



BRIEF



People take a rest inside a concrete pipe on a hot summer day, in Gurugram, Monday.

Held

■ **Mumba:** A 45-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly raping a woman and having unnatural sex with her in the eastern suburb of Chembur here, police said on Monday. The RCF police on Sunday arrested the accused for the incident that took place on May 13, an official said. The accused and the 38-year-old victim, who is a teacher, were acquainted with each other, he said.

Acquit

■ **New Delhi:** A court has acquitted a man charged under the Delhi Excise Act for possessing 36 beer bottles, saying the prosecution was unable to provide any “cogent evidence” and that there was the possibility of the accused having been falsely implicated in the case. The court was hearing a case against Mintu Choudhary, who was charged under section 33 of the Delhi Excise Act for possessing beer bottles without any permit or licence at Bijwasan in southwest Delhi on August 30, 2018.

Fire

■ **Thane:** Four members of a family received severe burn injuries when two houses caught fire in Mumbra area of Maharashtra's Thane district on Monday, civic officials said. The injured included two children aged 4 and 5, they said.

Booked

■ **Bengaluru:** Police have registered a case against the engineers of the Bengaluru civic agency and the car driver who took the vehicle into the flooded underpass in the city leading to the death of a 22-year-old IT staffer and endangering the lives of five other family members of the victim, who were later rescued. The Halasuru Gate police on Sunday booked a case based on a complaint lodged by Batula Sandeep, who is the relative of the victim B Bhanurekha.

Mishap

■ **Hyderabad:** A delivery person of an e-commerce firm was injured after falling from the third-floor of a building here when he tried to evade the customer's barking dog, police said. The incident took place in an apartment at Manikonda on Sunday when the delivery executive, aged 30, went there to deliver a mattress and the dog started barking at the customer's door, which was reportedly partly open, they said.

Weather	
	High 41 Low 27
MARKET	
NIFTY	18,314.40 ▲
SENSEX	61,963.68 ▲
BULLION	
GOLD	60,195
SILVER	72,800

CHHATTISGARH LIQUOR SCAM

ED attaches Rs 121 cr worth assets

Of Aijaz Dhebar, IAS officer Tuteja

New Delhi, May 22 (PTI):

Assets worth more than Rs 121 crore of Anwar Dhebar, who is the elder brother of Raipur Mayor Aijaz Dhebar, IAS officer Anil Tuteja, former MD of Chhattisgarh State Marketing Corporation Ltd. Arun Pati Tripathi and others have been attached in the alleged liquor scam-linked money laundering case, the ED said Monday.

The properties, provisionally attached under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), include 69 belonging to Anwar Dhebar worth Rs 98.78 crore, 14 properties of Tuteja worth Rs 8.83 crore and one asset of Tripathi, an Indian Telecom Service (ITS) officer, worth Rs 1.35 crore, the federal agency said in a statement.

Tuteja is a 2003-batch IAS officer and is currently posted as the joint secretary in the state's industry and commerce depart-



Hotel Vennington Court attached by ED.

ment. Hotel Vennington Court in Chhattisgarh capital Raipur of Anwar Dhebar, being run under the aegis of his firm A Dhebar Buildcon, has also been attached, the Enforcement Directorate said. Properties of Vikash Agarwal alias Subbu worth Rs 1.54 crore and 32 properties of Arvind Singh worth Rs 11.35 crore have also been attached as part of the same order. The total value of all attached properties is Rs 121.87 crore. This money

CM Baghel denies allegation

The ED had alleged the Chhattisgarh liquor scam to the tune of Rs 2000 crore. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had categorically denied the allegation.

laundering case stems from a 2022 Income Tax department charge sheet filed against IAS officer Tuteja and others before a court in Delhi.

Anwar Dhebar, Tripathi and two others have been

Corruption in four ways...

The ED has said that “corruption” was done in four ways as part of this alleged illegal liquor syndicate. Part-A pertains to “commission” where the agency alleged that a bribe was collected from the distillers per case of liquor procured from them by the CSMCL. Part-B pertains to the sale of “unaccounted” ‘kacha’ or country liquor.

Properties attached...

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arrested by the ED in this case till now. The ED had alleged that money was

Leopard found dead; infighting suspected

Dhantari, May 22: A female leopard has been found dead at a forest in Dhantari district, with officials suspecting it died during infighting with another big cat or a wild boar. The feline's carcass with multiple injuries was found on Sunday on the outskirts of Daldali village under Nagri forest range, a forest official said.

After being alerted, forest personnel rushed to the spot and an autopsy was conducted, he said.

“Prima facie, it seems the feline died following a fight with another leopard or a wild boar as the carcass had multiple injuries. All body parts were intact. The post-mortem report is awaited to ascertain the exact cause of the death,” the official said.

“illegally” collected for “every” bottle of liquor sold in Chhattisgarh and evidence of “unprecedented” corruption and money laundering of Rs 2,000 crore generated by an alcohol syndicate led by Anwar Dhebar had been unearthed.

It had conducted “more than 50 search operations” at various locations in Raipur and Bhilai in Chhattisgarh apart from Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai and the ED had earlier said it seized movable assets worth Rs 58 crore including cash, fixed deposits, shares and jewellery. Thus, the total seizure and attachment in the case now stand at about Rs 180 crore, it said.

Two CoBRA commandos injured in encounter

With Naxalites

Bijapur, May 22: Two commandos of the Central Reserve Police Force's jungle warfare unit CoBRA were injured in an encounter between security forces and Naxalites in Bijapur district, police said on Monday.

Two-three Naxalites also received bullet injuries in the gun fight which took place at around 8 pm on Sunday in Bijapur, located around 400 km from the state capital Raipur, they said.

A joint team of the District Reserve Guard and the CRPF's Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) launched a search operation from Pusnar camp on

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Fresh violence in Manipur, Army rushes to spot

Four houses torched

Imphal, May 22 (PTI): In fresh violence in Manipur, four houses were torched by a mob in Imphal East district after two armed miscreants forced people to shut their shops on Monday afternoon, police officials said.

However, no casualty was reported due to the arson.

The mob also beat up one of the miscreants while the other managed to flee. The two were taken into custody. Armymen deployed in the area who

Three arrested...

Three persons with a double barrel were arrested during the combing operation, officials said. They included former MLA T Thangzalam Haokip of Henglep constituency in Churachandpur district.

rushed to the scene used force and fired teargas shells to disperse the mob resulting in minor injuries to a few people.

Guj ATS arrests 4 B'deshis, busts Qaeda unit

Ahmedabad, May 22 (PTI): The Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) has busted an Al-Qaeda module and arrested four members who hail from Bangladesh but have been living illegally in Ahmedabad, an official said on Monday. The preliminary investigation has revealed that the four members of the proscribed terror outfit were trained by their handlers based in Bangladesh before the quartet was sent to India. They were tasked with raising funds for Al-Qaeda's illegal activities, radicalising local youths and persuading them to join the terror outfit, said Deputy Inspector General,

Gujarat ATS, Deepan Bhadrans. They were arrested from different parts of Ahmedabad under the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and sections 38, 39 and 40 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Bhadrans told reporters at the ATS headquarters. The four alleged members of Al-Qaeda are identified as - Mohammad Sojib, Munna Khalid Ansari, Azharul Islam Ansari and Mominul Ansari. “Based on a specific tip-off, we first picked up Sojib, who used to live in the Rakhial area of Ahmedabad, for questioning. Sojib told us that he and three others are part of Al-Qaeda's net-

work and were taking instructions from their Bangladesh-based handler Shariful Islam. Through Islam, these youths met one Shayba, head of Al-Qaeda's operations in Bangladesh's Mymensingh district,” said Bhadrans.

The ATS subsequently nabbed Munna, Azharul, and Mominul from the Narol area of the city, where they were working in factories by posing as Indian citizens. The ATS found Aadhaar and PAN cards and some literature published by the terror outfit's media wing As-Sahab Media from the rented rooms of the trio, said Bhadrans.

WARM WELCOME



PM Narendra Modi receives a warm welcome by the Indian community on his arrival, in Sydney, Monday.

NCLAT upholds order allowing Go First's voluntary insolvency proceedings

New Delhi, May 22 (PTI):

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Monday upheld insolvency resolution proceedings against crisis-hit airline Go First, derailing aircraft lessors' efforts to take back their planes from the struggling Wadia group firm.

A two-member NCLAT bench directed aircraft lessors and the Interim Resolution Professional (IRP) of the Wadia group firm to approach the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) regarding the claim of possession and other respective claims relating to the aircraft whose leases were terminated by the

lessors after the company filed for insolvency process. “The order dated May 10, 2023, admitting Section 10 Application is upheld,” said the NCLAT bench headed by Chairperson Justice Ashok Bhushan. Earlier, NCLT on May 10, 2023, admitted the plea of Go First to initiate voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings and appointed an interim resolution professional (IRP) to suspend the company's board. The said NCLT order was challenged by Go First's four aircraft lessors - SMBC Aviation Capital Ltd, GY Aviation, SFV Aircraft Holdings and Engine Leasing Finance BV (ELFC) - owning around 22 aeroplanes.

PM conferred with highest honours

Of Fiji, Papua New Guinea

Port Moresby, May 22:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on Monday conferred with the highest honours of Papua New Guinea and Fiji, in a rare recognition for a non-resident in the two Pacific island nations.

Modi arrived in Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea on Sunday on his maiden visit to the country to host a key summit between India and 14 Pacific island countries to boost bilateral ties.

‘Unprecedented honour for India as Papua New Guinea confers their highest award to PM Modi,’ the Prime Minister's Office said. It was presented to him by Papua New Guinea Governor-General Sir Bob Dadae. Papua New



PM of Fiji Sitiveni Rabuka confers PM Narendra Modi with the Companion of the Order of Fiji, the nation's highest honour, on Monday.

Guinea conferred the Companion of the Order of Logohu to Prime Minister Modi for championing the cause of unity of Pacific Island countries and spearheading the cause of Global

incidents in future.

The NGT was hearing a matter where it had initiated suo motu (on its own) proceedings based on a media report about the death of six people, including five women, allegedly due to mine collapse.

The incident occurred on December 2 last year in the village, which is under Nagarnar police station, around 12 km from Jagdalpur, the district headquarters.

A bench headed by chairperson Justice A K Goel said, “We direct that the District Magistrate,

Bastar may disburse a further amount of Rs 16 lakh to the heirs of each of the deceased and Rs 2 lakhs each to the injured within one month.”

“It will be open to the DM to identify the violators and proceed against them in accordance with the law, including for recovery of compensation, and the state may review its vigilance and regulatory regime to prevent such incidents in future,” the bench, also comprising judicial member Justice Sudhir Agarwal and expert member A Senthil Vel, said.

LIMESTONE MINE COLLAPSE

NGT orders compensation of Rs 20 lakh to kin of each of 6 killed

Jagdalpur, May 22 (PTI):

The National Green Tribunal has directed the District Magistrate of Bastar to pay a compensation of Rs 20 lakh to the families of each of the six workers who were killed in a limestone mine collapse in Maalgaoon village in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh.

The tribunal also ordered the district administration to pay a compensation of Rs 2 lakh to the three injured workers and asked the state to review its vigilance and regulatory regime to prevent such

65-year-old woman kill mentally unwell son



Dhantari, May 22: A senior citizen allegedly killed her 40-

year-old mentally unwell son in Dhantari district reportedly due to her inability to meet his medical expenses as well as frequent fights with his wife, a police official said on Monday. On May 15, the woman told police someone had stabbed her son to death in their house in Gangrel under Rudri police station limits, the official said. A probe revealed the 65-year-old woman was not in good terms with the victim's wife, after which the senior citizen was questioned over the chain of events, he said.

Muslim side objects to plea for ASI survey of Gyanvapi

Varanasi (UP), May 22 (PTI): The Muslim side on Monday filed its objection before the Varanasi district court to a petition seeking a direction to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to survey the entire Gyanvapi mosque complex.

The Supreme Court had on May 19 deferred a scientific survey, including carbon dating, to determine the age of the structure, claimed to be a ‘Shivling’, found at the complex, saying implications of the Allahabad High Court order on it merits closer scrutiny.

The direction had come on the plea of the Anjuman Islamia Masjid Committee against the high court's May 12 order for the determination of the age of the structure using modern technology.

However, the mosque authorities have maintained that the structure is part of a fountain in the ‘wazu khana’, where ablutions are performed before namaz.

After the high court order, the district court had on May 16 agreed to hear a plea for a survey by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) of the entire Gyanvapi mosque premises located next to the Kashi Vishwanath temple.

On Monday, Rajesh Mishra, special counsel for Gyanvapi and Adi Vishweshwar cases, told PTI that the Masjid Committee filed its objection in the court of District Judge AK Vishwesh to the petition. Mishra said that the court has fixed July 7 for the next hearing.

Major action against encroachers and land mafia

District Hospital gets new ambulance



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 22: The Enforcement Wing of the Town Services Department of Bhilai Steel Plant took a major action against the en-

croachers and land mafia in the Newai Bhata area on Monday.

Cattle byres and temporary shed were constructed by illegal encroachers on about 1/2 acre of land in Newai



Bhata. A room was also constructed by capturing a plot of land. Some portion of the land was fenced with chain-link and cement poles.

A shed of about 50x50 square feet was built

with bamboo sticks and plastic sheets. The team of BSP Towns Services Department demolished all the illegal structures including the shed, room, fencing and got the en-

tire land freed from encroachment.

Team of Newai Police Station was present during the demolition drive. The illegal occupants were warned not to encroach on BSP's land anywhere in future; otherwise legal action would be taken. Newai police force was present during the entire proceedings.

Quarter numbers 4C/St-30A/Sector-7 and 283B, Risali sector were also vacated from illegal occupants and handed over to the allottee and maintenance office. Action will continue against illegal occupants and land mafia.



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 22: ICICI Foundation and ICICI Bank handed over an ambulance to District Hospital Durg during the program organized at village Sankara. Shrikant Kumar, Project Manager, Ravi Kumar Verma, Development Officer, Birsing Chaturvedi,

Amitesh Tandon, Community Facilitator Durg and Deepesh Dev, Regional Manager of ICICI Bank, Ashutosh Kumar, Branch Manager and Saurabh Sharma were present. It needs to be mentioned here that ICICI Foundation and ICICI Bank are conducting various works under social responsibility in the district.

Rain water harvesting has been arranged by the Foundation in 87 schools for water conservation in the district. Along with setting up solar plants in the same schools, the work of construction of 20 toilets in 13 schools has also been done. The foundation also conducted the work of deepening three ponds.

Bhilai Steel Plant organises free Medical camp at Village Dhaurabhata

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 22: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, conducts several public welfare activities as part of its organizational social responsibility towards the community in and around its areas of operations.

The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department of the plant organized a one-day free Health Camp, which started at 10:00 hrs on May 20, 2023 at Model Steel Village Dhaurabhata.

The expert medical team from CSR department, comprising health experts, Dr Isha Kujur, Pharmacist Shashi Bhushan Roy, Firoza Joseph for Blood-sugar and BP examination, Shambhu for registration volunteered their services for the camp. AK Soni, CSR Assistant, from the department was also present during the Health Camp.



A total of 16 villagers from Village Dhaurabhata, including 08 men, 07 women and 01 child availed health services at the day long Health Camp and free medicines were distributed to them.

It is noteworthy that the

CSR Department of Bhilai Steel Plant, on an average conducts one health camp daily in the adjoining areas or mines, with the aim of ensuring adequate medical & Health facilities to the communities within which it works.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 22: Steel Employees Union (INTUC) handed over a memorandum to Rajeev Kumar, Deputy General Manager, in-charge of Canteen Cell, against the leaders of a trade union who had recently threatened the canteen operators for selling other food items in the canteen of Bhilai Steel Plant. INTUC leaders stated that disputes would arise if such union leaders are not stopped from threatening the canteen operators.

It needs to be mentioned here that for the last few days, the office bearers of a union in the Bhilai Steel Plant are threatening the canteen operators in the pretext of inspection. Some canteens are selling food items other than the food items prescribed by the management. The leaders of this union are pres-



suring the canteen operators for not selling the food items which are not included in the approved list. However, the canteen operators are selling these food items according to the demands of the employees (customers). The canteen operators stopped selling these food items due to the threats of these union leaders.

The employees of the plant are irked over the non availability of the food of their choice. The employees of the plant were

repeatedly requesting the INTUC leaders to ensure that the food items of the choice are made available in the canteens. INTUC leaders met Rajeev Kumar, Deputy General Manager in-charge, and demanded to provide food items according to the choice and demand of the workers in the plant's canteen. If the canteen operator is providing food items according to their choice, then any union leader should not have any objection.

If the employee gets the

food according to his interest, then only he will be able to contribute in the production with his full capacity. INTUC further demanded from the management to stop such leaders who threaten the canteen operators. They also demanded to open the canteen in the second shift for the employees of the engineering shops and to open the canteen in other departments including the coke oven of the plant on Sundays as well.

Rajeev Kumar, Deputy

General Manager, assured the INTUC delegation that it has also come to their notice that some union leaders are putting unnecessary pressure on the canteen operators. The management has interacted with those leaders and they have been advised to stay away from such activities. Food items will be made available as per the choice of the employees in the canteen of the plant.

Canteen Cell Manager William, INTUC Union General Secretary Vansh Bahadur Singh, Executive President Puran Verma, Senior Vice President Chandrashekhar Singh, PV Rao, S Ravi, Additional General Secretary Shekhar Sharma, Deputy General Secretary, Dhanesh Prasad, Ramashankar Singh, Jayant Barathe, Shiv Shankar Singh, CP Verma and others were present.

Devendra inaugurates badminton court in Hudco

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 22: Bhilai Nagar MLA Devendra Yadav is making efforts to ensure development in the city as per the public expectations. Along with this, he is also conducting Bhet Mulaqat programmes to meet the people and conduct discussions about the development of the wards and the city. He is asking people about their problems and is making efforts to resolve them.

In this sequel, MLA Devendra Yadav reached Hudco ward the other day. He moved across the entire ward and met the locals. During the Bhet Mulaqat programme, he gifted a badminton court sports ground with all facilities to the resi-



dents of HUDCO. Here, the players can practice their game at night also.

This initiative created an atmosphere of great joy among the youth. The youth thanked him and expressed their gratitude. The youth added that they had been demanding a sports facility for years, which has now been completed. MLA Devendra Yadav also enjoyed playing volleyball with the youth in another ground. To make

this moment memorable forever, the youth clicked photographs and took selfies with the MLA.

Later, MLA Devendra Yadav conducted a meeting with senior citizens of the locality. In the meeting, there was an in-depth discussion about the development of the city and the ward. People gave many suggestions to the MLA. Some people narrated the minor problems of the

ward, which were resolved immediately.

Thereafter, MLA Yadav met the elderly people who were taking a walk in the garden. Devendra also took a walk with them and interacted with the people. Ward Councillor Siju Anthony, Komaldas Tandon, MLA Representative and Public Works Incharge of Bhilai Municipal Corporation, Ekansh Banchore were present.

Kiln-4 of RMP-3 inaugurated after capital repair

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 22: Kiln No 4 of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Refractory Material Plant -3 was lit up after successful completion of capital repair that was carried out in a record time of 56 days. The kiln was lit up for production by Anjani Kumar, ED (Works).

The Kiln No 4 of RMP-3 is a gas-fired kiln equipped with state of the art technology. The kiln used 900 tonnes of refractory bricks. Safety engineering processes were diligently followed during execution of the work.

During the Capital Repair that mainly included complete replacement of the refractory lining and cell plate, and three



major modifications which will lead to better availability and production by the kiln. The Capital Repair was executed under the direction of Tapas Dasgupta, CGMI/c (Iron).

PK Sarkar, CGM I/c (Services), HK Pathak, CGM (OHP), Sudhir Kumar, CGM (Refractory), GP Singh, CGM (Safety), Rakesh Joshi, CGM (EMD) were also present on the occasion of lighting up of kiln along with Head of the Dept Ratan Mukherjee,

GM, Rampal, Sushanta Pal, DK Verma, SK Nayak, and departmental officers and personnel.

Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) congratulated the employees of RMP 3 and other ancillary departments and emphasized on proper and timely maintenance for increasing utility and availability of the Kiln. Addressing the gathering Tapas Dasgupta, discussed future action plan for better production. The capital repair of Kiln-4 has

been unique in several ways.

Prashant Saha, GM (Refractory) and Shabir Ali, AGM made special contributions in the refractory lining work in the capital repair, along with significant contributions by the instrumentation, automation and INCOS departments. Prahlad Maurya, AGM (RMP-3), gave a presentation on Capital Repair. Departmental officers participated in the technical discussion.

HMS demands to increase retirement age of doctors

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 22: Bhilai Shramik Sabha leaders Hariram Yadav and Pramod Kumar Mishra issued a joint statement stating that there is a huge shortage of doctors in the Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital and Research Center and most of the specialist doctors will retire between 2023 and 2025.

Around 40000 entitled people including BSP personnel, BRP personnel, CISF and retired BSP personnel are treat-

ed in this hospital, which is run by the steel plant.

They stated that a medical practitioner becomes a specialist doctor at the age of around 40-45 years and they retire in the next 20-25 years. The doctors retire as soon as they become experienced.

The people reaching Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital will not get full benefit of the experience of these doctors. At present, the retirement age of doctors in many institutions like AIIMS and Chhattisgarh gov-

ernment run hospitals is 65 years.

The union demanded that the retirement age of doctors should also be raised to 65 years by the SAIL management. In the current situation, many specialist doctors in Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital are going to retire within 1-2 years, so with immediate effect, the SAIL management should implement an extension of 2 years, so that when the age of retirement is 65 years, all those doctors will be in the service of the SAIL.

BJP Mahila Morcha stages chakkajam demanding ban on liquor

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 22: BJP Mahila Morcha staged chakkajam at Patel Chowk in Durg demanding total ban on liquor in the state. BJP Mahila Morcha State President Shalini Rajput was specially present on the occasion. Under the guidance of District BJP President Jitendra Verma, women leaders from across the district led by District President Divya Kalihari staged the demonstration.

They gathered in the District BJP Office Durg and after the meeting, marched to Patel Square. Police force reached the spot and tried to prevent the demonstration but the leaders of Mahila Morcha sat on the road and shouted slogans against the state Congress government.

State President Shalini Rajput said that the Bhupesh Baghel government indulged



in liquor scam by forgetting the promise of liquor ban. She added that the Congress government, which promised liquor ban, has done a liquor scam of Rs 2000 crore. The arrest of big Congress leaders of Chhattisgarh and their relatives in the liquor scam is proof that the Bhupesh government has used the sale of liquor as a source of its illegal earnings.

District BJP President

Jitendra Verma said that the anger of women against the Congress Bhupesh government is natural, the process of closing liquor shops was started in a phased manner during the BJP government, but liquor shops increased in the Bhupesh Baghel government.

With the launch of online liquor sales and peddling of illegal liquor in villages, Bhupesh government focused on increasing the consumption

of liquor instead of reducing it. Women in the family suffer the most from the side effects of alcohol. The women of Chhattisgarh are gearing up against Bhupesh Sarkar. He added that the women will unite and teach Bhupesh Sarkar a tough lesson.

Former cabinet minister Ramshila Sahu said that if the Congress did not have the guts to fulfill the promise, it should not have made such a promise

at all and when it has won the votes of the women of the state by promising prohibition, it should not have cheated the women.

Mahila Morcha district president Divya Kalihari said that the women of Chhattisgarh have been duped by the Congress party which took the oath of ban on alcohol by taking Gangajal in hand. Congress leaders should be ready for a befitting reply from the women for breaking their promise.

