications shall be accepted. Applications submitted by

CBC 45128/11/0001/2425 Debts Recovery Tribunal-3, Kolkata

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

In a major blow to transborder smuggling amidst the ongoing 'Yudh Nashian Virudh' campaign launched on the directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Amritsar Rural Police has recovered a 23-kg heroin consignment from the village

Divulging details, Director alias Lucky.

In this case, accused Sahilpreet Singh alias Karan of village Devi Daspura, who retrieved the consignment, has been nominated, he said, adding that multiple police teams are actively working to arrest him.

The DGP said that further

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.: OA/638/2023 Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with

> Rules, 1993 Exh. No.: 5371 BANK OF BARODA

OISHI DATTA AND ANR.

sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the

Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure)

(1) Oishi Datta And Anr., D/W/S/o- Kisor Datta, 39/D. East End Park, Offy Apartment 1st Road, Flat No. 02, 2nd Floor, South Twenty Four Parganas, West Bengal

(2) Mr. Kisore Datta, 39/D, East End Park Olly Apartment, 1st Road, Flat No. 02, 2nd Floor, South Twenty Four Parganas, West Bengal - 700099

WHEREAS, OA/638/2023 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/ Registrar on 03.01.2025.

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. 30,20,214.29 (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed). In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants

are directed as under:-(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted; (ii) to disclose particulars of properties or

assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application; (iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties; (iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior

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

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 01.04.2025 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: 13.01.2025. Signature of the Officer authorised to issue summons Registrar-in-Charge

Punjab Police bust drug smuggling network operated by US-based smuggler

CHANDIGARH, 5 MARCH

Devi Daspura in Jandiala.

General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav on Wednesday said that preliminary investigation has revealed that the consignment is linked to a smuggling network operated by USAbased smuggler Jasmit Singh

to 2-year B.P.Ed. course to be made on-line through the University website March 5 to March 19 (upto 4 pm), 2025. Details will be available in the University web page on and from 05/3/2025. Reser vations under SC/ST/OBC-A/OBC-B quota is as per State Govt. rules. It is to be noted that Ragging is prohibited as per the decision of the Supreme Court of India is Writ Petition No.(c)656/1998. Dean

NOTICE Ph.D. Course 2025 For "Notification for admission to Ph.D. Courses in March 2025 in different subjects".

by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Amritsar Rural Maninder Singh, while addressing a press conference said that Police teams at Naka **WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY** Barasat, Kolkata-700126

Satinder Singh, accompanied

refer to the Website www.wbsubregistration.org or

पंजाब एण्ड सिंध बैंक

https://wbsu.ac.in

Registrar (Officiating)

Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yaday on wednesday said that preliminary investigation has revealed that the consignment is linked to a smuggling network operated by USA-based smuggler Jasmit Singh alias Lucky. Bandi received a reliable input

that accused Sahilpreet Singh alias Karan has retrieved a consignment of heroin from across the border.

Acting swiftly, teams from Police Station Jandiala launched an intelligence operation and recovered 23 packets of heroin, weighing one kg each, kept in a jute bag from a pinpointed location in the village Devi Daspura, he said.

He said that the probe revealed that the accused Sahilpreet was in direct touch with USA-based smuggler

Jasmit Singh alias Lucky, who arranged the consignment.

According to the information, Jasmit Singh alias Lucky has a criminal background, and cases on the Arms Act and Attempt to Murder are registered against him.

The DIG said that police teams are on a manhunt to nab the accused, Sahilpreet alias Karan.

4 arch has been registered

In this regard, an FIR dated

under section 21C of the NDPS Act at Police Station Jandiala in Amritsar Rural. 40 of ertony at at moto

Punjab & Sind Bank

Zonal Office: Kolkata, 14/15, Old Court House Street, Kolkata- 700001,

Phone No. 033-22485867 E-mail: zo.kolkata@psb.co.in RECURITMENT

Punjab & Sind Bank (A Government of India Undertaking) invites applications for post of : Medical Consultant (on Contractual Basis) at its Zonal Office Kolkata. For details, please visit Bank's Website : https://punjabandsindbank.co.in/ content/recuitment **ZONAL MANAGER**

THOFC BANK

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Branch: 4, Mangoe Lane, 5th Floor, Surendra Mohan Ghosh Sarani, Kolkata- 700001. Tel: (033)- 6608-6234 CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 Website: www.hdfcbank.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of HDFC Bank Limited (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) (HDFC) under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security nterest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to HDFC, within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated hereinbelow in their respective names, together with further interest @ 18% p.a. as detailed in

he said Demand Notices from the respective dates mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realisation, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to HDFC by the said Borrower (s) respectively. Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to

edeem the secured asset/s Name of Borrower(s) Total Description of Secured Asset(s) / Immovable Property (ies) Legal Heir(s) / Legal Outstanding Demand Representative(s) Dues Notice (d) (c) The property being Apartment No.: MN-VIII 3D, admeasuring 650 sq. ft. (60.40 sq. 18.02.2025 Mr. Abhishek Ghosh 9,59,851/mtrs) (sbu) approx., on the Third Floor of Block: Manasi-VIII of the housing complex know as "Sunrise Junction", constructed upon land admeasuring 354 cottahs 13. as on 30.09.2024 * chittaks more por less, situated at Mouza: Kumarhat, RS Dag Nos.: 2652, 2666, Co-Borrower: 2667, 2654, 2759, 2655, 2742 - 2749, 2750 - 2762, 2742/3568, 2764, 2768, 2769, Mrs. Padmabati Ghosh 2767, 2765, 27763, 2652, 2654 - 2658, 2660, 2661, 2846, 2854, 2856/3561, 2874, 2848, 2843, 2846/3561, 2845/3606, 2843, 2766, 2844, 2843, 2846, LRP 332, 2845, 2769, Khatian No.: 69, 449, 450, 296, 448, 75, 354/1174, 47, 74, 307, 223, 307, 308, 6, 74/1125, 46/47, 43, 999, 70, 316, 54, 6059, 49, 31, 272/216, 272/169, LR815, 52, LR208, 77, 145, LRP 332, 170, 171, 373, 1182, LR592, 188, 145, 653, 296, 448, 62, Hal 42, 543, 946, within the limits of Dhapdhapi - I Gram Panchayat, P.S.: Baruipur, Dist.: South 24 Parganas, Pin: 743357, alongwith the undivided proportionate share of the land and construction thereon present and in future (the said property). Borrower: Rs. 18.02.2025 The property being Flat No.: B/E-2, admeasuring 945 sq. ft. (87.82 sq. mtrs) (sbu) Mr. Sanjay Kumar 24,82,104/approx., on the Fifth Floor of Block: B, together with one four wheeler car parking as on space admeasuring 104 sq. ft. (9.66 sq. mtrs) in the common car parking area of the 30.09.2024 * Ground Floor of the building known as "Gokuldham", constructed upon land Co-Borrower: admeasuring 73 sataks more or less, situated at Mouza : Hirapur, JL No.: 18, RS Plot Mrs. Anindita De No.: 4245, 3782, RS Khatian No.: 179, LR Plot No.: 4729, 4208, LR Khatian No.:

5630, within the limits of Ward No.: 106 of Asansol Municipal Corporation, P.S. Hirapur, Dist.: Paschim Burdwan, Pin : 713325, alongwith the undivided proportionate share of the land and construction thereon present and in future (the said property). The premises is butted and bounded as follows: On the North: River side Road, On the South: Property of RS Plot No.: 4245(P), On the East: Property of RS Plot No.: 4245, On the West: Property of RS Plot No.: 3781 The property being a flat admeasuring 780 sq. ft. (72.49 sq. mtrs.) (sbu) approx., on Borrower: Rs. the South - East side of the Second Floor of the building constructed upon land Mrs. Shampa Chakraborty 26,59,580/admeasuring 02 cottahs 13 chittaks more of less, situated at Mouza: Khanpur, JL as on No.: 46, EP No.: 746, SP No.: 392, CS Plot No.: 283(P), 284(P), within the limits of 31.08.2024 * Ward No.: 98 of Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Premises No.: 170/384, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Road, Postal Premises No.: 1/41A, Netaji Nagar, P.S.: Netaji Nagar, Kolkata: 700092, alongwith the undivided proportionate share of the land and construction thereon present and in future (the said property). The premises is butted

and bounded as follows : On the North : Property of EP No.: 745,

On the South: Property of EP No.: 748, On the East: Property of EP No.: 759,

For HDFC Bank Limited

On the West: 18 feet wide Colony Road with further interest @ 18% p.a. as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and / or realization If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to HDFC as aforesaid, then HDFC shall proceed against the above Secured Asset(s) / Immovable Property (ies under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset (s) immovable Property (ies), whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of HDFC. Any person who contravenes or abets

Date: 06.03.2025 Place: Kolkata

Sd/- Hirak Kumar Parai Authorised Officer Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013

contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

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Hunger lost

India's economic ambitions rest on its ability to foster a generation of entrepreneurs willing to take risks, build industries, and create jobs. Yet, a troubling trend has emerged ~ many young business heirs and well-educated professionals prefer managing inherited wealth rather than venturing into operational businesses. This shift away from production and innovation toward financial management poses long-term concerns for India's industrial and economic future. The younger generation of business leaders often gravitates toward investment management, trading, and running family offices rather than engaging in manufacturing or core business operations. Unlike their predecessors, who built enterprises from the ground up, many of today's wealthy young entrepreneurs focus on maintaining and growing financial assets. While wealth preservation is important, an economy thrives when individuals create and scale businesses, generating employment and industrial growth. This preference for financial management over business creation is not confined to business families. Even among the middle class, a similar trend is visible. Engineering graduates increasingly opt for finance, consulting, or managerial roles rather than engaging in core engineering or manufacturing. The rapid growth of the services sector, particularly IT and financial services, has made desk jobs in metro cities more attractive than factory-based roles. The perception that managing money is more prestigious and rewarding than building tangible businesses has gained ground over decades, further discouraging industrial entrepreneurship. Several factors contribute to this shift. Cultural attitudes play a major role ~ working in finance or technology is often seen as more sophisticated than managing production on the factory floor. In many business families, young successors now prefer urban lifestyles over the demanding realities of running manufacturing operations in remote industrial hubs. Additionally, regulatory changes and technological advancements have enabled many Indian entrepreneurs to manage their businesses remotely from overseas financial centres. This detachment from core business operations weakens India's manufacturing potential. Unlike countries such as China, where industrial entrepreneurs aggressively expand their operations, India's nextgeneration business leaders often shy away from the challenges of scaling production. As a result, India continues to lag in manufacturing, missing opportunities to create globally competitive industrial enterprises. Reversing this trend requires a cultural and structural shift. Business families must encourage young successors to gain hands-on experience in operations rather than taking a shortcut to wealth management. Educational institutions should emphasise entrepreneurship in manufacturing and industrial sectors, not just finance and services. The government, too, must make manufacturing more attractive by ensuring ease of business, reducing compliance burdens, and incentivising industrial investment. India needs entrepreneurs who are hungry to build, not just manage. Sustainable economic growth depends on individuals willing to innovate, take risks, and drive industrial expansion. If the country fails to revive its manufacturing and entrepreneurial spirit, it risks stagnation, with wealth merely circulating within financial

Trapped Refugees

markets instead of creating real economic value.

The forced deportation of Afghan refugees from Pakistan underscores the grim reality faced by displaced populations who find themselves at the mercy of shifting political priorities. For decades, Pakistan has hosted millions of Afghans, many of whom fled conflict, persecution, and economic collapse in their homeland. However, as geopolitical tensions rise and Pakistan enforces stricter immigration policies, these refugees are being pushed into an impossible choice ~ live in fear or return to a country where their safety is far from assured. The situation is particularly dire for those with past associations with Afghanistan's former government and security forces. Despite the Taliban's assurances of a general amnesty, reports continue to surface of targeted killings and persecution. Families that sought refuge in Pakistan after the Taliban takeover in 2021 are now being forced back, with little consideration for the dangers they might face. Many have spent years in Pakistan, building lives, raising children, and contributing to local economies, only to find themselves labeled as illegal migrants and subjected to mass arrests and deportations. Pakistan's decision to expel undocumented Afghans is not happening in isolation. It reflects broader regional tensions, particularly concerning cross-border security issues. Pakistan has accused Afghanistan-based militant groups of orchestrating attacks on its soil, leading to a hardening of policies towards Afghan refugees. While national security concerns are legitimate, the indiscriminate crackdown on vulnerable refugees ~ many of whom have no ties to militancy ~ raises serious ethical and humanitarian questions. The plight of these refugees is compounded by the bureaucratic inertia of international organisations and resettlement programmes. Thousands of Afghans who were promised relocation to Western countries remain in limbo, unable to access legal pathways to safety. Reports suggest that even those recognised by international refugee agencies as deserving of protection have not been spared from deportation. The slow-moving resettlement process has left many stranded, exposing them to arbitrary arrests, poor detention conditions, and forced returns. The broader issue at play here is the lack of a sustainable, humane refugee policy in the region. Pakistan is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, which means it does not formally recognise asylum seekers under international law. Instead, Afghan refugees in Pakistan exist in a legal grey zone ~ permitted to stay for decades yet never granted real security. This policy vacuum has made them vulnerable to shifting political winds, where one moment they are tolerated and the next they are treated as a national burden. A lasting solution requires a multi-pronged approach. International organisations must expedite the resettlement of vulnerable Afghans, while Pakistan and other host countries should be encouraged to adopt a more compassionate approach to refugees. Afghanistan's Taliban-led government must also be held accountable for creating conditions that force millions to flee. Until these measures are taken, Afghan refugees will continue to live in fear ~ unwanted in the countries they fled to and unsafe in the land they once called home.

Fatuous Sagacity~III

It may sound almost blasphemous to say that economists have, more often than not, done more harm than good to society and the world at large. No doubt economists have made significant contributions in creating awareness about the need to improve material life and showing the possible road maps for human progress, human welfare and economic development of the global community. But history has also been a saga of failed economic experiments

athematization of economics propelled the discipline of political economy to the pedestal of pure science making it a complex discipline. The fact that economic theories can never be proved by scientific experiments is enough to show that it cannot be categorized as a 'science' subject. The entry of a large number of mathematicians encroaching upon the domains of economics led to an adage: "bad mathematicians make good economists." While many of the Classical and Neo-Classical economists had been mathematicians, none of them tried to mathematicize economics and only used graphical and geometrical figures to explain things. It is only after the publication in 1958 of the book, Linear Programming and Economic Analysis authored by Dorfman, Samuelson and Solow (DOSSO) that many mathematical techniques and models developed during the wartime like linear programming, inputoutput analysis, game theories etc. invaded economics in a big way making economics almost a part of mathematical science (mathematics is considered as the "purest" science). Among Indian economists, US-returned scholars like Sukhamoy Chakravarty started teaching DOSSO at Presidency College and later in the Delhi School of Economics but students like me could hardly understand anything except his dancing teaching style.

Today, the world boasts of thousands of good economists all over the world and millions of students study economics in schools, colleges, universities and academic institutions making it the most popular and sought after discipline. More students take economics as the mainstream subject than any other discipline making it one of the most important, if not the most important, subject of study. Greater job opportunities beckon students doing post-graduate and PhD in economics. In many democratic countries like India there are economic advisory councils to the prime ministers and the presidents, economic advisors to the government and an organized economic service in the bureaucracy. The Central banks, the commercial banks and corporates appoint teams of economists to

play the role of advisors. It may sound almost blasphemous to say that economists have, more often than not, done more harm than good to society and the world at large. No doubt economists have made significant contributions in creating awareness about the need to improve material life and showing the possible road maps for human progress, human welfare and economic development of the global community. But history has also been a saga of failed economic experiments. Conflicting economic theories, models and ideological bias have created considerable confusion at the macroeconomic level. At the microeconomic level too, concepts and theories which are mostly abstract models have had indirect adverse psychological effects on humanity.

From the philosophical point of view, concepts like 'insatiable human desire,' 'maximization of consumer utility', 'maximization of production' maximization of profits', 'maximization of



sales', 'no limits of economic development' and popular economic jargon have given rise to crass consumerism, materialism, greed, unethical competition, unethical production, unethical advertising and sales completely ignoring the social cost and the environmental damage.

Economic failures are never attributed to economists who take the high moral ground of invincibility of their theories and easily shift the burden to politicians who fail to understand the inherent flaws in the economic models. Development models like the Harrod-Domar model, the Solow-Swan model, the Lewis model, Rostow's stages of economic growth and endogenous growth models for economic development for the under-developed countries have hardly made any good and met with failures not because of the

politicians but because of the basic flaws in the models which were abstract mathematical formulations. There is perhaps no instance where the prescriptions given by the top economists of the IMF for structural adjustments in the developing countries have succeeded in reviving their economies. This is obvious because there are too many varia-

bles in society and economic models built with restricted variables are bound to be abstract and impracticable ignoring the social, political and cultural factors.

A monumental failure of the economic community was observed in 2007-2008 when the world was passing through its worst economic crisis in history. At that time, at least one hundred top economists including dozens of Nobel laureates in economics were living in the USA but except for an indication from one economist, Joseph Stiglitz, none of the top economists could predict the coming disaster. Over confident (or arrogant!) economists working in the IMF, the World Bank, the Reserve Banks and in the governments exude a belief that they have solutions for every economic ill. But their macroeconomic predictions about national income, growth rates, inflation, foreign trade, FDI and the nation's economic health have, more often than not, gone wrong. By what name should we call them

~ economic astrologers? According to many experts, the discipline of economics cannot be regarded as an exact and integrated 'science' because of the multiplicity of theories and models on the same economic phenomena. The theories are also based on assumptions rather than on reality making their validity controversial. Since economics deals with human activity and behaviour which cannot be exactly predicted, economic theories are at best an indicator of what may actually happen. Economics as a discipline is also fragmented into multiple disciplines and the economists are sharply divided among themselves being worshippers of different political ideologies and therefore, are not able to reach unanimity on any matter.

It appears no economist is free from political bias and their political convictions have coloured their economic ideas, theories and models. Economics has branched out into different disciplines cultivated by various schools of thought ~ the Cambridge School, the London School, the Lausanne School, the

> the Chicago School, the Harvard-MIT School, the historical school, the Marxist School etc. Accordingly, the economists are branded as capitalistic or free-market economists, Marxist economists, Socialist economists, mixed economists and Islamic economists depending on their political ideology. Economists are vertically

divided into two

Austrian School,

major camps ~ the capitalist camp and socialist camp. The capitalist or the free market democratic economists do not consider socialist economics as part of mainstream economics while socialist or left economists consider the capitalist economists as reactionary. Economic theories, ideas and models, often conflicting and contradictory, developed by the opposing schools of thought, especially by the Marxist and Socialist Schools, have created more confusion and disaster than providing real time solutions to economic problems, which the economists are supposed to do.