Maya Belchandan, Gayatri Verma, Jayshree Rajput, Usha Tawari, Alka Baghar, Amita Banjare, Ayushi Pandey, Sweety Kaushik, Swati Sahu, Gayatri Verma, Jai Shri Rajput, Sarita Mishra, Bani Soni, Heema Sahu, Dilip Sahu, Ashish Nimje, Rohit Sahu, Madan Wadhwa, Dinesh Dewangan, Raja Mahobia, Rakesh Duggad and others were present.

CM Baghel presented slew of developmental works

During the Bhent Mulakat program in Rampur Assembly Constituency

Inaugurates and laid stone for works worth more than Rs. 71 cr

Raipur, May 22: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel presented a slew of various developmental works during his Bhent Mulakat program organized in Chirra village in Korba district's Rampur Assembly Constituency. Mr. Baghel performed the inauguration and Bhoomipujan of 65 developmental works worth Rs. 71 crore 23 lakh. They in-



clude the inauguration of 33 developmental works worth Rs. 44 crore 33 lakh and the Bhoomipujan and foundation stone laying of 32 developmental works worth more than Rs. 26 crore 90 lakh.

The developmental works inaugurated by the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel include railway

overbridge construction work near Urga Railway Station on Champa Gewra Railroad, 4 works worth Rs. 9 crore 14 lakh 88 thousand including the construction of 2 Km road from Tilaidabra to Kartala road and bridge-culvert in Public Works Department's Korba division, 8 road construction

works worth Rs. 2 crores 24 lakh 93 thousand under the Forest Department, 8 works worth Rs. 2 crores 14 lakh 57 thousand of Chhattisgarh Rural Road Development Agency under the Panchayat and Rural Development Department, 10 works worth Rs. 1 crore 81 lakh 91 thousand under the

Janpad Panchayat Kartala, and 2 works worth Rs. 6 crore 8 lakh 76 thousand under the Health and Family Welfare Development.

Similarly, Bhoomipujan of the following works was also performed: 22 works worth Rs. 20 crore 53 lakh 77 thousand under the Public Health Engineering Department, 2 works worth Rs. 3 crore 99 lakh 63 thousand under the Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board in Korba, 2 works worth Rs. 1 crore 42 lakh 24 thousand under the Chhattisgarh Housing Board's Korba division, and 6 works worth Rs. 94 lakh 60 thousand under the Panchayat and Rural Development Department.

HOLE WITHOUT WARNING SIGN



A hole on the main road of city has left uncovered and without any warning signal or sign board and it acts as death-trap for the riders and pedestrians during night.

Elderly man duped of over Rs 6 lakh

Raipur, May 22: Frauds duped an elderly resident of Telibandha area of the city of Rs 6.50 lakh on the pretext of renewing the policy of ICICI Bank Professional Life Insurance. Acting on the complaint, Telibandha police have registered fraud offence against the callers Apoorva Garg and Pratibha Mishra.

According to the police, a girl named Apoorva Garg and Pratibha Mishra called continuously from 8750948586 on the mobile of Suparschandra Golchha (68), resident of Aishwarya Residency, Telibandha, advising him to get his ICICI Professional Life Insurance policy renewed.

He sent the complete information on e-mail. On the basis of that information, Suparschandra transferred the given amount of Rs 2.50 lakh along with the policy number to the said account on 19 December 2022. He transferred Rs 2 lakh on 14 March and a total of Rs 6.50 lakh in the third installment. In this way both the girls cheated him of money.

Orientation program cum training concludes

● **Of Electoral and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers**

Raipur, May 22: As per the direction of the Election Commission of India, the certification and orientation training programme for Electoral Registration Officers and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers of the state was organised by Chhattisgarh's Chief Electoral Office, on May 20 and 21 at Thakur Pyare Lal Institute of Panchayat and Rural Development located in Nimora. All the state's Electoral Registration Officers attended the programme, and they were provided with detailed information about the constitutional and legal pro-

visions related to the preparation of electoral rolls.

Addressing the officers present in the training programme, Chief Electoral Officer Mrs. Reena Babasaheb Kangale emphasised that the successful conduct of any election depends on the correctness of the electoral roll of that constituency. The trainees showed keen interest in the training organised for all the participants for the upcoming assembly election. Highlighting its importance, the Chief Electoral Officer further stated that the training programme will provide better knowledge of the rules and regulations to the participants regarding the preparation of the electoral roll of their constituency and train them to perform good electoral work in their area

Are the cattle sent to hill-stations during summer?

● **Questions Sao on CM Baghel's statement and acceptance that there are no cattle in 'Gauthan' during summer**

Raipur, May 22: Commenting upon the Chief Minister's statement that the cattle do not live in 'Gauthans' during summer season, BJP State President Arun Sao questioned as to whether Congress send cattle to some hill station during summers? Sao said that CM in his statement accepted that there are no cattle in the 'Gauthan' and indirectly he has accepted that there is massive scam in the name of 'Gauthan'.

Sao in a statement made to the press said that the very statement by CM Baghel that there is

not cattle in the 'Gauthan' during summers, stands testimony to the charges of 'Gauthan' scam by BJP and to which CM has also accepted it. On the question that if the cattle do not live in 'Gauthan', then the very provision of Rs 1300 cr 'gauthan scam' has been made only for the winter season. Contrary to this if Baghel accepts that there are no cattle in the 'Gauthan', then it also indicates of massive cow-dung purchase scam during the summer season. Sao questioned that if there are no cattle during summer, they why the shed was made and also questioned whether cow-dung purchase is not done in summer? All this clearly indicates that the sale of cow-dung during summer season is only on papers and it smells of massive corruption, Sao added.

Hundred of AAP workers court arrest, sent to jail



● **Stage massive protest, take out massive rally**

Raipur, May 22: AAP party workers and leaders took out a massive rally and court arrest mid-way while on way to gherao CM's residence here on Tuesday. There was minor scuffle of AAP party workers with the police when they stopped near the barricade at CSEB's office. The senior party leaders have strongly opposed the district and police administration of

arresting the demonstrators for showing black-flag to PCC State in-Charge Selja and sending them to jail and demanded unconditional release soon. AAP party workers and leaders from the state capital city gathered at the dharna venue Budhatalab in the morning and then took out a massive rally at 2:00 pm in support of the concept of corruption-free nation as held by the National Convener of the party and CM Delhi Arvind Kejriwal. Through this rally AAP Ch'garh unit wanted to

protest against massive corruption worth lakhs by CM Bhupesh Baghel and his son and promotion of nepotism in the recruitment made through state PSC and to provide justice to the needy and poor.

Here the AAP leaders showed black-flags to PCC state in-charge and Kumari Selja and after which many AAP workers were taken into arrest and sent to temporary jail. Heavy police forced was deployed to avoid any untoward incident or any confrontation.

Two arrested for robbing a truck

● **Full of goods worth one million of an online company**

Raipur, May 22: The police have arrested two of the four miscreants who robbed a truck carrying goods worth Rs 10 lakh from online shopping company Flipkart. This incident of loot took place near the overbridge located near Jarwai in Kabir Nagar area. After getting the driver and his nephew off the truck, miscreants ran away towards Attari with the truck. During investigation, it was revealed that the robbery was planned by Raju Sharma (22) of Jarwai

Basti, a former employee of Flipkart Company, along with three accomplices. Police have arrested Raju and Amit Kharwar (21) of RDA Colony Hirapur and recovered a truck full of goods from their possession.

According to information received from the Kabir Nagar police station, Neelkanth Sahu (22), a resident of Saragaon, Kharora, along with his nephew Dharmesh Sahu had left for Durg from Tendua with a truck number CG 04 NR 7363. Flipkart company's goods worth one million were loaded in the truck. While on way to destination Neelkanth stopped the truck near the Jarwai

overbridge after seeing stones placed on the road. Meanwhile four unidentified youths aged 20 to 25 years came in front of the truck and threatened Neelkanth. One of them having a shovel in his hand started breaking the glass, which scared Neelkanth and Dharmesh. Miscreants then pulled both of them out of the truck and threatening them besides snatching mobile from them.

All four miscreants then fled towards Attari village by same truck. Neelkanth along with his nephew managed to reach the warehouse of the company and informed about the incident to the staff

Ravi Soni and Azad Khan who lodged complaint of robbery with police by dialing 112. According to driver Neelkanth, GPS system is fitted in the looted truck. On the basis of this, the police team engaged the informer along with technical analysis. Information was obtained from the present employees of Flipkart and the employees who had left the job in the past. Meanwhile, Raju Sharma, who had earlier worked in the company, was nabbed. On interrogation, he confessed to carrying out the robbery along with Amit Kharwar and others. Police is searching for other miscreants involved in the incident.

One nabbed for cheating travel agent of Rs 5 lakh

● **Making false promise of making software for his travel firm**

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, May 22: The inter-state accused involved in cheating a travel agent from Amlidih area of Rs 5 lakh in the name of preparing a software for his travel firm, was nabbed by the police here on Tuesday. A case under section 420, 406, 120 B of IPC has been filed against the accused.

The complainant filed a report in Telibandha thana that since 2-3 days back before Jan 29, 2023 he received a phone call



from mobile No. 8910782441 saying that they help in making software for website of different companies and said that since he is into travel business, they can make

a software for air-travel, train ticket, foreign tours and related to hotels for him and for this they charge Rs 18 lakh and initially he will have to pay Rs 5 lakh and for this one person Yogesh Patel will come to take Rs 5 lakh in cash from his office.

It was on Jan 29, 2023, one Yogesh Patel named person came to his office and cash of Rs 5 lakh was handed over to him and he promised the website by evening hours. After this the victim called Surya Sharma and Yotesh Patel, but their mobile phone numbers were found to be closed. On this a fraud of Rs 5 lakh was done and case was filed.

After the report, the Telibandha police, along with Cyber Unit and anti-crime checked the mobile number and tried to locate it and it was found from Bikaner. A team was sent to Rajasthan and camping their they continued to check the accused and nabbed one Bheraram Kaswa involved in the case. On serious interrogation he accepted the crime and informed that he used different phone numbers to call the travel agent and the mobile phones were also seized. The accused is Bheraram S/o Shankarlal Kaswa (31), R/o Kesar Desai Jatan, Thana Jasnok, District Bikaner, Rajasthan.

Certificate course on 'Applied Data Analytics: A Practical Approach'

Raipur, May 22: National Institute of Technology Raipur's Continuing Education Cell (CEC) is conducting a certificate course on "Applied Data Analytics: A Practical Approach". The duration for the course is 22nd May to 23rd June 2023 in online mode. As per the convenience of the participants this course is running in two individual batches, morning & evening. The course is being organized by the Continuing Education Cell (CEC) & Department of Information Technology, NIT Raipur. This event will cover Data Analytics it's applications along with case studies.

This certificate course was organized under the adept guidance of Dr. A. B. soni, Director (I/c) NIT Raipur. Organizing committee members of the course are Dr. S. Ghosh, Chairman

CEC, Dr. Rakesh Tripathi, HoD, Information Technology department, Dr. Govind P. Gupta, Assistant Professor, Information Technology department and Dr. Mridu Sahu, Assistant Professor, Information Technology department. Eminent speakers featured in the course are Dr. Rakesh Tripathi, Dr. Neelam Sinha, Dr. GR Sinha, Dr. Mukesh Raghuvanshi, Dr. Rajeev Choudhary, Dr. Govind P. Gupta, Dr. Mridu Sahu, Dr. DC Shariya, Dr. Chandan Singh, Dr. Deepak Singh, Dr. C. Jatoth, Prof. Monali Gulhane, Dr. Vikas Vidhyarthi, Dr. Sagar Badhiye, Dr. Padmavati Shrivastava, Dr. Samruddhi Mohdiwale. During this course duration, the eminent speakers will share their expertise in their respective fields with the participants.

The course was inaugurated with an online lamp lighting ceremony and a warm welcome of eminent speakers and the participants. Dr. Mridu Sahu gave a brief introduction about CEC and the certificate course stating its core objectives. Further, in vote of thanks Dr. Govind P. Gupta expressed his gratitude towards Dr. A. B. soni, Director (I/c) NIT Raipur, Dr. Prabhat diwan, Dean (R&C) and Dr. S. Ghosh, CEC Chairman for their support in organizing this course. He wished the participants would enjoy this course and gain valuable knowledge from it. The course has witnessed a participation of over 172 participants including 74 students from NIT Raipur, 84 students from other famous institutes as well as faculty members and industry representatives.

Ramayan teams from more than 10 states have agreed to participate in the national event

Program will feature beautiful performances by foreign teams as well

Famous artists and poets will attend the grand event

Program will feature performances by Kumar Vishwas, Maithili Thakur, Baba Hansraj Raghuvanshi, Lakhbir Singh Lakha, Shanmukha Priya, and Sharad Sharma

Raipur, May 22: Chhattisgarh will be imbued with the glory of Lord Ram in the coming month. The Culture Department is organizing the National Ramayan Festival in Raigarh's Ram Leela Ground from 01 to 03 June, for which preparations are in full swing. The festival will feature performances mainly centred on the theme of the Arnaya Kand in the Ramayan. It is believed that Lord Shri Ram spent most of his exile in the forests of Dandakaranya in Chhattisgarh. Foreign artists will also stage beautiful performances of Lord Ram's story at the festival.

The officers of the Culture Department said

that Ramayan teams from nearly 10 states, including Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Goa, Assam, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh have agreed to participate in the National Ramayan Festival. The event will also feature attractive stage presentations of the epic by Ramayan artists from foreign countries. Interestingly, the tradition of the stage performance of the Ramayana is prevalent in South-Eastern countries as well, and the teams from these countries will participate in the Ramayan Festival.

The three-day event will feature daily performances by eminent artists at the national level. Stars

from Indian Idol and Saregama, Shanmukha Priya and Sharad Sharma, will participate in the event on June 1. Famous singers Baba Hansraj Raghuvanshi and Lakhbir Singh Lakha will present their musical performances on June 2. Famous Bhajan singer Maithili Thakur and popular poet Kumar Vishwas will present their renditions of the story of Lord Shri Ram on June 3.

At the initiative of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel, the Chhattisgarh Government is developing places in the state connected with Lord Ram's journey during his exile through the

ambitious scheme of the Ram Van Gaman Tourism Circuit. These places, which range from Surguja to Bastar, are being developed as tourism spots by the government.

कालड़ा बर्न एवं प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर बनी रहे मुस्कान

कटे होंट व तालु का निःशुल्क इलाज स्माइल ट्रेन के सौजन्य से

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Women are more empowered than ever today, says CM

Cong should fulfill promises made to tribals: Gagda

Says Edsmeta incident report is out and action be taken



Central Chronicle News

Bijapur, May 22: Former minister Gagda addressing a press conference in BJP's office said that the judicial inquiry report of the Edsmeta incident has arrived and it has many points. The government should have taken action by now. He charged that the Congress government has once again done the work of misleading the public and due to which there is great deal of resentment among the public.

Addressing the press conference, former cabinet minister Mahesh Gagda said that the Congress government was in opposition when Edsmeta incident took place. At that time the

existing Minister in-charge Kawasi Lakhma and existing MLA Vikram Mandavi and other Congress leaders and workers met the victims and said that if the Congress government comes, they will take appropriate action. Now the judicial inquiry report has come and the party should action, he demanded.

During the press conference, former minister Gagda said that former Congress President and CM Bhupesh Baghel has also made announcement of SIT investigation on everything and action in ten days. But after the formation of the government, the Congress had made several announcements to the victim's family and the tribals of

Bastar. But the result of those announcements is Silger, Burji, Bechapal, Phundri, Bedre Bhanupratappur, Antagarh, where the movement of tribals is going on. He charged that neither the Congress people nor those sitting on the administration are meeting these agitators.

Tribals have been kept confused only by misleading them. Gagda said that the judicial inquiry report of the Edsmeta incident has arrived, the report has many points. The government should have taken action by now. Gagda has demanded the government to fulfill the promises it has made to the tribals.

- Baghel visited RIPA in village Chirra of Rampur Vidhan Sabha and observed the activities there
- CM took selfie with the self-help group, and motivated them to keep up the good work



vide better income to the women of the village. He took a selfie with the members of the self-help group there and said that women have become more empowered and self-dependent, they are not 'Abila' anymore.

During his visit to RIPA, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel closely observed the activities of processing turmeric, chili, spices, gram flour, fragrant rice, pickle, badi, incense sticks, manufacturing of dona pattal, slippers, cow dung paint, ash bricks, paver block, putty, fencing etc. Meanwhile, he also interacted with the members of the self-help group and praised the activities conducted in RIPA.

He added that the activities conducted in RIPA have a potential to generate good profits and pro-

Mr. Baghel directed Collector Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Jha to open Gadkaleva and Coffee Point, in view of the potential for tourism here. Divyang Lalita Rathia of village Chirra informed Chief Minister about the activities conducted by various self-help groups in RIPA. She told that 15 activities are being conducted there and 64 people of the village are engaged in these activities, including 18 men.

Orders have been received from Rural Engineering Department and Tribal Department for turmeric, chili spice, dona pattal, gram flour, floor, bricks. An order for 7,000 liters of cow dung paint

was also received from the Rural Engineering Department. An order of two thousand slippers has also been received from the Tribal Development Department.

So far, there has been a net profit of Rs 2 lakh 15 thousand and goods worth more than Rs 6 lakhs produced under various economic activities have been sold. She informed that many departments have placed orders for the various products of RIPA. Chief Minister Mr. Baghel inaugurated the WiFi facility by pressing the button.

Collector Mr. Jha informed Chief Minister Mr. Baghel about the works of Narva development, RIPA

and an overview of the activities conducted there. Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel, Assembly Speaker Dr. Charan Das Mahant, Minister in charge of School Education and District Dr. Prensai Singh Tekam, Revenue Minister Mr. Jai Singh Aggarwal, MP Mrs. Jyotsna Mahant, MLA Mr. Mohit Ram Kerketta, Mr. Purushottam Kanwar, Mr. Nanki Ram Kanwar, along with other public representatives were present on the occasion.

Chief Minister planted jackfruit saplings

Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel planted a jackfruit sapling at Ripa Center in Chirra. Vidhansabha Speaker Dr. Charan Das Mahant planted mangoes and district in-charge minister Dr. Prensai Singh Tekam, Revenue Minister Mr. Jaisingh Aggarwal and Member of Parliament Jyotsna Charan Das Mahant planted mango saplings.

Ch'garh's 'Sian Jatan Clinic' gains national acclaim at NAM Conclave



- Medical Education Secretary P. Dayanand delivered a presentation on the Sian Jatan Clinic during the Conclave
- Sian Jatan Clinic served over four lakh senior citizens in one year

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, May 22: 'Sian Jatan Clinic', which operates in the Ayush institutions of the state every Thursday, has received national recognition. Medical

Education Secretary P. Dayanand presented this initiative during the National Ayush Mission (NAM) Conclave held recently at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi, organized by the Union Ministry of Ayush.

The conclave showcased excellent and innovative activities being conducted nationwide under the National Ayush Mission. The Government of India included the Sian Jatan Clinic-initiated in Chhattisgarh to ensure proper healthcare for the

elderly-as a special activity in this conclave.

During the National Ayush Mission Conclave, Secretary P. Dayanand representing Chhattisgarh provided information about the objectives, functioning, and beneficiaries of the Sian Jatan Clinic. He highlighted that special outpatient services and Panchakarma services for the elderly are conducted every Thursday in all 1,174 government Ayush institutions in the state.

Since its inception in May last year, these clinics have offered healthcare facilities to over four lakh senior citizens. The Sian Jatan Clinic received praise as an exemplary initiative from senior officials of the Government of India and officials from other states attending the conclave. They urged Chhattisgarh to provide essential guidance and technical support to establish similar clinics in their respective states.

Women of Gauthan presented painting made from cow dung to CM



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, May 22: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and former Union Minister Selja Kumari observed the different stalls set up by various departments during the Bharose ka Sammelan program organized at village-Sankra of Patan development block of Durg district on Sunday. While visiting the Agriculture Department's stall, they also interacted with the beneficiaries of Rajiv Gandhi NYAY Yojana and Godhan NYAY Yojana.

Chief Minister and former Union Minister Ms. Selja Kumari appreciated products made by cow dung by the members of Jai Bajrang self-help group of Sirsakhurd Gauthan in Durg district. They presented a painting of Gautam Buddha and a tribal art made from cow dung to the Chief Minister. Self-Help group members of Nawagarh Gauthan of Bemetara district presented Paira Art to Ms. Selja Kumari. Other ministers and officials were present on the occasion.

Collector expresses displeasure over pace of works

Conducts reviews of works in Bhairamgarh and Bijapur blocks



Central Chronicle News

Bijapur, May 22: Collector Rajendra Kumar Katara, while taking stock of the development works being conducted in Bhairamgarh block, expressed his displeasure over the slow progress in the construction work of Mahatma Gandhi Rural Industrial Park (RIPA) and called for quality work to be completed within the time-limit. He gave strict instructions to complete the same soon.

On the other hand, taking stock of the works of

the Prime Minister's Aawas Yojana in Jangla, necessary instructions were given. In Bijapur's Naimed Gram Panchayat, the work of making ice cream by the women of self-help groups is being done by the Skill Development Department. The Collector explained the women to work hard with dedication and also tasted the ice cream made by the group and gave instructions to improve the quality. During this, CEO District Panchayat Mr. Ravi Kumar Sahu and other officers were present.

Int'l Spiritual Narrator Devi Chitralekha meets Aditya Raje

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, May 22: Aditya Raje met Devi Chitralekha, renowned International Spiritual Narrator, motivational speaker and musical artist. Aditya Raje, continuing his legacy presented Devi Chitralekha with a plant, giving her his message about Environment Conservation. He also gifted her a Vedic Mala hand-made up of Cow dung. Devi Chitralekha has visited state capital for an eight days Shrimad Bhagwat Katha, started from 16th May'23 till 23rd May'23, at Birgaon, Raipur. 9 years old Aditya

Raje told her about the social activities being done by him in the field of environment, yoga, animal safety and etc. He also re-



cited her a renowned shloka from ShrimadBhagwat Gita which impressed Devi Chitralekha. Both Devi ji and Aditya Raje Singh discussed on topics like betterment of cows, and various other animals and conservation of environment. Seeing the keen interest of Aditya Raje in spirituality & animal welfare Devi Chitralekha invited him to GauSevaDham Hospital & Research Center, Hodal, Haryana, to visit her Gaushala and Animal welfare hospital. Aditya Raje was blessed with a memento presented by Devi Chitralekha and she blessed him for his future upcomings.

Cashless treatment facilities now available to all CGHS beneficiaries at AIIMS-R

- CGHS Pensioners and other beneficiaries will be eligible for cashless treatment in OPD, investigations and Indoor treatment

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, May 22: Cashless treatment facilities will now be available to all CGHS beneficiaries (serving and pensioners) at six AIIMS located at Raipur, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Patna, Jodhpur, and Rishikesh. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between these six AIIMS and CGHS, Union Health Ministry in the presence of Rajesh Bhushan, Union Health Secretary.

Patient care facilities available at six fully functional AIIMS at Raipur, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar,



Patna, Jodhpur, and Rishikesh shall be extended to the CGHS beneficiaries on cashless basis. It will be particularly beneficial for the senior citizens (retired pensioner beneficiaries of CGHS) who find it difficult to submit individual reimbursement claims and follow up approvals.

According to Prof. (Dr.) Nitin M. Nagarkar, Director 'The CGHS beneficiaries will have the advantage of accessing state of art treatment facilities available in these AIIMS, without the hassle of first making payments and then seeking reimbursements

from CGHS. This initiative will save time, reduce paperwork and also delays in settlement of individual claims. Till now, CGHS pensioner beneficiaries, availing treatment at AIIMS, are required to first make payment and claim reimbursement later from CGHS.'

The Health Secretary lauded this development stating 'CGHS is a significant service-oriented vertical of the Health Ministry through which existing and retired employees can avail medical services. He further added that "the government endeavors to expand the number of hospi-

tals empaneled under CGHS providing excellent tertiary care facilities aligned with the rising requirements of the patients.'

The beneficiaries under the CGHS are referred to Government hospitals and private hospitals empaneled under CGHS for indoor treatment. CGHS pensioners and other entitled categories of CGHS beneficiaries are eligible for cashless facilities at empaneled hospitals. CGHS provides comprehensive healthcare (both OPD & IPD) to Central Government employees, pensioners and their dependent family members, Members of

Parliament, ex-MPs and other categories of beneficiaries. Presently CGHS is in operation in 79 cities in the Country.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) 22 new AIIMS have been established across the country and they are at varying stages of operationalization. Besides providing facilities for quality medical education and research, these Premier institutions provide specialized patient care health services in various specialties and super specialties including cardiology, neurology, neuro surgery, gastroenterology, urology, cardio vascular thoracic surgery, oncology etc. These institutes also provide trauma and emergency care services, state of the art diagnostic services, including blood bank facilities. Prof. Nagarkar was present at the MOA signing event.

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Cattle missing in Mavlipadar Gouthan: BJP

Central Chronicle News

Jagdaldpur, May 22: In Bharatiya Janata Party's 'Chalbo Gouthan Kholbo Pol' campaign, BJP leaders inspected the gothan built in Mavlipadar Gram Panchayat of Darbha Mandal. Not a single cattle was found in the Gouthan built after spending lakhs of rupees. Water system was found missing. In the discussion, the villagers of the area termed Gouthan as useless and called it a means of earning govern-

ment money. District General Secretary Ramashray Singh, who came to inspect Gothan in a remote rural area, said that according to the information received from the local villagers, this Gouthan was constructed three years ago and here not a single animal has been kept till date. Government money has been misused by making Gouthan with-



out animals. The shed made for keeping the animals has been made by cutting the crooked woods of the forest, which is on the verge of col-



lapse. Water bores have been dug, the solar panels installed for electricity have collapsed. General Secretary Ramashray Singh

charged that the Congress government of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is playing an open game of corruption in the name of cow and cattle. Its high level investigation should be done and strict action should be taken against the culprits. District Vice President Yogendra Pandey said that it is the misfortune of Chhattisgarh that the Congress government of the pres-

ent state is involved in huge corruption in the name of dumb animals. This corruption of the state government is visible with open eyes. The BJP is exposing the misrule of the Congress. BJP workers and villagers including Kamalchand Bhanjdev, Phool Singh Sethia, Hariprasad Kashyap, K. Janaki Rao, Baldev Mandavi, Jairam, Devi Prasad Benzam, Satish Bajpai, Baliram Manjhi, Meanath Kashyap, Durjan Singh Kashyap were present during the inspection of Gothan.

State's first sugarcane base Ethanol plant in final stages

Central Chronicle News

Kawardha, May 22: The construction work of the State's first ethanol plant at village Ramhepur in Kabirdham district of Chhattisgarh is on final stages. This plant is taking shape on 35 acres of land near the state's first Bhoramdev Cooperative Sugar Factory, which is included in the flagship scheme of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and it is to be set up through PPP model, in contract between Bhoramdev Cooperative Sugar Factory and Chhattisgarh Distillery Limited's subsidiary unit N.K.J. Biofuel Ltd.

District Collector Janmejay Mahobe here inspected the works of the ethanol plant and instructed to speed up the construction work and to complete within the time



limit. He inspected the production area, boiler, administrative building and other parts of the ethanol plant and gave strict instructions to complete the remaining under-construction works of the plant on priority by the month of June.

After visiting the plant, he took a joint meeting of the administrative offi-

cers of the district and the officers and employees associated with the plant and reviewed the ongoing works. The Collector also instructed to make eco-park, green zone in the reserved land areas from the main entrance to the plant around the plant and from the point of view of environmental protection and promotion,

trees of large species, instructions were given to develop horticulture on the lines of children's gardens.

MD of Bhoramdev Cooperative Sugar Factory Bhupendra Thakur, Bodla SDM Sandeep Thakur, Village Town Investment Officer and other officials were present in the meeting.

Mr. Thakur, General Manager of Bhoramdev Cooperative Sugar Factory, said that the ethanol plant will be built on hybrid technology, in which ethanol will be made directly from sugarcane juice during the sugarcane crushing season and from molasses during the off-season.

Due to the diversion of sugarcane juice to ethanol, more juice will be required, for which more and more sugarcane will be purchased from the farmers. Being the country's first instance of PPP model for setting up an ethanol plant of this capacity, the tender at the national level was successfully completed through a transparent process, keeping in mind the nuances of the process for investor selection, he said.

BJP workers allege irregularity on Gauthan inspection



Central Chronicle News

Dhamdha, May 22: On the appeal of the Bharatiya Janata Party state leadership, the workers of Dhamdha Mandal inspected the Gauthan constructed near Nagar Panchayat Dhamdha Tamer Para Muktidham.

The workers here after the inspection, alleged many flaws and irregulari-

ties in the Gauthan. They alleged scarcity of water and absence of bamboo and wooden structure.

The workers also inspected Titurghat's Gauthan, and Jwala Singh Thakur, the president of the slum, said that Bhupesh government is cheating the public in the name of Gauthan across the state.

Where the farmers are

also being cheated in the name of vermicompost manure, in which adulterants can be found on examination, making the quality of compost manure very low, he further alleged.

Prominently present were Hima Sahu, Rohit Rajput, Sunil Gupat, Bhushan Dheemar, Raja Swarnakar and many more party workers.

INC conducts District Congress Committee meeting

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, May 22: A meeting of the Rajnandgaon District Congress Committee was organized here on Sunday, May 20 at the Ambedkar Bhawan located in the city's Jan Sahyog Maidan. Chief Guest of the program Chandan Yadav, secretary of the All India Congress Committee and Congress organization co-in-charge in the state of Chhattisgarh, and Rajnandgaon district Congress in-charge Arun Singh Sisodia were prominently present.

On the occasion of this important meeting of the District Congress Committee, the Congress workers kept their voices openly in front of their leaders, while on many occasions the leaders also sought suggestions from the workers. In the meeting, the works of



block presidents and office bearers of the organization were reviewed and proper guidelines were given to them in the interest of the party.

District Congress in-charge Arun Singh Sisodia took stock of the presence of the workers, as well as sought suggestions from the workers for vic-

tory in the upcoming assembly and Lok Sabha elections. The district in-charge thanked all the block presidents of the district for their cent percent attendance.

While giving a welcome speech in the programme, District Congress President Padamsingh Kothari, gave de-

tailed information about the main objective of the meeting, emphasized on taking the schemes of governance from the workers to the public. Chhattisgarh Congress co-in-charge Chandan Yadav, the chief guest of the program, while addressing the workers, directed all the front organiza-

tions to work together with discipline keeping in mind the respect of each other.

Leaders present
State Congress General Secretary
Md. Shahid, Thaneswar Patila, Dongargaon MLA Daleshaw Sahu, Mohla Manpur MLA Indrashah Mandavi,

Dongargarh MLA Bhuneshwar Baghel, Khuiji MLA Channi Chandu Sahu, Khairagarh MLA Yashoda Verma, District Cooperative Bank President Md. Nawaz, former MLA Bholaram Sahu, Girwar Janghel, Prakash Yadav, Chhattisgarh State Entrepreneur Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation President Dhanesh Patila, Chhattisgarh State Youth Commission President Jitendra Mudaliar, Chhattisgarh State Child Rights Protection Commission President Tejgunwar Netam, Chhattisgarh Tourism Board member Nikhil Dwivedi, former minister Govardhan Netam, Bharat Jodo Yatri Kranti Banjare, Rajnandgaon City Congress President Kulveer Chhabra and many other party workers were present.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

JEWELLERY AUCTION CUM INVITATION NOTICE

The below mentioned Borrowers have been issued notices to pay the entire dues in the facilities availed by them from DCB Bank Ltd. against Jewellery pledged with DCB Bank Ltd. (DCB Bank). We are constrained to conduct auction of the pledged Jewellery as they have failed to pay the entire dues. DCB Bank Ltd. has the authority to remove account(s) / change the auction date(s) without any prior notice. The auction will be conducted online through <https://egold.auctiontiger.net> on 06.06.2023 at 07.06.2023 from 12:00 PM to 03:00 PM

Sr. No.	Customer ID / No.	Customer Name	Sr. No.	Customer ID / No.	Customer Name
Baloda Bazar Location			Khokhsa Location		
1	102706587	UMASHANKAR SAHU	24	102852136	DEEPTI TIWARI
2	102146093	SUBHASH JAIN	25	101728795	JWALA SINGH BANAFAR
3	101827227	VISHAL PANDEY	26	102855170	KUMUDANI GADHEWAL
4	101835080	PRAFULLA SAHU	27	102444348	ANISH THAWAIT
Bemetara Location			Kumhari Location		
5	101334271	KOLHOORAM SAHU	28	102879119	DHIRAJ PATIL
Berla Location			29	102754901	SAHDEV BANJARE
6	102812551	SUKHSINGH	30	102811380	MD GULAM GAUS
7	101840556	AJIT SINGH	31	102802084	AKRAM RAZA
8	102774728	RIKESH YADAV	32	102126435	ASHWANI PANDEY
Dongargaon Location			33	101292654	MOHAMMAD SULTAN AHAMAD
9	102283221	SAROJ LEJHARE	34	103835168	PRABVEEN SAHU
10	102841327	LAXMI BAI	Kurra Location		
11	102644679	NATIK PATIL	35	102645469	KHUSHBU SAHU
12	101709657	LAUKUSH SONKAR	36	102891938	PARMESHWAR DEWANGAN
13	102383991	SUSHMA	37	102891967	PYUSHI PARAKH
14	103015369	DEVISINGH SONWANI	38	103320459	INDRA DEVANGAN
15	103344416	BASANT VISHVAKARMA	39	101463760	VYAS NARAYAN TANDAN
16	102320239	PUKHRAJ JAIN	Parsada Location		
17	102702554	DHANESH KUMAR PATEL	40	102801346	AMIT KUMAR DIXIT
Kawardha Location			41	102241574	DINESH KUMAR KUSHIK
18	103346226	SUNIL KUMAR CHANDRAVANSI	42	102819714	VISHAL DANGWANI
19	102385386	NARESH CHANDRAWANSI	43	102869664	SANDEEP KASHYAP
Kharora Location			44	102241565	GAURAV SHARMA
20	102806568	RAM KHILAVAN SAHU	45	102865327	PAWAN KUMAR GANDHARVA
21	103324273	MANISHA BISNE	Raipur Location		
22	101946010	SUNIL KUMAR SINHA	46	101852783	MUKESH DEWANGAN
23	103701691	OJASWI NAMDEO			

By way of this publication, the concerned Borrowers/Pledgers are hereby given final notice and last opportunity to pay the facility recalled amount in full, with all interest and charges forthwith or anyhow before the scheduled auction date failing which the Jewellery will be auctioned. Items not auctioned to the highest bidder on the scheduled auction date shall be auctioned on any other day(s) without further notice. Participation in the auction and acceptance of bids shall be at the sole discretion of DCB Bank.

Please note that the auction shall be on an "as is where is basis", "as is what is basis", "whatever there is basis" and "no recourse basis" and DCB Bank shall not be responsible and liable in any manner for any claims, disputes, objections related to the Jewellery or the auction thereof. Bidders may kindly visit <https://egold.auctiontiger.net> for detailed terms & conditions for participation in the auctions.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
DCB Bank Limited

Date: 23.05.2023

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

Corporate Office: 802, Natraj By Rustomjee, Western Express Highway, Sir M.V. Road, Andheri East, Mumbai-400069, Maharashtra
Raipur Branch : 1A & 1B, 2nd Floor, Shyam Plaza, Pandari, Raipur-491001, Chattisgarh.
Authorised Officer : Prakash Kurrey, Mob.: 9827402009



PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION CUM SALE

Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited under the **Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002** for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned in sealed covers for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the physical possession, on "As Is Where Is Basis", "As Is What Is Basis" and "Whatever Is There Is Basis", Particulars of which are given below:-

S. No.	Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price (RP)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)
1	(App. No. 00330721/ Raipur Branch) Sangeeta Burman (Borrower), Ramayan Barman (Co-Borrower), Sagar Kumar Chauhan (Guarantor)	11-06-2021 ₹ 8,56,144/-	All that Piece and Parcel of the property bearing, L.I.G. 119, C.G.H.B Deendayal Awas Yojna., Ward No.22, Housing Board Colony Charoda, C.G., Bhillai, Durg, Chhattisgarh-490021 Boundaries: East: LIG-120, West: LIG-118, North: Road, South: Other Land	₹ 15,00,000/- (Rs. Fifteen Lakhs Only)	₹ 1,50,000/- (Rs. One Lacs Fifty Thousand Only)

- Last Date of Submission of Sealed Bid/Offer** in the prescribed tender forms along with EMD and KYC is **21-06-2023 within 5:00 PM** at the Branch Office address mentioned herein above. Tenders that are not filled up or tenders received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.
- Date of Opening of the Bid/Offer (Auction Date)** for Property is **22-06-2023** at the above mentioned branch office address at **3:00 PM**. The tender will be opened in the presence of the Authorised Officer.
- The notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s, to remain present personally at the time of sale and they can bring the intending buyers/purchasers for purchasing the immovable property as described herein above, as per the particulars of Terms and Conditions of Sale.
- This is **30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002** is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the above described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" and to the amount due to Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd., in full before the date of sale, auction is liable to be stopped.
- The immovable property will be sold to the highest tenderer. However, the Authorised Officer reserves the absolute discretion to allow inter se bidding, if deemed necessary. The Property as mentioned will not be sold below Reserve Price.
- AHFL is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The Property shall be auctioned on "As Is Where Is Basis", "As Is What Is Basis" and "Whatever Is There Is Basis".
- The Demand Draft Should be made in favor of "Aadhar Housing Finance Limited" Only.
- The detail terms and conditions of the auction sale are incorporated in the prescribed tender form. Tender forms are available at the above mentioned Branch office. Authorised officer reserve the rights to extend the date of tender or change the terms & conditions of bidding. For further details & other terms & conditions of bidding please visit our branch and website : www.aadharhousing.com
For further details, contact the Authorised Officer, at the above mentioned Office address.

Place : Raipur
Date : 23-05-2023
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

'Vat Savitri' fast observed by married women



Central Chronicle News

Birkoni, May 22: 'Vat Savitri' fast was observed here in village Birkoni Chandi Temple, Kampa Mahamaya pond and Shitala pond adjacent to the Banyan tree and women offered rituals and prayed for the long life of their husbands. 'Vat Savitri' is worshipped by married women

under the shade of a banyan tree and rituals are performed for happy married life and getting a son.

Married women get dressed early in the morning, doing sixteen adornments, taking seven rounds around the Banyan tree, tying the Raksha Sutra and wishing for a happy life and long life of her husband. Also on this day, the story of Savitri Satyavan, is narrated to their new brides that in the Amar Katha of Savitri Satyavan, the Sati woman Savitri worshipped the long branches of the banyan tree to bring back the life of her husband Satyavan from Yamraj and after worshipping the banyan tree, Savitri sought back the life of her husband Satyavan from Yamraj. As per the tradition, prasad was distributed by offering soaked pulses on the banyan tree.

'Vat Savitri' fast celebrated with devotion



Central Chronicle News

Fingeshwar, May 22: 'Vat Savitri' fast was observed here by married women and amidst chanting of vedic

mantras, women worshipped the banyan tree with Panchopachar method and circumambulated it by tying raw yarn to the tree a total of 12 times. Women dressed in red and yellow sarees observed the fast and performed the rituals in large number across the region.

It is notable here that the festival of 'Vat Savitri' is an important festival of Hinduism and

on this day, according to tradition, married women worship the old Banyan tree and tie it with a yellow thread and make rounds around it.

According to the Puranas, on the day of Vat Savitri, Sati saved her husband's life from Yamraj. The festival of Vat Savitri is celebrated with great pomp by married women and there was enthusiasm among women from the city to

the rural areas for the festival of Vat Savitri.

From early morning, women reached near many old banyan trees, including Kali Mandir, near the tehsil office of the city, and wished for long life of their husbands and the traditional fast was performed with full dedication and devotion.

IDBI BANK CIN : L65190MH2004G0148838 वेबसाइट : www.idbibank.in

Corrigendum

In reference to the advertisement issued for inviting bids to acquire office premises at various locations of Chhattisgarh State on 20.05.2023 & 21.05.2023 issued by IDBI Bank by the office of Undersigned in National News Papers titled The Chronicle & The Nav Bharat. The following changes in advertisement is hereby notified through this corrigendum for all concerned interested parties. The last date of submission of application may be read as 2nd June 2023 instead of 26th May 2023.

Place : Raipur, Date: 22.05.2023

Sd/-
Chief General Manager

YES BANK LIMITED

Regd. & Corporate Office: Yes Bank House, Off Western Express Highway, Santacruz East, Mumbai - 400055. CIN: L65190MH2003PLC143249.

POSSESSION NOTICE FOR IMMovable PROPERTY

The undersigned being the authorised officer of YES Bank Limited (herein under referred as the "bank") under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("herein referred as "the Act") and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) of the Act read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, had issued a demand notice dated 31-01-2023, calling upon 1. Mr. Pappu Singh & 2. Mrs. Rekha Singh, both are at- Rajeev Nagar, Near Ram Avtar Cycle Store, Adiwasi Nagar, Chhavan, IE, Bhillai, CG-490026, to repay sum aggregating to Rs.15,13,783.91/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Thirteen Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Three and Ninety One Paise only) under the Loan A/c No. AFH004700888072, due as on 27-01-2023, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice being under section 13(2) of the Act.

The Borrowers' security providers having failed to repay the amount within the stipulated time period hence this notice is hereby given to the Borrower/ security providers and to the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on 19-05-2023.

The Borrowers/security providers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property mentioned below and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the Bank for an repay sum aggregating to Rs.15,13,783.91/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Thirteen Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Three and Ninety One Paise only) under the Loan A/c No. AFH004700888072, due as on 27-01-2023 Only together with all the other amounts outstanding including the costs, charges, expenses and interest thereto.

Please note that under Section 13 (8) of the aforesaid Act, in case our dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by us are tendered at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured asset shall not be sold or transferred by us, and no further step shall be taken by us for transfer or sale of that secured asset.

Details of the security/security interest details of the mortgaged property

All that residential house admeasuring 36 Sq.Mt, lying and situated at Mouza Gram-Dhacha Bhavan, Housing Board Kurud, Plot No. EW 203, Kharsa No. 1401, Ward No. 16, Bhillai, CG. Boundaries: North: EWS Plot No. 202, South: EWS Plot No. 204, East: LIG Plot, West: Colony Road

Place: Bhillai, CG.
Date: 19-05-2023
(Authorized Officer)
YES Bank Limited

Public Notice

This is to inform to the public that the original Sale Deed Dated 15/03/2013 is Registered in the Office of Sub-Registrar Raipur, Vide Book No. A1, Volume No. 57177, Serial No. 7080 (Kh), Pages 55 to 68 executed by Shri Manish Agrawal S/O Shri Ganjanand Agrawal R/O Devendra Nagar, Raipur (C.G.) in favour of Shri Ranjeet Kumar Gupta S/O Shri Narayan Prasad Gupta R/O Village- Judhai Post-ugma, Thana Madanpur, Dist. Aungangabad (Bihar) Present Address: Gangra Nagar, Bhanguni, Raipur, Tahsil & Dist. Raipur (C.G.) for the Part of Kh. No. 109/15, Area 1885 Sq. Ft, Situated at Urkura, Thakur Dev Ward No. 18, Chhota Talab, Jagriti Nagar, Raipur, P. C. No- 108/40, RIC- Raipur-1, Tahsil & Dist. Raipur (C.G.) in respect of property owner has been lost/Misplaced by Owner Shri Raj Kumar Tunde S/O Shri Dashrath Lal tuned R/O Village- Karankapa, Post Chandeli, Thana Lalpur, Tahsil-Lormi, Dist. Mungeli Present Address Thakur Dev Ward No. 18, Urkura, Raipur (C.G.). The FIR has been placed for lost of the above said Sale deed by the owner.

Now Shri Raj Kumar Tunde S/O Shri Dashrath Lal tuned R/O Village- Karankapa, Post Chandeli, Thana Lalpur, Tahsil-Lormi, Dist. Mungeli Present Address Thakur Dev Ward No. 18, Urkura, Raipur (C.G.) has applied for loan from Roha Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd. Raipur hereby invites claims & objections, if any, for the mortgage the above said property within the 07 days from the date of publication of this notice along with relevant proofs and documents supporting the claim in my office. If no objections are received within above mentioned time, without any reference to such claims and the claims if any shall be deemed to have been given up or waived.

Raipur
Dated 22/05/2023
Vijay Shankar Tiwari
Advocate
779, "Gauri - Kesar Kunj",
Dundar Nagar, Raipur (C.G.)
Mobile 94252-08945, Mobile 90390-08945

6 vehicles seized for illegal transportation of limestone, sand



Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, May 22: On the instructions of Collector Vijay Dayaram, 6 vehicles transporting limestone and sand illegally were seized by the Mineral Department. Hareesh Mandavi, Officer-in-Charge of the Mineral Branch said that continuous action is being taken against the people involved in illegal transportation and mining of minerals.

In this episode, on

Saturday May 20 and Monday May 22, 6 vehicles were caught illegally transporting limestone and sand in Jagdalpur's Chhaparbanpuri, Litiguda, Irikpal, Kurushpal, Airandwal and Asana by the Department of Minerals. In these, a tipper and a highway and four tractors were caught while illegally transporting limestone and sand. All these vehicles have been handed over to police custody.

BRIEF



A woman covering her face with a scarf walks on a road on a hot summer day, in New Delhi, Monday.

Arrested

■ **Chandigarh:** Four shooters of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang have been arrested and six pistols along with cartridges were recovered from them, Punjab Police here on Monday said. Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said the accused have been facing several criminal cases registered in Punjab and Haryana.

Stabbed

■ **New Delhi:** A 25-year-old man was stabbed by three people during a scuffle in northeast Delhi's Usmanpur area, police said on Monday. Around 8 pm on Sunday, Puneet, a resident of South Gamri in Usmanpur, reported that his father Mahesh was sitting outside their house when he was hit by a ball, Deputy Commissioner of Police (northeast) Joy Turkey said. Mahesh scolded the child who was playing with the ball following which, his family members came there and a heated argument ensued between the two sides, the police said.

Expansion

■ **Aurangabad:** The Bharat Rashtia Samithi on Monday began its drive to form party committees in Maharashtra, where it plans to expand as part of the move to go beyond the confines of its traditional stronghold Telangana. The K Chandrashekhara Rao-led party had, in December last year, changed its name from Telangana Rashtia Samithi to Bharat Rashtia Samithi to underline its intention of becoming a national party.

Oppose

■ **New Delhi:** Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) Monday opposed before the Delhi High Court a PIL seeking 10 per cent reservation for students from economically weaker section (EWS) in terms of the 2019 amendment to the Constitution and said being a minority institution, it was not covered under the policy. In an affidavit filed in response to the plea, JMI said as per an official memorandum issued by the Government of India in January 2019, EWS reservation in central educational institutions is not applicable to minority institutions.