It will be seen that the discipline of economics cannot be divorced from politics and political bias and that is why the classical and neo-classical economists had named the subject as Political Economy and they were all known as political economists. Application and validity of economic theories are dependent on the political and economic system a country has adopted. Success of Macroeconomic theories and models concerning Money, Capital, Taxation, Trade, Inflation, Growth, Public Finance and Economic Development etc. will depend on the political system, the governance system and basically the political will. The manner in which the largest economy

is functioning today, can there be any distinction between politics and economics? Increasing mathematization of economics has made it an abstract science which has little utility in the world in providing practical solutions to economic problems. Therefore, there is a need to revisit the core issues of economics and its utility to society and whether economists should de-mathematize economics to make it a practical and useful discipline of political economy for the welfare of the people. A word needs to be said about the so-called Nobel Prize in Economics and the Nobel Laureates in Economics. The Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences officially known as Sveriges Riksbank Prize for Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel was instituted in 1968 by an endowment from Sweden's central bank Sveriges Riksbank to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the bank and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences was assigned the task of selecting the winner/winners of the prize. This prize is commonly known as the

of the world, the United States,

Nobel Prize in Economics. The first prize awarded in 1969 went to the Dutch economist Jan Tinbergen and the Norwegian economist Ragnar Frisch "for having developed and applied dynamic models for the analysis of economic processes." As of 2024, 56 prizes in economic sciences have been given to 96 individuals. The University of Chicago has produced the maximum number of laureates in economics (17) followed by Harvard (13) and MIT (15).

The award of the prize has been mired in controversy from its very inception. The Riksbank prize has nothing to do with the will and endowment of Alfred Nobel for award of prizes in five areas only ~ physics, chemistry, medicine, literature and peace. Therefore, to designate the Riksbank prize as a Nobel Prize would be unfair and a misnomer notwithstanding the fact that the same process of selection of Nobel laureates by the Swedish Academy of Sciences had been adopted. Because of this reason, three of Alfred Nobel's inheritors distanced themselves from this prize. Moreover, awarding the Prize to non-economists and controversial reactionary economists has invited further criticism. A number of economists like Gunnar Myrdal suggested abolishing the Prize. Since the question of misusing Nobel's name had surfaced, suggestions for an alternative name have come from many quarters. One suggestion has been to name it as the Riksbank International Prize in Economics or simply International Prize for Economic Sciences on the same pattern as the International Prize for Statistics, which is also popularly known as the Statistics Nobel. The International Prize in Statistics modelled after Nobel Prizes is awarded every two years at the World Statistical Congress for outstanding scientific work in the field of Statistics, the last recipient being the famous Indian Statistician, C R Rao. Statistics as a scientific tool with wider applications in all disciplines and activities and great contributions to humanity makes it a more deserving candidate for being called a 'Nobel Prize' than economics. (Concluded)



Vol. CXXXXXIX 55

ASIAN VOICES

New quality productive forces an innovative engine

ew quality productive forces are advanced productive forces, a new development paradigm, which help improve labor resources and objectives, leading to improved total factor productivity. President Xi Jinping proposed the concept of new quality productive forces in 2023, and the third plenary session of the 20th Communist Party of China Central Committee in July 2024 has been promoting the development of new quality productive forces based on local conditions to propel high-quality development.

Developing new quality productive forces is crucial for achieving highquality development, and promoting high-level openness can cultivate a favorable environment for the development of new quality productive forces. Technological innovation will lead the construction of a modern industrial system, which is key to transitioning from traditional to modern productivity systems and advancing new quality

productive forces. And promoting higher-level openness will break down the barriers hindering the flow of innovative elements across the world, and unleash domestic innovation potential. China should therefore take measures to create a high-level international business environment conducive to attracting global elements of new quality productive forces. To create such an environment, China can learn from high-standard global market rules, regulations and management, and expand institutional

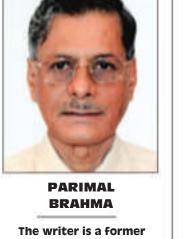
openness. To build a transparent, stable and predictable institutional environment, China needs to strengthen regulations for intellectual property rights (IPR) protection, industry subsidies, environmental standards, labor protection, government procurement, e-commerce and finance.

To attract talents, it should explore high-level talent immigration systems across the world, especially in sectors such as artificial intelligence (AI) and quantum computing. And to advance technology, it should build world-class element transaction markets, and develop new transaction methods for fields such as intellectual property securitization, technology options trading, and carbon financial derivatives.

Besides, China can attract global digital giants if it embraces high-standard trade rules such as those adopted by the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement ~ which is a pioneer in digital economy and green trade ~ strengthen IPR protection, establish world-class IPR dispute resolution centers, update the negative list for cross-border service trade, expand pilot projects for service sector openness, and encourage professional global services.

The country also needs to build a modern industrial system by strengthening cooperation in global industry and supply chains, while leveraging its massive market demand, rich application scenarios, and comprehensive industrial supporting systems to provide favorable conditions for transnational corporations' innovative development.

Besides, China ought to expand openness and reduce limits to foreign investment in manufacturing, hightech, energy conservation and environmental protection, and introduce pilot programs for foreign investment in the fields of technological innovation, foreign-funded R&D centers, and foreign companies in national projects. It needs to improve foreign investment management and protection mechanisms to strengthen cooperation in global industry and supply chains. Through a "scientist-entrepreneur-investor" development mechanism, and a global innovation chain of "researchtech breakthroughs-achievementstech finance", the country can create a new global industrial ecology.



Dv. Comptroller & Auditor General of India and a forme Ombudsman of Reserve Bank

editor@thestatesman.com

Enslaved

SIR, It is indeed a matter of concern that human exploitation crosses its limits and takes the form of slavery. It took so many years for nations to do away with slavery, bonded labour and such abominations. Deterrent legal provisions are in place to punish those practicing or encouraging such inhuman systems. Still they are not eradicated.

Pro-rich policies being pursued in a majority of the countries and leave many employable youth jobless, rendering them vulnerable to abject exploitation. There is no effective check over the way money seeks to multiply

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR itself. Many a times it takes predatory forms also. The process of earning profit knows no bounds and even leads to gaining control

> over governments. Luring youth, exploiting them in inhuman ways and forcing them to indulge in fraudulent financial activities cannot happen without the knowledge of the countries concerned. The undue time they take to punish the culprits and repatriate victims confirm their callousness.

> Exploitation and practicing slavery has many faces. Girls of poor vulnerable families are lured with offers of fabulous jobs abroad, where they are married to rich persons to serve as housemaids without any rights or priv

concubines of the rich masters. Even paying low salaries, employ-

ileges. Some of them are used as ing under different systems such as contract, outsourced, casual, contingent, etc., for a meagre

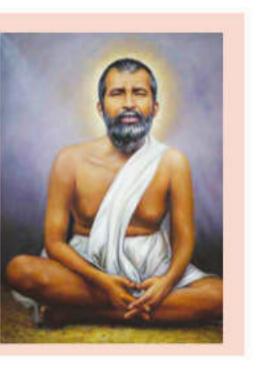
salary is a form of slavery. Yours, etc., A G Rajmohan, Anantapur, 4 March.

AN ANTIDOTE

SIR, The birthday of Sri Ramakrishna, as per the Bengali lunar calendar, was celebrated on March 1. Sri Ramakrishna asked us to rescue ourselves from religious dogma. He said, "There are many doors to God's house... No matter which door you enter through, you get in the house." He was the one who walked the talk. He practiced Islam for some days and religiously followed its path. Then again, he practiced Christianity for a brief period. He thus practiced what he preached.

"Many opinions, many paths." Swami Vivekananda said. "Each human being embodies God. This is what I have learned from my Master, Sri Ramakrishna." Sri Ramakrishna's message is an antidote to inhumanity, religious hatred, and untouchability.

Yours, etc., Sujit De, Kolkata, 3 March.





New armour for an age-old battle

AKGHOSH

las, slowly will Tamil perish/As languages of the West flourish." This was a Tamil poet's Lear in the early 20th century. ■ But Subramania Bharati's apprehensions were unfounded. Tamil found its savior in none other than the Government of India. Tamil was made a classical language.

The UPA government's elevation of Tamil was, of course, far from disinterested, and seemed to be done against the recommendations of some of the academic members of the Centre's committee of languages. A promise to this effect was in the UPA's common minimum programme, and the then President's first address to Parliament had also raised hope~particularly of M Karunanidhi, leader of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. Ironically, the DMK's anti-Hindi movement in the mid-1960s was set off by the Congress' insistence on making Hindi the country's sole official language.

Keeping the heat on the Centre over its recent stand on the 3-language formula to be made mandatory for the release of funds for the state under the SSA programme, and quoting a poem of yet another poet Bharathidashan, the TN chief minister made it clear that manipulation to impose Hindi would never succeed with the Tamils. A rough translation of the poem is "Hindi, if you step into the Dravidian land of happiness, your feet will be chopped off".

Recently, condemning the public sector LIC for making Hindi the default language in its widely used website, MK Stalin described it as linguistic tyranny and demanded its immediate rollback.

As if it were an ill-conceived idea of the Centre to celebrate Hindi nationalism to revive the latent but divisive language controversy plaguing the nation for quite a long time, there have been protests from southern states warning the Centre that ham-handed attempts to popularize Hindi would lead to serious consequences.

Under attack from then TN chief minister Jayalalitha and political parties in the states, the UGC had to withdraw, in 2014, its controversial circular directing universities to teach Hindi as one of the primary languages in undergraduate courses.

Karunanidhi's push for Tamil as an official language was grounded in

his belief that Tamil, as "the first mother tongue in the world" is superior to both English and Hindi. The argument necessarily relegated other languages to an inferior status. This was a case of linguistic chauvinism.

Not surprisingly then, the Tamil Nadu government's decision to make Tamil not only a compulsory language of study but also the medium of instruction from nursery to middle schools from the 1999-2000 academic year stirred a hornet's nest. The chief minister announced that recognition would be granted only to schools following the new guidelines.

Sometime ago, there was a row over Hindi when Home Minister Amit Shah stirred the hornet's nest by seeking to assert the need for a common language for India, that is Hindi. It aroused the fear that Hindi imperialism, as envisaged, would jeopardize Nehru's assurances about the continuing importance of English as India's official language.

Interestingly, there is a great myth about Hindi being given the haloed status of the official language of the Union of India by the eighth schedule of the Constitution. This has won a sizable number of opponents among the non-Hindi speaking states.

In fact, Hindi began to be regarded as having a distinct identity in the 19th century when movements were launched to replace Urdu with Hindi as the language of law courts and administration in the northern States. Nagari Pracharini Sabha, founded at Benaras in 1893, helped to further its cause. Brahmo Samaj, Arya Samaj and intellectuals like Bhudeb Mukhopadhyay paved the way for the acceptance of Hindi as the link language in India.

So, notwithstanding Gandhi's claim that Hindi and Urdu were but one language written in two different scripts, the few decades preceding Independence saw bitter rivalry between the two.

Hindi won in the end. Members of the Constituent Assembly had no doubt about what it would be like. Article 351 declares: "It shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language... and to secure it's enrichment by assimilating, without interfering with its genius, the forms, style and expressions used in Hindustani and in other languages of India specified in the Eighth Schedule and by drawing whenever necessary or desirable, for its vocabulary, primarily on Sanskrit and secondarily on other languages." Had



this been followed faithfully by our Central leaders in the past 70 years, Rashtrabhasha would have by now acquired a true all-India character.

At the outset there was an attempt to follow this constitutional directive. In 1962, BV Keskar was replaced as the Minister of Information and Broadcasting by B Gopala Reddy, and the Persianization (Urduization) of Hindi began. Gradually it became incomprehensible to the non- Hindi speakers, prompting C Rajagopalachari to coin the slogan, "Hindi never, English ever". Hindi now meets with as much opposition as did English before independence and on similar grounds.

What the rashtrabhasha advocates do not appear to understand is that even the slightest hint of compulsion revives the controversy and politicizes the entire issue. As the language of almost the whole of North India, Hindi undoubtedly enjoys a pre-eminent place among the Indian languages. Being the language of India's thriving cinema industry, its popularity is not confined to any geographical region. But this has come about because of the natural logic of the market place and not through imposition. If the Centre left the question of language to economics rather than politics, its purpose would be served gradually, but far more effectively.

Hasty decisions seemed to have paid scant attention to the plight of the linguistic minorities in the state. The 1965 anti-Hindi agitation in Madras was largely responsible for the Congress losing power in the state

and the Dravidian parties occupying Fort St. George.

The 1965 agitation was given up following the assurance that English would continue to be the official language as long as the non-Hindi speaking people wanted it. The agitation had led to major political changes. The DMK captured power in the 1967 assembly elections and thereafter the Congress never came to power in Tamil Nadu. The Official Languages Act was eventually amended in 1967 to guarantee the indefinite use of Hindi and English as official languages. This effectively ensured the current "virtual indefinite policy of bilingualism" of the Indian Republic. Also, there were smaller agitations in 1968 and 1986,

which had varying degrees of success. C Rajagopalachari, the first Governor-General of independent India gave the slogan "English ever, Hindi never" in 1967 to the anti-Hindi agitators and ensured continued use of English as an official language. As Congress Chief Minister of Madras Province in 1937, he had tried to propagate Hindi in southern India. On 21 April 1938, he issued a government order making the teaching of Hindi compulsory in all higher secondary schools in the Presidency. It was met with instant opposition and he had to resign. He learned the hard way and became a supporter of anti-Hindi imposition.

A row over the Union Home Ministry's directive asking for the use of Hin'i on the Government of India's social media platforms snowballed,

and more political leaders and chief ministers came out with sharp criticism of it. DMK president M Karunanidhi, whose party had successfully led the anti-Hindi agitation in the 1960s, dubbed the move as a beginning of "imposition of Hindi" that would make non-Hindi speaking people second class citizens.

Heritage is linked with languages and so political parties would have to devise ways and means to get through. Why then are some political leaders hastening the process without considering the sentiments of non-Hindi speaking people?

That many Tamils wish to learn Hindi now in an apparent reversal of history says much of the intricate, often ironic, links between language and power. Of the learners of Hindi language courses and degrees in Hindi medium taught by the Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha, many are from Tamil Nadu. Almost the same is the case with the students of correspondence courses in Hindi taught by the Central Hindi Directorate. With New India's growing prosperity, Hindi has become a language of power, not only because Bollywood dominates entertainment, but because good jobs demand mobility. Both English and Hindi are good to learn. The leaders concerned seem to have lost the key to history.

(The writer is former Associate Professor, Department of English, Gurudas College, Kolkata and author of Auntie English, English Quo Vadis and Nobel Prize in Literature: a case

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

THE result of the fifth Test match was anticipated after the M.C.C. failure in the first innings, and disappointment was discounted in advance. A decisive Australian victory, the M.C.C-scoring only 167 and 146, after the three previous wins, leaves no doubt of Australian superiority. They seem able to keep on unearthing new prodigies, and to afford to drop anyone, however brilliant, whose form has temporarily deserted him. This last game was in many respects a contrast to its predecessors. Scoring was low; there were no centuries; Sutcliffe, Hobbs, and Collins all failed, and generally the bowlers took the middle of the stage. Yet even Grimmett's 11 for 82 does not dwarf the excellence of the wicketkeeping. Strudwick caught and stumped four, and extras totalled 11 in the two Australian innings. Oldfield caught and stumped six, and extras totalled 9. The belief that the abolition of the long stop spoilt wicketkeeping, because wicket-keepers were so anxious about leg-balls that they missed chances of stumping and catching, lived bravely on from the far-off ages, but any spark of life it has retained can hardly survive these expositions of skill.

NEWS ITEMS

FOUR MONTHS' LEAVE

SECRETARY OF STATE'S INVITATION

(BRITISH OFFICIAL WIRELESS.)

IT is officially announced that the Secretary of State for India in Council has invited the Earl of Reading to come Home in April next for short leave not exceeding four months, in order to secure an opportunity of personal discussion with His Excellency. The Earl of Reading has

accepted the invitation. The King has been pleased to approve of the appointment of the Earl of Lytton, Governor of Bengal, to act as Viceroy and Governor-General during Lord Reading's absence on leave.

BENGAL MINISTRY OF TWO

HINDU AND MOSLEM AS PROBABLES

IN informed circles yesterday the opinion was expressed that the new Bengal Ministry is likely to consist of only two Ministers, of whom one would be a Mohammedan and the other a Hindu, with two Secretaries, also from the two communities, the Mohammedan Minister having a Hindu Secretary and vice-versa.

Nawab Nawab Ali Choudhuri Khan Bahadur is mentioned as a probable selection for one office, while for the other Babu Surendranath Roy, or, in the second place. Raja Manmatha Nath Roy Choudhuri of Santosh, is considered the most likely selection.

The opinion expressed amongst members of the Legislative Council was that votes for the salaries of a Ministry constituted on this basis would probably be

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE

SIMPLE INAUGURATION CEREMONY

WASHINGTON, MAR. 4.

As the result of President Coolidge's economy campaign, the ceremonies of the inauguration of Mr. Coolidge and General Dawes (Vice-President) were of the simplest kind, causing displeasure to merchants, tradespeople, and the citizens.

The day's events consisted in the taking of the oath by General Dawes in the Senate Chamber of the Capitol at noon, and Mr. Coolidge, outside the Capitol at one o'clock in the afternoon, in the presence of a vast throng. Mr. Taft administered the oath, after which there was a comparatively meagre inaugural procession from the Capitol to the White House, where Mr. Coolidge and General Dawes reviewed soldiers and sailors and met the

DISASTER AVERTED

HUGE BLAZE IN DANGER ZONE AT WOOLWICH

LONDON, MAR. 4.

Governors of States.

FIRE engines from all over London rushed out to-night to a blaze near Woolwich Arsenal. Thousands of persons watched the flames, which started in a tailor's shop and spread towards a gas factory. The damage already done is estimated at several thousands of pounds.

No casualties are reported so far. Had the wind been in the opposite direction, the fire would have reached the explosive factories and would have resulted in an appalling disaster.

A world gone horribly wrong

MAHIR ALI

ay what you like about Imran Khan but his sense of timing is impeccable. As prime minister in February 2022, he managed to turn up in Moscow on the day that Vladimir Putin launched his invasion of Ukraine. Last Friday, a comment bearing his byline appeared in Time magazine. After the usual breast-beating and selfaggrandisement, it hailed Donald Trump's resurrection as a remarkable "testament to resilience and the will of the people". On the day that Trump and his

deputy went out of their way to humiliate Ukraine's elected leader Volodymyr Zelenskky in the Oval Office, Imran looked "forward to his administration reaffirming its commitment to democratic principles, human rights, and the rule of law particularly in regions where authoritarianism threatens to undermine these values". Imran and his acolytes still seem to be counting on the elusive phone call that will mutate into a 'get out of jail free' card for him, and shameless flattery is the only way to grab Trump's attention — as Emmanuel Macron and Keir Starmer recently demonstrated.

It should be common knowledge, though, that Trump is also a fan of authoritarianism, and keen to emulate the likes of Javier Milei and Viktor

Orbán. He and the bunch of reprobates he has recruited have sowed chaos at both the domestic and international levels during the first 50 days of the second Trump regime.