Dead

■ **Mumbai:** Actor, model and casting director Aditya Singh Rajput was found dead in the bathroom of his apartment in suburban Andheri here on Monday, police said. Rajput (33) was allegedly not keeping well since the last couple of days and he collapsed in the bathroom of his apartment in Oshiwara area this afternoon, an official said.

Material Recovery Facility transforming Jammu

● **Into clean, green city**

Jammu, May 22 (PTI):

Jammu city is rapidly transforming into a "clean and green city", with noticeable improvements in cleanliness in streets, footpaths, flyovers and residential areas.

The city is making significant progress towards achieving zero waste and at the forefront of this positive change is the Material Recovery Facility (MRF), also known as the 'Swachhta Kendra' (cleanliness centre), established in 2021.

The first-ever MRF in Jammu and Kashmir on the outskirts of the city operates under the collaboration of the Regional and Urban Development Agency (RUDA) and the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC). It employs a sustainable approach to integrated plastic waste management and efficient recycling within the city.



"This MRF in Jammu is the first of its kind. We have established it in partnership with the Jammu Municipal Corporation. It has been operational for almost three years now, with a daily capacity to handle five tonnes of waste. Currently, we collect, segregate, and recycle

approximately 150 to 200 tonnes of trash every month," Sajeew Arora, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of RUDA, told PTI.

Equipped with state-of-the-art technology, the MRF collects, separates, and processes dry waste before sending it to recycling centres. As a result, it significantly contributes to the reduction of carbon emissions and the effort is to make the city clean and green, he said.

"To date, we have col-

lected 7,000 metric tonnes of plastic waste, which we have successfully segregated and recycled. From an environmental perspective, every kilogram of plastic waste collected directly prevents three kilograms of carbon emissions. Through our efforts, we have already reduced 20,000 to 22,000 metric tonnes of carbon emissions in the atmosphere," Arora said.

The city corporation employs sanitation workers who collect segregated wet and dry waste from households and public areas. The waste is then either transported directly to the MRF or delivered to mini-sorting stations for further segregation and recycling, he said.

Arora said the waste collection system also has led to a positive economic impact.

DU reconstitutes committee to strengthen safety of students

● **In all-women colleges**

New Delhi, May 22 (PTI):

In the wake of incidents compromising the safety of students in all-women colleges, the Delhi University has reconstituted a committee to strengthen the safety and security of female students and employees on the campus.

The six-member committee will be headed by university proctor Rajni Abbi.

Speaking to PTI, Abbi said the committee has been reconstituted after harassment incidents were reported during cultural festivals at colleges.

"The university felt the need to have a specific committee to look into the issues of female safety. The committee that was formed after these incidents created generalised guidelines. But it was not specific to the safety of girl students," she said.

As per a notification issued on May 8, the university said, "The competent authority of the university has re-constituted a committee on women safety and security to strengthen the safety and security of female students and employees of the university." Besides Abbi, the other members of the committee

are Law Centre II's Vageshwari Deswal (member secretary) and Geeta Sahare (joint proctor), SRCC's Malika Kumar, assistant registrar Girish Kumar and advocate Niyati Sharma. Last month, the varsity issued a 17-point advisory to colleges and departments for holding programmes, events and fests in which it was enunciated that the responsibility for events will lie with colleges, and department authorities and the college concerned will be solely responsible for any "untoward incident". The guidelines were prepared in the wake of several all-women colleges wit-

nessing harassment incidents during cultural festivals. Students of the varsity's Indraprastha College for Women (IPCW) alleged that they were harassed by "unknown" men during a fest on March 28. The incident led to widespread protests by students who demanded the resignation of the college principal.

A similar incident in Miranda House was reported in October 2022 where several men allegedly climbed the college walls and gates to witness an open Diwali fest on the campus, and indulged in "cat-calling and sexist sloganeering".

'No rift in Tripura BJP'

Agartala, May 22 (PTI):

The ruling BJP in Tripura has denied any rift within the party following former chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb's allegation of 'outsider' interference in it.

BJP state unit president Rajib Bhattacharjee on Sunday said he will talk to Deb if he has any grievance in the handling of the party. The statement came hours after Deb made his allegation of 'outsider' interference in the ruling party which, he claimed, is hurting the organisation.

"Biplab da and Manik da (Chief Minister Manik Saha) are our leaders ... There is no trouble in the party. But if it is there we will try to remove it," Bhattacharjee said to questions by reporters of a probable rift within the saffron party. "Biplab da is our leader and the ex chief min-



Rajib Bhattacharjee

ister of Tripura. He is now the 'prabhari' (in-charge) of Haryana. I saw him venting his anger before the media. We will hold talks to know the reason for his feelings. We want to work together as a family," he added. The allegation by Deb, a Rajya Sabha member of the BJP, at a press meeting came just a day before the crucial BJP Tripura state executive meeting on Monday to chalk out the party's strategy for the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

He said "outsiders" were

interfering in the BJP's organisational affairs and weakening it. Deb said he has apprised the party's leadership of it.

He left for Delhi later on Sunday after an "urgent call" from the BJP central leadership. He is set to skip the state executive meeting, party sources said on Monday. Bhattacharjee said he was not aware of Deb intimating the central leadership on the 'outsider' interference issue. "But we will try to sort it out. We will surely talk to Deb," he iterated. The president of district units of BJP are expected to lay their reports on the party's organisational situation on the table during the meeting. BJP state in-charge Mahesh Sharma, Chief Minister Manik Saha and Bhattacharjee will be present in the meeting among other party leaders, sources in the party said.

NCP supporters protest outside ED office

● **Over summons to Jayant Patil**

Mumbai, May 22 (PTI):

Hundreds of NCP workers on Monday staged a protest outside the Enforcement Directorate's office in south Mumbai against summons issued by it to state party president Jayant Patil in a money laundering case.

The protesters claimed the Centre and the ED were indulging in "political vendetta".

Patil appeared before the ED here on Monday in a money laundering case linked to alleged financial irregularities in the now bankrupt financial services firm IL&FS, an official said.

The agency's office is located close to the Nationalist Congress Party's (NCP) office at Ballard Estate in south



Students at a school celebrate after HSLC Class 10 exam results were declared, in Guwahati, Monday.

Andhra CM launches Rs 5,156-crore Machilipatnam port works

Machilipatnam, May 22 (PTI):

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday launched work on the Machilipatnam port, which is estimated to cost Rs 5,156 crore and will have an initial capacity to move 35 million tons of cargo.

The Chief Minister unveiled a pylon and offered special prayers on the beach, marking the start of the work on the port, which is scheduled to be completed in two years, a press note shared by the state government on Monday said.

"The capacity of the 4-berth deep water port would be increased to 116 million tons as the cargo traffic increases gradually," Reddy was quoted as saying in the release.

In the next 24 months,

he said, people can start seeing large vessels anchoring at Machilipatnam's port.

Following land acquisition, finalising tender procedures and financial closures, procuring permissions and resolving all legal hurdles allegedly created by N Chandrababu Naidu, the port is becoming a reality, the chief minister said.

According to the CM, the port will propel Machilipatnam to grow like developed ports cities such as Mumbai and Chennai, considering it is connected with national highway number 216. He said however that railway connectivity was required to enhance accessibility to the port.

Machilipatnam will become the go-to place for trade and commerce as well as industrial growth,

as Telangana and Chhattisgarh too will make use of this port located in Andhra Pradesh's Krishna district, and it will spark growth in ancillary industries, which would create employment for lakhs of people, Reddy said.

Thanking the farmers who gave up their land for the port, the CM noted that 4,000 acres of government land would be gradually linked to the port being built in a 242-acre land parcel.

Reddy also spoke about the new medical college being built in the seaside town at a cost of Rs 550 crore, which would commence its maiden academic year in August or September and help serve the healthcare needs of people from Pedana, Avanigadda, Kaikaluru and other places.



NCP workers stage a protest at the party office after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) summoned party leader Jayant Patil, in Mumbai, Monday.

Mumbai.

The protesters, wearing Gandhi caps and holding placards and banners, also carried a large size cut-out of NCP chief Sharad Pawar.

They shouted slogans against the Union government and the ED, accusing them of indulging in "political vendetta".

Earlier, speaking to reporters before going to the

ED's office, Patil said, "I am part of the opposition and one needs to face such type of suffering. I never heard the name of the IL&FS in the past, but the ED officials have summoned me to appear before them. I will try to address their queries in the legal framework."

"I appeal to the party workers to maintain peace and allow the offi-

cials to do their work. I also ask party workers not to be afraid of it," said Patil, a seven-term legislator who is former Maharashtra minister of home and finance.

Considering the crowd of Patil's supporters, the Mumbai Police made elaborate security arrangements and placed barricades on the road leading to the ED's office.

In February last year, the ED arrested former Maharashtra minister and NCP leader Nawab Malik under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with a probe linked to the activities of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim and his aides.

In November 2021, the ED arrested former state home minister and NCP leader Anil Deshmukh in another money laundering case.

Experts concerned over dipping water level

● **Of Rabindra Sarobar in Kolkata**

Kolkata, May 22 (PTI):

The water level of Rabindra Sarobar in south Kolkata's Dhakuria area has gone down drastically in the past several months raising concern among environmentalists and regular visitors.

Pointing out that dredging should be undertaken immediately at Rabindra Sarobar, labelled as a national lake, environmentalist and spokesperson of anti-pollution 'Save Rabindra Sarobar' campaign (launched to stop religious festivals in the water body five years back), S M Ghosh told PTI Sunday that the water level has declined to six feet (1.82 metre) at some spots in the middle of the lake. "Even 60 years back people from Gobindapur slum, adjacent to the lake,

used to come here to wash utensils, and children had a good time splashing water. The structure of the old ghat which had submerged has resurfaced. The water level of the lake has depleted by more than half in past years which has resulted in the drop in groundwater level," Ghosh said. The Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA), custodian of the water body, undertakes dredging of the lake.

A KMDA official said visitors and staff have reported that 'char' (surface land) has come up in two parts of the lake near its boundary, and water level has come down to some extent in the middle of the lake. "This is unprecedented in the lake's history in recent years. We are aware of the development and an emergency meeting has been called to take stock of the situation." "Lack of adequate rain in past one

year might have triggered the crisis but we have to think of alternatives to restore the lake to its earlier state," the official said.

Asked about the remedial measures, he said the KMDA is mulling over a proposal to temporarily plug outlet channels which carry the flow of water from the water body to outside.

The lake will soon be mapped by experts, the official said.

Another KMDA official said the water body has a depth of about 20 feet in the middle. Geo Scientist Sujib Kar said "Previously Rabindra Sarobar was linked with river Ganga. But after a devastating storm in 1737, the lake was detached from the river and the flow from the Adi-Ganga was choked." The lake is still linked with Adi-Ganga through a sub-surface water-bearing strata, extending from 16 mt. to 46 mt, as a result of

which the discharge of water in the form of sub-surface flow towards Adi-Ganga canal is causing a drop in the water level of the lake, he explained.

Rabindra Sarobar is a 90-acre water body surrounded by around 100 acre of surface area rich in flora and fauna.

"Protection of the water body is urgent and if we are unable to protect the lake, then vast areas between Golpark and Tollygunje in southern parts of the city might be affected," Kar said.

Rampant withdrawal of ground water in various parts of Kolkata and restricted recharge of ground water due to dwindling number of water bodies is causing strain on Rabindra Sarobar which acts as the feeder of ground water of a vast area and this is triggering seasonal fluctuations of water level in the lake, Kar said.

BRIEF



Britain's Kate, Princess of Wales talks with pupils from schools taking part in the first Children's Picnic at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, London, Monday.

Driving fine

■ **London:** In her first reaction to a UK media report claiming she attempted to bypass the usual process after being caught speeding while driving outside London last year, UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman insisted on Monday "nothing untoward" happened in relation to the incident. Addressing reporters during an interview on camera, Braverman, 43, admitted that she got a speeding ticket and paid the fine. It came as Downing Street said British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who has just returned from the G7 summit in Japan, is still "updating himself" on all the information related to the issue. It is believed he has discussed the matter with his independent adviser on ministerial ethics, Sir Laurie Magnus, amid Opposition demands for an investigation.

Grenade attack

■ **Indiana:** A hand grenade found as a family went through an older relative's belongings exploded, killing an Indiana man and injuring his two teenage children, police said. The explosion fatally injured the 47-year-old man Saturday evening at the home in the community of Lakes of the Four Seasons in northwestern Indiana, according to the Lake County Sheriff's Department. His two children, a 14-year-old boy and 18-year-old girl, were taken to a hospital with shrapnel wounds. Sheriff Oscar Martinez said investigators were trying to determine what caused the grenade to explode in the home about 30 miles (50 kilometers) southeast of Chicago. Authorities didn't immediately release any additional information about the grenade or why the relative had it. (AP)

Fire kills 6

■ **Dubai:** A house fire in Abu Dhabi killed six people and injured seven on Monday, according to the civil defense authority in the United Arab Emirates. An Investigation is underway to find out the cause of the fire which erupted in the city's Al Moazza area. The UAE has been grappling with a series of recent fires, exacerbated by flammable cladding materials and escalating temperatures, which can soar up to 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) during the summer. Another apartment fire last month killed 16 and injured 9 in Dubai's historic Deira neighborhood. On Saturday, Abu Dhabi experienced a dust storm and temperatures of 43 degrees Celsius (109 degrees Fahrenheit). One worker was injured as five wooden boats anchored on Sharjah Creek went ablaze that day.

PM Modi showcases India as reliable partner of Pacific island nations

Port Moresby, May 22 (PTD)

Eyeing to bolster India's footprint in the Indo-Pacific, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday showcased New Delhi as a "reliable" partner of the Pacific island nations as he said those considered trustworthy were "not standing by" the region in times of need, in what is being seen as an oblique reference to China. A friend in need is a friend indeed, Modi told top leaders of 14 Pacific Island nations at a summit, assuring that India is ready to share its capabilities and experiences with the region "without any hesitation" and that "we are with you in every way."

Referring to adverse im-

First Indian-origin Lord Mayor elected in Australia's Parramatta City Council

Melbourne, May 22 (PTD)

The City of Parramatta Council in Sydney on Monday elected Indian-origin Councillor Sameer Pandey as its new Lord Mayor. Pandey's election to the post coincided with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's arrival in Sydney on Monday for a two-day visit at the invitation of his Australian counterpart.

Pandey was first elected to the council in 2017 and in 2022, became the City's first Deputy Lord Mayor from the Indian subcontinent, an official statement said. Pandey was elected as Donna Davis stepped down from the role following her election as the State Member for Parramatta in Australia's New South Wales state. Asserting that it was a privi-



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, center, addresses a meeting with Pacific Island leaders to discuss ways to better cooperate in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, Monday.

lege to lead the council of one of the fastest-growing centres in Australia, Pandey said, "The City of Parramatta is the geographical heart of Greater Sydney and a major economic powerhouse as well as the best place in Sydney to live."

"Parramatta is home to a vibrant and diverse community, and I'm excited to lead the City as it cements itself as Sydney's second CBD (central business district) and the focus of some of its most exciting opportunities," he was quoted as saying in the press release. A small business owner with a background in IT, Pandey "is passionate about ensuring the council delivers what community and local businesses need and positioning the City of Parramatta as a smart city," the press release said.

South Korea, EU agree to boost pressure on Russia, condemn North Korean missile tests

Seoul, May 22 (AP)

Leaders of South Korea and the European Union agreed on Monday to increase pressure on Russia over its war against Ukraine and condemn North Korea's ballistic missile tests.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol met with European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in Seoul after attending the weekend summit of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations in Hiroshima, Japan.

"We agree to maintain and increase the collective pressure on Russia, partic-

ularly through effective implementation of the respective restrictive measures," they said in a joint statement. "We are committed to support Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction and remain resolved to support Ukraine for as long as it takes," Michel said. Russia's continued attacks against Ukraine show that deeper cooperation between the EU and South Korea is "not a luxury. It's a vital necessity."

The three leaders called on North Korea to cease actions that raise military tensions and return to nuclear disarmament talks.

"The European Union will never accept (North Korea's) possession of nu-

clear weapons as the normal state of affairs, just like we do not accept Russia's military aggression against Ukraine," von der Leyen said at a joint news conference.

Yoon said the three leaders recognised that North Korea's nuclear and missile programs pose a threat beyond the Korean Peninsula.

North Korea has launched about 100 missiles since the start of 2022, many of them nuclear-capable weapons that place the US mainland and South Korea within striking distance. Experts say North Korea believes its expanded weapons arsenal will help it wrest concessions from its rivals.

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challenging time. Whether it was vaccines or essential medicines, wheat or sugar; India, in line with its capabilities, has been assisting all partner countries," he said.

The prime minister, who arrived here on Sunday on the second leg of his three-nation tour, also underlined the importance of a free and open Indo-Pacific for the Pacific Island nations and said India respects the sovereignty and integrity of all countries.

"India respects your priorities. It feels proud to be your development partner. Whether it's humanitarian assistance or your development, you can count India as a reliable partner. Our perspective is based on human values," he said.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Momen ridicules report calling him 'pro-Chinese'

Dhaka, May 22 (PTD)

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen on Monday dismissed as "false and baseless" a newspaper article which called him "pro-Chinese" who worked as a lobbyist for a Chinese organisation before becoming a minister in 2018.

"This (description of him) is very strange and surprising," Momen told a press conference, referring to an article published on Sunday in the *Kabela*, a Bangla newspaper with a headline titled "US Sanctions is Coming, Government Remains Ready". The foreign minister called a press confer-

ence to brief the media about Bangladesh Premier Sheikh Hasina's upcoming Qatar visit.

The article, written as an analysis, claimed that Momen worked as a lobbyist for a Chinese organisation before becoming a minister in 2018.

Refuting the statement, Momen called the article "false and baseless".

He pointed out that the article could not provide any reference or source to support its claim and said, "I (rather) stayed in the USA and worked there for decades".

Before joining politics in 2017, Momen served as Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the

3 Palestinians killed in Israeli raid in occupied West Bank

Tel Aviv, May 22 (AP)

Three Palestinians were killed in an Israeli army raid in a West Bank refugee camp early on Monday, Palestinian health officials said, while the Biden administration sharply condemned Israel's latest act of settlement expansion.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said the three men were killed during a raid in Balata, a refugee camp near the city of Nablus.

Six people were wounded, including one who was in critical condition, the ministry said. The Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a militant group with connections to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party, identified the men killed as its members.

The army later con-

firmed soldiers had raided Balata; it said troops came under fire and killed three Palestinians. Three others were arrested there, the army said. Israel has stepped up raids over the past year in response to a spate of Palestinian attacks and said Monday's operations netted weapons and an explosives manufacturing operation in a home, which it detonated.

Meanwhile, the Biden administration issued a sharply worded statement on Sunday criticizing Israel for moving to reestablish settlers at the formerly evacuated outpost of Homesh in northern West Bank.

In March, the Israeli government repealed a 2005 act that dismantled four West Bank settlements. Over the weekend, the top Israeli army gener-

al in the West Bank signed an order attaching Homesh to a local settler regional council a move paving the way for reconstruction of the outpost.

The United States was "deeply troubled" by what US State Department spokesman Mathew Miller said was Israel's illegal policy on the outpost in the occupied territory.

Miller also expressed Washington's concerns about ultranationalist National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's visit to the Temple Mount, the holiest site in Judaism. The contested site is also home to the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third-holiest site in Islam.

"This holy space should not be used for political purposes, and we call on all parties to respect its sanctity," Miller said in the statement.

Court orders release of former human rights minister as crackdown on PTI workers continue

Islamabad, May 22 (PTD)

A top court in Pakistan on Monday ordered the release from jail of Shireen Mazari, a close aide of former prime minister Imran Khan even as several other senior party leaders and thousands of workers remain in detention following the May 9 protests.

Justice Chaudhry Abdul Aziz of the Rawalpindi Bench of the court issued an order to release Mazari, who served as the minister for human rights from 2018 to 2022 and was arrested on May 12 from his house in Islamabad after a crackdown was launched on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party following the violence. Her daughter Imaan Mazari-Hazir had challenged the arrest in

the Lahore High Court (LHC). The judge ruled that Mazari, 57, should be set free if not named in any case and directed the former minister to submit an affidavit to the deputy commissioner that she will not be involved in any such disruptive activity in the future. However, it is not clear when she will be allowed to walk out of jail as several cases have been filed by police against PTI leaders and workers for their alleged role in the May 9 violence, which has been termed as "Black Day" in the history of the creation of Pakistan.

Mazari's daughter told the media that the former minister was arrested three times in a week but the court in its ruling ordered his release.

Belarusian dissident pardoned

Tallinn (Estonia), May 22 (AP):

The Belarusian state news agency on Monday reported that a dissident journalist who was pulled off a flight that was forced to land in the country and was later sentenced to eight years in prison says he has received a presidential pardon.

"I literally just signed all the relevant documents that I was pardoned. This, of course, is just great news," Raman Pratasevich was quoted as saying by the news agency Belta.

Pratasevich was convicted and sentenced May 3 for organizing unrest and plotting to seize power.

He ran a Telegram messaging app channel that was widely used by participants in mass protests against the disputed August 2020 election that gave authoritarian Belarusian

President Alexander Lukashenko a sixth term in office.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE FOR MODIFICATION WORK	
Tender Notice No.: TRD-R-2023-E03,	Date: 18.05.2023.
Name of Work: "OHE Modification for provision of full length OHE over line no 3, Engine stabling line and their extension along with new cross over in MMBD siding take off from Dadhapara Station". Tender Value: ₹ 49,48,396.38. Earnest Money Deposit: ₹ 99,000/-.	
Submission of Tender: Upto 12.00 hours on 20.06.2023. Opening of Tender: 12.30 hours on 20.06.2023.	
For further details of tender document, eligibility criteria and the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)/South East Central Railway, Raipur or refer/download tender document which is available on our website: www.ireps.gov.in	
Sr.Div. Electrical Engineer (TRD)/PR/RSr.DEE(ETRD)/IP/46 Raipur.	
f South East Central Railway @secrail	

Iran's president appoints new official in powerful security post



In this undated photo released, Ali Akbar Ahmadian, the former chief of the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard's strategic center, left, sits next to the late Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani, in Tehran.

Dubai, May 22 (AP)

Iran's president on Monday appointed a new official to take over the post of secretary of the country's Supreme National Security Council, replacing the longtime powerful official Ali Shamkhani after becoming implicated in a recent spy scandal.

President Ebrahim Raisi issued a decree replacing Shamkhani who has faced persistent corruption allegations

which he denied as well as scrutiny because of close ties with a British-Iranian man hanged on spying charges earlier this year in Iran. Shamkhani was a key player in negotiations with the West over Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, as well as years of tensions that followed then-President Donald Trump's 2018 decision to unilat-

erally withdraw America from the accord. The decree, reported by the state-run IRNA news agency, offered no explanation for the change. In a message on Twitter on Sunday night, as rumors about his position circulated, Shamkhani cryptically posted a verse by the 14th century Persian poet Mohtasham Kashani.

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER TRANSMISSION CO LTD (A Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking) CIN:U40108CT2003SGC015320-22AADCC5773E1ZX OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (LINE) Block-4, Near CSPHCL Dispensary,Dagania, Raipur (C.G.) Website- www.cspc.co.in e-mail:- ce.cht@cspc.co.in Ph. No. 071-2574221 Fax No. 071-2574222 CE/LINE/Works/EE-I/TR-1102,TR-1103,TR-1104/409 Raipur, Date:19.05.2023				
NOTICE INVITING TENDER				
Sealed tenders are invited for following works:				
TR No	Name of work	EMD (Rs)	Cost of tender form (Rs) (incl. GST)	Date of opening
TR-1102 RFX No.- 8100031403	2nd circuiting of 132 KV Kanker-Nagri line (RL- 62.81 KM approx) on labour contract basis when one circuit is live	68,330/-	1770/-	09.06.2023
TR-1103 RFX No.- 8100031404	2nd circuiting of 132 KV Nagri - Indagaon line (RL- 67.84 KM approx.) on labour contract basis when one circuit is live	73,810/-	1770/-	12.06.2023
TR-1104 RFX No.- 8100031405	Revetment work of 220 KV DCDSS Gurur-Barsoor line (Loc No. 265 & 535), 220 KV DCDSS Jagdalpur-Barsoor line (Loc. No. 196, 211, 214, 215, 219, 223, 170, 175) and 132 KV DCDSS Barsoor Bijapur line (Loc. No. 142)	64,700/-	1770/-	13.06.2023
For all other details of NIT and terms & conditions, please visit our web site ' www.cspc.co.in/cspc/tendernotices '				
CHIEF ENGINEER (Line) CSPCL, RAIPUR				
SAVE ELECTRICITY S-37096/2				

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT	
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER	
MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN, RAIPUR (C.G.)	
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE	
eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in	
(2 nd Call)	
System Tender No. : 134737/NIT No. : 06/SAC/2023-24,	
Chhuikhadan, Dated : 22.05.2023	
Online Tenders are Invited for the following works up to	
09.06.2023 at 17:30 Hour	
Name of Work : Construction of Feeder main canal from R.D. 5550 m to R.D. 7050 m including construction of 02 Nos. Inlet, 01 Nos. D.C, 01 Nos. Fall, 03 No VRB, 04 No. Minor Head, 1 No. Super Passage and fixing of 11 Nos. Collaba of Sidhhababa tank scheme in block Chhuikhadan of District Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai.	
Probable Amount of Contract - Rs. 261.27 Lakhs	
(As per S.O.R Dated 01.08.2010 (As amended dated 01.08.2014))	
The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) from Date 29.05.2023, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.	
NOTE :- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/ Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.	
Executive Engineer	
Water Resources Division, Chhuikhadan	
for, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godawari Basin	
Raipur (C.G.)	
G-01537/1	

छत्तीसगढ़ लोक सेवा आयोग, नवा रायपुर			
"केविएट - सूचना"			
क्रमांक / 749 / पेड़ / विधि / 2023		नवा रायपुर, दिनांक : 19 MAY 2023	
छत्तीसगढ़ लोक सेवा आयोग द्वारा निम्न विज्ञापन जारी किए गए हैं :-			
क्र.	विज्ञापन क्रमांक	विज्ञापित पद	प्रकाशन तिथि
1	28 / 2022 / परीक्षा / दिनांक 26 / 11 / 2022	राज्य सेवा परीक्षा - 2022	30/11/2022
2	29 / 2022 / परीक्षा / दिनांक 08 / 12 / 2022	व्यवहार न्यायाधीश (प्रवेश स्तर) परीक्षा - 2022	14/12/2022
3	02 / 2023 / परीक्षा / दिनांक 08 / 05 / 2023	जिला आयुर्वेद अधिकारी (चिकित्सा शिक्षा (आयुष) विभाग)	10/05/2023
4	03 / 2023 / परीक्षा / दिनांक 08 / 05 / 2023	सहायक संचालक (तकनीकी) (चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग)	10/05/2023
5	04 / 2023 / परीक्षा / दिनांक 08 / 05 / 2023	व्याख्याता, चिकित्सा शिक्षा (आयुष) विभाग	10/05/2023
6	05 / 2023 / परीक्षा / दिनांक 13 / 05 / 2023	छात्रावास अधीक्षक श्रेणी 'द' (आदिम जाति तथा अनुसूचित जाति विकास विभाग)	17/05/2023
7	06 / 2023 / परीक्षा / दिनांक 18 / 05 / 2023	सहायक संचालक कृषि (कृषि विकास एवं किसान कल्याण तथा जैव प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग)	24/05/2023
2 / उच्च विज्ञापनों के अंतर्गत विज्ञापित पद हेतु चयन प्रक्रिया प्रारंभ किया जाना है। अभ्यर्थियों द्वारा किसी भी कारण को आधार बनाते हुए आयोग के उक्त साक्षात्कार आयोजन एवं चयन परिणाम की कार्यवाही को निरस्त करने/स्थगित करने अथवा किसी भी प्रकार के अनुतोष को प्राप्त करने के लिए कोई भी रिट याचिका अथवा कार्यवाही माननीय उच्च न्यायालय के सम्म प्रस्तुत की जाती है, तो ऐसी याचिका में उपरोक्त किसी भी प्रकार के अनुतोष को प्रदान किए जाने के पूर्व आयोग को सुनवाई का अवसर प्रदान किए जाने हेतु आयोग की ओर से एक केविएट आवेदन पत्र आयोग के प्राधिकृत अधिकारता श्री आनंद मोहन तिवारी (मो-9826194499 ईमेल anand_tiwari7@yahoo.com) के माध्यम से माननीय उच्च न्यायालय के सम्म एक केविएट आवेदन पत्र प्रस्तुत किया जा रहा है, जिस हेतु वह सूचना-पत्र का प्रकाशन किया जा रहा है			
सचिव छत्तीसगढ़ लोक सेवा आयोग, अटल नगर, नवा रायपुर			
G-01534/1			



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India's Rising Horizon

Expanding Influence and Shaping
a New World Order

In an increasingly interconnected world, India's presence and influence on the global stage are undeniable. Despite being consistently ranked low in various global indices, India's true trajectory paints a different picture—one of growth, resilience, and an expanding role in shaping the international landscape. As the nation surges forward, it is crucial to acknowledge and explore India's growing global footprints. In recent years, India has faced criticism from foreign governments and anti-India organizations, often funded by global oligarchs, who project a grim future for the country. They claim that India is heading toward a social collapse, suppressing various forms of freedom. Such pessimistic views, often fueled by opposition to the current Delhi administration, fail to recognize the reality of India's progress. The truth is that India's economic rise has caught the attention of nations worldwide, presenting opportunities for growth and collaboration. Despite challenges and criticisms, India's relevance on the global stage continues to grow. This is evident in its acceptance by major powers, including Russia and the United States, who value India as a strategic partner. The ability to establish open lines of communication with leaders from both countries on the same day exemplifies India's unique position in global diplomacy. India's importance in international affairs is further underscored by the upcoming G20 summit in Delhi. The presence of global leaders such as Biden, Putin, and Xi in the same room highlights India's growing stature and diplomatic prowess. Holding the presidency of both the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the G20 simultaneously, India has demonstrated its ability to navigate relationships with different blocs without compromising its own interests. Additionally, India remains a prominent player in the Quad, a major Indo-Pacific grouping. Recognizing India's technical expertise and global acceptance, the United States sought India's involvement in countering the increased presence of China in West Asia. As the US influence in the region wanes, China has taken advantage, brokering peace between Saudi Arabia and Iran and undermining US sanctions on Iran. China's investments in infrastructure development in West Asia and North Africa, totaling an estimated USD 270 billion since 2005, have cemented its influence in the region. In response, the US realized the importance of countering China's expansion and turned to India as a key ally. Recent interactions between the National Security Advisors (NSAs) of the US, India, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE in Riyadh underscored the collaborative efforts to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The proposed infrastructure project aims to connect Gulf and Arab countries through a comprehensive railway network, ultimately linking India and South Asia via multiple seaports. This ambitious undertaking promises mutual benefits for West Asian nations and South Asia, fostering regional interconnectivity and prosperity. The significance of India's role in such projects cannot be overstated. India's expertise in infrastructure development, as demonstrated through its involvement in railway projects across the globe, positions it as a trusted partner. The success of India's public sector enterprise, RITES, in completing projects in 55 countries, including West Asia, highlights India's track record of excellence. While India's connectivity with West Asia has been hindered by the need for overland routes passing through Afghanistan and Pakistan, the proposed infrastructure project would not only enhance India's reputation as a global infrastructure builder but also strengthen its ties with the region. This development would significantly impact India's oil imports, making them more cost-effective. Moreover, as West Asia transitions from confrontation to collaboration, it presents an opportune moment for India to deepen its engagement in the region. The potential inclusion of India's invested Chabahar port in this corridor remains uncertain but holds great promise. India's story goes beyond its infrastructure capabilities and economic growth. It is a narrative of resilience, adaptability, and seizing opportunities amidst adversity. Despite the negative projections and biased assessments, India's relevance and demand on the global stage continue to rise. Foreign governments and international players are increasingly recognizing India's potential as a key player in the new world order. The nation's expanding global influence is driven by its technical expertise, diplomatic finesse, and commitment to fostering mutually beneficial relationships.

Unraveling the Enigma

The Controversial Fate of Rs. 2,000 Banknotes

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee

In an announcement, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made a significant decision to withdraw the Rs. 2,000 banknotes from circulation as part of its "Clean Note Policy." This move, aimed at ensuring economic security, has sparked discussions and raised questions about the rationale behind the decision. While it is crucial to support the withdrawal of the Rs. 2,000 notes, it is equally important to reevaluate the flawed reasoning behind the "Clean Notes Policy." Former Finance Minister and senior Congress leader, P Chidambaram, aptly referred to the Rs. 2,000 note as a "dirty note." The introduction of the Rs. 2,000 note was initially meant to curb corruption, yet ironically, it has become a tool for facilitating illicit activities. Recognizing this, the RBI's decision to withdraw these notes is a step in the right direction. It is important to note that the withdrawal of the Rs. 2,000 notes is akin to a mini-demonetisation, as there are still a staggering Rs. 3.62 lakh crore worth of these notes in circulation. Individuals holding substantial amounts of this currency will be required to explain the source of such cash when depositing or exchanging these notes. Failure to provide a satisfactory explanation may result in the notes being demonetized, rendering them no longer legal tender. This move not only ensures greater transparency but also lightens the burden on the RBI, relieving them of the liability associated with these notes. The decision to withdraw the Rs. 2,000 notes should not come as a surprise, as many analysts and experts had predicted this move for several years. In fact, these notes had already become increasingly rare in the marketplace. The RBI's decision to proceed with the withdrawal, even after nearly seven years, is a testament to their commitment to maintaining the integrity of the Indian economy. The Rs. 2,000 note, as per the RBI's directive, will meet its untimely demise as legal tender on September 30th. This bold step is aimed at dismantling the channels through which corruption and black money flow. By eliminating the high-value denomination, the government hopes to foster a more transparent and accountable financial ecosystem. While the withdrawal of the Rs. 2,000 notes is commendable, it is essential to reevaluate the "Clean Notes Policy" itself. The term "clean notes" may give the impression that the Rs. 2,000 notes are inherently unclean or tainted, which is misleading. Instead, the focus should be on the need for a comprehensive strategy to combat corruption, money laundering, and illicit financial activities. Furthermore, the withdrawal of the Rs. 2,000 notes highlights the importance of embracing digital payment systems and promoting financial inclusivity. Encouraging the use of electronic transactions and increasing access to banking services will not only reduce the reliance on cash but also foster a more efficient and transparent financial landscape. RBI's decision to withdraw the Rs. 2,000 banknotes is a necessary step towards ensuring economic security and combating corruption. However, it is vital to move beyond the flawed reasoning of the "Clean Notes Policy" and address the underlying issues that contribute to financial malpractice. By adopting a comprehensive approach, India can strengthen its economy, promote transparency, and enhance the well-being of its citizens.

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FISHING BAN



Fishermen rest on boats anchored at Kasimedu harbour during the 61-day annual fishing ban, in Chennai, Monday.

Extradition Victory: India's Zero Tolerance against Terrorism

YASH PAL RALHAN



In a significant development confirming India's unwavering commitment to combat terrorism, Pakistan Canadian citizen Tahawwur Rana, the mastermind behind the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, is set to be extradited to India. The decision, subject to clearance from the US court, marks a diplomatic victory for India and underscores its zero tolerance approach towards terrorism. The Mumbai attacks, which occurred over a decade ago, claimed the lives of 174 people, including six American nationals. It is both encouraging and commendable that diligent efforts by Indian diplomats and national security agencies have paved the way for the extradition process to move forward. The prolonged delay in reaching this decision highlights the complexities involved in addressing international terrorism. Rana, who was attempting a plea bargain, could have escaped with a lenient sentence if the offer had been accepted. However, India's pursuit of justice remained resolute, and now Rana's extradition awaits approval from US Secretary of

State Antony Blinken. Once approved, he will be handed over to India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) for further investigation into his role in the 26/11 attacks. This development comes just ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled state visit to the United States, invited by President Joe Biden. The timely court order bodes well for enhanced cooperation between the two nations in addressing terrorism and securing justice. Bilateral ties between India and the US have significantly improved over the years, with cooperation extending to various spheres, including economic, strategic, and military domains. The presence of 4.3 million Indian-origin individuals in the US further strengthens the bond between the two countries. Leveraging these relations, Indian diplomats and national security functionaries have diligently pursued cooperation with the US and other Western nations in combating terrorism. This extradition serves as a reminder that collaboration and information sharing between countries play a crucial

role in curbing the menace of terrorism. It is vital for India to intensify its efforts in this regard, ensuring more extraditions, increased action against terrorists and their supporters, and mounting pressure on Pakistan to cease its nefarious activities against India. Tahawwur Rana's arrest in the US, based on India's extradition request, is a significant step towards justice for the victims of the Mumbai attacks. The US court's consent to India's request further strengthens the foundation of the extradition agreement between the two nations. India has accused Rana of several offenses, including conspiracy to wage war, murder, committing terrorist acts, and conspiracy to commit a terrorist act. His conviction in Chicago in 2011 for providing support to Lashkar-e-Taiba, the terror group responsible for the Mumbai attacks, adds weight to India's case for his extradition. As the extradition process progresses, it is essential to ensure Rana's swift transfer to Indian custody for trial. Mumbai's resilience in the face of the horrific 26/11 attacks remains etched in memory, and justice must be served to honor the lives lost and the survivors who continue to bear the scars. India's confirmation of zero tolerance against terrorism through the forthcoming extradition of Tahawwur Rana sends a strong message to perpetrators of violence. It reaffirms India's determination to fight terrorism at all

levels, bolstered by international cooperation and the pursuit of justice. The extradition of Rana not only serves as closure for the victims and their families but also stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of Mumbai and India's resolve to combat terrorism. It is a step towards a safer and more secure world, where terrorism finds no refuge. The confirmation of Tahawwur Rana's extradition reflects India's resolute commitment to upholding global security and combating terrorism. This victory serves as a reminder that justice may be delayed, but it will eventually prevail. The extradition of Rana showcases the perseverance and determination of Indian authorities in pursuing those responsible for heinous acts of terrorism. However, it is crucial to recognize that the battle against terrorism is far from over. While Rana's extradition is a significant milestone, there are still other individuals and organizations that pose threats to peace and stability. The fight against terrorism requires constant vigilance, cooperation, and the sharing of intelligence among nations. India has been actively engaging with international partners, particularly the United States, in its pursuit of justice for the Mumbai attacks. The strengthened bilateral ties between India and the US have facilitated information sharing and collaboration, enabling a more effective response to the global threat of terrorism.

LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Preserve Earth

While humans can't prevent natural disasters, they can mitigate their impact through global efforts. Industrial greenhouse gas emissions, agricultural waste burning, and traditional fuel use in rural areas can be minimized by adopting alternative solutions. It's imperative that individuals worldwide prioritize reducing global temperatures. The severity of floods, droughts, earthquakes, storms, and volcanoes can be lessened through measures proposed in global conferences. Let's unite and save our planet by preserving Mother Earth, recognizing the urgent need for a sustainable future. Together, we can combat climate change and protect our home.

MK Nair, Raipur

Combat Climate

The WMO's alarming climate change forecast demands immediate attention. It is crucial to take action and reduce carbon emissions for a safer future. Protecting the environment becomes paramount in ensuring our well-being. Now is the time for collective efforts, as emphasized by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at the COP27 summit. The unchecked rise in greenhouse gas emissions and soaring global temperatures pose a grave threat. We must heed this warning to save our planet from catastrophic consequences. Combating global warming requires concerted efforts from nations worldwide to achieve tangible results and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Ashutosh Rana, New Delhi

Distorting Truth

The recent lifting of the ban on the Kerala Story by the apex court highlights the importance of freedom of expression. However, the absolute nature of this freedom remains a subject of debate, especially when it is used to manipulate facts and promote a divisive agenda, jeopardizing national and social harmony. It is disheartening to witness the exploitation of cinema, a powerful medium, for political gains. This disregards the inclusive legacy of Hindi cinema, exemplified by timeless classics like Naya Daur and Upkar. Let us reflect on the responsible use of this medium and uphold the values of truth and unity.

Krishna Kumar KA, Kollam, Kerala

Politicized Ban

The recent SC ruling on The Kerala Story exposes the political motives behind bans imposed for the sake of controversy. It is evident that the West Bengal government's ban, claiming potential disturbance of peace, was driven by political agenda. Once a film obtains clearance from the censor board, it is the audience's responsibility to discern its factual accuracy. The court's stipulation for a disclaimer, clarifying the lack of authentic data supporting the claim of 32,000 Hindu and Christian girls converting to Islam, should quell any opposition to its screening. Let us prioritize freedom and safeguard the right to express diverse perspectives.

Nazir Ahamad, Jodpur

Building Dreams: Honoring the Craftsmen of Construction



Purna Boorakoti

Every individual dreams of having a place they can truly call home—a sanctuary where cherished memories are woven into every wall. It's a place where families come together, where the pride of peace and belonging thrives, and where children's laughter fills the rooms. This dream home stands as a beacon of hope, driving us to work hard and save diligently to make it a reality.

Amidst this pursuit, have we ever stopped to ponder who brings life to the construction and texture of our homes? Who transforms our wildest imaginations into tangible spaces, blending new designs with vibrant colors? The answer lies not with some distant entity, but with the ordinary laborers living in our society—people who, like us, think, speak, eat, and earn a living. These laborers, driven by their hearts and minds, hold their own hopes and dreams. Despite their personal aspirations, they dedicate themselves to their work, building houses brick by brick, mixing cement, and toiling under the scorching sun. They infuse our dreams with life, treating our aspirations as if they were their own. Despite lacking formal education, these laborers skillfully shape the structure of our homes. While we may occasionally criticize their food and clothing, we often forget that they soil their clothes

and bodies with mud and water to craft beautiful buildings—a task beyond our capabilities. Instead of recognizing their immense contributions, we sometimes disrespect them and consider them lesser than ourselves. Yet, it is through their tireless efforts that our dream homes manifest into stunning realities. They accomplish feats that we, with our limited abilities, cannot even fathom. Their strength lies in their ability to turn dreams into tangible structures—a feat that cannot be measured in mere pennies. Rather than offering encouragement, we often undermine them, disregarding their worth. It is time we take a pledge to inspire and support these individuals for their invaluable contributions. In a world where our dream homes are erected by the hands of these unsung heroes, it is our responsibility to uplift them when they need it most. We must acknowledge their relentless dedication and strive to create an envi-

ronment that appreciates their skills and empowers them. To begin, we can advocate for better working conditions and fair compensation for laborers. Additionally, we can encourage skill development programs that enable them to enhance their expertise and broaden their opportunities. By providing avenues for growth, we can empower these individuals and help them flourish in their chosen field. Furthermore, let us foster a culture of respect and appreciation for these laborers. Rather than belittling their work, let us celebrate their contributions and honour their craftsmanship. By recognizing their talents and valuing their role in shaping our communities, we can create a more inclusive and harmonious society. As individuals, we can also contribute by engaging in acts of kindness towards these laborers. Simple gestures like offering them water

on a hot day or expressing gratitude for their hard work can go a long way in uplifting their spirits. Together, we have the power to transform the narrative surrounding the construction industry. By championing the cause of laborers and fostering an environment of cooperation and encouragement, we can pave the way for a brighter future, not only for these unsung heroes but for our entire society. So, let us take a brand new step today. Let us pledge to recognize, appreciate, and support the laborers who turn our dreams into reality. Together, we can build a society that values their contributions, honours their skills, and uplifts their lives. It is time to celebrate the true heroes behind our dream homes and embark on a journey of cooperation and encouragement.

(Writer is Bureau Chief Punjab, Government of India. Views are personal)

BRIEF

Testing lab

■ **Ahmedabad:** Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Sunday inaugurated the 'Advanced Organic Testing Laboratory' at AmulFed Dairy in Gandhinagar in Gujarat. The state-of-the-art facility at AmulFed Dairy, a unit of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF) that sells its products under the 'Amul' brand, will verify whether food items labelled 'organic' are produced without the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals.

Large orders

■ **New Delhi:** Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Monday said it has bagged large orders worth over Rs 2,500 crore in the domestic and offshore markets. The power transmission & distribution (PT&D) business of its arm Larsen & Toubro Construction has secured large orders to be set up on engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) basis, it said in a statement. In Saudi Arabia, the business has secured two orders to establish 380kV overhead power transmission lines connecting prominent cities situated on the Red Sea coast. Another order is to design, supply, and construct a 380kV substation in the central region of Saudi Arabia, the company said. "In India, the PT&D business continued its winning streak in the Revamped Reforms Based and Results-Linked Distribution Sector (RDSS) Scheme projects with fresh orders from a prominent Gujarat DISCOM.

COPOLCO plenary



■ **New Delhi:** India will host the 44th edition of the annual International Organization for Standardisation's Committee on Consumer Policy (COPOLCO) plenary from Tuesday in the national capital. Union Minister of Food and Consumer Affairs Piyush Goyal will inaugurate the four-day event (May 23-26). COPOLCO Chair Sadie Dainton, International Organization for Standardisation (ISO) General Secretary Sergio Mujica and other senior officials will participate in the event, an official statement said.

AI offerings

■ **New Delhi:** Tata Consultancy Services has expanded its partnership with Google Cloud for generative AI offerings, the company said on Monday. Under the partnership, TCS will leverage Google Cloud's generative AI services to design and deploy custom-tailored business solutions for the clients. "Our launch partnership with Google Cloud on generative AI enables us to rapidly create value for our customers.

BUSINESS

Impact of Rs 2,000 notes withdrawal 'very very marginal' on economy: Shaktikanta Das

New Delhi, May 22:

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said the impact of withdrawal of Rs 2,000 currency notes will be "very very marginal" on the economy because it accounts for only 10.8 per cent of currency in circulation. Describing the withdrawal exercise as part of currency management operations of the Reserve Bank, he said, he expects most of the withdrawn Rs 2,000 notes to be returned to the exchequer by the deadline of September 30. Talking to reporters, Das said, "the impact of this on the economy will be very very marginal because it is only 10.8 per cent of currency in circulation. As you know that Rs 2,000 notes were not commonly used in any transaction We have found that it is hardly being used for carrying out transactions. Therefore, economic activity will not be impacted." As part of a clean note



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das speaks to the media in Mumbai, Monday, May 22.

policy, he said, RBI has been conducting such exercise of withdrawal of currency notes from time to time and such exercise was undertaken in 2013-14, whereby the notes which were printed prior to 2005, were withdrawn from public circulation. So, he said, withdrawal of Rs 2,000 notes is part of clean note policy and they continue to be a legal tender. Asked if Rs 2,000 notes will continue to be a legal tender, Das said "It will continue

Provide shade and water to those exchanging or depositing Rs 2,000 notes

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank on Monday advised banks to provide shade from the sun and water to customers waiting to exchange or deposit Rs 2,000 notes. It can be noted that during the note ban in 2016, there were allegations of customers dying while waiting in queues to exchange bank notes. Following the Friday's announcement of withdrawing Rs 2,000 notes – the notes continue to be legal tender unlike demonetisation exercise – there were concerns about customers facing inconvenience, especially given the summer being at peak. "Banks are advised to provide appropriate infrastructure at the branches such as shaded waiting space, drinking water facilities, etc. considering the summer season," RBI said in a notification on Monday.

as legal tender. We will wait how many notes are coming. I cannot give a speculative answer about what will happen post September 30." Most of the notes are expected to come back, he said, adding "that is our expectation at this stage. We will see how many notes come back. And as we approach September 30, we will decide at that stage." He said there is enough time available for exchange and deposit in bank accounts so

people should not panic. There is more than adequate quantity of printed notes available in the system not just with the RBI, but also at the currency chests which are operated by the banks, he said. "So there is adequate stock available and there is no reason to worry whatsoever. We have more than sufficient stocks," he said. The Governor also said that the RBI is sensitive to the difficulties which may be faced by people who are

on long foreign visits or living abroad on work visas. "It will be our endeavour to address the difficulties of the people and to complete the entire process in a smooth manner," he said. To a question regarding black money coming back to the system, he said, there is a set procedure for deposits in your account or cash exchange. "What we have said is that the existing requirements or the existing procedures have to be followed by the banks.