Peace in Ukraine is desirable, but

on what terms? It's understandable at this stage for Zelenskky to bristle at the absence of Western security guarantees in Trump's ceasefire scenario — which relies on the hope that the involvement of American companies in excavating Ukraine's minerals (with the US banking half the profits) would suffice in Vladimir Putin's eyes as a deterrent to further military assaults. Demanding that Ukraine pay back all that it received in US military assistance since 2022 is extortion rather than a peace plan. Yet Zelenskky has been advised by the likes of Peter Mandelson, British ambassador to the US, to accept whatever Trump

That was before the US suspended military aid to Ukraine on Monday, possibly as a means of coercing Zelenskky to accept the same advice that Mandelson had proffered. The latter's boss, Starmer, might take a marginally different tack, but is equally desperate not to annoy Trump. Which is tricky, given that no one can be sure what might trigger the US president. Starmer's proposal for a European "coalition of the willing" to bolster Ukraine's defences with boots on the ground and warplanes in the air echoes the appellation attached to the military misadventure the UK walked into under Tony Blair by cosponsoring the 2003 disaster in Iraq.

Starmer's attitude aligns with

that of his counterparts in Nato and the European Union, which is to pursue the war until Putin cries uncle, or is overthrown and replaced by a more user-friendly Russian leader along the lines of Boris Yeltsin. Never say never, but that is unlikely. Some of the EU's American frenemies, meanwhile, have been suggesting that Zelenskky should resign — for the crime of not bending the knee to Emperor Donald and J.D. Vance, the president's pet Chihuahua who likes to pretend he's a Rottweiler. In subsequent social media comments, Trump again slammed Zelensky for saying that a ceasefire was "very, very far away", and mocked European powers for acknowledging "that they cannot do the job without the US".

What exactly, though, is "the job"? Viewed in a broader historical context, it's understandable why western Europe might have latched on to America as its saviour and security guarantor in the immediate afterm¬ath of World War II, although even that arguably was an error, but what prevented it from seeking full independence in the decades that followed? And what on earth persuaded European nations that



ought to have known better from embracing the American hegemon with even greater gusto once the Warsaw Pact perished and the Soviet Union imploded in 1989-91?

The sovereignty of the independent Ukraine that emerged in 1991 should not have been violated in 2014, let alone bludgeoned in 2022. But, while Putin's government alone bears responsibility for its aggression three years ago, for which there was no immediate provocation, Moscow could hardly have been expected to ignore the years-long wooing of Kyiv by Washington and Brussels, accompanied by consequential political interventions. It's not that Moscow wasn't culpable in the context of influence operations, or the naked aggression that followed their failure. However, as in the 1970s, some kind of entente with Russia is the obvious alternative to rearmament on steroids and hostility based on variants of age-old Russophobia.

Trump, Putin, the EU and Nato are ultimately the wretched consequences of a world gone wrong. What comes next is anyone's guess.

NO-293068

15 Pagan woman that is

seen on street in

17 Complain open clothes

permanently with

over ambassador's

21 Knife cut drawn up

will show boob

19 Resolved to live

duke (7)

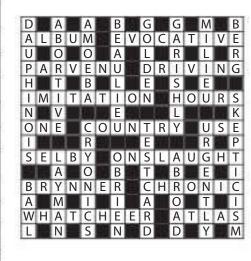
brain

crowd

Dawn/ANN.

CROSSWORD

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



ACROSS

- 1 See 19 4/18 Bad motion edit close to release delayed film (2,4,2,3) 10 With which one sees
- stars become smaller 11 Number with hatred for decimalisation?
- 12 Albanian yeoman keeps whichever is chosen (3)

13 Reports latest bands

- crossing fine line (4,7)Beetle, or small mobile
- 16 Contemptible male American gets around in love (7)
- 18 See 4 19/1 Elite soldiers police volunteers without
- 20 Following on is straightforward
- 22 One leaving coaches to consider electrical
- again? (3) 26 See BBC boss back to the Masonic premises
- horse moves 29 Hit with a band? (6)
- 25 Hang from gallows (5,4)
- 27 College group has three miles on climber 28 Groom to get on as
- **DOWN**
- Wealthy types act fast to become corrupt Rarely in trouble, expert passing competition
 - Odd characters from East Sheen in German city (5)
- Sooner or later does he say? Often that's nonsense
- (3,2,5,4)One remedy having answer for universal solitude **Urban district**
- contained within barrier it has One trapped in large marsh for slow
- absorption outside in-patient
- lavatory?
- Progressive splitting

- introduced to beer become confused

23 Two daughters

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

hrld

Donald Trump vows to press ahead on reshaping America

Trump's prime-time speech was the latest marker in his takeover of the nation's capital

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON, 5 MARCH

resident Donald Trump vowed Tuesday to keep up his campaign of "swift and unrelenting action" in reorienting the nation's economy, immigration and foreign policy in an unyielding address before Congress that left Democratic legislators to register their dissent with stone faces, placards calling out "lies," and one legislator's ejection.

Trump's prime-time speech was the latest marker in his takeover of the nation's capital, where the Republican-led House and Senate have done little to restrain the president as he and his allies work to slash the size of the federal government and remake America's place



in the world.

The president's address, clocking in at a record 99 minutes, added up to a defiant sales pitch for the policies that Trump promised during his campaign and leaned into during his first weeks back in office. Trump pledged to keep delivering sweeping change to rescue the nation from what he described as destruction and mistakes left

by his predecessor. He seldom addressed his comments directly to the American people, who are trying to keep up with the recent upheaval, while repeatedly needling

seated before him. Michigan Sen. Elissa Slotkin, who delivered the Democratic response following Trump's speech, allowed that "America wants change,

the Democratic lawmakers

but there's a responsible way to make change and a reckless way, and we can make that change without forgetting who we are as a country and as a democracy."

Emboldened after overcoming impeachments in his first term, outlasting criminal prosecutions in between his two administrations and getting a tight grip on the GOPled Congress, Trump has embarked on a mission to dismantle parts of the federal government, remake the relationship with America's allies and slap on tariffs that have sparked a North American trade war.

"It has been nothing but swift and unrelenting action," Trump said of his opening weeks in office. "The people elected me to do the job, and I am doing it."

Trump, who has billionaire

adviser Elon Musk orchestrating his efforts to slash the size and scope of the federal government, said he is working to "reclaim democracy from this unaccountable bureaucracy" and threatened federal workers anew with firings if they resist his agenda.

Musk, who was seated in the House gallery, received a pair of standing ovations from Republicans in the chamber, as Trump exaggerated and shared false claims about alleged government abuse uncovered by the Tesla and SpaceX founder and his team of disrupters.

Trump repeated false claims that tens of millions of dead people over 100 years old are receiving Social Security payments, prompting some Democrats to shout "Not true!" and "Those are

Trump says Zelenskyy wants peace and is ready to accept a minerals deal after White House blowup

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON, 5 MARCH

President Donald Trump said Tuesday that Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy had written to him to say he appreciates U.S. support for his country in its war with Russia and is ready to sign a deal that could ensure future American support.

In a speech to Congress following last week's disastrous meeting at the White House, Trump said Zelenskyy had told him that Ukraine is ready to negotiate a peace deal with Russia as soon as possible and would accept a critical minerals agreement with the U.S. to facilitate

Trump's remarks came after Vice President JD Vance, who was a major player in the breakdown between the president and Zelenskyy on Friday, struck a new nerve

Trump's trade war draws swift retaliation with

with allies by offering skeptical comments about a potential international security force for postwar Ukraine proposed by Britain and France.

"Earlier today, I received an important letter from President Zelenskyv of Ukraine," Trump said. Quoting from the letter, Trump said Zelenskyy told him that "Ukraine is ready to come to the negotiating table as soon as possible to bring lasting peace closer. Nobody wants peace more than the Ukrainians."

"My team and I stand ready to work under President Trump's strong leadership to get a peace that lasts,' Trump quoted Zelenskyy as writing. "We do really value how much America has done to help Ukraine maintain its sovereignty and independence."

Trump added that Zelenskyy said he was ready to sign the minerals deal "at any time that is convenient for you."

Although Trump said he "appreciated" getting the letter, he did not say if it would affect his policy toward Ukraine, which on Monday was dominated by his decision to pause military aid to the country.

Earlier Tuesday, Vance had said the minerals deal would be a more practical deterrent against Russian President Vladimir Putin than a peacekeeping force for postwar Ukraine that includes "some random coun-

In an interview with Fox News Channel's Sean Hannity, Vance said the economic pact with Kyiv sought by Trump "is a way better security guarantee than 20,000 troops from some random country that hasn't fought a war in 30 or 40 years."

Replying to Trump, Democrats warn US friendships fraying, trade war threatening economy

AGENCIES

In the customary rebuttal to the President's address to Congress, the Democrats have warned that US friendships with allies are fraying, while the trade war is threatening the economy.

"Today's world is deeply interconnected. Migration, cyber threats, AI, environmental destruction, terrorism - one nation cannot face these issues alone. We need friends in all corners - and our safety depends on it," Senator Elissa Slotkin said in her nationally televised speech on behalf of the Democratic Party after President



Donald Trump addressed the joint session of Congress on Tuesday.

Invoking another Republican President, she said: "[Ronald] Reagan understood that true strength required America to combine our military and economic might with moral clarity."

But after the way Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky was treated last week at the Oval Office by Trump, she said: "Reagan must be rolling over in his grave."

"As a Cold War kid, I'm thankful it was Reagan and not Trump in office in the 1980s. Trump would have lost us the Cold War," she said, accusing him of "cosying up" to Russia's President Vladimir Putin while "kicking our friends, like Canada, in the teeth".

At the global level, she said although the US is not perfect, "I would rather have American leadership over Chinese or Russian leadership any day of the week".

new tariffs from Mexico, Canada and China

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON, 5 MARCH

President Donald Trump launched a trade war Tuesday against America's three biggest trading partners, drawing immediate retaliation from Mexico, Canada and China and sending financial markets into a tailspin as the U.S. faced the threat of rekindled inflation and paralyzing uncertainty for business.

Just after midnight, Trump imposed 25 per cent taxes, or tariffs, on Mexican and Canadian imports, though he limited the levy to 10 per cent on Canadian energy. Trump also doubled the tariff he slapped

last month on Chinese products to 20 per cent.

Beijing retaliated with tariffs of up to 15 per cent on a wide array of U.S. farm exports. It also expanded the number of U.S. companies subject to export controls and other restrictions by about two dozen.

In an address to Congress Tuesday night, Trump repeated two different explanations for his tariffs on Canada and Mexico. He cited the trade deficits the U.S. has with both countries, but also said, "they've allowed fentanyl to come into our country at levels never seen before, killing hundreds of thousands of our citizens."



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said his country would plaster tariffs on over \$100 billion (U.S. dollars) of American goods over the course of 21 days.

"Today the United States launched a trade war against Canada, their closest partner and ally, their closest friend. At the same time, they are



talking about working positively with Russia, appeasing Vladimir Putin, alying, murderous dictator. Make that make sense," Trudeau said.

Later in the day, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said the U.S. would likely meet Canada and Mexico "in the middle," with an announcement coming as soon as

Wednesday.

Lutnick told Fox Business News that the tariffs would not be paused, but that Trump would reach a compromise.

"I think he's going to figure out, you do more, and I'll meet you in the middle in some way," Lutnick said.

A Canadian senior government official said Lutnick called Ontario Premier Doug Ford after Ford's press conference and asked him to stand down. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak publicly about the call, said Ford told the U.S. commerce secretary he'll go harder.

Arab leaders endorse Egypt's plan to rebuild Gaza as an alternative to Trump's proposal

AGENCIES

CAIRO, 5 MARCH

Arab leaders on Tuesday endorsed Egypt's postwar plan for the Gaza Strip that would allow its roughly 2 million Palestinians to remain, in a counterproposal to U.S. President Donald Trump's plan to depopulate the territory and redevelop it as a beach destination.

The \$53 billion plan's endorsement by Arab leaders at a summit in Cairo amounted to a rejection of Trump's proposal. The summit conclusions were welcomed by Hamas, rejected by Israel and given a lukewarm response by the Trump administration.



Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi expressed his appreciation for "the consensus among the Arab countries to support the reconstruction plan for the Gaza Strip, which allows the Palestinian People to stay on their land without displacement."

In a social media post after the summit, el-Sissi said he looked forward to working with Trump, other Arab nations and the international community "to adopt a plan that aims for a comprehensive and just settlement of the Palestinian

Issue, ends the root causes

of the Israeli Palestinian

conflict, guarantees the

security and stability of the

peoples of the region and establishes the Palestinian State." White House National

Security Council spokesman Brian Hughes dismissed the Egyptian proposal as unworkable.

"The current proposal does not address the reality that Gaza is currently unin-

habitable and residents cannot humanely live in a territory covered in debris and unexploded ordnance," Hughes said. "President Trump stands by his vision to rebuild Gaza free from Hamas. We look forward to further talks to bring peace and prosperity to the region."

A spokesperson for Israel's foreign ministry, Oren Marmorstein, posted on X that the Egyptian plan "fails to address the realities of the situation" and said the summit's joint communique does not mention Hamas' 7 October 2023 attack that sparked the war or condemn the militant group. The plan, he said, remains "rooted in outdated perspectives."

$Pope \, resting \, after \, sleeping \, through \, the \, night \, with \,$ aventilation mask as he battles pneumonia On Tuesday, he was

AGENCIES

VATICAN CITY, 5 MARCH

Pope Francis was resting Wednesday, the start of the solemn Lenten period leading up to Holy Week observances, after sleeping through the night with a ventilation mask as he undergoes hospital treatment for double pneumonia.

In its latest update, the Vatican said that the pope rested well overnight, waking up shortly after 8 a.m. Pope Francis remained in stable condition, with a guarded prognosis, meaning he was not out of danger.

The 88-year-old pope,



who has chronic lung disease and had part of one lung removed as a young man, had two respiratory crises on Monday in a setback to his recovery.

breathing with just the help of supplemental oxygen after respiratory crises a day earlier, but resumed using a ventilation mask at night, the Vatican said.

Francis' hospitalisation began on 14 February and is the longest of his 12-year papacy.

Francis' treatment continues as the Vatican prepares for Lent, the solemn period beginning with Ash Wednesday and leading up to Easter on 20 April. A cardinal has been designated to take Francis' place at Vatican celebrations, with a traditional service and procession in Rome

E LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

1 Meteor

3 Hasp.

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4 Myriad,

5 Disunity,

figures in parentheses denote

7 Antagonis-

11 Prohibit,

14 Roaming,

15 Custom,

17 Echo.

12.5herry,

15 Overhaul,

20 Exhibition

22 Logic.

ACROSS

4 Made (Mer-

8 Transgres-

10 Magnolia,

1 Myrrh

maid),

9 Omit.

BEETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



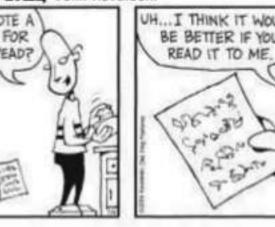




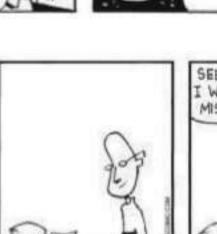




DADDY DAZE/John Kovaleski YOU WROTE A STORY FOR ME TO READ?









NEED TO KNOW

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

24 hrs Medical Oxygen BOC India Ltd. 9831277777 **Riood Banks**

Ashok Laboratory 24720333

Central Blood Bank 23510619 Lake: 2357-5293;

U. C. R. N. N. H. C.

H. E. L. C. A. O. R.

L. I. R. S. I. L. H.

A. A. L. R. I. T. C.

L. D. S. S. E. L. G.

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by JUDD

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

Lalbazar (Police Control Room) 22143230 . P. (North 24-Pgns) 25423005 S.P. (South 24-Pgns) 2479-3333/1311

TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

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MACK I - 6

MOK 1 - 71

MCK 4 - 61

AUDIOR FOTAL

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Police/Fire

Bhawani Bhawan 24791761/9, 24791933 Fire Service Station Salt

Howrah 2666-8111; Behala 2497-6285 Civic Services

Kolkata Municipal Corporation: 2286-1000 Water: 2543-1602 Calcutta Telephones Changed Number Announcement 1951,1952,1953

SUDOKU

Taxi Refusal SMS 575756: Complaint and registration

Transport Deptt. No. 6451-6718 **CESC Fault Reporting** 1912 and 4403-1912 Howrah Station Old Complex 1331/1332 (Auto Telephone

Numbers), 1310, 2638-

7412/3542/2581 (manual).

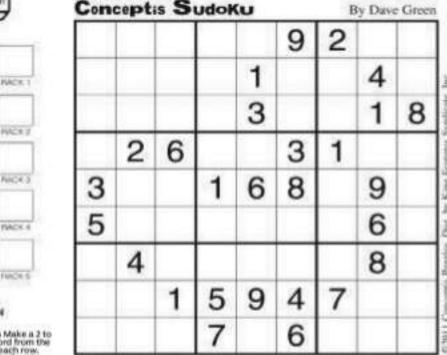
Shalimar Station: 2668-1121,

Eastern Railway and South-

Sealdah: 2350-3535/3537

Police Toll Free No. 1073

Eastern Railway: 139. By Dave Green





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.



China will increase its defence budget 7.2 per cent this year

China's military spending remains the second largest behind the USA's

AGENCIES

TAIPEI, 5 MARCH

hina said Wednesday it will increase its defence budget 7.2 per cent this year, as it continues its campaign to build a larger, more modern military to assert its territorial claims and challenge the U.S. defense lead in Asia.

China's military spending remains the second largest behind the U.S. and it already has the world's largest navy.

The budget, which adds up to about \$245 billion, was announced at the National People's Congress, the annual meeting of China's legislature. The Pentagon and many experts say China's total spending on defence may be 40 per cent higher or more because of items included under other budgets.

The boost is the same per-



centage as last year, far below the double-digit percentage increases of previous years and reflecting an overall slowdown in the economy. The nation's leaders have set a target of around 5 per cent growth for this year.

Tensions with the U.S., Taiwan, Japan and neighbours who have overlapping claims to the crucial South China Sea are seen as driving spending on increasingly high-tech military technologies. Those

include stealth fighters, the

country's three — soon to

be four — aircraft carriers,

and a broad expansion of its

nuclear arsenal China generally ascribes the budget increases to exercises and maintenance and improving the lives of its 2 million service members.

The People's Liberation Army—the military branch of the ruling Communist Party— has build bases on artificial islands in the South China Sea but its main objective is asserting Chinese control over Taiwan, a self-governing democracy Beijing claims as its own territory that has close ties to the U.S.

China deployed a smaller contingent of five planes and seven ships near Taiwan on Wednesday, just days after sending dozens of aircraft. Such missions are intended to demoralize and wear down Taiwan's defence, which have been bolstered by upgraded U.S. F-16s, tanks and missiles, along with domestically developed armaments.

In his comments at the Congress, Premier Li Qiang told the nearly 3,000 party loyalists that China still pre-

ferred a peaceful solution to the Taiwan issue, but "resolutely opposes" those pushing for Taiwan's formal independence and their foreign supporters.

"We will firmly advance the cause of China's reunification and work with our fellow Chinese in Taiwan to realise the glorious cause of the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation," Li said.

Taiwan's defence minister this week said the island is planning to boost military spending in the face of the "rapidly changing international situation and the escalating threats from adver-

Faced with slower growth, China will likely prioritise key strategic goals over social and economic reforms, said Antonia Hmaidi, a senior analyst with the Mercator Institute for China Studies.

Pakistanis mourn 18 people, including 5 soldiers, killed in a twin suicide bombing at an army base

AGENCIES

PESHAWAR, 5 MARCH

Acity in northwestern Pakistan was preparing for funeral prayers and observing a day of mourning Wednesday after a twin suicide bombing that targeted a military base the evening before killed 18 people, including five soldiers. A militant group linked

with the Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for the bombing in Bannu on Tuesday evening, which also left 42 wounded, some of them critically. It was the latest in a spate of violence, including suicide bombings, that has hit the country in recent days.

The attack unfolded with two suicide bombers first blowing themselves up first to breach the wall surrounding the base. Most of the local residents were breaking their daylong fast during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan or praying at a nearby mosque.

The powerful blasts tore through walls and ripped off roofs and also severely damaged the mosque. After the explosions, other attackers stormed the compound and set off a firefight with the troops.

A statement from the army's

media department on Wednesday said five soldiers and 16 militants were killed. It said the suicide bombers "rammed two explosive-laden vehicles into the perimeter wall" at the base. Gunshots could still be heard early Wednesday as security forces combed through the area, looking to clear it of any militants involved in the attack. At the scene of the bombings, a mechanical digger was clearing away rubble where homes used to stand, and debris-covered prayer mats lay crumpled on the mosque

A day of mourning was being observed, said Bannu community elder Alam Khan, and joint funeral prayers were

floor.

to be held for the victims at a sports complex in the area.

"All education institutions are closed," Khan said. "Most shops are also shut. Rescue workers have completed their operation by recovering the bodies of three deceased worshippers who were trapped under the collapsed roof of the mosque."

Bannu is located in the northwest province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that borders Afghanistan, and several armed groups are active there. A group affiliated with the Pakistani Taliban, Jaish Al-Fursan, has claimed responsibility for the attack. Militants have targeted Bannu several times. Last November, a suicide car bomb killed 12 troops and wounded several others at a security post. And in July, a suicide bomber detonated his explosives-laden vehicle and other militants opened fire near the outer wall of the military facil-

Rescuers find Philippine fighter jet's wreckage and bodies of two pilots deployed to fight rebels

MANILA, 5 MARCH

Rescuers found the wreckage of a Philippine fighter jet and the bodies of its two pilots on Wednesday in a mountainous region in the country's south where they had been deployed on a nighttime mission to fight communist guerrillas, military officials said.

The FA-50 jet lost communication during the combat mission with other air force aircraft after midnight Tuesday before reaching a target area in southern Bukidnon province. The other aircraft were able to return safely to an air base in central Cebu province after carrying out assaults, military officials said.

The FA-50 jet was deployed with other air force aircraft to provide combat support



to troops battling dozens of suspected New People's Army guerrillas near Cabanglasan town in Bukidnon, the military

"It was a total wreck," regional military commander Lt. Gen. Luis Rex Bergante said of the fighter jet's wreckage, which he said was found by Filipino special forces in a jungle on Mount Kalatungan in Bukidnon.

A regional military spokesperson, Lt. Col. Francisco Garello, said without elaborating that the bodies of the two air force pilots

were found near the wreck

Pilots can eject from the supersonic jets in case they encounter any problems but the Philippine air force said it remained unclear if the two pilots aboard the FA-50 ejected as it plummeted.

It was also not immediately clear what caused the crash of the supersonic jet, which was acquired by the Philippine government from a South Korean company about a decade ago. An investigation was underway, the air force

Dhaka seeks stronger ties with India, hopes for visa resumption

AGENCIES DHAKA, 5 MARCH

Bangladesh has expressed its readiness to establish positive working relationships with India in light of the strained ties between the two nations following the ousting of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the atrocities committed against Hindu minorities in the South Asian state.

Muhammad Yunus-led interim government Foreign Affairs Advisor, Touhid Hossain, has stated that his nation wants to improve ties with India, and they have always been clear about it, according to local media reports.

Hossain said that he also expects the Indian High Commission to resume issuing visas to Bangladeshis soon. He echoed the thoughts

of Chief Advisor Muhammad



Yunus, who earlier stated that there is no alternative to maintaining good relations India between Bangladesh.

Speaking to journalists on Tuesday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangladesh, Hossain stated: "The position articulated by the Chief Advisor reflects our stance. I have previously emphasised the necessity of a constructive working relationship based on mutual respect. The rest will unfold in due course. Both sides have their respective interests, and the relationship will

evolve accordingly."

When questioned on any updates on the resumption of the visa services of the Indian High Commission and normalisation of relations with India, he said: "Such information should come from India. We have not created visa-related complexities. Visa issuance is a sovereign prerogative. If a country decides not to grant visas to certain individuals or groups, it is within their right, and no objections can be raised. We hope they will communicate their decision to us and take measures to facilitate travellers."

Last month, Hossain met India's External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar on the sidelines of the Indian Ocean Conference in Muscat. During this meeting, both countries recognised the challenges in bilateral relations and discussed the necessity to work together to address those.

According to India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), EAM Jaishankar had conveyed that it is important that Bangladesh should not normalise terrorism.

The Bangladeshi media had also reported after the meeting that during their meeting, which lasted less than half an hour, EAM Jaishankar and Hossain emphasised the importance of working to overcome the challenges that have arisen in the current context of bilateral relations

the process for prospective and also discussed "the topic of organising" a meeting between the Yunus and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit to be held in Bangkok, later this year.

> India had stopped issuing visas for Bangladeshis following a mass protest that gripped the South Asian nation with violence and riots last year.

Even though India continues to bat for the normalisation of relations with Bangladesh, the current regime in Dhaka has faced massive criticism for making groundless accusations against India and also targeting minorities, especially the Hindu community in Bangladesh, since the mass uprising of students and the dramatic fall of Hasina's Awami League government, last year.

US judge denies Elon Musk's request to block OpenAl for-profit conversion but welcomes trial

AGENCIES

OAKLAND, 5 MARCH

A federal judge has denied Elon Musk's request for a court order blocking OpenAI from converting itself to a for-profit company but said she could expedite a trial to consider Musk's claims against the ChatGPT maker and its CEO.

U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers ruled late Tuesday that "Musk has not demonstrated likelihood of success on the merits" in his request for a preliminary injunction. She offered to hold a trial in her California courtroom as soon as this fall, "given the public interest at stake and potential for harm if a conversion contrary to law occurred."

Musk, an early OpenAI in the nonprofit — a move

North Korea nears

completion of first

airborne early

AGENCIES

SEOUL, 5 MARCH

warning aircraft

North Korea appears close

to completing its first airborne

early warning aircraft, satellite

imagery showed, an asset

that experts say will sharply

bolster the country's air force

power when it's deployed.

and missile programmes

pose a significant security

threat to South Korea, the

U.S. and others. But its aerial

surveillance capability is far

behind those of its rivals,

while most of its fighter jets

and other military aircraft

cialising in North Korea stud-

ies, reported Tuesday that

recent commercial satellite

imagery showed an Ilyushin

IL-76 aircraft parked at a

Pyongyang airport, with a

large radome mounted on

top of the fuselage.

38 North, a website spe-

are aging.

North Korea's nuclear

investor, began a legal offensive against the ChatGPT maker and CEO Sam Altman a year ago, suing for breach of contract over what he said was the betrayal of its founding aims as a nonprof-

He escalated the legal dispute late last year, adding new claims and defendants, including Microsoft, and asking for a court order that would stop OpenAI's plans to convert itself into a forprofit business. Musk also added his own AI company, xAI, as a plaintiff, claiming that OpenAI was unfairly stifling business competi-

He and a group of investors more recently made an unsolicited \$97.4 billion bid to buy a controlling stake

1.कार्य का विस्तृत विवरणी

वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि

बिडप्राप्ति के लिए अन्तिम तिथि / समय

नोडल पदाधिकारी, ई0 प्रोक्यूरमेंट शेल,

प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क संख्या

ई-प्रोक्योश्मेन्टसेल का हेल्पलाईन संख्या

PR 347887 Building(24-25)D

निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम

निविदा खोलने की तिथि / समय एवं स्थान

कार्य का नाम

Renovation of PDJ Residence, Campus Development and

Renovation of New Old Circuit House Building, Campus

Development Deep Boring and Construction of Kitchen

4 Repair & Renovation of Collectorate (VikasBhawan)

PCC Road for Panchkarma Building Bokaro.

Electrification work at Garga Faram, Bokaro.

Construction of Approach Road and Campus

Construction of Retaining Wall , Boundary Wall and

अधीक्षण अभियंता का कार्यालय, भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन अंचल, हजारीबाग।

परिमाण विपन्न की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है तदनुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।

निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।

Note:- UCAN Registration is mandatory for the Bidders.

निविदा शुल्क एवंअग्रधन की राशि का ई—भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, SOP के तहत

सुधना प्रौद्योगिकी एवं ई-गवर्नेस विभाग, झारखण्ड, सरकार के आवेशझापांक 120 दिनांक 03.10.2023 के

अन्य किसी भी प्रकार के बदलाय की सूचना http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

द्वारा निर्गत SOP (मानक संचालन प्रकिया) एवं भवन निर्माण विभाग, झारखण्ड, सरकार के पत्रांक 2229 दिनांक 06.10.2023 के आलोक में

अग्रधन की राशि उसी खाते में वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी संपूर्ण जवाब देही निविदादाता की होगी।

Renovation of 16 P.O. Quarter (4 Blocks) at Bokaro

Rising of Boundary Wall at Bokaro

Shed & Main Gate at Bokaro.

that undermined Musk's "claim of irreparable harm," the judge wrote. OpenAI said it welcomed the court's decision.

> "This has always been about competition," a statement from the company said. "Elon's own emails show that he wanted to merge a for-profit OpenAI into Tesla. That would have been great for his personal benefit, but not for our mission or U.S. interests."

Musk alleges in the lawsuit that the companies are violating the terms of his foundational contributions to the charity. He had invested about \$45 million in the startup from its founding until 2018, his lawyer has

Musk attorney Marc Toberoff said in a statement

ई0 प्रोक्यूरमेंट सेल,

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, भवन निर्माण विभाग,

भवन प्रमण्डल, बोकारो।

अल्पकालीन ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट नोटिस

ई-टेन्डर रेफरेन्स नं0- 13/2024-25/EE/BCD/BOKAROदिनांक-05.03.2025

late Tuesday that he is pleased that the court offered an expedited trial on the core claims.

"We look forward to a jury confirming that Altman accepted Musk's charitable contributions knowing full well they had to be used for the public's benefit rather than his own enrichment," Toberoff said.

Gonzalez Rogers in a hearing last month called it a "stretch" to claim "irreparable harm" to Musk, and she called the case "billionaires vs. billionaires." She questioned why Musk invested tens of millions in OpenAI without a written contract. Toberoff responded that it was because the relationship between Altman and Musk at the time was "built on trust" and the two were very close.

परिमाण पत्र की राशि | कार्य पूर्ण की अवधि

₹0 98,27,500.00

₹0 59,51,900.00

₹0 64,31,900.00

₹0 96,63,600.00

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11.03.2025 11:00 बज

20.03.2025 11:00 बजे

भवन प्रमण्डल, बोकारो।

21.03.2025 11:30 बजे

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, भवन निर्माण विभाग,

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भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल, बोकारो।

West Texans, Mennonites at centre of measles outbreak choose medical freedom over vaccine mandates

AGENCIES

SEMINOLE, 5 MARCH

Measles had struck this West Texas town, sickening dozens of children, but at the Community Church of Seminole, more than 350 worshippers gathered for a Sunday service. Sitting elbow-to-elbow, they filled the pews, siblings in matching button-down shirts and dresses, little girls' hair tied neatly into pink bows.

Fathers shushed babbling toddlers as their wives snuck out to change infants' diapers.

Measles outbreak hits Texas town; Mennonite church gathers despite infections.

A little girl in this mostly Mennonite congregation was among those who'd fallen ill with the highly contagious respiratory disease, senior pastor David Klassen said — but she's doing fine, and she happily played through her quarantine. He heard that at least two Mennonite schools shut down

for a bit to disinfect.

Kolkata - Puri - Kolkata Holi Special Train To clear extra rush of passengers, 03101/03102 Kolkata-Puri-

timings, stoppages, dates of run and composition :-

Office of the Councillors of Old Malda Municipality P.O-Old Malda, Dist- Malda, Pin-732128 NOTICE

out through lottery of the 1st floor stalls of Sarat Chandra Municipal Market complex on and from 06/03/2025. Interested Indian citizen may purchase the token from Municipal office and the Mangalbari Municipal sub office. Cost of each Token is Rs. 1000/- (One thousand) only. Date of Selection through lottery (within the sold out token only):- 28/03/2025. The details of Token, officials formalities and other relevant criteria (if any) may be seen during office hours in the office of the undersigned, Old

> Chairman Old Malda Municipality

Token for selection of 136 no's beneficiaries will be lease

Malda Municipality or Visit www.omm.org.in Sd/-

DIVERSION OF TRAINS Due to 4 days (08.03.2025 to 11.03.2025) Non Interlocking work

at Katangi Khurd station in Katangi Khurd-Singrauli section of Jabalpur Division over West Central Railway, following trains will be diverted as under: • Diversion of Trains: (1) 19414 Kolkata-Ahmedabad Weekly Express (JCO 08.03.25) & 13025 Howrah-Bhopal Weekly Express (JCO 10.03.25) will be diverted via Garhwa Road Jn-Son Nagar Jn-Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn-Prayagraj Chheoki Jn-Satna Jn-Katni Murwara Jn instead of Garhwa Road Jn-Chopan-Katangi Khurd-Katni Murwara Jn (2) 19608 Madar Jn-Kolkata Express (JCO 10.03.25) will be diverted via Katni Murwara Jn-Satna Jn-Prayagraj Chheoki Jn-Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn-Son Nagar Jn-Garhwa Road Jn instead of Katni Murwara Jn-Katangi Khurd-Chopan-Garhwa Road Jn Inconvenience is regretted.

Chief Passenger Transportation Manager

Eastern Railway Follow us at : @@EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

Kolkata Holi Special Train will run as per following abstract

Metro Railway, Kolkata

NOTIFICATION COMPLETE BLOCK ON GREEN LINE ON

08.03.2025 (SATURDAY) AND 09.03.2025 (SUNDAY)

There will be a complete Traffic Block on 08.03.25 (Saturday) and

09.03.25 (Sunday) for testing of Communication Based Train Control

(CBTC) System on the entire East-West Metro Corridor from Howrah

Maidan to Salt Lake Sector V. No services will be available during that

period on this Corridor only. Services will be partially affected on

07.03.2025 evening and 10.03.2025 morning. Last Metro Service will be available on 07.03.25 (Friday) at 19:03 hrs. from Sealdah to Salt Lake

Sector V (instead of 21:35 hrs.), at 19:05 hrs. from Salt Lake Sector V to

Sealdah (instead of 21:40 hrs.), at 19:00 hrs. from Esplanade and

Howrah Maidan (instead of 21:45 hrs.). First Metro Service on 10.03.25

(Monday) will be available at 08:05 hrs. from Salt Lake Sector V to Sealdah (instead of 07:05 hrs.), at 08:15 hrs. from Sealdah to Salt Lake

Sector V (instead of 06:55 hrs.), at 08:00 hrs. from Esplanade and

Howrah Maidan (instead of 07:00 hrs.), Services on Blue Line will be

operated as usual. Inconvenience caused to the Metro passengers is

Follow us at: M/metrorailwaykol () /metrorailkolkata

Principal Chief Operations Manager

Kolkata - Puri 03101 Puri - Kolkata Arr. Dep. Arr. Dep. Day Day Stations 23.50 02.00 Kolkata Thurs, Sai 02.35 02.40 22.35 22.40 07.40 07.45 17.05 17.10 Bhubaneswar

These special Trains will also stop at Andul, Balasore, Bhadrak, Cuttack & Khurda Road stations enroute in both directions Dates & Days of Run : From Kolkata - 03101 on 13.03.2025 (Thursday), 18.03.2025 (Tuesday) & 20.03.2025 (Thursday) = 03 trips, From Puri - 03102 on 14.03.2025 (Friday), 19.03.2025 (Wednesday) & 21.03.2025 (Friday) = 03 trips. Composition AC 2 tier -01, AC 3 tier - 04, Sleeper Class- 10, General 2nd Class (GS) - 02, SLRD - 02 = 19 Coaches. Category: Mail/Express.

Chief Passenger Transportation Manager EASTERN RAILWAY Follow us at : M @EasternRailway @@easternrailwayheadquarter

LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATE

I, Rajen Sakhrani, permanent resident of Panama and presently residing at Flat C8, 3 Middleton Row, Kolkata - 700071 like to inform that I have lost my share certificates of Larsen & Toubro Limited which were in my possession. The details of the lost Share certificates are as follows:

Folio No.	No. of Shares held	Certificate Nos.	Distinctive Nos. From-To
76726248	50	11895	544799-544848
76726248	100	76666	3692548-3692647
76726248	50	193759	140376463-140376512
76726248	100	237141	142446897-142446996
76726248	100	322051	574462339-574462438
76726248	200	357049	577700675-577700874
76726248	300	480638	622632353-622632652
76726248	450	1382201	1399342739-1399343188

Share certificates are not mortgaged nor any loan taken against it and GD for same filled at Shakespeare Sarani P.S. vide GDE No. 314 dt. 04.03.2025. If anybody finds the aforesaid document then kindly contact me on the

below mentioned details as soon as possible. Rajen Sakhrani

Date: 06.03.2025

Flat C8, 3 Middleton Row, Kolkata-700071

Suman Kumar takes over as IndianOil's Director (Planning & Business Development): Mr Suman Kumar has assumed charge as Director (Planning & amp; Business Development) on the Board of IndianOil. Prior to this appointment, he was heading the Exploration & Damp; Production (E&P) vertical as **Executive Director at Corpo**rate Office. A seasoned professional with over 30 years of experience, Mr Kumar has played a pivotal role in upscaling of natural gas, petrochemicals, city gas distribution, and renewable energy businesses.

CSR activity by SBI Bhubaneswar circle: Ashwini Kumar Tewari, Managing Director (CB &S) Corporate Centre has inaugurated the renovated premises of PBB Bapujinagar branch on 4th March 2025. On this occasion, Shri Tewari has donated one School Van to Nayagarh Kala Parisad for the benefit of SC, ST and drop -out children from class I to Class 10th. Besides, A Water Purifier cum Cooler has been donated to the NGO Sakhaa, Telengapentha for the benefit of destitute persons. Likewise, Refrigerator and Crockery items were donated to destitute shelter home namely Ashraya managed by the NGO Odisha Patita Udhar Samiti.

Niftyabove 22,300; Sensex gains 740 pts

All sectoral indices ended in the green with PSU Bank, metal & power indices rising 3 pc each



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI, 5 MARCH**

enchmark indices Wednesday bounced back sharply with the Niftv finishing above 22,300, breaking 10-day losing streak. Notably, with today's gain, the Sensex also broke a threeday losing streak.

At close, the Sensex was up 740.30 points or 1.01 per cent at 73,730.23, and the Nifty was up 254.65 points or 1.15 per cent at 22,337.30.

Throughout the day, the index reached a peak of 22394.9 and a low of 22067.8 while the Sensex fluctuated

between 73933.8 and 72894.05

The broader markets outperformed the front-line indices. Nifty Midcap 100 index surged 2.38 per cent to close at 49,148, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 index posted similar gains, rising 2.90 per cent to finish at 15,190 points.