We have not come out with an additional procedure. You must be aware that there's an income tax rule if you deposit cash above Rs 50,000 then you have to produce your PAN. So existing rules will apply," he said. On whether it will impact India's currency management system, Das said, it is very robust and India's exchange rate is among the least volatile among peer countries vis-a-vis the dollar.

'RBI expects return of most Rs 2,000 currency notes in circulation by Sep 30'

New Delhi, May 22:

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said most of the withdrawn Rs 2,000 rupee notes are expected to be returned by the deadline of September 30. Speaking to reporters for the first time since the surprise decision to withdraw the highest denomination currency note was announced, Das said the decision was part of currency management. Rs 2,000 currency notes continue to be legal tender, Das added. Indian currency management system is very robust, exchange rate has remained stable despite crisis in financial markets due to war in Ukraine and failure of certain banks in the West, he said. The impact of the withdrawal on the economy will be "very very marginal", he said, adding Rs 2,000 currency notes made up for just 10.8 per cent of the total currency in circulation. He said Rs 2,000 rupee notes were intro-

duced primarily to replenish the currency that was withdrawn following 2016 demonetisation, he said. While the withdrawn 2,000 rupee notes can either be deposited in bank accounts or exchange for other currency, banks have been advised to make necessary arrangements for exchange, he said. "We expect most of Rs 2,000 bank notes to come back to the exchequer by September 30," he said. "We have more than adequate quantities of printed notes already available in the system, not just with RBI but with currency chests operated by banks. There is no reason for worry. We have sufficient stocks, no need to worry," RBI, he said, was sensitive to difficulties faced by people and would come out with regulations if need be. Existing income tax requirement of furnishing PAN for deposits of Rs 50,000 or more in bank accounts will continue to apply for deposits of the withdrawn 2000 rupee notes, he said.

SBI slow in procurement from GeM portal

Lags behind smaller counterparts in 2022-23**New Delhi, May 21:**

India's largest lender SBI was quite slow in procuring goods and services from government-owned GeM portal in 2022-23 and lagged behind smaller counterparts, including Canara Bank and Punjab National Bank, according to the government data. Canara Bank emerged as the largest buyer among the state-owned lenders in 2022-23, making total purchases of Rs 592.82 crore from the portal, the data showed. Punjab National Bank (Rs 164.57 crore) was the second largest, followed by

Indian Overseas Bank (Rs 159.82 crore), State Bank of India (Rs 158.22 crore), Indian Bank (Rs 111.59 crore), Bank of India (Rs 63.81 crore), Bank of Baroda (Rs 48.63 crore), Union Bank of India (Rs 37.03 crore), Bank of Maharashtra (Rs 10.26 crore), Punjab and Sind Bank (Rs 9.98 crore), UCO Bank (Rs 5.30 crore) and Central Bank of India (Rs 4.54 crore) in 2022-23. The SBI did not respond to an email query on the subject. The GeM portal was launched on August 9, 2016, for online purchasing of goods and services by all the central government

ministries and departments. GeM has over 63,000 government buyer organisations and over 62 lakh sellers and service providers offering a wide range of products and services. Currently, government departments, ministries, public sector units, state governments, and central armed police forces are allowed to carry out transactions through this portal. The portal provides a wide range of products from office stationery to vehicles. Automobiles, computers and office furniture are some of the major product categories.

Tata Motors launches CNG version of Altroz

■ Price starts at Rs 7.55 lakh**New Delhi, May 22:**

Tata Motors on Monday launched the CNG version of its premium hatchback Altroz at an introductory price of Rs 7.55 lakh (ex-showroom all-India). The Altroz iCNG comes in six variants priced between Rs 7.55 lakh and Rs 10.55 lakh (all prices ex-showroom all-India), Tata Motors said in a statement.

It is equipped with a twin-cylinder CNG technology and comes with advanced features such as voice-assisted electric sunroof, wireless charger and air purifier, among others. The twin CNG cylinders



are located below the luggage area with valves and pipes protected under the load floor thereby minimising the risk of potential damage, the company added.

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd Managing Director Shailesh Chandra said customers

are increasingly choosing alternate fuel options with the intent of economical as well as eco-friendly drive and CNG as a fuel with its wide availability and accessibility has gained a lot of acceptance. However, opting for a CNG meant compromising on aspirational features and to give up boot space significantly, which Tata

Motors was able to address in January last year by launching the advanced iCNG technology in other models Tiago and Tigor, he added.

"With the breakthrough of the twin-cylinder CNG technology and advanced features we are expecting more personal segment buyers to strongly consider this option.

"Our multi-powertrain strategy in the Altroz portfolio today offers petrol, diesel, turbo and iCNG, providing an array of options for the customers to choose from," Chandra said.

The Altroz iCNG will bolster Tata Motors' 'New Forever' range and continue to sustain growth momentum in passenger cars, he added.

Realme unveils its slimmest smartphone Narzo N53

New Delhi, May 22:

Realme, the most trusted technology brand in India, has unveiled its latest smartphone today, the realme narzo N53, which boasts a slim form factor and cutting-edge features for next-gen users. The smartphone is the slimmest smartphone launched by realme and is equipped with 33W fast charging technology and an industry-leading 50MP AI camera. With a long-lasting 5000mAh battery, the realme narzo N53 also comes equipped with the Mini Capsule, which provides users with three essential features. The narzo series is a stylish range of smartphones that offer a comprehensive experience and has a large follower base of 12.3M users in India. The narzo N se-

ries is the next generation of smartphones, created

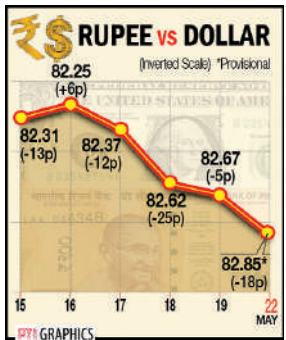


with leap-forward technology and design to help users stay ahead of the curve and showcase their individuality. The realme narzobrand is dedicated to providing Gen-Z with next-gen devices and a seamless shopping experience with Amazon.

Development Manager, realmenarzo said, "We have always been committed to providing our customers with cutting-edge technology and a leap-forward experience. We at realme have worked with Amazon to understand the needs of Indian customers to develop this smartphone which combines style and functionality with cutting-edge features. It is with great enthusiasm

that we unveil the latest addition to our narzo series: the realme narzo N53, an exceptionally sleek phone that redefines the boundaries of slimmest within realme's lineup." Talking about the launch, Mr. Ranjit Babu, Director Wireless and Home Entertainment, Amazon India said, "We at Amazon are committed to providing customers with the widest range of products from India's favorite brands. In line with that promise, we are excited to add the new narzo N53 to the realme-product range on Amazon.in. With prices starting at just INR 8,999, we are positive that this smartphone will be a delightful upgrade to customers looking for a sleek and powerful device".

Rupee falls 18 paise to close at 82.85 against US dollar



Mumbai, May 22: The rupee fell 18 paise to close at 82.85 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, weighed down by a strong greenback in the overseas market. However, a firm trend in domestic equities and sliding crude prices in international markets restricted the rupee's loss, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domes-

tic unit opened at 82.80 against the dollar, and finally settled at 82.85 (provisional), down 18 paise from its previous close. During the day, the rupee touched a high of 82.70 and a low of 82.85 against the greenback. On Friday, the rupee had settled at 82.67 against the dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.09 per cent to 103.10. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, declined 0.16 per cent to USD 75.46 per barrel.

The rupee depreciated today to the lowest levels since February 2023 on underlying strength in the greenback and buying of Dollars by the RBI to shore up its forex reserves, said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

Jewellers getting more inquiries for gold after RBI withdraws Rs 2,000 notes; no panic buying

Mumbai, May 22: Jewellers in India, the world's second largest gold consuming country after China, have started receiving more inquiries for purchase of gold or silver immediately after the Reserve Bank's announcement to withdraw Rs 2,000 notes from circulation.

However, there is no panic buying of the precious metal unlike the situation witnessed in 2016 during demonetisation, jewellers body GJC said on Sunday. In fact in the last two days, the actual gold purchase has been less in exchange of Rs 2,000 notes due to strict Know your Customer (KYC) norms although sources said some jewellers have started charging a 5-10 per cent premium, taking the gold prices to Rs 66,000 per 10 grams level. Currently, gold prices have corrected to

around Rs 60,200 per 10 grams level in the country. "There have been a lot of inquiries about purchasing gold or silver with Rs 2,000 notes, hence the higher footfalls on Saturday. However, due to strict KYC norms actual purchase has been less," apex industry body All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) Chairman Saiyam Mehra told PTL. There is "no such panic" and footfalls have also settled down as the RBI has kept a larger window of four months as the deadline for withdrawing the pink notes from the market, he said. On May 19, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced withdrawal of Rs 2,000 currency notes from circulation but gave public time till September 30, to either deposit such notes in accounts or exchange them at banks. It

has asked banks to stop issuing Rs 2,000 notes with immediate effect. Mehra further said implementation of goods and services tax (GST) and Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) hallmarks has encouraged jewellery manufacturers to become organised and carry out formal business. "Large-denomination currency notes are normally required to deal in cash, which has now become insignificant in India's jewellery industry and consumers are more inclined towards digital formats. Therefore, the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 currency notes will not have a major impact on India's gold and jewellery business," he added. However, according to sources, many jewellery retailers did sell gold on Saturday against Rs 2,000 notes and that too at a premium rate.

Stock markets climb for 2nd day on buying in IT stocks, Reliance Industries



Mumbai, May 22: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty rallied for a second straight session on Monday following buying in index heavyweight IT counters and Reliance Industries amid optimism in Asian markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 234 points or 0.38 per cent to settle at 61,963.68. During the day, it jumped 314.78 points or 0.50 per cent to 62,044.46.

The NSE Nifty rallied 111 points or 0.61 per cent to end at 18,314.40. Among the Sensex firms, Tech Mahindra, Wipro, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies, Larsen & Toubro, ITC, Sun Pharma, NTPC and Titan were the major gainers.

Nestle, Axis Bank, Tata Motors, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and Bharti Airtel were the laggards. All the ten listed Adani group stocks ended with significant gains as a Supreme Court-appointed expert committee said it has found no evidence of stock price manipulation in group companies, while a separate Sebi probe into alleged violation in money flows from offshore entities has "drawn a blank".

YAS Island Abu Dhabi, gears up to welcome IIFA back!

Abu Dhabi: For the second successive year, YAS Island is hosting one of the biggest calendar events of the year and in preparation for the 2023 Shobha IIFA Weekend and NEXA Awards Abu Dhabi's favourite holiday destination and entertainment hub is all decked up. Stakeholders and destination partners, the Department of Culture and Tourism-Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi) and Miral, Abu Dhabi's leading curator of immersive destinations and experiences, in strong support of the IIFA team, are all set to welcome over 120 celebrities from across the globe, along with a 240-plus delegation of media persons and thousands of visitors.

Tickets to the eagerly-awaited three-day extravaganza, from May 25th to 27th, are almost sold-out. An audience of around 13K is expected to attend the Nexa IIFA Awards and up to 10K for Shobha Realty IIFA Rocks. A crew of 200-plus has come together to deliver this mammoth production over a record of five days. NEXA continues as the title sponsor for the seventh consecutive edition. It is joined for the first time by Shobha Realty, the title sponsor of the IIFA Weekend.

'W Abu Dhabi- YAS Island' is the

- Hotel W Abu Dhabi- YAS Island and Ethiad Area all lit up for over 120 celebrities, 240+ plus media persons and thousands of visitors between May 25-27
- Tickets almost sold out, 13,000 are expected to attend IIFA Award and up to 10000 will pack in IIFA Rocks
- More than 65 suites at W being customised for celebrity guests
- Restaurants running dine-n-draw contests; DINERS can win free ticketto the show while IIFA ticketholders get dining discounts

official host hotel for IIFA 2023. A 10-minute drive from the Abu Dhabi International Airport and 15 minutes from the City Centre, this world-class facility is unique in that it is set half on land and half in water and directly overlooks the Formula 1 racing circuit. Hotel W is all lit up, as is the Etihad Arena. The Nexa IIFA Awards, as well as Shobha Realty IIFA Rocks, will be staged at the Middle East's largest state-of-art indoor entertainment venue, a part of the picture-perfect YAS Bay Waterfront.



On the list are a number of Bollywood A-listers, including Salman Khan, Kamal Haasan, Hrithik Roshan, Anil Kapoor, Abhishek Bachchan, Varun Dhawan, Rajkumar Rao, Vicky Kaushal and Fardeen Khan. The actresses who have confirmed their participation include Alia Bhatt, Kriti Sanon, Jacqueline Fernandez, Rakul Preet Singh, Dia Mirza, Nora Fatehi, Mrunal Thakur, Mouni Roy and Genelia D'Souza who will be accompanying husband Riteish Deshmukh. Over 65 suites at Hotel W are being customized, with personalized messages and décor, and the best of amenities, so the celebrity guests feel completely at home during their stay.

That there is plenty of food for thought is evident from the fact that restaurants across YAS Island and Abu Dhabi are running dine & draw contests. Diners get a chance to win tickets to the biggest celebra-

About the Department of Culture and Tourism-Abu Dhabi

The Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi) drives the sustainable growth of Abu Dhabi's culture and tourism sectors and its creative industries, fueling economic progress and helping to achieve Abu Dhabi's wider global ambitions. By working in partnership with the organizations that define DCT Abu Dhabi's position as a leading international destination, DCT Abu Dhabi strives to unite the ecosystem around a shared vision of DCT Abu Dhabi's potential, coordinate effort and investment, deliver innovative solutions, and use the best tools, policies and systems to support the culture, tourism and creative industries. DCT Abu Dhabi's vision is defined by the emirate's people, heritage and landscape. We work to enhance Abu Dhabi's status as a place of authenticity, innovation, and unparalleled experiences, represented by its living traditions of hospitality, pioneering initiatives and creative thought.

tion of film, music, fashion and culture. Some outlets are also offering dining discounts to IIFA ticket holders.

Culinary experiences with an Indian celebrity chef are also being planned and multi-cuisine a la carte menus are being curated and celebrity DJs are flown in for 'Starry Nights'.

Shopping arcades and stores at the YAS Mall which is walking distance from Hotel W, are showcasing exclusive ranges of the world's top

brands. Guests can also shop for couture apparel and designer accessories from the 'InstaRunway'.

Nabila continues as IIFA's official makeup and hair partner. The beauty guru and entrepreneur who has glammed up several celebrities will be hosting a Zero Makeup Lounge at Hotel W. Nabila's signature makeup collection is a huge hit globally and the Lounge offers the lure of product sales and expert advice from her makeup and hair beauty advisors. The makeup artist and

stylist who kickstarted her career in a makeshift 8x8 salon in her home in the 1980s and is an international icon today will also be hosting a Masterclass to showcase on-and-off screen looks. She has a team of over 60 makeup and hair stylists who will style guests over the weekend.

A dozen iconic locations and attractions across Greater Abu Dhabi have been identified for shoots of the IIFA televised show that commands a viewership of over 800 million worldwide. A logistics plan to manage the marathon fleet of 130 cars that will drive the IIFA contingent around is in place. Seventy-five volunteers have been recruited and trained to join 'Friends of IIFA', a legacy-driven educational initiative. An online Visitor Guide has been created with details of the entire IIFA Weekend (Link to Guide - <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/758063174/>).

Since June 24, 2000, when the first award was staged at the Millennium Dome in London, IIFA has brought the world together in a celebration of cinematic excellence. This year, once again, it will take Indian cinema, music, fashion and culture to the world and Abu Dhabi is already celebrating.

John Abraham dubs Ravi Teja-starrer 'Tiger Nagawara Rao' teaser



Action star John Abraham has turned into a voiceover artiste for Ravi Teja's forthcoming pan-India release, 'Tiger Nageshwara Rao'.

Sharing a glimpse of the dubbing session, John Abraham shared a video post on his Twitter profile and wrote in the caption: "Excited to be a small part of this wonderful project #TigerNageswaraRao The first look video is stunning! Hope you all love it."

The teaser will be launched on May 24 at an event. Helmed by Vamsee, the film has been bankrolled by 'The Kashmir Files' producer Abhishek Agarwal.

'Tiger Nageswara Rao' is a biopic on the notorious thief and is set in the 1970s in a village named Stuartpuram. The film also features Nupur Sanon, Gayathri Bharadwaj, Anupam Kher, Renu Desai and Jisshu Sengupta in important roles.

Last seen in the phenomenal hit 'Pathaan', Abraham is busy wrapping 'Tehran', directed by Arun Gopalan, written by Ritesh Shah and Ashish Prakash Verma, and produced by Dinesh Vijan, Shobha Yadav, and Sandeep Leyzell.

Anupama Solanki on her 'Nath Zewar Ya Zanjeer' role: This is a 2-in-1 character

Actress Anupama Solanki feels lucky to have bagged the show 'Nath Zewar Ya Zanjeer' and said that she is loving her character which is negative with a comic side.

"Nath Zewar Ya Zanjeer is taking a 15-year leap. This time, 99 per cent of the star cast has changed. Actually, this show is becoming a new show and they have changed the show name also. It's now called Nath Gauri Aur Krishna Ki Kahani."

"My latest character is a combination of Maddam sir and Bindia Sarkar. This character is a 2-in-1 character who is negative and slightly comic as well. This is quite new and challenging compared to an only negative shade. My character is Kalawati, Chahat Pandey is playing the role of Krishna and my mother is playing Vandana Vithalini," she said.

She added: "It's like a cherry on the cake to play two shades together. This is the first time I am playing this type of character who has dual shades." "I am not tense about being typecast in a particular role because last



year I did 'Maddam Sir', where I portrayed a positive character and before that I portrayed Mohini, a character who is the incarnation of Lord Vishnu. I am not worried about type cast."

Ask her if she is satisfied with the roles she is getting to play, she said: "I am totally satisfied with my career because frequently I am doing different roles."

'Sapnon Ki Chhalaang' brings viewers an engaging narrative about Radhika

Sony Entertainment Television's 'Sapnon Ki Chhalaang' brings viewers an engaging narrative about Radhika, a girl from Jhansi who takes a leap of faith to the maximum city of Mumbai. Starring Megha Ray as the protagonist, the show has seen Radhika convince her parents, especially her father, to let her pursue a career in Mumbai. She now faces the challenge of living in an alien city, adjusting with roomies from diverse backgrounds and trying to handle the pressures of her first job while appeasing her tough boss.

Bringing alive relatable issues that young India faces, this coming-of-age drama addresses the perils of panic attacks through its character Preeti Dhingra (One of Radhika's roommates), played by the brilliant actress Alma Hussein. Talking about the show and the situation her character goes through, Alma Hussein shares, "The month of May is attributed to 'Mental Health Awareness', talking about its importance, especially for a generation that is so lost in running on the hamster wheel. My character Preeti wears her heart



on her sleeve, and she always feels very deeply about the situations surrounding her. She is fighting some tough battles that cause her to have anxiety and panic attacks while overthinking things. Characters like Preeti Dhingra must be written, and their stories must be told, because seldom do we find characters on TV as real as her.

I have seen people go through problems like this, bottling up everything inside. I want to urge all viewers to please speak up! Some ears will be lent to you, people who will hold your hand or if you want, just sit with you till you calm down. I want to tell viewers that

they are not alone in their struggle, just like Preeti has her gang of girls - her roommates! Preeti's character is one of the most challenging characters I have ever played, and I am glad to be bringing forth such a relatable character. It's truly a learning experience for me as well."

In the ongoing track, viewers have witnessed how Radhika's life changes after her father finds out that Radhika has to go to Goa for a work trip!

Tune in to find out what happens next. Watch 'Sapnon Ki Chhalaang', every Monday to Friday at 9:30 pm, only on Sony Entertainment Television!

Nushratt Bharuccha reveals her list of qualities for an ideal husband

"great sense of humour" and "hero qualities", are what actress Nushratt Bharuccha will look for in an ideal husband.

Nushratt will be seen on 'The Kapil Sharma Show'. She will feature alongside Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas, Bhagyashree, Karan Singh Chhabra, Palak Mucchal, director V.V. Vinayak, and producer Jayantilal Gada as they will be coming for their film 'Chatrapathi'.

In the episode, host Kapil will face an interrogation by an internationally renowned talk show host, Karan Singh Chhabra. He would also



take the opportunity to pose a question to his co-actress Nushratt, asking her about the qualities her husband should possess.

Nushratt said: "I believe the person should be able to make me laugh a lot, have a great sense of humour, is single, and also has the qualities of a hero." Further, Kapil will intervene and jokingly mention that he is married in Andheri West and single in film city, implying that he meets the criteria and is fully eligible. 'The Kapil Sharma Show' airs on Entertainment Television.

CROSSWORD

653



ACROSS

- Concern
- Undue speed
- Iridescent gem
- Like the Sahara
- Selected
- "The Way We ____"
- Enrolled
- Margin
- Macaroni, e.g.
- Army division
- Spain's cont.

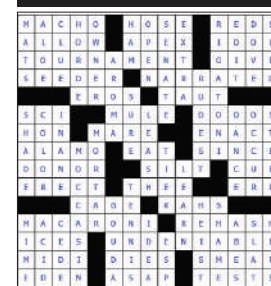
DOWN

- Food fish
- Precinct
- Tractor-trailers
- Rework proofs
- Torrid
- Mimic
- Stroke a guitar
- Young adult
- Whirlpools
- Be beholden to
- Walker
- Debate
- Ogles
- Window part
- Jogging gait
- Warmth
- Money drawer
- Fly lightly
- Birch or spruce

- Ice pellets
- Tattle
- Trips to the bank, e.g.
- Juneau's state
- Butter's rival
- Sombrero, e.g.
- Night twinker
- Flies alone
- Ohio lake
- Agreement to marry
- Bard of ____
- Like old bread
- Machu Picchu native
- Great ____
- Nervous
- Little piggies

- Japan's continent
- Perceived character
- Samples food
- According to
- Strong metal
- Coasted
- Building extensions
- At this location
- Caribous' kin
- Most recent
- Fragrant flower
- Leading
- Young insect
- Church instrument
- Initial stake
- Leave out
- Letterman's rival
- ____ upon a time..."
- Depots (abbr.)
- Compass dir.
- Gore and Roker
- ____ whiz!

SOLUTION 652



Fear of Unknown: CSK meets 'CSK Lite' as Dhoni faces 'Gill Test'

Chennai, May 22 (PTI):

The astute tactician in Mahendra Singh Dhoni will dig deep into his reserves to counter Indian cricket's new 'Crown Prince' Shubman Gill as four-time champions Chennai Super Kings will meet their match in current title holders Gujarat Titans in Qualifier-1 of the IPL here on Tuesday.