All sectoral indices ended in the green with PSU Bank, media, telecom, metal and power indices rose 3 per cent each. Nifty Metal index settled higher by 4.04 per cent followed by the Nifty PSU Bank, and Media indices, which ended higher by over 3% each. Nifty IT, Auto, Oil & Gas, and Realty indices settled higher by over 2 per cent. All 15 constituents of Nifty Metal ended in the green. Among the top gainers, Hindustan Copper led the charge with a surge of 7.5

per cent, followed by Welspun

Corp, NALCO, Vedanta,

NMDC, and Tata Steel, all

closing with gains of over 5

The rupee appreciated by 19 paise to close at 87.00 against the US dollar on the back of weak American currency and a decline in crude oil prices. On the Nifty, the top gainers were Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone (5.18 per cent), Tata Steel

(4.85 per cent), Adani Enterprises (4.71 per cent), Mahindra & Mahindra (4.33 per cent), and Power Grid Corporation of India (4.09 per cent).

While on the losing side were Bajaj Finance (3.35 per cent), Indusind Bank (1.59 per cent), HDFC Bank (1.17 per cent), Shriram Finance (0.25 per cent), and Grasim Industries (0.13 per cent).

The Bank Nifty concluded the day at 48245.2, with an intraday high of 48657.65 and a low of 48190.25. Adani Wilmar shares rose

8 per cent following its announcement about signing a definitive agreement to acquire GD Foods Manufacturing (India) Private Ltd.

Shares of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) jumped nearly 4 per cent as oil marketing companies (OMCs) stocks extended their gains. Leading SUV maker Mahindra & Mahindra jumped over 4 per cent after international brokerage UBS Securities upgraded the stock to 'Buy' from 'Neutral'. Shares of Tata Steel also surged nearly 5 per cent after China announced that it would restructure its steel industry to cut its total output.

RBI appoints Dr. Ajit Ratnakar Joshi as Executive Director

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, 5 MARCH

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Dr. Ajit Ratnakar Joshi as Executive Director (ED) with effect from March 03, 2025.

He will look after Department of Statistics and Information Management and Financial Stability Department. Prior to being promoted as ED, Joshi was serving as principal adviser in Department of Statistics and Information Management. Joshi has experience of over three decades in the areas of statistics, information technology, and cyber management.

He has an over-threedecade experience in the areas of statistics, information technology, and cyber risk management. He has also served as member of faculty at the Institute of Development and Research in Banking Technology, Hyderabad.

Joshi has also served as member of several committees and working groups relating to compilation of macroeconomic statistics and policy issues.

India emerges as leading globalwealthhubwith population of 85,698 HNWIs

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI. 5 MARCH

Indiahas emerged as a leading global wealth hub, with a current population of 85,698 High Net-Worth Individuals (HNWIs), a recent report has said.

With this, India is now placed fourth globally, behind the USA, China, and Japan.

According to the latest Global Wealth Report by property consulting firm Knight Frank, the number of HNWIs rose by 4.4 per cent globally in 2024, reaching over 2.3 million people.

HNWIs are defined as those individuals with at least USD 1 million in investable assets.

Notably, the population of ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWIs), those with assets exceeding USD 100 million, surpassed 100,000 for the first time, reflecting a broader trend of growing wealth across the world.

Notably, the USA continues to dominate as the world's primarywealth creator, with nearly 40 per cent of global HNWIs residing in the USA. China holds 20 per cent, and Japan accounts for just over 5 per cent.

Despite this dominance, India has seen impressive growth, with its HNWI population expanding rapidly due to the country's economic dynamism and rising risk appetite, particularly in emerging markets.

India's remarkable progress is attributed to its thriving startup ecosystem, which has been fueled by widespread smartphone access and a growing culture of entrepreneur-

ship. India's wealth surge is also evident in its rapidly expanding billionaire population; in the past year alone, India saw a 12 per cent increase in its number of billionaires, bringing the total to 191.

Reportedly, 26 of these billionaires were created in the last year, up from just seven in 2019.

This growth has helped India secure its place as a rising wealth hub alongside other emerging economies like France, Brazil, and Russia, which have also experienced significant gains in billionaire numbers.

Notably, in 2024, the USA led the world with a 5.2 per cent increase in its population of HNWIs. The Asian region grew at a rate of 5 per cent, while Africa saw a 4.7 per cent rise, albeit from a smaller base. Meanwhile, the Australasia region's HNWI population grewby3.9 per cent, bolstered by its strategic connections to both the Asian and North American markets.

Coal production from captive, commercial mines for FY25 reaches 167.36 MT



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 5 MARCH

Ministry of Coal on Wednesday said that the total coal production from captive and commercial mines for the financial year 2024-25 has reached 167.36 million tonnes (MT) as of February 2025.

This represents a 32.53 per cent year-on-year (YoY) increase compared to the 126.28 MT produced by February last year. It further said that the coal dispatch has also witnessed a significant surge, with total dispatch for the financial year reaching 170.66 MT, surpassing the 128.45 MT recorded in the previous year.

growth, ensuring a stable and uninterrupted coal supply to key sectors such as power, steel, and cement.

lighted the performance of Bhaskarpara Coal mine of M/s Prakash Industries Limited saying it commenced coal production on 15 February, 2025, with a Peak Rated Capacity (PRC) of 15 MT.

Looking ahead, the Ministry of Coal said it remains committed to fostering a sustainable and efficient coal sector that contributes to national growth and development.

The coal sector will play This marks a 32.86% YoY a pivotal role in achieving this goal by ensuring energy security, promoting sustainable development, and driving economic progress.

Ministry of Coal also high-As per the recent data, the output of eight key infrastructure sectors rose by 4.6% in January against a 4.2% expansion in the same month of last year. Among these, coal pro-

duction recorded an increase by 4.6 per cent in January over last year with its cumulative index increased by 6 per cent during April to January, 2024-25 over corresponding period of the previous year.

Government appoints Ajay Bhadoo as CEO of GeM



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI. 5 MARCH

The Government of India has appointed Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce Ajay Bhadoo, as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Government e Marketplace (GeM) with effect from 3 March, 2025.

Bhadoo will assume this role in addition to his existing responsibilities in the Department of Commerce.

Ajay Bhadoo is an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1999 batch from the Gujarat cadre, and brings over two decades of experience in policy formulation and implementation across diverse sectors, including urban infrastructure development.

In August 2024, Bhadoo was appointed as Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce. Previously, he served as the Deputy Election Commissioner at the **Election Commission of** India.

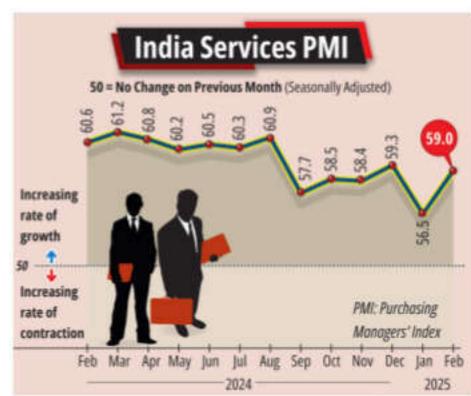
He also held a tenure as Joint Secretary to the former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, and leadership roles such as CEO of the Gujarat Maritime Board and Commissioner of Rajkot and Vadodara Municipal Corporations.

Bhadoo holds a degree in Civil Engineering and a Master's in Business Law from the prestigious National Law School of India University, Bengaluru.

His appointment as CEO of GeM, India's largest emarketplace for government procurement, comes at a pivotal time as the platform transitions to a next-generation digital marketplace powered by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).

Currently, GeM has recorded a Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of 4.58 lakh crore, reflecting a 28.65% year-on-year growth.

Services sector witnesses strong rebound in Feb with PMI at 59.0



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 5 MARCH

India's services sector witnessed a strong rebound in February, with the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rising to 59.0, a significant improvement from January's 26low month 56.5.

The latest data, compiled by S&P Global, highlighted a surge in new business orders, both domestically and internationally, driving higher output and a notable rise in employment.

While businesses reported higher cost burdens, inflation eased to a four-month low. Productivity improvements, strong underlying demand, and higher new business intake were key factors driving output growth.

Sales performance also contributed significantly to the expansion, with February witnessing a historically strong upturn, surpassing January's growth.

The data said the services

sector expansion was fuelled by increasing demand, particularly from international markets, which recorded its fastest growth in six months. Firms continued to scale

up operations, leading to one of the sharpest increases in employment since records began in December 2005. Businesses reported hiring full- and part-time workers to accommodate rising workloads and ease capacity pressures.

The most significant cost pressures were noted in the consumer services segment, where rising expenses on food, materials, and packaging contributed to inflationary pressures.

Despite the services sector's overall strength, cost pressures remained a con-

While businesses reported higher cost burdens, inflation eased to a fourmonth low. Productivity improvements, strong underlying demand, and higher new business intake were key factors driving output growth. Sales performance also contributed significantly to the expansion, with February witnessing a historically strong upturn, surpassing January's growth.

cern, the survey said. While firms reported higher expenses due to additional recruitment, salary hikes, and increased overtime payments, the overall inflation rate for input costs eased to a four-

month low. Recently, the data compiled by S&P Global and released by HSBC also said that India's Manufacturing PMI in February marked the slowest expansion since December 2023 falling to

56.3. The decline was driven by weaker growth in output and sales, along with a slowdown in input purchasing to a 14-month low.

Although demand remained strong, inflationary pressures persisted, with firms passing higher labour costs to clients, it said.

Indian consumers want best of both worlds ~ seamless digital convenience & in-store experience:PwC

RITWIK MUKHERJEE KOLKATA, 5 MARCH

Indian consumers have traversed a long way and evolved much to become what they are today. Indian consumers today want the best of both worlds—seamless digital convenience and the in-store experience. While online shopping dominates in personal product categories like apparel and beauty (preferred by over 50 per cent of consumers), in-store purchases remain strong for family-related products such as fresh produce and home furnishings (preferred by 36 per cent), highlighting the need for tactile engagement. Retailers, on their parts, are increasingly recognising the power of blending online and offline experiences, with 60 per cent perceiving technology as a tool that can provide a key competitive edge. Notwithstanding this, 53 per cent of retail stores are yet to adopt

tech solutions. Nearly 45 per cent consumers prefer a combination of both online and

A recent survey report by PwC India also says that as the use of AI-driven analytics mobile apps for consumer POS (Point of Sale) systems for efficiency.

Experts are of the view

offline channels for shopping.

high as 60 per cent of brickand-mortar retailers surveyed believe that improved access to technology can empower them to enhance their competitiveness in this evolving market. It also emphasises for personalised experiences, engagement, and modern

that the influence of e-commerce and quick commerce is increasingly reshaping Indian retail, with 34 per cent of traditional retailers reporting negative impacts from online shopping. Traditional retailers are adapting to such a transformational market change by offering credit options, free home



delivery and personalised services, while also looking at omni-channel strategies to stay competitive.

Ravi Kapoor, Partner and Leader - Retail and Consumer, PwC India, emphasised the importance of integrating innovation with localised strategies. "Indian retailers need to navigate the complexities of e-commerce balancing online and offline channels, optimising supply chains, and enhancing customer experience. The future of retail belongs to those who seamlessly integrate innovation with localised strategies, leveraging data analytics and consumer insights to tailor offerings and drive sustainable growth competitive market.

They also feel that Indian retailers need to navigate the complexities of e-commerce—balancing online and offline channels, optimising supply chains, and enhancing customer experience. The future of retail belongs to those who seamlessly integrate innovation with localised strategies, leveraging data analytics and consumer insights to tailor offerings and drive sustainable growth in a competitive market. Interestingly, by embracing technology and focusing on experiential retail, retailers can create immersive consumer experiences that drive sustained growth.

"Our research shows how dynamic the Indian retail landscape is and how the forces of technology combined with evolving consumer preferences across metros, Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 markets are driving retailers to innovate to maintain their

requires a proactive approach towards embracing digital tools and fostering a culture of continuous improvement," said Raghav Narsalay, Partner and Leader - Research and Insights, PwC India. One has to take into

competitive advantage. This

account how dynamic the Indian retail landscape is and how the forces of technology combined with evolving consumer preferences across metros, Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 markets are driving retailers to innovate to maintain their competitive advantage. This requires a proactive approach towards embracing digital tools and fostering a culture of continuous improvement.

When it comes to brands, they (Brands) must adapt to shifting consumer preferences by using technology and tailored channel strategies to maximise relevance and impact.

"Brands must adapt to

shifting consumer preferences by using technology and tailored channel strategies to maximise relevance and impact. PwC's Retail Reinvention Framework helps businesses navigate these complexities, ensuring optimal resource allocation, strategic decision-making, and the ability to anticipate market trends and consumer demands effectively," said Sanjay Dawar, Partner and Leader – One Consulting, PwC India.

Quite significantly, quick commerce is reshaping retail dynamics in metros and Tier 1 cities, with 42 per cent of metro and Tier 1 consumers prioritising rapid delivery for urgent needs. Over 65 per cent of consumers in these areas rely on quick commerce for essentials like packaged foods. This trend has reduced foot traffic to physical stores by 28 per cent, highlighting the shift towards convenience and immediacy.

Meghalaya Budget 2025-26: Major push for tour ism sector

The Budget was presented by Chief Minister Conrad Sangma on Wednesday

ABHIJIT DEB

structure.

SHILLONG, 5 MARCH

tourism sector the state budget for 2025-26, with a total investment of Rs 600 crore allocated for developing new destinations and upgrading existing infra-

The budget, presented by Chief Minister Conrad Sangma on Wednesday, prioritised tourism as a key driver of economic growth under the 'Meghalaya Mission 10' initiative, which aims to make the state a \$10 billion economy by 2028.

To cater to the growing influx of visitors – 16 lakh in 2024, marking a 33 per cent increase from pre-Covid levels-the government plans to enhance tourism facilities across the state.

New projects worth Rs

600 crore will be undertaken, including the construction of the Rain and Bamboo Interpretation Centre at Mawsynram, the Wari Chora Cultural Centre, and the Living Root Museum at Wahlyngkhat. Luxury resorts are also planned at Adokgre, Sohiong, and Nongnah, aiming to elevate Meghalaya's profile as a high-end travel destination.

Additionally, convention and hospitality centres will be developed in district headquarters like East Garo Hills, Eastern West Khasi Hills, and Ri-Bhoi to promote business tourism. Existing tourist spots, including Umiam Lake, Sohra Waterfall Trails, and Dawki Riverfront, will undergo redevelopment to enhance visitor experience.

Recognising the role of community-driven tourism, the government has increased subsidies for homestay entrepreneurs under the Megha-

laya Tourism Homestay Scheme. The state will now provide a 45 per cent subsidy, up from 35 per cent, benefiting 2,000 new homestay operators. This initiative aims to expand accommodation facilities while ensuring economic benefits for local commu-

The budget highlights several PPP projects aimed at transforming Meghalaya's tourism landscape. A Rs 124

crore investment by Lemon Tree Hotels will lead to the development of the Orchid Hotel in Shillong, creating employment opportunities

for local youth. Additionally, four new luxury resorts and five-star hotels worth ₹900 crore are being finalized at key locations, including Umiam, Sohra, Mawdiangdiang, and Khanapara.

Moreover, Rs 100 crore

will be allocated for arts and cultural initiatives, including the construction of the Indigenous Cultural Centre in Shillong and the Khasi and Garo Cultural Heritage Centres.

While tourism was a major

focus, the Meghalaya budget also outlined significant investments in other sectors Agriculture and Farmer Welfare with allocation of Rs 618 crore, with focus on highvalue horticulture and postharvest infrastructure. Infrastructure Development: Rs 2,873 crore earmarked for road connectivity, including the Shillong Western Bypass and the proposed Border Economic Corridor. Health and Education: Rs 2,176 crore for healthcare, including the expansion of medical infrastructure and the Chief Minister's Safe Motherhood Scheme; Rs 3,654 crore for education, with a focus on digital learning and school infrastructure.

$As sam\,CM\,advocates\,Hindias\,unifying\,language\,amidst\,resistance\,in\,South$



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE GUWAHATI. 5 MARCH

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday claimed that Hindi is not only just the official language of the country, but also the language of heart of every Indian.

Addressing the Regional Official Language Conference in Guwahati, he underscored the significance of Hindi as a unifying force and an essential language for career and business opportunities across

Speaking at the Rajbhasha Sammelan for the North Eastern Regions, he also emphasised the role of regional languages in preserving cultural identity.

"It is unfortunate that while some individuals embrace English, they do not extend the same recognition to Hindi," Sarma remarked.

"Hindi should be embraced alongside regional languages, as it opens doors to greater employment and business opportunities. It is not just the official language of our country but also the language of the heart for every Indian."

His statement comes amid long-standing debates over the imposition of Hindi, particularly in southern states such as Tamil Nadu and

Karnataka, where opposition to its dominance remains strong.

Various political parties and linguistic activists in these states argue that promoting Hindi as a national link language undermines the rich linguistic diversity of India and erodes the prominence of regional languages.

In Karnataka, protests erupted in recent years over the inclusion of Hindi on metro signboards in Bengaluru, with activists asserting that Kannada should be prioritized.

Similarly, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh have seen sporadic protests against any perceived Hindi imposition, with leaders advocating for linguistic federalism rather than centralization.

The Northeast presents a mixed response to Hindi. While Hindi is widely spoken as a second language by many communities due to migration and trade, indigenous groups have often resisted its imposition in official capacities.

Cabinet approves revision of livestock health and disease control programme

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI. 5 MARCH**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved the revision of Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP)

with a total outlay of Rs 3,880 crore, which will help in prevention and control of livestock diseases.

"The scheme has three components namely National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP), Livestock Health and Disease Control

Office of the Executive Officer

Manikchak Panchayat Samity, Malda

ABRIDGED COPY OF

e N.I.T No:- 16(e)/MPS/2024-25

Date:-04/03/2025 & e N.I.T No:-

17(e)/MPS/2024-25

Date:-04/03/2025

(Online e-Tender)

Above mentioned e-Tender for the work of

Constructional Work are invited by the U/S.

05/03/2025 & onwards and all other details

will be available from the Notice Board of

Executive Officer

Manikchak Panchayat Samity

http://www.wbtenders.gov.in

the U/S.

(LH&DC) and Pashu Aushadhi. The LH&DC has three sub-components i.e. Critical Animal Disease Control Programme (CADCP), Establishment and Strengthening of Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries-Mobile Veterinary Unit (ESVHD-MVU)

and Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD)," a government statement said. The Pashu Aushadhi is a new component added to the LHDCP scheme, it said. The total outlay of the scheme is Rs.3,880 crore for two years i.e. 2024-25 and 2025-26 which includes provision of Rs 75 crore to provide good quality and affordable generic veterinary medicine and incentive for sale of medicines under Pashu Aushadhi component, the government

Manipur highway projects reviewed ahead of Amit Shah's peace initiative: In preparation for Union Home Minister Amit Shah`s peace initiative to ensure free movement on Manipur`s national highways from March 8, Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla chaired a high-level review meeting at Raj Bhavan on Wednesday. Key officials, including CRPF Inspector General Rajendra Narayan Das. Additional PCCF, and NHIDCL Executive Director M S Deval, attended the session to assess the progress and challenges of ongoing highway projects. Deval provided updates on critical infrastructure work along National Highways 37 and 102, linking Manipur with Assam and Nagaland. The deteriorating condition of NH 37, particularly the Imphal-Silchar stretch via Jiribam, was a focal point of discussion. The Governor urged officials to address delays and expedite construction to enhance connectivity, stressing the importance of robust road infrastructure for Manipur's development. SNS

from

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are invited by this office from the bona fide Contractor vide NIeT No. 06 / BDO / KHB / RIDF-XXX / 2024-25 2nd Call, Dated: 05-03-2025 Other details can be seen from the Notice Board of the undersigned in any working day or in the website: www.wbprd.nic.in or www.wbtenders.gov.in

Block Development Officer Kharibari Development Block

TENDER NOTICE

Office of the

NOTICE

AKANDABARIA GRAM Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore PANCHAYAT Kaliachak-III Panchayat Samity The Undersigned is inviting sealed tender from experienced and resourceful bona fide bidders for NIT bearing No. 08(e) / AKBGP / 2024-25, on Dated: 03-03-2025 for implementation of the 05 (five) Nos. of schemes under 15th FC for details contact with the Pradhan, Akandabaria Gram Panchayat.

> Akandabaria Gram Panchayat Kaliachak-III, Malda

wbtenders.gov.in & kolkatazoo.in. CF & Director

Pradhan Zoological Garden, Alipore

is inviting e-tender NIT NO: 3/Accts/ZGA /e-tender/2025 for Supply of feed for carnivores animal & bird at ZGA, for the financial year 2025-26 and the last date of submission of documents online is 26.03.2025 up to 5.00 pm. For details see website

NOTICE Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore is inviting e-tender NIT NO: 1/Accts/ZGA/e-tender/2025 for Supply of Grocery and store items for animal & bird at ZGA for the financial year 2025-26 and the last date of submission of documents online is 26.03.2025 up to 5.00 pm. For details see website wbtenders.gov.in & kolkatazoo. in.

> **CF & Director** Zoological Garden, Alipore

NOTICE

Director, Zoological Garden, Alipore

is inviting e-tender NIT NO: 2/Accts/ZGA/e-tender/2025 for Supply of fresh vegetables, fruits, milk, bread, fodder & others for animal & bird at ZGA, for the financial year 2025-26 and the last date of submission of documents online is 26.03.2025 up to 5.00 pm. For details see website wbtenders.gov.in & kolkatazoo.in. **CF & Director**

Zoological Garden, Alipore

BASTERN RAHAWAY

e-Auction Notice Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Malda, Office Building, PO-Jhaljhalia, Dist-Malda, Pin-732102 (W.B.) (Auction Conducting Officer) invites e-Auction catalogue on www.ireps.gov.in for operation of Pay & Use Toilet lot at Rajmahal (RJL) station over Malda Division. Auction Catalogue No.: pay-use-2025-04. Auction start: 19.03.2025 at 11.45 hrs. Lot No.: PnU-MLDT-RJL-Toi-39-25-1. Station: Rajmahal (RJL). Prospective bidders are requested to visit IREPS e-Auction module for further details. (MLD-239/2024-25) Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

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Abridge Copy of e-Tender being invited by the Executive Engineer, WBSRDA, Alipurduar Division vide eNIT No.-16 / APD / WBSRDA / POSTDLPMTC / 24-25, Dated: 04.03.2025.

Details may be seen in the State Govt. portal https://wbten ders.gov.in / www.wbprd.nic.in & office notice board.

Sd/ **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WBSRDA** ALIPURDUAR DIVISION

TPCØDL

TP CENTRAL ODISHA

DISTRIBUTION LIMITED

TP CENTRAL ODISHA DISTRIBUTION LIMITED A Joint Venture of Tata Power and Govt. of Odisha.

1st Floor, Anuj Building, Plot No.29, Satya Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha - 751007

NOTICE INVITING TENDER: NIT No: TPCODL/2024-25/NIT/25 Bids are invited from eligible bidders for the following tenders:

SI. No.	Tender Enquiry No.	Tender Description		
1	TPCODL/P&S/1000002243/2024-25	Rate Contract for Supply of Grid Connected Roof Top Solar Panel and Installation Kit (ballast type structures) with capacity of 1 KWp per Households at all four Odisha DISCOMs		
2	TPCODL/P&S/1000002236/2024-25	Rate Contract for 6KVA online UPS (with battery) along with 5 years onsite warranty		
-	TRACE!	Construction of Tourist Union at Discharge		

3 TPCODL/P&S/1000002247/2024-25 Construction of Transit House at Bhubaneswar For more details like bid due date, EMD, tender fee, bid opening date etc. of the Tenders, please visit "Tender" section at TPCODL website https://www.tpcentralodisha.com. All tenders will be available on TPCODL website w.e.f. from Dtd.06.03.2025. Future communication / corrigendum to tender documents, if any, shall be available on TPCODL website.









PUBLIC WORKS (EAST) DIVISION, PUNE-411001

Phone No. 020/26122457, Web: www.mahapwd.gov.in & e-mail: eastpune.ee@mahapwd.gov.in E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 143 FOR 2024-2025

The Executive Engineer, Public Works (East) Division, Pune-411001 invites bids for following work from Registered as well as unregistered Contractor, and fullfilling the qualifying criteria for B-1 Tender Format as per Maharashtra Government, Public Work Department G.R. No. CAT/2017/Pra.Kra-08/Bldg-2, dt. 27/9/2018 and Public Work Department Matralaya Mumbai Circular No. CAT/2017/Pra.Kra-08/Bldg-2, dt. 22/10/2018. Bids document can be downloaded from website: https://mahatenders.gov.in Executive Engineer reserves all rights to accept or reject bids. Conditional bids will not be accepted.

NAME OF WORK AND ESTIMATE COST LIST

SI. No.	Name of Work	Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time limit for Completion	Cost of e-Tender Form Fee	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Development of 15 mtr. DP Road from Baramati Ganesh Market to Kate Hospital Under Baramati Muncipal Council Tal Baramati Dist. Pune.	5,25,82,510	Rs.2,63,000	12 Months (Including Monsoon)	Rs. 3,540 (With GST 18%)	Registered as well as unregistered Contractor
2.	Four Lanning to Dnymix Dairy to Palkhi Mahamarg Over Bridge Road at Baramati Tal. Baramati Dist. Pune.	6,99,86,603	Rs.3,50,000	12 Months (Including Monsoon)	Rs. 3,540 (With GST 18%)	Registered as well as unregistered Contractor
3.	Development of old Morgaon road from Lendi Nala to Khandobanagar Tal. Baramati Dist. Pune.	7,15,17,716	Rs.3,58,000	12 Months (Including Monsoon)	Rs. 3,540 (With GST 18%)	Registered as well as unregistered Contractor
4.	Construction of RCC Protection Wall at Rui- Jalochi Odha Tal Baramati Dist. Pune.	11,57,51,776	Rs.5,79,000	12 Months (Including Monsoon)	Rs. 3,540 (With GST 18%)	Registered as well as unregistered Contractor
5.	Construction of Baramati ST stand to Ring Road Joining 20 mtr. DP Road Baramati Muncipal Council Tal Baramati Dist Pune	7,53,16,952	Rs:3,77,000	12 Months (Including Monsoon)	Rs. 3,540 (With GST 18%)	Registered as well as unregistered Contractor

	E-tender- Tim	e Table			
1.	Period of Downloading of documents / Sale start and end dates	06.03.2025 @ 10.00 hrs. to 13.03.2025 @ 18.00 hrs.			
2.	Pre-bid Meeting In the Office of Chief Engineer, P.W. Region Office Pune, Old Central Building, Pune-411001	07.03.2025 12.00 hrs.			
3.	Period of Bid Submission / Bid Submission Start and End date	06.03.2025 @ 10.00 hrs. to 13.03.2025 @ 18.00 hrs.			
4.	Bid Opening Period	14.03-2025 @ 18.00 hrs, (If Possible) (In the office of Superintending Engineer, P.W. Circle, Pune.)			

Note: 1. All eligible/interested contractors are downloading and mandated to get enrolled on e-tendering portal https://mahatenders.gov.in

For online Payment related issues, kindly send e-mail with Bank Reference Number to this e-mail ID: merchant@sbi.co.in. You may also contact 022-27560149 for clarifications,

3. Other term and condition displayed in online e-tender forms. Right to reject any or all online bid of work without assigning any reason thereof is reserved.

Above only Tender Notice is displayed on P.W.D. website "www.mahapwd.gov.in" Online Blank Tender Downloading fee and Earnest Money shall be paid via online using NEFT/RTGS or payment gateway mode.

DGIPR/ROC-6855/24-25

Executive Engineer Public Work (East) Division Pune-411001

STATE FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

SFDCL invites e-tender from eligible bidder against 20 NIT's vide. No SFDC/MD/NIT/Inland/2024-25/22(e) to 41(e) regarding supply of IMC Fingerlings and other aquaculture inputs in different projects. Bid submission start & end date for all tenders are 06.03.2025 &13.03.2025 respectively. For details visit: wbtenders.gov.in

GORKHALAND TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION

W.B.S.R.D.A. DARJEELING DIVISION NOTICE INVITING eTENDER

On behalf of the Principa Secretary, Gorkhaland Territorial Administration, 1 (one) No. tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Darjeeling Division WBSRDA through e-tendering (details can be sought at www.wbtenders.gov.in).

Date of publishing of tender or website: 06-03-2025. Tender Ref No.: 19 of 2024-25.

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G) Santragachi, South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur Division acting on behalf of President of India invites open tender, through e-Tendering in www.ireps.gov.in website as per details mention below : St. No.: Tender Notice No.: Name of work; Tender value; EMD/Bid security : (1); Elect-Chg-OT-24-25-30ACC: "Escorting job of ACCI for AC coaches & ACCEA for First AC in various trains at Santragachi coaching Depot for Two Years". ₹8,77,17,791.73; ₹5,88,600.00; (2) Elect-Chg-OT-24-25RPF-32; Electrical work for "Santragachi : Construction of 100 bedded capacity RPF female barrack for facilitated with kitchen, dinning hall etc.; ₹22,72,561.46; ₹45,500.00; (3); Elect-Chg-24-25-TWELL-31; Electrical work for Sinking, fitting and fixing of Tube well 300mm x 200mm, 03 nos. at SRC and 01 no at TPKR and provision of 04 Nos Iron Removal plant and 04 nos. Pressure filter.; ₹18,03,241.16; ₹36,100.00; Tender Hrs. (for St. No. 1 to 3). Eligible contractors are requested to apply for the same through online only, in www.ireps.gov.in website. No offline tender will be accepted for this tender. Please read the tender document carefully uploaded in the document section for details. Tender Notice, tender document and other details are given in the www.ireps.gov.in.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders is invited for execution of the following work by Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), E. C. Railway, Dhanbad :-Tender No.: C-710-TKS-2-GCT-25, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Development of Gat Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal (GCT) at Tokisud - 2 - (TKS) Station Entirely on Railway land for the period of thirty five years (35 years) i.e 420 months. Approx. cost of development of Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal (GCT) at Tokisud -2 - (TKS) : Rs. 44,41,56,224/-, Earnest Money: Rs. 4,44,15,700/-, Date & Time for closing and opening of Tender : Date of closing of e-tender at 15-00 hours on 26.03.2025. Date of opening of e-tender after 15:30 hrs. on 26.03.2025. Website particulars : http://www.ireps.gov.in. No manual tender will be accepted against

Railway Administration reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason what so ever.

Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial East Central Railway / Dhanbad PR/2239/DHN/Coml./T/24-25/36

GORKHALAND TERRITORIAL Sealed tenders are invited ADMINISTRATION experienced W.B.S.R.D.A. contractors / agencies by DARJEELING DIVISION the undersigned vide NIET NOTICE INVITING eTENDER

No. 01/2025, vide Memo behalf of the Principa No. 19 / MGP / 2025, dtd. Secretary, Gorkhaland Territorial 04-03-2025 and NIET No. Administration, 1 (one) No. tender is invited by the Executive 02 / 2025, vide Memo No. Engineer, Darjeeling Division. 20 / MGP / 2025, dtd. WBSRDA through e-tendering 04-03-2025 for execution of (details can be sought at www.wbtenders.gov.in) schemes of XVth FC Fund. Date of publishing of tender on Other details are available website: 06-03-2025. at the GP Office Notice Tender Ref No.: 18 of 2024-25.

Board & wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Pradhan

Mathurapur GP

DA STIDIRING RAVIAWAY

Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern

Railway, Howrah, DRM Building,

near Railway Station, Howrah-

711101 invites Open e-Tender for

Tender Notice No.: EL/HWH/25/21 (Notice)/646, Date: 28.02.2025.

DA CSTUDIEN EN LIAVA V Following E-tenders are invited online by Sr. DEN/2, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building, near Railway Station, Howrah-711101 from tenderers having experience of similar nature of work and required financial capabilities including those Registered with Irrigation/CPWD/ SEB/MES or any public sector undertaking for the following works [Sr.DEN/2/Howrah], Sl.No.-1, NIT No.: 359_2024-25, Date 04.03.2025. Description of work: Re-Girdering of Bridge no. 3D/ROR (2x40"+1x60") Semi through at Km. 12/18-19 in between station Belanagar-Dankuni in Accl section and Br.no. 2/ RUB combined (2x1x40") at km. 6/8-9 in between station Naihati-Bandel in Naihati-Bandel section of Howrah Division Approx. Cost: ₹ 4,71,14,725.09. Earnest Money: ₹3,85,600. Sl.No.-2. NIT No.: 361_2024-25, Date: 04.03.2025. Description of work: Improvement of water supply. drainage & height gauge in the section of IOW/Dankuni & IOW/Barddhaman under AEN/Dankuni & AEN/ Barddhaman & improvement of LC Gate lodge in the section of IOW/Dankuni & IOW/Barddhaman under AEN/Dankuni & AEN/ Barddhaman. Approx. Cost: ₹ 7,60,12,946.58. Earnest Money: ₹ 5,30,100. Cost of Tender Form: Nil (for Sl.No. 1 & 2 each) Completion Period: 12 months (for Sl.No. 1 & 2 each). 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 next working day. Closing date

and time of tender: 26.03.2025 at

14.00 hrs. (for Sl.No. 1 & 2 each). The

details of tender are available at

website: www.ireps.gov.in.

Tenderers are requested to submit

their offer online on the above

website. No manual offer will be

Tender Notices are also available at website:

www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

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(HWH-648/2024-25)

accepted.

the under-mentioned electrical work/s. Tender No.: EL-HWH-25-21-3327. Name of work: (1) Electrical (G) work in connection with Construction of Limited height subway (By cut and cover method) in lieu of Level crossing no. 18/C/E at Km. 16/1-2 in Barddhaman-Balgona section in Howrah Division. (2) Electrical (G) work in connection with Construction of Limited height subway (by cut and cover method) in lieu of Level crossing no. 6/C/T at Km. 11/12-13 in Barddhaman-Balgona section in Howrah Division. (3) Electrical (G) work in connection with Construction of Limited height subway (By cut and cover method) in lieu of Level crossing no. 4/C/E at Km. 9/4-5 in Barddhaman-Balgona section in Howrah Division. (4) Electrical (G) work in connection with Construction of Limited height subway (By cut and cover method) in lieu of Level crossing no. 14/C/E at Km. 23/7-8 in Barddhaman-Balgona section in Howrah Division. (5) Electrical (G) work in connection of Limited height subway (By cut and cover method) in lieu of Level crossing no. 13/C/E at Km. 21/8-9 in Barddhaman-Balgona section in Howrah Division, Tender value ₹ 52,28,320. Bid Security (Earnest Money Deposit) ₹ 1,04,600. Completion Period: 180 days. Closing date and time of tender: 24.03.2025 at 15.00 hrs. 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 tenders online will be on any convenient day after closing date and time of the tender. The details of tender are available

at website: www.ireps.gov.in.

Tenderers are requested to submit

their offer online on the above

Tender Notices are also available at website:

www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

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(HWH-647/2024-25)



At the heart of insolvency law lies a paradox – the longer a process drags on, salvage. Under the current framework, once the Committee of Creditors (CoC) selects a successful resolution plan, it must secure final approval from the Adjudicating Authority (AA). This stage – meant to ensure compliance with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC) and fairness in distribution – often becomes a bottleneck. Creditor disputes, regulatory approvals, and stakeholder objections cause delays, leading to operational uncertainty and financial erosion. As a result, Resolution Applicants (RAs) bid conservatively, factoring these risks, ultimately driving down recover-

To break this deadlock, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has proposed a twostage approval process (See: discussion paper of February 4, 2025). Instead of waiting for a final, allencompassing clearance, the CoC would be empowered to request the AA to approve resolution plans in phases. In Stage 1, the financial bid and basic implementation framework would be cleared, allowing the successful RA to take control of the corporate debtor and commence execution. Stage 2 would then address inter-creditor disputes, distribution issues, and any remaining contested aspects – without delaying the takeover.

The aim is to minimize value erosion, reduce uncertainty, and encourage competitive bidding by eliminating the risks that deter serious investors. This proposal draws from decisions such as Essar Steel India Ltd. v. Satish Kumar Gupta (2019), where the Supreme Court reinforced the primacy of the CoC's commercial wisdom, limiting judicial interference to compliance scrutiny. By allowing early execution while reserving creditor disputes for later adjudication, the IBBI seeks to ensure

swifter and more efficient resolution process.

However, the critical question the less there is left to remains: does this reform truly streamline resolution, or does it create new risks? By splitting approval, does it effectively insulate successful RAs from post-plan liabilities while leaving creditors entangled in prolonged legal battles? In seeking efficiency, does the system risk enabling strategic bidders who might exploit posttakeover renegotiations? These concerns lie at the core of the debate on whether this proposal enhances resolution efficacy or merely shifts the problem else-

> The proposal's promise of efficiency rests on a precarious assumption – that by allowing the successful RA to take early control, value erosion will be stemmed, and resolution will be expedited. But in doing so, it creates a fundamental asymmetry. The successful RA gains operational certainty while creditors remain entangled in disputes over distribution. If the core financial bargain is left unresolved while control shifts hands, does this not risk turning the resolution process into a battle fought in halves – one side assured of its gains, the other left to fight for scraps? The creditors who determined commercial viability may find themselves sidelined in the very plan they approved.

> This imbalance introduces a moral hazard. When a successful RA knows it will take over early, what stops it from bidding aggressively, factoring in the ability to renegotiate terms under more favourable conditions? If intercreditor disputes persist posttakeover, the successful RA has no real stake in their resolution but can still benefit from delays, potentially using them to dilute commitments or adjust cash outflows.

> Economist John Moore's theory of 'Incomplete Contracts'

explains why this is a structural risk – when agreements leave contingencies open, parties behave opportunistically. In this case, creditors, realizing they have lost leverage after ceding control, may resort to 'holding-up' behavior – prolonging disputes or seeking additional settlements, further distorting the resolution process.