Gill, who almost single-handedly knocked out a star-studded Royal Challengers Bangalore with a century for the keeps, has overshadowed Virat Kohli and will certainly force one of India's greatest captains to go back to drawing board and make plans for him.

Gill is in the midst of a dream season and what will be Dhoni's tactical ploy to stop the dashing 'Mohali Marauder' is there to be seen.

This season, Gujarat Titans haven't played at the Chepauk, which hasn't behaved in a singular manner during CSK's seven home games and that prompted head coach Stephen Fleming to raise apprehensions about what to expect. What makes this battle even more interesting is the fact that GT is a

'I think we have a great bowling attack for that Chennai wicket'

Bengaluru, May 22 (PTI): Gujarat Titans' batting mainstay Shubman Gill feels that his recent success in international and franchise cricket is primarily due to a thorough understanding of his own game and knowing the player that he is. "I know my game... for any player it's important to know who you are," Gill, who has a good shot at the 'Orange Cap' with 680 runs under his belt (50 short of Faf du Plessis' 730) said after his team's victory. "The new ball was holding on a bit. I was getting wet due to the dew. I thought Vijay Shankar was trying to go too

hard. Once he found the momentum, he hit it a long way," he added. He also sounded a warning to Chennai Super Kings with a scintillating century and an assertion that they have a great bowling attack to challenge MS Dhoni's team "on that wicket" at Chepauk in the playoffs. "I think we have a great bowling attack for that (Chennai) wicket. It's going to be an exciting one, playing against Chennai in Chennai. Hopefully, we'll make it to the final for the second time," Gill said at the post-match presentation.



team that seems closest to being a proto-type of what CSK had been all these years in IPL.

A solid management and an administration team that stays in the background and never interferes in cricketing matters, which is left to the trio of Ashish Nehra, Gary Kirsten and Vikram Solanki.

A captain, who swears that his understanding of leadership is cut from Dhoni's 'captaincy cloth',

and head coach Nehra, who just like his former teammate doesn't believe in too many changes even if a couple of games go wrong.

They don't field players based on their auction worth — remember CSK bought Krishnappa Gowtham for nearly Rs 10 crore and he got a single game as he didn't fit the combination.

For Gujarat, tackling the slowness of the Chepauk track will be a

challenge and how well they negotiate Deepak Chahar's powerplay overs and Matheesha Pathirana's slingers at the back-end, will determine the outcome of the match.

And herein, Pandya and Nehra will find Sri Lanka skipper Dasun Shanaka's inputs handy as he has handled both Pathirana and spinner Maheesh Theekshana for the national team.

While Shanaka might be used more as an all-rounder,

Titans depending on the toss can also try out left-arm spinner R Sai Kishore, who knows these conditions well.

For CSK, a good start by the crack pair of Devon Conway and Ruturaj Gaikwad will be important. But at the Chepauk, even Ajinkya Rahane could become a factor while Shivam Dube would love to add to his 33 sixes for the season.

How the CSK opening duo handles the relentless Shami may prove vital and it would be important for the under-performing middle-order to step up in a crunch game.

The pitches at Chepauk so far have been a bit up and down, with a few being slow in nature while some have been good to bat on. CSK head coach Fleming said as much after the win over Delhi Capitals, claiming that the team is unsure about the conditions (at home).

If a sluggish pitch is rolled out for the match, the spinners in the two teams would have a huge part to play. If CSK has Ravindra Jadeja, Moeen Ali and Theekshana, the Titans boast of a line-up that includes Rashid and Noor Ahmad.

ICC charges Bhatinda-based umpire Jatin Kashyap for breaching anti-corruption code

Dubai, May 22 (PTI):

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday charged Bhatinda-based umpire Jatin Kashyap for breaching its anti-corruption code following an investigation into "international matches in 2022".

The ICC did not specify the incidents related to the breach. Kashyap has officiated in district level matches in Punjab but is not on the BCCI panel.

Kashyap has not officiated even in district matches in the last four years and had vanished from state cricket's umpiring circuit till the global body sought his background from Punjab Cricket Association (PCA).

Kashyap has been charged with "failing or refusing, without compelling justification, to co-operate with the Anti-Corruption Unit's (ACU) investigation in relation to possible Corrupt Conduct under the Code..." "Including (without limitation) failing to provide accurately and completely any information and/or



documentation requested by the ACU (whether as part of a formal Demand pursuant to Article 4.3 or otherwise) as part of such investigation."

The second breach relates to "obstructing or delaying the ACU's investigation in relation to possible Corrupt Conduct under the Code including (without limitation) concealing, tampering with or destroying any documentation or other information that may be relevant to that investigation and/or that may be evidence of or may lead to the discovery of evidence of Corrupt Conduct under the Code," read an ICC statement.

PCA secretary Dilsher Khanna insisted that ICC charges against Kashyap have nothing to do with the game in the state.

"The charges have nothing to do with Punjab cricket. The release makes it clear that he has been charged following an investigation into international games," Khanna said.

The ICC has given Kashyap 14 days to respond to the charges.

"In accordance with Code Article 4.6.6, Mr Kashyap has 14 days from 19 May to respond to the charges. The ICC will not make any further comment in respect of these charges at this stage," the ICC release added.

While ICC officials don't want to reveal more, sources in the know of things said that Kashyap must have been either a conduit between bookies or suspected individuals, who might have featured in the "Persons of Interest" list of the ACU.

"If you look at the charges pressed, it doesn't seem Kashyap is a bookie but may be a go-between, whose whereabouts were being tracked during international games," a BCCI source in the know of things told PTI.

Kohli among first batch of players to leave for WTC final

New Delhi, May 22 (PTI):

Virat Kohli will be among the first batch of India players to leave for the World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia in London, departing in the wee hours of Tuesday.

Kohli's Royal Challengers Bangalore teammate Mohammad Siraj will also board the same flight, a day after their team was knocked out of the IPL. Spinners R Ashwin and Axar Patel, and all-rounder Shardul Thakur, will also be on the flight as well as the team's support staff led by Rahul Dravid. The two other players who complete the



first list of seven cricketers are Kolkata Knight Riders pacer Umesh Yadav and Lucknow Super Giants' Jaydev Unadkat, who is recovering from a shoulder injury.

The final will be played at the Oval from June 7-11.

"There will be two or three departures in total. The first batch leaves at 4.30 am tomorrow," said a BCCI source. The seven

players, who will stay back in India for the IPL play-offs, include skipper Rohit Sharma, Ravindra Jadeja, Ishan Kishan, Shubman Gill, Mohammad Shami, KS Bharat and Ajinkya Rahane. Cheteshwar Pujara is already playing county cricket in England and will link up with the squad in London.

It must be mentioned that India won't play any warm-up game as the English County Championship is on and also this being an ICC event, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is under no obligation to arrange practice matches for the visiting team.

Melbourne, May 22 (PTI):

Cricket Australia on Monday declared the country's seasoned speedster Josh Hazlewood "fit and available" for the upcoming World Test Championship (WTC) final against India and the Ashes series against old rivals England. The 32-year-old Hazlewood returned to Australia after reporting "minor side soreness" after his recent Indian Premier League outing for Royal Challengers Bangalore two weeks ago, raising concerns about his participation in the forth-



coming international assignments. However, CA said he is fit to travel to the UK. "Josh Hazlewood re-

turned home from the IPL last weekend after experiencing minor side soreness after the completion of his most recent IPL match," a CA spokesperson said.

"After a brief and precautionary rest period, Hazlewood returned to high intensity bowling last week and will continue to increase his bowling workloads in preparation for the WTC and Ashes series. Hazlewood is considered fit and available for the WTC and Ashes Series."

In a relief for the pacer, scans have revealed no damage as he returned to

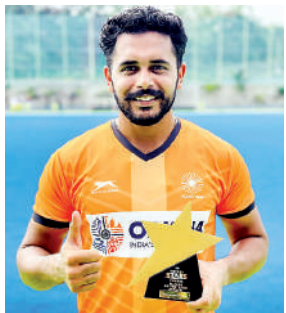
bowling ahead of the Australian squad's departure for the UK. Known for his accuracy and often compared to the legendary Glenn McGrath, his presence will be a huge boost for the Australian bowlers when they go up against the likes of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Cheteshwar Pujara at the Oval. The experienced Hazlewood has battled injuries over the last two years and had a four-month layoff from bowling to recover from an Achilles issue sustained in the Sydney Test in January.

'Focus to be on Asian Games during European leg of Hockey Pro League'

Bengaluru, May 22 (PTI):

India men's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh says his side's focus will be on Asian Games, an Olympic qualifier, as they embark on the European tour for Pro League matches, starting May 26.

The team left for London on Monday for the first leg of the European tour where it will face reigning Olympic champions Belgium (May 26 and June 2) and hosts Great Britain (May 27 and June 3). They will then travel to Eindhoven for their last set of matches against the



Netherlands (June 7 and 10) and Argentina (June 8 and 11).

India are currently leading the Pro League table with 19 points from eight matches in the nine-team tournament. United Kingdom too have an iden-

tical number of points but are second on the table due to an inferior goal difference.

The skipper said the matches will play a crucial role in India's preparation for the Asian Games in September, where the gold medallist will automatically qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

"We have very crucial matches coming up as we get to the business end of the Pro League season. We are in a strong position in the table so far and we will look to get as many points as possible in the remaining matches.

World Cup champion Argentina to play Australia in China

Sydney, May 22 (AP):

World Cup champion Argentina will play Australia at the Workers' Stadium in Beijing and take on Indonesia during a two-game exhibition tour to Asia next month.

Argentina will play the Soccerros on June 15 in the Chinese capital. It'll be the first meeting between the teams since Lionel Messi and his Argentina lineup beat Australia 2-1 in the Round of 16 en route to winning the World Cup title last December in Qatar.

Argentina's football federation said the national

squad would play Indonesia in Jakarta on June 19.

"Football is truly the global game and for Australia to be invited to play this match in China, and against the world No. 1, we hope this will open further opportunities for our two nations to work together both on and off the football field," Football Australia chief executive James Johnson said in a statement Monday.

Argentina's game in Indonesia is scheduled for a week after the under-20 World Cup final in La Plata.

Squash World Cup: Ghosal, Joshna to lead Indian challenge

Chennai, May 22 (PTI):

The Squash World Cup will be held here from June 13 to 17 with Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa spearheading the Indian challenge, the sport's governing body in the country said on Monday.

The tournament will be held at the Express Avenue Mall and the Indian Squash & Triathlon Academy (ISTA), it was announced here on Monday.

Nine countries will participate in the tournament. Besides hosts India,



Tamil Nadu Sports Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin speaks during a press conference to announce the International Squash Championship, in Chennai, Monday.

the other countries taking part are Hong Kong, China, Japan, Malaysia, Egypt, South Africa,

Australia, and Colombia.

The last edition of the World Cup was also held in Chennai, in 2011.

"I'm delighted to announce that Chennai will once again host the prestigious SDAT-WSF Squash World Cup from June 13 to 17. This tournament marks a new chapter in the history of our event as we revive and revamp it to enhance its significance further," N R a m a c h a n d r a n , Honorary life president of Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI), said at a press meet.

Anju Bobby George says her protege Shaili Singh can 'conquer' world in long jump in 4-5 years

New Delhi, May 22 (PTI):

Legendary long jumper Anju Bobby George feels that her protege Shaili Singh can "conquer" the world in four or five years just like Neeraj Chopra is doing currently in javelin throw, going by her performances at the age of 19. Earlier this year, Shaili had logged 6.76m at the Indian Grand Prix, the all-time second-longest long jump by an Indian woman after Anju herself. Anju's national record of 6.83m still stands since 2004. On Sunday, Shaili won her first international medal

at the senior level — a bronze — with a jump of 6.65m in her first global competition at the Seiko Grand Prix, a World Athletics Continental Tour gold-level meet, in Yokohama, Japan.

"For a 19-year-old, the distance she (Shaili) has jumped is incredible. At 19, she has jumped 6.76m. She is a rare talent and we have to groom her very carefully so that she becomes one of the world's best when she matures," Anju told PTI.

"She has to get used to this kinds of things, competing against some of

the best in the world and winning medals. In four or five years, it will be Shaili and Neeraj conquering the world among women and men respectively," Anju, the lone Indian woman to win a world championships medal with a bronze in the 2003 edition in Paris, and her husband Robert Bobby George had spotted Shaili in 2017 when she was just 13. Shaili is currently training under Robert, who is also a High Performance coach of the Sports Authority of India at the National Centre of Excellence in

Bengaluru. Anju said the bronze in Japan will be the first step in Shaili's transition from a talented athlete to a medal winner at the global level consistently. "This medal will do a world of good to her confidence. You need this kind of competitions and honours to make the transition. Age is with her side and she will achieve more in the coming years.

"I am hoping that Shaili can win at least a medal in the Asian Games and also qualify for the (2023) World Championships in Budapest.

Valencia closer to avoiding drop with win over Madrid

Madrid, May 22 (AP):

Valencia moved even closer to staying in the top tier with a 1-0 win over Real Madrid on Sunday but the Spanish league game was marred by more racist abuse against Vinicius Junior. The 22-year-old Vinicius, who is Black, has been subjected to racist abuse since he came to play in Spain five years ago. The match had to be temporarily stopped after Vinicius said he was insulted by a fan behind one of the goals at Mestalla Stadium. Diego Lopez earlier scored a 33rd-minute winner to leave Valencia five points above the relegation zone entering the final three rounds. "It's a huge victory that takes us



Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior, left, confronts Valencia fans in front of Valencia's Jose Luis Gaya during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Valencia and Real Madrid, at the Mestalla stadium in Valencia.

closer to reaching our goal," Valencia coach Ruben Baraja said. Valencia goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili made two

big saves near the end of the match to secure the second win in a row for the club that last played in the second division in 1986-87.

'Spanish league "now belongs to racists" after enduring more abuse'

Madrid: Vinicius Junior was subjected to racist abuse yet again with the Brazil star saying the Spanish league "now belongs to racists." "It wasn't the first time, or the second or the third. Racism is normal in LaLiga. The competition thinks it's normal, as does the federation, and the opponents encourage it," Vinicius said on Instagram and Twitter.

"If we can ask for our fans to be respectful, we can ask for the same thing from our opponents," Baraja said.



WHAT MAKES A ROLEX A ROLEX?

It's not the wheels and cogs. It's not the steel we shape nor the gold we forge. It's not the sum of every single part that we design, craft, polish and assemble with countless skills and constant care. It's the time it takes. The numerous days and months that are

necessary until we can print this single word on each individual dial leaving our workshops: "*Superlative.*" It's the mark of our autonomy, responsibility and integrity. This is all we make, but we make it all. So that, in time, you can make it your own.

#Perpetual



ROLEX



BRIEF



People take a rest inside a concrete pipe on a hot summer day, in Gurugram, Monday.

Held

■ **Mumba:** A 45-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly raping a woman and having unnatural sex with her in the eastern suburb of Chembur here, police said on Monday. The RCF police on Sunday arrested the accused for the incident that took place on May 13, an official said. The accused and the 38-year-old victim, who is a teacher, were acquainted with each other, he said.

Acquit

■ **New Delhi:** A court has acquitted a man charged under the Delhi Excise Act for possessing 36 beer bottles, saying the prosecution was unable to provide any “cogent evidence” and that there was the possibility of the accused having been falsely implicated in the case. The court was hearing a case against Mintu Choudhary, who was charged under section 33 of the Delhi Excise Act for possessing beer bottles without any permit or licence at Bijwasan in southwest Delhi on August 30, 2018.

Fire

■ **Thane:** Four members of a family received severe burn injuries when two houses caught fire in Mumbra area of Maharashtra's Thane district on Monday, civic officials said. The injured included two children aged 4 and 5, they said.

Booked

■ **Bengaluru:** Police have registered a case against the engineers of the Bengaluru civic agency and the car driver who took the vehicle into the flooded underpass in the city leading to the death of a 22-year-old IT staffer and endangering the lives of five other family members of the victim, who were later rescued. The Halasuru Gate police on Sunday booked a case based on a complaint lodged by Batula Sandeep, who is the relative of the victim B Bhanurekha.

Mishap

■ **Hyderabad:** A delivery person of an e-commerce firm was injured after falling from the third-floor of a building here when he tried to evade the customer's barking dog, police said. The incident took place in an apartment at Manikonda on Sunday when the delivery executive, aged 30, went there to deliver a mattress and the dog started barking at the customer's door, which was reportedly partly open, they said.

Weather	
	High 41 Low 27
MARKET	
NIFTY	18,314.40 ▲
SENSEX	61,963.68 ▲
BULLION	
GOLD	60,195
SILVER	72,800

CHHATTISGARH LIQUOR SCAM

ED attaches Rs 121 cr worth assets

Of Aijaz Dhebar, IAS officer Tuteja

New Delhi, May 22 (PTI):

Assets worth more than Rs 121 crore of Anwar Dhebar, who is the elder brother of Raipur Mayor Aijaz Dhebar, IAS officer Anil Tuteja, former MD of Chhattisgarh State Marketing Corporation Ltd. Arun Pati Tripathi and others have been attached in the alleged liquor scam-linked money laundering case, the ED said Monday.

The properties, provisionally attached under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), include 69 belonging to Anwar Dhebar worth Rs 98.78 crore, 14 properties of Tuteja worth Rs 8.83 crore and one asset of Tripathi, an Indian Telecom Service (ITS) officer, worth Rs 1.35 crore, the federal agency said in a statement.

Tuteja is a 2003-batch IAS officer and is currently posted as the joint secretary in the state's industry and commerce depart-



Hotel Vennington Court attached by ED.

ment. Hotel Vennington Court in Chhattisgarh capital Raipur of Anwar Dhebar, being run under the aegis of his firm A Dhebar Buildcon, has also been attached, the Enforcement Directorate said. Properties of Vikash Agarwal alias Subbu worth Rs 1.54 crore and 32 properties of Arvind Singh worth Rs 11.35 crore have also been attached as part of the same order. The total value of all attached properties is Rs 121.87 crore. This money

CM Baghel denies allegation

The ED had alleged the Chhattisgarh liquor scam to the tune of Rs 2000 crore. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had categorically denied the allegation.

laundering case stems from a 2022 Income Tax department charge sheet filed against IAS officer Tuteja and others before a court in Delhi.

Anwar Dhebar, Tripathi and two others have been

Corruption in four ways...

The ED has said that “corruption” was done in four ways as part of this alleged illegal liquor syndicate. Part-A pertains to “commission” where the agency alleged that a bribe was collected from the distillers per case of liquor procured from them by the CSMCL. Part-B pertains to the sale of “unaccounted” ‘kacha’ or country liquor.

Properties attached...

The properties, provisionally attached under the PMLA, include 69 belonging to Anwar Dhebar worth Rs 98.78 crore, 14 properties of Tuteja worth Rs 8.83 crore and one asset of Tripathi, an Indian Telecom Service (ITS) officer, worth Rs 1.35 crore, the federal agency said in a statement. Hotel Vennington Court in state capital Raipur of Anwar Dhebar, being run under the aegis of his firm A Dhebar Buildcon, has also been attached, the Enforcement Directorate said.

arrested by the ED in this case till now. The ED had alleged that money was

Leopard found dead; infighting suspected

Dhantari, May 22: A female leopard has been found dead at a forest in Dhantari district, with officials suspecting it died during infighting with another big cat or a wild boar. The feline's carcass with multiple injuries was found on Sunday on the outskirts of Daldali village under Nagri forest range, a forest official said.

After being alerted, forest personnel rushed to the spot and an autopsy was conducted, he said.

“Prima facie, it seems the feline died following a fight with another leopard or a wild boar as the carcass had multiple injuries. All body parts were intact. The post-mortem report is awaited to ascertain the exact cause of the death,” the official said.

“illegally” collected for “every” bottle of liquor sold in Chhattisgarh and evidence of “unprecedented” corruption and money laundering of Rs 2,000 crore generated by an alcohol syndicate led by Anwar Dhebar had been unearthed.

It had conducted “more than 50 search operations” at various locations in Raipur and Bhilai in Chhattisgarh apart from Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai and the ED had earlier said it seized movable assets worth Rs 58 crore including cash, fixed deposits, shares and jewellery. Thus, the total seizure and attachment in the case now stand at about Rs 180 crore, it said.

Two CoBRA commandos injured in encounter

With Naxalites

Bijapur, May 22: Two commandos of the Central Reserve Police Force's jungle warfare unit CoBRA were injured in an encounter between security forces and Naxalites in Bijapur district, police said on Monday.

Two-three Naxalites also received bullet injuries in the gun fight which took place at around 8 pm on Sunday in Bijapur, located around 400 km from the state capital Raipur, they said.

A joint team of the District Reserve Guard and the CRPF's Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) launched a search operation from Pusnar camp on

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NH MMI Narayana Superspecialty Hospital, Lalpur, Raipur

Fresh violence in Manipur, Army rushes to spot

Four houses torched

Imphal, May 22 (PTI): In fresh violence in Manipur, four houses were torched by a mob in Imphal East district after two armed miscreants forced people to shut their shops on Monday afternoon, police officials said.

However, no casualty was reported due to the arson.

The mob also beat up one of the miscreants while the other managed to flee. The two were taken into custody. Armymen deployed in the area who

Three arrested...

Three persons with a double barrel were arrested during the combing operation, officials said. They included former MLA T Thangzalam Haokip of Henglep constituency in Churachandpur district.

rushed to the scene used force and fired teargas shells to disperse the mob resulting in minor injuries to a few people.

Guj ATS arrests 4 B'deshis, busts Qaeda unit

Ahmedabad, May 22 (PTI): The Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) has busted an Al-Qaeda module and arrested four members who hail from Bangladesh but have been living illegally in Ahmedabad, an official said on Monday. The preliminary investigation has revealed that the four members of the proscribed terror outfit were trained by their handlers based in Bangladesh before the quartet was sent to India. They were tasked with raising funds for Al-Qaeda's illegal activities, radicalising local youths and persuading them to join the terror outfit, said Deputy Inspector General,

Gujarat ATS, Deepan Bhadrans. They were arrested from different parts of Ahmedabad under the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and sections 38, 39 and 40 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Bhadrans told reporters at the ATS headquarters. The four alleged members of Al-Qaeda are identified as - Mohammad Sojib, Munna Khalid Ansari, Azharul Islam Ansari and Mominul Ansari. “Based on a specific tip-off, we first picked up Sojib, who used to live in the Rakhial area of Ahmedabad, for questioning. Sojib told us that he and three others are part of Al-Qaeda's net-

work and were taking instructions from their Bangladesh-based handler Shariful Islam. Through Islam, these youths met one Shayba, head of Al-Qaeda's operations in Bangladesh's Mymensingh district,” said Bhadrans.

The ATS subsequently nabbed Munna, Azharul, and Mominul from the Narol area of the city, where they were working in factories by posing as Indian citizens. The ATS found Aadhaar and PAN cards and some literature published by the terror outfit's media wing As-Sahab Media from the rented rooms of the trio, said Bhadrans.

WARM WELCOME



PM Narendra Modi receives a warm welcome by the Indian community on his arrival, in Sydney, Monday.

NCLAT upholds order allowing Go First's voluntary insolvency proceedings

New Delhi, May 22 (PTI):

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Monday upheld insolvency resolution proceedings against crisis-hit airline Go First, derailing aircraft lessors' efforts to take back their planes from the struggling Wadia group firm.