This creates a dangerous incentive of undervaluation. If bidders anticipate future renegotiation windows, they may temper their bids upfront, leading to suboptimal price discovery. The irony is that what is meant to encourage better value realization may instead suppress it. Value maximization, IBC's guiding principle, cannot be an afterthought to expe-

This tension between efficiency and fairness in insolvency resolution is not uniquely Indian. The United States' Chapter 11 framework, often lauded for its debtorin-possession model, provides a crucial lesson that speed cannot come at the cost of legal certainty. The United Kingdom's pre-pack administration, while efficient in transferring control, has faced scrutiny for leaving creditors in prolonged disputes over recoveries. Both models demonstrate that premature asset transfers, without resolving underlying creditor conflicts, can create value asymmetries – benefitting acquirers while sidelining those with legitimate

Closer home, IBBI's own data paints a sobering picture. As of 2024, over 65 per cent of approved resolution plans had faced postapproval litigation, leading to an average 9-12-month delay in implementation. More troublingly, in nearly 30 per cent of cases, resolution applicants sought modifications to their bids post-approval, citing unforeseen risks – an unmistakable sign of strategic bidding behavior. If the two-stage approval process inadvertently legitimizes such renegotiations, it may create a system where the highest bidder is not necessarily the most committed, but merely the most strate-

Markets thrive on certainty, yet insolvency resolution remains a delicate balance between speed and fairness. The proposed reform aims to accelerate takeovers, but without safeguards, it risks tilting the process in favour of successful RAs at the cost of creditors. It should be seen that agreements are honoured post-bidding. Successful RAs must be bound to final distribution outcomes, preventing opportunistic renegotiations.

Data from insolvency cases indicate that nearly 60 per cent of approved plans face post-approval litigation, delaying implementation and further eroding value. Therefore, allowing successful RAs early control without clear financial obligations may reduce initial uncertainty but could aggravate downstream disputes. Therefore, a regulatory framework that ensures successful RAs adhere to financial commitments is impera-

Further, judicial oversight cannot be sacrificed for efficiency. Expedited takeovers should not create an arbitrage opportunity where SRAs benefit while creditors remain locked in drawn-out disputes. A measured approach is needed - escrow-backed commitments, mechanisms ensuring financial discipline, and calibrated AA intervention to prevent strategic renegotiations. The IBBI's discussion paper is a step in the right direction, but it requires refinement in consultation with all stakeholders to ensure that once a resolution plan is approved, the process is truly final. Speed is necessary, but only if it delivers certainty - not another cycle of litigation and erosion.

The writer is an advocate practicing at Delhi High Court and Editor, Guide to the IBC (3rd Edition), Wadhwa Bros.]

A blight like no other

The 26th **Amendment to** Pakistan's constitution marks the greatest regression in 30 years, argues **Asad Rahim** Khan.

> There are two kinds of judges," the late Indian lawyer-vizier Arun Jaitley once said, "those who know the law, and those who know the law minister."

This rang even truer when Jaitley's boss, Narendra Modi, took a hatchet to India's judiciary, hoping to stuff it with the executive's men. The result was the 99th Amendment: like the 26th in Pakistan, the 99th was meant to stack the forum in charge of judicial appointments — reducing its judges, while bringing in the law minister and two worthies mainly selected by politicians.

As one can expect, the amendment landed in India's Supreme Court, where it was struck down. To safeguard the rights of citizens, held Justice Khehar, the judiciary had to be kept "absolutely insulated and independent from the other organs of governance". The day after the decision, the Indian Express headline ran, 'Court supreme: Supreme Court'.

In the decade since, Modi, Shah & Co have had to rely on less direct ways to mangle the system — passing ugly laws and banking on servile intellectuals on the

Still, had the court upheld the 99th Amendment, it would have had to surrender to its captors all at once. Instead, Modi is now faced with the tedious business of strangling judicial independence one slow tweak at a time. "We are the only country in the world where judges appoint judges," moaned Jaitley.

Had he looked to his left, he'd have found Pakistanis moaning the same thing — for as little reason: 'judges appointing judges' has been the best solution to Islamabad and Delhi's shared inheritance; where the courts were created not to deliver justice, but to help British masters keep the peace among their wild subjects.

After independence, however, the white wigs grew harder to justify: one could either keep the executive happy, or protect a free people's basic rights.

If with the former usually winning out: as our first half-century demonstrates, the third branch was less hammer than handmaiden; coups came giftwrapped as early as 1954, exchief justices became Ayub and Yahya's law ministers, Bhutto extended pliant judges, and Zia

purged naughty ones.

Hence, as Justice Khehar put it, the need to wall off the judiciary from the centre's sticky fingers. In Pakistan, that road has had three milestones. Held Sajjad Ali Shah in 'Al Jehad Trust' in 1996, "We do not buy the idea that soon as a judge takes oath, there is a sudden transformation, and he forgets his past connections..."

In response to Benazir's court-packing, the chief justice wrested appointments away from the executive (his court was stormed by Nawaz League goons a year later, judicial independence being a bipartisan ailment).

The next gains were powered by the lawyer's movement, itself a response to Parvez Musharraf detaining judges during emergency. The 18th and 19th Amendments created a new judicial commission for appointments, with the chief justice now part of a majority of judges, and a parliamentary committee — to much bellyaching — off to the sidelines.

Here it must be said the postrestoration judiciary proved deeply flawed: billion-dollar disasters ensued in Reko Diq and Karkey; populist chiefs took senseless suo motus; and the lower courts remained as broken as ever, with pendency soaring.

Yet not a smidge of that has been on the 26th Amendment's awful agenda. If it were about the suo motu, that's been in constant decline since Saqib Nisar's exit. If it were about pendency, over 80 per cent of cases live and die at the district level, while this amendment only has eyes for superior courts.

Because the 26th was born not because of what the judges were getting wrong, but for what they were getting right: that polls be held in 90 days; that civilians be tried in civilian courts; that bail not be at executive whim; that fair judges decide election rigging; that reserved seats be meant for the parties that won them; and that the high courts be able to cry interference by the deep state.

The result is before us: the greatest judicial regression in 30 years. Appointments have returned to the crown, the post-Musharraf consensus stands shattered, and intra-court seniority undone, with five judges of the Islamabad High Court petitioning the Supreme Court for redressal. Throughout, the amendment has remained undecided.

Of course, the road to serfdom has three milestones too, mostly own-goals: the toxic, twoyear reference against Qazi Faez Isa at the behest of the shadowlands; the bizarre dissenting notes against the Bandial court directing polls in 90 days; and the bogus practice and procedure law. Finally, to paraphrase one sportswriter, the cherry on top of the plane crash: Chief Justice Isa's verdicts. Lest his successor arrest the decline, any gains over the past three decades may well go back to zero. It's time for choosing.

The writer is a barrister.Dawn/ANN

Trump's monarchical republic

f there are any limits to a president's power, it wasn't evident from Donald Trump's speech before a joint session of Congress on March 4, 2025. In that speech, the first before lawmakers of Trump's second term, the president declared vast accomplishments during the brief six weeks of his presidency. He claimed to have "brought back free speech" to the country. He declared that there were only two sexes, "male and female." He reminded the audience that he had unilaterally renamed an international body of water as well as the country's tallest mountain.

"Our country is on the verge of a comeback the likes of which the world has never witnessed, and perhaps will never witness again," Trump asserted.

The extravagant claims appear to match Trump's view of the presidency – one virtually kinglike in its unilateral

It's true that the U.S. Constitution's crucial section about the executive branch, Article 2, does not grant the president unlimited power. But it does make this figure the sole "Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States.'

This monopoly on the use of force is one way Trump could support his 2019 claim that he can do "whatever I want as President."

Before Trump's speech, protesters est enough to take a hard look over the outside had taken issue with Trump's wielding of such unchecked power. One protester's sign said, "We the People don't want false kings in our

With those words, she echoed a concern about presidential power that originated more than 200 years ago. When the Constitution was written, many people – from those who drafted the document to those who read it – believed that endowing the president with such powers was dangerous.Ratified after a lot of huffing and puffing, on May 29, 1790, by rather nervous citizens, the text of the Constitution had stirred many controversies. It wasn't just the oftentimes vague language, which includes headscratchers such as the very preamble, "We the People of the United States." Nor was the discomfort due solely to the document's jarring brevity – at 4,543 words, the U.S. Constitution is the shortest written Constitution of any major nation in the world.

No, what made that document especially problematic, to borrow from John Adams, was that it provided for "a monarchical Republick, or if you will a limited Monarchy."

Adams would eventually become the nation's second president in 1797. Even though he was a staunch supporter of the Constitution, he was hon-

political layout of the new nation. And what he found were remnants of the British monarchy and traces of a king whose unchecked abuses had led the Colonists to demand their independence in the first place.

"The Name of President," Adams couldn't help concluding in a letter to prominent Massachusetts lawyer William Tudor, "does not alter the Nature of his office nor diminish the Regal Authorities and Powers which appear clearly in the Writing."

While Adams was only somewhat uncomfortable, as a historian of the early republic I can stress that other observers at the time were downright appalled. In a 1787 article published in the Philadelphia Independent Gazetteer, "An Old Whig" - identity unknown – wrote, "The office of President of the United States appears to me to be clothed with such powers as are dangerous."As the commander in chief of the Army, the American president "is in reality to be a king as much a King as the King of Great Britain, and a King too of the worst kind - an elective King."

Consequently, as the author of this article resolved, "I shall despair of any happiness in the United States" until this office is "reduced to a lower pitch of power."

Concern over a commander in

Donald Trump's presidency brings to life the worst fears of those who wrote the American Constitution, says Maurizio Valsania

the legality of the measure, was similarly on the minds of the Americans who had read the Constitution.

In 1788, a patriot who went under the pseudonym of "Philadelphiensis" – real name, Benjamin Workman – issued a sweeping warning. Should the president decide to impose martial law, "your character of free citizens" would be "changed to that of the subjects of a military king."

A president turned military king could "wantonly inflict the most disgraceful punishment on a peaceable citizen," the piece continued, "under pretence of disobedience, or the smallest neglect of militia duty." Another power given to the president was also universally considered extremely dangerous: that of granting pardons to

individuals guilty of treason. Maryland Attorney General Luther Martin reasoned that the treason most likely to take place was "that in which the president himself might be engaged." What the president would do, Martin wrote, would be "to secure from punishment the creatures of his ambition, the associates and abettors of his treasonable practices, by granting them pardons."

George Mason, who participated in the Constitutional Convention and also drafted Virginia's state Constitution, foresaw a gloomy scenario. He shivered at the idea of a president who would

chief declaring martial law, no matter "screen from punishment those whom he had secretly instigated to commit the crime, and thereby prevent a discovery

of his own guilt." The framers did limit executive power in one significant way: The president of the United States is subject to impeachment and, upon conviction of treason or other high crimes, removal from office. But in the meantime, the

president may enact irreparable damage. The Constitution was finally ratified – but only begrudgingly by the American citizens, who feared a president's abuse of power. More persuasive than the legal restraints placed on the office, the belief that the people would choose their leader

wisely tipped the scale toward approval. Delegate John Dickinson asked a rhetorical question: "Will a virtuous and sensible people chuse villains or fools for

their officers?' Also, 18th-century common sense deemed it improbable that a person without virtue and magnanimity would run for the nation's highest office. Americans' faith in their first president, the upstanding George Washington, helped convince them that all would end well and their Constitution would be sufficient to protect the republic.

The Federalist Papers, the 85 essays written to persuade voters to support ratification, were suffused with this optimism.

People "of the character marked out for that of the President of the United States" were widely available, said the Federalist #67.

"It will not be too strong to say," reads Federalist #68, "that there will be a constant probability of seeing the station filled by characters pre-eminent for ability and virtue."

Adams wasn't so optimistic. He wavered. And then he flipped the issue on its head. "There must be a positive Passion for the public good ... established in the Minds of the People," he had written in a 1776 letter, "or there can be no Republican Government, nor any real liberty."

After almost 250 years of uninterrupted republican life, Americans are used to thinking that their nation is secured by checks and balances. As Adams kept repeating, America aims at becoming "a government of laws,

and not of men. Americans, in other words, have long believed it is their institutions that make the nation. But the opposite is true: The people are the soul and the conscience of the republic.

Everything, in the end, boils down to the character of these people and the control they assert over who becomes their most important leader.

(The writer is Professor of American History, Università di Torino. This article was published on www.theconversation.com)



Sport Champions League: Real Madrid beat Atletico in last-16 first leg

Reigning European champions outclass city rivals 2-1 to open up crucial advantage going into second leg

AGENCIES MADRID, 5 MARCH

eigning champions Real Madrid overcame Atletico 2-1 in the first leg of the Champions League last-16 tie to claim the upper hand in the tie.

In another match, Arsenal delivered a historic performance on Wednesday (IST), defeating PSV 7-1 in Eindhoven in the first leg of their **UEFA Champions League** last-16 tie, and became the first team to score seven goals away from home in a knockout stage match of the competi-

Rodrygo gave Real Madrid the lead after just four minutes and Julian Alvarez drew level in the 32nd minute. In the second half, Brahim made it 2-1 with a wonderful piece of skill.

Madrid raced into an early lead in the tie. After just four minutes, Valverde caught Galan by surprise with a precise pass to Rodrygo, who beat the Atletico defender on the run, cut inside from the right wing and fired home a beautifully struck left-footed strike. Two minutes later, Rodrygo again beat Galan for pace and when he entered the area he was pulled down by the defender. In the 22nd minute, Vini Jr. had a shot from the edge of the area that Oblak caught, and on the half-hour mark, Rodrygo had a free-kick that almost beat the keeper. On 32', Atletico equalised when Alvarez's angled drive from the edge of the area flew past Courtois. The two sides went into the break with the score at 1-1. After the restart until the 55th minute, when



Brahim's brilliant piece of skill gave the Whites the lead once again. The forward received the ball inside the area and was surrounded by defenders. He shifted his feet before finding a gap through which he struck a precise right-footed effort past Oblak and into the bottom corner of the goal it was 2-1 to Madrid.

Atletico countered, and five minutes later they almost equalised with a cross-shot from Griezmann that Courtois did well to keep out.

The quarterfinal berth will be decided on 12 March at the Metropolitano.

Meanwhile, in The Hague, Arsenal registered biggest away win in our European Cup and Champions League history, surpassing the famous 5-1 win against Inter Milan at the San Siro in 2003 as well as the drubbing of Sporting Lisbon back in November, which were our previous best efforts on the road in Europe's premier club competition. When it comes to all Euro-

pean competitions, Arsenal's win in the Netherlands sits third on their all-time biggest away wins, with the 7-0 rout of Standard Liege in the 1993/94 UEFA Cup Winner's Cup still top of the tree, and is indeed the largest win on our travels in any competition.

The defeat marked PSV's biggest European loss and matched the heaviest defeat in the club's professional history, equaling a 7-1 loss to GVAV in the Eredivisie in 1958.

Arsenal had an early goal from Declan Rice disallowed for offside, while PSV's Ismael Saibari struck the crossbar before the visitors broke the deadlock. Dutch international Jurrien Timber opened the scoring in the 18th minute, heading in a cross from Rice at the far post.

Seventeen-year-old Ethan Nwaneri doubled Arsenal's

lead with a powerful finish following an assist from Myles Lewis-Skelly. Spanish international Mikel Merino capitalized on defensive chaos to make it 3-0 after just 30 minutes.

PSV was handed a lifeline three minutes before halftime when referee Jesus Gil Manzano awarded a penalty after Thomas Partey fouled Luuk de Jong. Noa Lang converted the spot-kick, offering PSV a glimmer of hope.

LeBronbecomesfirsttoscore 50k career points in NBA history

AGENCIES

The three-time Olympic gold medallist LeBron James has become the first NBA player in history to score 50,000 career points.

LOS ANGELES, 5 MARCH

The 40-year-old Los Angeles Lakers star reached the milestone after scoring a three-pointer during the NBA regular season game at home against the New Orleans Pelicans on Tuesday.

LeBron James is well on his way to rewriting every previous definition of basketball longevity, and the 40-year-old star is now racking up numbers the NBA has never seen before. James finished with 34 points against the Pelicans after toppling another milestone in his unprecedented career. James needed just one point heading into the Lakers' matchup against the New Orleans Pelicans at Crypto.com Arena. He drilled a three-pointer from the left wing off a Luka Doncic feed with 8:34 remaining in the first quarter. He went on to put up 34 points, eight rebounds, and six assists, leading the Lakers to a convincing 136-115 victory over the Pelicans. The American's combined scoring total now includes 41,871 regular-season points and 8,162 postseason points. He is also a first player in NBA history to play both as a teenager and past the age of 40.

Last month, James became the first player in the history of the NBA to have multiple 40 plus points in a game at age 40 or higher. The legendary Michael Jordan is the only other 40-year-old to have produced a 40 plus point performance.

In December last year, James, a man whose longevity will be talked about for years to come, surpassed six-time NBA MVP Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for the most minutes



played in league history during Los Angeles Lakers' win over Sacramento Kings.

He was already the league's top scorer after surpassing Abdul-Jabbar's regular-season scoring record on 7 February, 2023, and broke Michael Jordan's playoff scoring record on 25 May, 2017.

James also holds the NBA records for career field-goal attempts and turnovers while ranking fourth in assists, sixth in steals. "I mean, that's a lot of points," James said afterward, rubbing his beard in wonder. "Obviously, the first thing that comes to mind is where I'm from. Picking up the game when I was a little kid and having a love for the sport, and hoping that someday I'd be able to play at the highest level. I've been able to do that and really enjoy my career. So it's definitely an honor. It's pretty cool to see that."

James already is the top scorer in NBA history in both the regular season and the playoffs. Maintaining a spectacular level of play midway through his record-tying 22nd season, he is pulling away from the other greats of the game: Lakers great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who played 20 seasons, is a nowdistant second with 44,149 combined points. The Lakers recognized the milestone at the next timeout, with public address announcer Lawrence Tanter saying: "Ladies and gentlemen, we all have just witnessed history." James acknowledged the standing ovation with several waves from the bench.

AFC Challenge League: East Bengal face FC Arkadag in quarters

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 5 MARCH

East Bengal FC are gearing up to take on FC Arkadag of Turkmenistan in the first leg of the AFC Challenge League quarter-final at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata on Wednesday.

East Bengal topped Group A with two wins and a draw when they travelled to Bhutan for the group-stage fixtures in October-November. Their strong performance in the tournament reignited hope after a shaky start to their Indian Super League (ISL) campaign, helping them reshape their season.

Currently, East Bengal FC are on a four-match unbeaten run, securing three wins and a draw. However, their latest result--a 1-1 draw against Bengaluru FC in Kolkata on Sunday--ended their push for an ISL playoff spot. Now, eager to turn disappointment into determination, the team will shift its focus to making a deep run in continental competition. With a rich his-



tory of success on the Asian stage, East Bengal FC will look to build on their legacy and take a crucial step toward the semi-finals. The last time the Red and Gold Brigade played in a continental competition, they made it to the AFC Cup semi-finals in 2013. While their group-stage performances--especially a com-

manding win over Bashundhara Kings and a decisive victory against Nejmeh SC--were impressive, the real test begins now, according to an ISL statement.

"The AFC Challenge League is a competition that has a dimension that is not national, it is international, so the scope and the visibility

and whatever we can do well in this quarter-final can have a big impact on the name of all of us and especially on the name of the club," said East Bengal FC head coach Oscar Bruzon at the prematch press conference, as quoted from the official web-

site of ISL. Standing in their way is

FC Arkadag, a club that has been nothing short of dominant since its formation in 2023. The Turkmenistan outfit has won back-to-back Yokary League titles with a perfect record and secured consecutive Turkmenistan Cup victories. Their only setback came in the AFC Challenge League, where they suffered a narrow defeat to Kuwait's Al-Arabi in the final groupstage match.

"It is so important for East Bengal and for the country because we will represent India in Asia and we will try to do our best and try to beat FC Arkadag," said East Bengal FC captain Saul Crespo, who accompanied Bruzon at the press conference.

East Bengal will be banking on their passionate supporters to make a difference. The fans turned up in huge numbers to back the team in Bhutan, and now, with home advantage on their side, they will look to create an electrifying atmosphere in Kolkata as East Bengal aim to advance further in the tournament.

India's table tennis veteran Sharath Kamal to retire after Chennai event

AGENCIES

CHENNAI, 5 MARCH

Five-time Olympian and India's most celebrated paddler Achanta Sharath Kamal has announced his retirement from table tennis, with the upcoming WTT Star Contender in Chennai set to be his last outing in India colours.

At 42 years old, Sharath, who is a record 10-time national champion, is currently India's top-ranked men's singles player, placed 42nd in the latest WTT ranking list. "As I played my first international tournament in Chennai and I will be playing my last international match in Chennai. I have the Commonwealth Games medals, Asian games medals, but the Olympics medal is something I don't have in my cupboard. I hope I can live that dream through the young talents,' Sharath told the media.

Sharath has won 13 Commonwealth Games medals

(including seven gold) and two Asian Games bronze medals, five Olympic Games appearances and two ITTF Pro Tour titles under his twodecade-long career. He won his first national title in 2003 and his maiden international medal at the 2004 Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships. His career graph reached a new high when he qualified for the 2004 Athens Olympics. In 2004,

Sharath was conferred the Arjuna Award and won five national titles in a row. A historic singles gold medal at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne and another gold in the men's team event capped a successful year. In 2010, he became the first Indian table tennis player to win an ITTF Pro Tour title, when he won the Egypt Open. Sharath went on to win two more endured a lean period for a couple of years, winning no titles or medals at the 2014 Commonwealth Games or Asian Games, and was also unable to qualify for the 2012 London Olympics.

But he won medals in every event he competed at the 2018 Commonwealth Games (gold, silver and two bronze medals). He also went on to win two bronze medals at the 2018 Asian Games.

In 2019, the veteran rose to a career-best ranking of world No. 30 and in the same year, won a record ninth national title. The following year, at the age of 37, Sharath won his second international title at the Oman Open, a decade after his first.

At Tokyo 2020 Summer Games, it was his fourth Olympic appearance, but the Indian veteran, who got a bye in the first round, lost 4-1 to Chinese legend and eventual gold-medallist Ma team and men's doubles. He Long in the round of 32.

ISL: Punjab FC, Hyderabad FC hope to end listless season on high note



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD, 5 MARCH

Hyderabad FC will hope to stretch their undefeated home streak to six games when they host Punjab FC for an Indian Super League (ISL) at the

GMC Balayogi Athletic Sta-

dium on Thursday.

Both these sides are not in contention for the vacant sixth spot for the playoffs. However, they will want to wrap up their campaign on a strong note, to cap off the work done so far and lay the foundation for the forthcoming campaign.

Punjab FC have a promising record against Hyderabad FC in the ISL, remaining unbeaten in three encounters, including consecutive 2-0 victories. A win in this game will mark their inaugural league double over any team in the competition's history. However, Hyderabad FC have been unbeaten in their last five home games, winning

Punjab FC have given away goals in each of their last 13 ISL games, which is the longest active streak among all teams. Their last shutout was against Mohammedan SC in December, and their previous away clean sheet came against Mumbai City FC in Novem-

Commonwealth Games gold

medals in 2010 - in the men's

Punjab FC have won just 44.9% of their contested duels in 2025, the lowest percentage among all teams. Is it a lack of adequate personnel or some missing tactical blueprint that is seeing them fall short of physical prowess on the

Hyderabad FC have gone scoreless in their last two ISL matches after netting in six consecutive games before this slump. Rest assured, the team will want to sign off from the campaign with their frontline firing from all ends.

Hyderabad FC have allowed their opponents to string together 170 sequences of 10+ open-play passes this season, the most in the ISL.

They need to be pressing with greater intensity to not let the other team as much time in building up their plays.

In their three ISL encounters thus far, Punjab FC have won twice, while a solitary game has resulted in a draw. Hyderabad FC interim

head coach Shameel Chembakath said that his team needs to close out games with better discipline. "If you see the second phase of the competition,

there were a few matches where we did well but conceded late goals. We need to work on that," he said. Punjab FC head coach

Panagiotis Dilmperis said that his side needs to improve their composure upfront.

"A lot of times, because we are using a lot of young players, they approach the final third with pressure, but when you work under pressure, the execution of the action is not really accurate," he said.



Pantazi fancied: Trained by Vikash Jaiswal and to be ridden by Varun, Simran's Star is fancied to win the JSK1 Champion's Cup here tomorrow.

Selections: 2.00 p.m: SANGEETHA 1, Pal Cha 2. 2.30 p.m.: BANDUK WALI 1, Rhapsody In Green 2. 3.00 p.m.: DONA SIENNA 1, Light The World 2. 3.30 p.m.: SIMRAN'S STAR 1, Astral Gold 2. 4.00 p.m: MAIN STREET 1, Sativur 2. 4.30 p.m.: MEMPHIS 1, Lucretius 2.

Day's best: Dona Sienna. Gautam Banerjea

THUMBNAILS Australia captain Smith dismisses notion of India taking 'advantage' of playing at single venue: Australia captain Steve Smith played down venue advantage to India after being comprehensively beaten by four wickets in the semi-final of the ongoing Champions Trophy in Dubai. India playing at one venue has been a hot topic for debate among former cricketers and some sections of fans. There has hardly been any press conference where questions haven't been raised about tournament scheduling. After India stormed into the final, head coach Gautam Gambhir quickly dismissed the possibility of his side receiving an

Champions Trophy 2025: New Zealand thrash South Africa to storm into final

Kiwis ride tons by Rachin Ravindra and Kane Williamson as Proteas live up to 'chokers' tag

AJEYO BASU

NEW DELHI. 5 MARCH

'ew Zealand overpowered South Africa by 50 runs to storm into the final of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 on Wednesday.

The Proteas lived up to their tag of 'chokers' as they were on the backfoot right from the start with the Kiwis outshining them in both batting and bowling at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

The New Zealand victory was built on a power-packed batting display. Rachin Ravindra smashed his fifth ODI hundred and second of this tourney, while Kane Williamson notched up his third century in a row against South Africa as the duo propelled New Zealand to a massive 362/6. In reply, South Africa ran into trouble right from the start as their batters seemed to succumb to the pressure of the intimidating target. David Miller attempted to stage a fightback with an unbeaten 100 runs off 67 balls along with Rassie van der Dussen (69) and Temba Bavuma (56) but their teammates never seemed to be up for the challenge.

Earlier, Ravindra was all class in his knock of 108 off 101 balls, while adding 164 off 154 balls for the second wicket with Williamson, who made 102 off 94 deliveries.



Daryl Mitchell and Glenn Phillips both smashed quick knocks of 49 at the back end to help New Zealand post the highest total in the history of the Champions Trophy.

For South Africa, it was a hard day of relentless toil under bright sunshine, with Marco Jansen and Keshav Maharaj being taken for big runs. Lungi Ngidi, Kagiso Rabada and Wiaan Mulder were amongst the wickets, but gave away runs aplenty.

Ravindra and Will Young were largely untroubled at the start of New Zealand's

innings. Ravindra, in particular, was in sparkling touch - hitting Jansen for three boundaries in the seventh over - and two of them were well-timed boundaries through cover, while the other one was hit through mid-wicket.

Ngidi provided the first breakthrough for South Africa by having Young miscue a slower ball to mid-on in the eighth over. Williamson, fresh off a valiant 81 against India, began nicely by steering Ngidi and Rabada for a boundary each. Ravindra reached his half-century off 47 balls by

pulling Mulder for four, before pulling him again for the same result and getting forward to drive through the on-side for picking his third boundary of the 18th over. He and Williamson were adept at rotating the strike, leading to South Africa not being able

to exert much pressure. Ravindra took a liking to Maharaj's left-arm spin bowling-after lofting him for four, he danced down the pitch to hit another boundary. He then lofted cleanly to smash a six over long-on, before getting an outside edge past then getting his fifty in 61 balls off Aiden Markram, before taking a four off him via a reverse-sweep. He had luck on his side when Heinrich Klaasen dropped a tough catch behind stumps off Ngidi's bowling. The New Zealand camp was full of cheers in the 32nd over when Ravindra flicked Rabada for two runs and reached to his fifth ODI century, before he and Williamson took three fours

keeper for four.

Williamson joined the

boundary-hitting spree by

flicking Maharaj for six and

collectively off him in the 32nd over yielding 17 runs. The 164-run stand for the fourth wicket ended in the 34th over when Ravindra went for a drive against an offcutter from Rabada, but it produced a thin edge and was caught behind by Klaasen, ending his knock at 108 off 101 balls. Williamson, though, marched forward with his sweep, steer and scoop to fetch boundaries and get his 15th ODI ton. But four balls later, Williamson again went for a scoop, but was caught by short fine leg off a wide yorker from Wiaan Mulder. After Tom Latham attempted scoop resulted in his stumps

being left in a mess by Rabada, Mitchell provided a late impetus by hitting Jansen for two nament. fours, before swatting Ngidi for a six and two fours on successive balls.

> "The most important thing is the way we have played throughout this competition - the hunger, the commitment, and the eagerness to try and do something special for the country is always there in the dressing room," he said in the post-match

> improve, be it in batting, fielding or bowling, and we still have one more game, and hopefully we can play a be satisfied with the performances! We want to keep humble, we want to be ruthless on the cricket field, but absolutely humble off the field as well. That's the team

> He then shifted his focus to the all-important final on March 9, all set to be played in Dubai against the winner between New Zealand and South Africa. "Hopefully we can play one more game and play our best game."

After they bowled Australia out for 264, India openers were positive in the chase. However, two quick wickets

Gambhirpraises'phenomenal' Virat Kohlias India reach CT final



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI, 5 MARCH**

India head coach Gautam Gambhir was effusive in his praises for his side's achievements at the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, thus far, after beating Australia to reach the summit clash of the tour-

He felt that the side had played 'flawlessly' but hinted that there was more to come in the remaining game.

press conference.

Gambhir added, "There is always something to perfect game, that is the kind of person I am. I will never improving. "We want to stay environment and culture we want to create in that dressing room."

put the side on the backfoot, before star batter Virat Kohli resurrected the chase along with the rest of the middle order to get India closer to the line. The game was eventually sealed by the Men in Blue in the 49th over.

Gambhir had some special words on Virat Kohli's run in the game. "He is a phenomenal one-day cricketer. He knows how to plan his runs, he knows how to plan whether we are batting first or chasing, he adapts to the conditions really quickly, and that is why experienced and high-quality players are

very important," he said. Winning the ICC Champions Trophy will be the top priority for coach Gambhir from a personal front of view, as his tenure that started mid-2024, has been far from impressive, more so after the recent debacle in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy

Down Under. Meanwhile, Following Kohli's stellar performance, his childhood coach, Rajkumar Sharma, heaped praise on the star batter, highlighting his ability to step up in high-

pressure games. "He is called King Kohli because I have always said that he is 'bade match ka bada player.' He showed that yesterday (against Australia in ICC Champions Trophy Semi-final 1), too. He showed that the tougher the competition, the better her bats. Mentally, he is very strong...Class is permanent, form is temporary. Everyone knows his contribution towards Indian Cricket, they know how many matches he has made the country

win," Sharma told a news

'I was not feeling desperate': Kohli on gritty knock against Australia

TRIDIB BAPARNASH NEW DELHI, 5 MARCH

undue advantage of playing

all of their matches in Dubai.

Smith dismissed claims that

playing all matches in Dubai.

India had an advantage by

Star batter Virat Kohli once again displayed why he's rated so highly in white-ball cricket, more so in big-ticket tournaments, and as the master of run-chases, with his gritty half century helping India beat Australia by four wickets in the high-pressure semifinal of the ICC Champions Trophy in Dubai on Tuesday.

The hallmark of his innings was the amount of singles and twos that he accumulated during the 98-ball knock with only 20 of those 84 runs coming in the form of five boundaries. The other highlight of that innings was the way Kohli maturely anchored the chase, by forging partnerships with the rest of the middle order to set the tone for the likes of Hardik Pandya and KL Rahul to finish off in style for India. The 36-year-old walked into the middle by the fifth over of India's innings with the scoreboard ticking 30/1 and went on to set the platform with a 91-run part-



nership for the third wicket with Shreyas Iyer, followed by a 44-run fourth wicket stand with Axar Patel, and another 47-run stand for the fifth wicket with KL Rahul, to further dent Australia's hopes. In the lead-up to the ICC Champions Trophy, Kohli copped criticism from all quarters for lack of runs, even as his much-awaited return to domestic cricket, made mandatory by the BCCI in the aftermath of the dismal tour Down Under, also did not yield the desired results.

However, after touching down Dubai for the Champions Trophy, Kohli once again displayed his worth with a match-winning century

against Pakistan, before silencing Australia with his gritty half century in the crunch semifinal. After Australia set India a target of 265 for victory on a tricky Dubai deck, Kohli stepped up to anchor their batting innings. There have been question marks over his strike rate but Kohli went

on with the set template to

on building partnerships rather than going for the glory shots. "I was not feeling desperate, and I was pretty happy knocking ones around," he said after India sealed the win. And when, as a batter, you start taking pride in hitting those singles into the gaps, that is when you know you are playing good cricket and know you are in for a big partnership. It settles down the nerves. That was the most pleasing factor for me today.'

build the innings, and focussed

The Dubai wicket has proved difficult for batters right throughout the Champions Trophy, prompting teams to deploy spin-heavy lineups and name only a cou-

ple of recognised quicks. India's spinners answered the call yet again, allowing them to maintain the lion's share of control in the match and sustain pressure on Australia's hitters in the first innings. Restricting the Aussies to 264 all out in the final over worked perfectly into India's hands, as Kohli stepped up to play the foundational role his team needed. "For me it is about under-

standing the conditions, preparing my game accordingly, rotating strike," he continued. "Big partnerships on this pitch are the most important thing and my effort today was to string enough partnerships [together]. The pitch tells me how the cricket needs to be played and then I just switch on and play accordingly. This game is all about pressure, especially the semis and finals. When you go deep into the innings with enough wickets in hand, the opposition usually gives in, and the game becomes easier."

While Kohli was unable to reach a record-extending 52nd ODI century, he was quick to dismiss that as something that had fuelled him out in the middle. "I am never focused on those things [milestones]," he said. "When you do not think of those milestones, they happen along the way towards victory. For me, it is all about taking pride and doing the job for the team and if I get to the threefigure mark then great."

Gill retains top batting spot in ODIs; Kohli, Āxar, Shamigain

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 5 MARCH

India's star batter Shubman Gill retained the top spot in the latest update of the ICC rankings for men's ODI batters. In addition, Afghanistan's rising all-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai rose to the top of the all-rounder's rankings after his phenomenal display at the ongoing ICC Champions Trophy 2025.

While Gill maintains the top spot with 791 points, India's iconic batter Virat Kohli has made the jump up to fourth with 747 points after his match-winning knock of 84 off 98 balls against Australia in the semi-final, helped the Men in Blue progress to the tournament's final in Dubai. Kohli overtook his teammate and team skipper, Rohit Sharma, in the process. Shreyas Iyer also jumped to eighth, overtaking Sri Lankan skipper

Charith Asalanka with 702 points. Afghanistan's Ibrahim Zadran jumped 13 spots to take the 10th position amongst batters. This comes after his mammoth knock of 175 against England in the group stages.

In the ODI bowlers' rankings, Sri Lanka's Maheesh Theekshana holds the top spot with 680 points, while South Africa's Keshav Maharaj and New Zealand's Matt Henry vaulted to second and third, respectively. India's Mohammed Shami also improved his rankings with 609 points to take the 11th position. Omarzai, who is now the number one ODI all-rounder, reached his careerbest rating of 296 after his stellar show for Afghanistan in the Champions Trophy. He scored 126 runs in the three games at an average of 43. He also took seven wickets,

including a five-wicket haul

against England.

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 5 MARCH

Australian batting great Steve Smith announced his retirement from ODI cricket effective immediately following Australia's semi-final loss to India at the ICC Champions Trophy in Dubai on Tuesday. He will continue to feature in Tests and T20Is.

The 35-year-old Smith, informed his team-mates immediately after the loss to India that he had played his last ODI match, meaning he will not be part of Australia's team for the 2027 ODI World Cup despite standing in as captain for the Champions Trophy in the absence of Pat Cummins.

"It has been a great ride and I have loved every minute of it. There have been so many amazing times and wonderful memories. Winning two World Cups was a great highlight along with the many fantastic team-



mates who shared the journey," Smith said in a state-

Opening up on his deci-

sion, Smith said that it was the perfect time for new faces to step up in the ODI format. "Now is a great opportunity for people to start preparing for the 2027 World Cup so it feels like the right time to make way."

"Test cricket remains a priority and I am really looking forward to the World Test Championship final, the West Indies in the winter and then England at home. I feel I still have a lot to contribute on that stage," he added.

Smith, who featured in 170 ODIs for Australia, scored 5800 runs at 43.28 including 12 centuries and 35 half centuries while also registering 28 wickets to his name.

Only five players have scored more than his 12 ODI centuries and only David Warner has a better average among those five.

The batter was also an integral member of Australia's Cricket World Cup winning sides in 2015 and 2023. In

2015, he made five consecutive fifty-plus scores including 105 in the semi-final win over India and 56 not out in the final against New Zealand at the MCG, where he also hit the winning runs. Smith

Smith, who has maintained he was a series-by-series proposition in every format, given that there were questions raised on his future in international cricket in recent years, but remains committed for at least another home summer.

also led Australia in 64 ODIs

from 2015 to 2025.

It would be interesting to see whether he is available for the away series against India and England in 2027.

Smith's former teammate and current selection chair George Bailey said the retirement decision was fully supported by everyone within the Australian setup.

"We fully understand and support Steve's decision to retire from One Day International cricket. "Steve has said on many

occasions he is approaching the remainder of his playing career on a series-by-series basis, a position which hasn't changed and one Cricket Australia supports," Bailey

across 170 games is exemplary and to leave the format as a two-time World Cup winner cements his legacy as one of the great Australian ODI play-"From an NSP (National

"His record as a batter

Selection Panel) standpoint, Steve remains fully committed to Test cricket and is an integral member of and leader within that team," Bailey added.

Smith is currently out of Australia's T20I plans after being left out of the 2024 T20 World Cup squad but has expressed his desire to continue in the format, especially at the 2028 Olympic Games in T20 cricket.

Printed and published by VINEET GUPTA on behalf of THE STATESMAN LTD and printed at L.S Publications Pvt Ltd, 4 Canal West Road, Kolkata 700015. Published from 4 Chowringhee Square, Kolkata 700001 * Editor: RAVINDRA KUMAR * Managing Editor: ARYA RUDRA (c) The Statesman Ltd., RNI No. WBENG/2708/57