A two-member NCLAT bench directed aircraft lessors and the Interim Resolution Professional (IRP) of the Wadia group firm to approach the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) regarding the claim of possession and other respective claims relating to the aircraft whose leases were terminated by the

lessors after the company filed for insolvency process. “The order dated May 10, 2023, admitting Section 10 Application is upheld,” said the NCLAT bench headed by Chairperson Justice Ashok Bhushan. Earlier, NCLT on May 10, 2023, admitted the plea of Go First to initiate voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings and appointed an interim resolution professional (IRP) to suspend the company's board. The said NCLT order was challenged by Go First's four aircraft lessors - SMBC Aviation Capital Ltd, GY Aviation, SFV Aircraft Holdings and Engine Leasing Finance BV (ELFC) - owning around 22 aeroplanes.

PM conferred with highest honours

Of Fiji, Papua New Guinea

Port Moresby, May 22:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on Monday conferred with the highest honours of Papua New Guinea and Fiji, in a rare recognition for a non-resident in the two Pacific island nations.

Modi arrived in Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea on Sunday on his maiden visit to the country to host a key summit between India and 14 Pacific island countries to boost bilateral ties.

‘Unprecedented honour for India as Papua New Guinea confers their highest award to PM Modi,’ the Prime Minister's Office said. It was presented to him by Papua New Guinea Governor-General Sir Bob Dadae. Papua New



PM of Fiji Sitiveni Rabuka confers PM Narendra Modi with the Companion of the Order of Fiji, the nation's highest honour, on Monday.

Guinea conferred the Companion of the Order of Logohu to Prime Minister Modi for championing the cause of unity of Pacific Island countries and spearheading the cause of Global

incidents in future.

The NGT was hearing a matter where it had initiated suo motu (on its own) proceedings based on a media report about the death of six people, including five women, allegedly due to mine collapse.

The incident occurred on December 2 last year in the village, which is under Nagarnar police station, around 12 km from Jagdalpur, the district headquarters.

A bench headed by chairperson Justice A K Goel said, “We direct that the District Magistrate,

Bastar may disburse a further amount of Rs 16 lakh to the heirs of each of the deceased and Rs 2 lakhs each to the injured within one month.”

“It will be open to the DM to identify the violators and proceed against them in accordance with the law, including for recovery of compensation, and the state may review its vigilance and regulatory regime to prevent such incidents in future,” the bench, also comprising judicial member Justice Sudhir Agarwal and expert member A Senthil Vel, said.

LIMESTONE MINE COLLAPSE

NGT orders compensation of Rs 20 lakh to kin of each of 6 killed

Jagdalpur, May 22 (PTI):

The National Green Tribunal has directed the District Magistrate of Bastar to pay a compensation of Rs 20 lakh to the families of each of the six workers who were killed in a limestone mine collapse in Maalgaoon village in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh.

The tribunal also ordered the district administration to pay a compensation of Rs 2 lakh to the three injured workers and asked the state to review its vigilance and regulatory regime to prevent such

65-year-old woman kill mentally unwell son



Dhantari, May 22: A senior citizen allegedly killed her 40-

year-old mentally unwell son in Dhantari district reportedly due to her inability to meet his medical expenses as well as frequent fights with his wife, a police official said on Monday. On May 15, the woman told police someone had stabbed her son to death in their house in Gangrel under Rudri police station limits, the official said. A probe revealed the 65-year-old woman was not in good terms with the victim's wife, after which the senior citizen was questioned over the chain of events, he said.

Muslim side objects to plea for ASI survey of Gyanvapi

Varanasi (UP), May 22 (PTI): The Muslim side on Monday filed its objection before the Varanasi district court to a petition seeking a direction to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to survey the entire Gyanvapi mosque complex.

The Supreme Court had on May 19 deferred a scientific survey, including carbon dating, to determine the age of the structure, claimed to be a ‘Shivling’, found at the complex, saying implications of the Allahabad High Court order on it merits closer scrutiny.

The direction had come on the plea of the Anjuman Islamia Masjid Committee against the high court's May 12 order for the determination of the age of the structure using modern technology.

However, the mosque authorities have maintained that the structure is part of a fountain in the ‘wazu khana’, where ablutions are performed before namaz.

After the high court order, the district court had on May 16 agreed to hear a plea for a survey by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) of the entire Gyanvapi mosque premises located next to the Kashi Vishwanath temple.

On Monday, Rajesh Mishra, special counsel for Gyanvapi and Adi Vishweshwar cases, told PTI that the Masjid Committee filed its objection in the court of District Judge AK Vishwesh to the petition. Mishra said that the court has fixed July 7 for the next hearing.

Major action against encroachers and land mafia



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 22: The Enforcement Wing of the Town Services Department of Bhilai Steel Plant took a major action against the en-

croachers and land mafia in the Newai Bhata area on Monday. Cattle byres and temporary shed were constructed by illegal encroachers on about 1/2 acre of land in Newai



Bhata. A room was also constructed by capturing a plot of land. Some portion of the land was fenced with chain-link and cement poles. A shed of about 50x50 square feet was built

with bamboo sticks and plastic sheets. The team of BSP Towns Services Department demolished all the illegal structures including the shed, room, fencing and got the en-

tire land freed from encroachment. Team of Newai Police Station was present during the demolition drive. The illegal occupants were warned not to encroach on BSP's land anywhere in future; otherwise legal action would be taken. Newai police force was present during the entire proceedings.

Quarter numbers 4C/St-30A/Sector-7 and 283B, Risali sector were also vacated from illegal occupants and handed over to the allottee and maintenance office. Action will continue against illegal occupants and land mafia.

District Hospital gets new ambulance



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 22: ICICI Foundation and ICICI Bank handed over an ambulance to District Hospital Durg during the program organized at village Sankara. Shrikant Kumar, Project Manager, Ravi Kumar Verma, Development Officer, Birsing Chaturvedi,

Amitesh Tandon, Community Facilitator Durg and Deepesh Dev, Regional Manager of ICICI Bank, Ashutosh Kumar, Branch Manager and Saurabh Sharma were present. It needs to be mentioned here that ICICI Foundation and ICICI Bank are conducting various works under social responsibility in the district. Rain water harvesting has been arranged by the Foundation in 87 schools for water conservation in the district. Along with setting up solar plants in the same schools, the work of construction of 20 toilets in 13 schools has also been done. The foundation also conducted the work of deepening three ponds.

General Manager, assured the INTUC delegation that it has also come to their notice that some union leaders are putting unnecessary pressure on the canteen operators. The management has interacted with those leaders and they have been advised to stay away from such activities. Food items will be made available as per the choice of the employees in the canteen of the plant.

Bhilai Steel Plant organises free Medical camp at Village Dhaurabhata

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 22: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, conducts several public welfare activities as part of its organizational social responsibility towards the community in and around its areas of operations.

The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department of the plant organized a one-day free Health Camp, which started at 10:00 hrs on May 20, 2023 at Model Steel Village Dhaurabhata.

The expert medical team from CSR department, comprising health experts, Dr Isha Kujur, Pharmacist Shashi Bhushan Roy, Firoza Joseph for Blood-sugar and BP examination, Shambhu for registration volunteered their services for the camp. AK Soni, CSR Assistant, from the department was also present during the Health Camp.



A total of 16 villagers from Village Dhaurabhata, including 08 men, 07 women and 01 child availed health services at the day long Health Camp and free medicines were distributed to them. It is noteworthy that the

CSR Department of Bhilai Steel Plant, on an average conducts one health camp daily in the adjoining areas or mines, with the aim of ensuring adequate medical & Health facilities to the communities within which it works.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 22: Steel Employees Union (INTUC) handed over a memorandum to Rajeev Kumar, Deputy General Manager, in-charge of Canteen Cell, against the leaders of a trade union who had recently threatened the canteen operators for selling other food items in the canteen of Bhilai Steel Plant. INTUC leaders stated that disputes would arise if such union leaders are not stopped from threatening the canteen operators.

It needs to be mentioned here that for the last few days, the office bearers of a union in the Bhilai Steel Plant are threatening the canteen operators in the pretext of inspection. Some canteens are selling food items other than the food items prescribed by the management. The leaders of this union are pres-



suring the canteen operators for not selling the food items which are not included in the approved list. However, the canteen operators are selling these food items according to the demands of the employees (customers). The canteen operators stopped selling these food items due to the threats of these union leaders.

The employees of the plant are irked over the non availability of the food of their choice. The employees of the plant were

repeatedly requesting the INTUC leaders to ensure that the food items of the choice are made available in the canteens. INTUC leaders met Rajeev Kumar, Deputy General Manager in-charge, and demanded to provide food items according to the choice and demand of the workers in the plant's canteen. If the canteen operator is providing food items according to their choice, then any union leader should not have any objection.

If the employee gets the

food according to his interest, then only he will be able to contribute in the production with his full capacity. INTUC further demanded from the management to stop such leaders who threaten the canteen operators. They also demanded to open the canteen in the second shift for the employees of the engineering shops and to open the canteen in other departments including the coke oven of the plant on Sundays as well.

Rajeev Kumar, Deputy

General Manager, assured the INTUC delegation that it has also come to their notice that some union leaders are putting unnecessary pressure on the canteen operators. The management has interacted with those leaders and they have been advised to stay away from such activities. Food items will be made available as per the choice of the employees in the canteen of the plant.

Canteen Cell Manager William, INTUC Union General Secretary Vansh Bahadur Singh, Executive President Puran Verma, Senior Vice President Chandrashekhar Singh, PV Rao, S Ravi, Additional General Secretary Shekhar Sharma, Deputy General Secretary, Dhanesh Prasad, Ramashankar Singh, Jayant Barathe, Shiv Shankar Singh, CP Verma and others were present.

Devendra inaugurates badminton court in Hudco

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 22: Bhilai Nagar MLA Devendra Yadav is making efforts to ensure development in the city as per the public expectations. Along with this, he is also conducting Bhet Mulaqat programmes to meet the people and conduct discussions about the development of the wards and the city. He is asking people about their problems and is making efforts to resolve them.

In this sequel, MLA Devendra Yadav reached Hudco ward the other day. He moved across the entire ward and met the locals. During the Bhet Mulaqat programme, he gifted a badminton court sports ground with all facilities to the resi-



dents of HUDCO. Here, the players can practice their game at night also.

This initiative created an atmosphere of great joy among the youth. The youth thanked him and expressed their gratitude. The youth added that they had been demanding a sports facility for years, which has now been completed. MLA Devendra Yadav also enjoyed playing volleyball with the youth in another ground. To make

this moment memorable forever, the youth clicked photographs and took selfies with the MLA.

Later, MLA Devendra Yadav conducted a meeting with senior citizens of the locality. In the meeting, there was an in-depth discussion about the development of the city and the ward. People gave many suggestions to the MLA. Some people narrated the minor problems of the

ward, which were resolved immediately.

Thereafter, MLA Yadav met the elderly people who were taking a walk in the garden. Devendra also took a walk with them and interacted with the people. Ward Councillor Siju Anthony, Komaldas Tandon, MLA Representative and Public Works Incharge of Bhilai Municipal Corporation, Ekansh Banchore were present.

Kiln-4 of RMP-3 inaugurated after capital repair

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 22: Kiln No 4 of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Refractory Material Plant -3 was lit up after successful completion of capital repair that was carried out in a record time of 56 days. The kiln was lit up for production by Anjani Kumar, ED (Works).

The Kiln No 4 of RMP-3 is a gas-fired kiln equipped with state of the art technology. The kiln used 900 tonnes of refractory bricks. Safety engineering processes were diligently followed during execution of the work.

During the Capital Repair that mainly included complete replacement of the refractory lining and cell plate, and three



major modifications which will lead to better availability and production by the kiln. The Capital Repair was executed under the direction of Tapas Dasgupta, CGMI/c (Iron).

PK Sarkar, CGM I/c (Services), HK Pathak, CGM (OHP), Sudhir Kumar, CGM (Refractory), GP Singh, CGM (Safety), Rakesh Joshi, CGM (EMD) were also present on the occasion of lighting up of kiln along with Head of the Dept Ratan Mukherjee,

GM, Rampal, Sushanta Pal, DK Verma, SK Nayak, and departmental officers and personnel.

Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) congratulated the employees of RMP 3 and other ancillary departments and emphasized on proper and timely maintenance for increasing utility and availability of the Kiln. Addressing the gathering Tapas Dasgupta, discussed future action plan for better production. The capital repair of Kiln-4 has

been unique in several ways.

Prashant Saha, GM (Refractory) and Shabir Ali, AGM made special contributions in the refractory lining work in the capital repair, along with significant contributions by the instrumentation, automation and INCOS departments. Prahlad Maurya, AGM (RMP-3), gave a presentation on Capital Repair. Departmental officers participated in the technical discussion.

HMS demands to increase retirement age of doctors

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 22: Bhilai Shramik Sabha leaders Hariram Yadav and Pramod Kumar Mishra issued a joint statement stating that there is a huge shortage of doctors in the Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital and Research Center and most of the specialist doctors will retire between 2023 and 2025. Around 40000 entitled people including BSP personnel, BRP personnel, CISF and retired BSP personnel are treat-

ed in this hospital, which is run by the steel plant. They stated that a medical practitioner becomes a specialist doctor at the age of around 40-45 years and they retire in the next 20-25 years. The doctors retire as soon as they become experienced.

The people reaching Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital will not get full benefit of the experience of these doctors. At present, the retirement age of doctors in many institutions like AIIMS and Chhattisgarh gov-

ernment run hospitals is 65 years.

The union demanded that the retirement age of doctors should also be raised to 65 years by the SAIL management. In the current situation, many specialist doctors in Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital are going to retire within 1-2 years, so with immediate effect, the SAIL management should implement an extension of 2 years, so that when the age of retirement is 65 years, all those doctors will be in the service of the SAIL.

BJP Mahila Morcha stages chakkajam demanding ban on liquor

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, May 22: BJP Mahila Morcha staged chakkajam at Patel Chowk in Durg demanding total ban on liquor in the state. BJP Mahila Morcha State President Shalini Rajput was specially present on the occasion. Under the guidance of District BJP President Jitendra Verma, women leaders from across the district led by District President Divya Kalihari staged the demonstration.

They gathered in the District BJP Office Durg and after the meeting, marched to Patel Square. Police force reached the spot and tried to prevent the demonstration but the leaders of Mahila Morcha sat on the road and shouted slogans against the state Congress government.

State President Shalini Rajput said that the Bhupesh Baghel government indulged



in liquor scam by forgetting the promise of liquor ban. She added that the Congress government, which promised liquor ban, has done a liquor scam of Rs 2000 crore. The arrest of big Congress leaders of Chhattisgarh and their relatives in the liquor scam is proof that the Bhupesh government has used the sale of liquor as a source of its illegal earnings. District BJP President

Jitendra Verma said that the anger of women against the Congress Bhupesh government is natural, the process of closing liquor shops was started in a phased manner during the BJP government, but liquor shops increased in the Bhupesh Baghel government.

With the launch of online liquor sales and peddling of illegal liquor in villages, Bhupesh government focused on increasing the consumption

of liquor instead of reducing it. Women in the family suffer the most from the side effects of alcohol. The women of Chhattisgarh are gearing up against Bhupesh Sarkar. He added that the women will unite and teach Bhupesh Sarkar a tough lesson.

Former cabinet minister Ramshila Sahu said that if the Congress did not have the guts to fulfill the promise, it should not have made such a promise

at all and when it has won the votes of the women of the state by promising prohibition, it should not have cheated the women.

Mahila Morcha district president Divya Kalihari said that the women of Chhattisgarh have been duped by the Congress party which took the oath of ban on alcohol by taking Gangajal in hand. Congress leaders should be ready for a befitting reply from the women for breaking their promise.

Maya Belchandan, Gayatri Verma, Jayshree Rajput, Usha Tawari, Alka Baghar, Amita Banjare, Ayushi Pandey, Sweety Kaushik, Swati Sahu, Gayatri Verma, Jai Shri Rajput, Sarita Mishra, Bani Soni, Heema Sahu, Dilip Sahu, Ashish Nimje, Rohit Sahu, Madan Wadhwa, Dinesh Dewangan, Raja Mahobia, Rakesh Duggad and others were present.

CM Baghel presented slew of developmental works

During the Bhent Mulakat program in Rampur Assembly Constituency

Inaugurates and laid stone for works worth more than Rs. 71 cr

Raipur, May 22: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel presented a slew of various developmental works during his Bhent Mulakat program organized in Chirra village in Korba district's Rampur Assembly Constituency. Mr. Baghel performed the inauguration and Bhoomipujan of 65 developmental works worth Rs. 71 crore 23 lakh. They in-



clude the inauguration of 33 developmental works worth Rs. 44 crore 33 lakh and the Bhoomipujan and foundation stone laying of 32 developmental works worth more than Rs. 26 crore 90 lakh.

The developmental works inaugurated by the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel include railway

overbridge construction work near Urga Railway Station on Champa Gewra Railroad, 4 works worth Rs. 9 crore 14 lakh 88 thousand including the construction of 2 Km road from Tilaidabra to Kartala road and bridge-culvert in Public Works Department's Korba division, 8 road construction

works worth Rs. 2 crores 24 lakh 93 thousand under the Forest Department, 8 works worth Rs. 2 crores 14 lakh 57 thousand of Chhattisgarh Rural Road Development Agency under the Panchayat and Rural Development Department, 10 works worth Rs. 1 crore 81 lakh 91 thousand under the

Janpad Panchayat Kartala, and 2 works worth Rs. 6 crore 8 lakh 76 thousand under the Health and Family Welfare Development.

Similarly, Bhoomipujan of the following works was also performed: 22 works worth Rs. 20 crore 53 lakh 77 thousand under the Public Health Engineering Department, 2 works worth Rs. 3 crore 99 lakh 63 thousand under the Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board in Korba, 2 works worth Rs. 1 crore 42 lakh 24 thousand under the Chhattisgarh Housing Board's Korba division, and 6 works worth Rs. 94 lakh 60 thousand under the Panchayat and Rural Development Department.

HOLE WITHOUT WARNING SIGN



A hole on the main road of city has left uncovered and without any warning signal or sign board and it acts as death-trap for the riders and pedestrians during night.

Elderly man duped of over Rs 6 lakh

Raipur, May 22: Frauds duped an elderly resident of Telibandha area of the city of Rs 6.50 lakh on the pretext of renewing the policy of ICICI Bank Professional Life Insurance. Acting on the complaint, Telibandha police have registered fraud offence against the callers Apoorva Garg and Pratibha Mishra.

According to the police, a girl named Apoorva Garg and Pratibha Mishra called continuously from 8750948586 on the mobile of Suparschandra Golchha (68), resident of Aishwarya Residency, Telibandha, advising him to get his ICICI Professional Life Insurance policy renewed.

He sent the complete information on e-mail. On the basis of that information, Suparschandra transferred the given amount of Rs 2.50 lakh along with the policy number to the said account on 19 December 2022. He transferred Rs 2 lakh on 14 March and a total of Rs 6.50 lakh in the third installment. In this way both the girls cheated him of money.

Orientation program cum training concludes

● Of Electoral and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers

Raipur, May 22: As per the direction of the Election Commission of India, the certification and orientation training programme for Electoral Registration Officers and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers of the state was organised by Chhattisgarh's Chief Electoral Office, on May 20 and 21 at Thakur Pyare Lal Institute of Panchayat and Rural Development located in Nimora. All the state's Electoral Registration Officers and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers attended the programme, and they were provided with detailed information about the constitutional and legal pro-

visions related to the preparation of electoral rolls.

Addressing the officers present in the training programme, Chief Electoral Officer Mrs. Reena Babasaheb Kangale emphasised that the successful conduct of any election depends on the correctness of the electoral roll of that constituency. The trainees showed keen interest in the training organised for all the participants for the upcoming assembly election. Highlighting its importance, the Chief Electoral Officer further stated that the training programme will provide better knowledge of the rules and regulations to the participants regarding the preparation of the electoral roll of their constituency and train them to perform good electoral work in their area

Are the cattle sent to hill-stations during summer?

● Questions Sao on CM Baghel's statement and acceptance that there are no cattle in 'Gauthan' during summer

Raipur, May 22: Commenting upon the Chief Minister's statement that the cattle do not live in 'Gauthans' during summer season, BJP State President Arun Sao questioned as to whether Congress send cattle to some hill station during summers? Sao said that CM in his statement accepted that there are no cattle in the 'Gauthan' and indirectly he has accepted that there is massive scam in the name of 'Gauthan'.

Sao in a statement made to the press said that the very statement by CM Baghel that there is

not cattle in the 'Gauthan' during summers, stands testimony to the charges of 'Gauthan' scam by BJP and to which CM has also accepted it. On the question that if the cattle do not live in 'Gauthan', then the very provision of Rs 1300 cr 'gauthan scam' has been made only for the winter season. Contrary to this if Baghel accepts that there are no cattle in the 'Gauthan', then it also indicates of massive cow-dung purchase scam during the summer season. Sao questioned that if there are no cattle during summer, they why the shed was made and also questioned whether cow-dung purchase is not done in summer? All this clearly indicates that the sale of cow-dung during summer season is only on papers and it smells of massive corruption, Sao added.

Hundred of AAP workers court arrest, sent to jail



● Stage massive protest, take out massive rally

Raipur, May 22: AAP party workers and leaders took out a massive rally and court arrest mid-way while on way to gherao CM's residence here on Tuesday. There was minor scuffle of AAP party workers with the police when they stopped near the barricade at CSEB's office. The senior party leaders have strongly opposed the district and police administration of

arresting the demonstrators for showing black-flag to PCC State in-Charge Selja and sending them to jail and demanded unconditional release soon. AAP party workers and leaders from the state capital city gathered at the dharna venue Budhatalab in the morning and then took out a massive rally at 2:00 pm in support of the concept of corruption-free nation as held by the National Convener of the party and CM Delhi Arvind Kejriwal. Through this rally AAP Ch'garh unit wanted to

protest against massive corruption worth lakhs by CM Bhupesh Baghel and his son and promotion of nepotism in the recruitment made through state PSC and to provide justice to the needy and poor.

Here the AAP leaders showed black-flags to PCC state in-charge and Kumari Selja and after which many AAP workers were taken into arrest and sent to temporary jail. Heavy police forced was deployed to avoid any untoward incident or any confrontation.

Two arrested for robbing a truck

● Full of goods worth one million of an online company

Raipur, May 22: The police have arrested two of the four miscreants who robbed a truck carrying goods worth Rs 10 lakh from online shopping company Flipkart. This incident of loot took place near the overbridge located near Jarwai in Kabir Nagar area. After getting the driver and his nephew off the truck, miscreants ran away towards Attari with the truck. During investigation, it was revealed that the robbery was planned by Raju Sharma (22) of Jarwai

Basti, a former employee of Flipkart Company, along with three accomplices. Police have arrested Raju and Amit Kharwar (21) of RDA Colony Hirapur and recovered a truck full of goods from their possession.

According to information received from the Kabir Nagar police station, Neelkanth Sahu (22), a resident of Saragaon, Kharora, along with his nephew Dharmesh Sahu had left for Durg from Tendua with a truck number CG 04 NR 7363. Flipkart company's goods worth one million were loaded in the truck. While on way to destination Neelkanth stopped the truck near the Jarwai

overbridge after seeing stones placed on the road. Meanwhile four unidentified youths aged 20 to 25 years came in front of the truck and threatened Neelkanth. One of them having a shovel in his hand started breaking the glass, which scared Neelkanth and Dharmesh. Miscreants then pulled both of them out of the truck and threatening them besides snatching mobile from them.

All four miscreants then fled towards Attari village by same truck. Neelkanth along with his nephew managed to reach the warehouse of the company and informed about the incident to the staff

Ravi Soni and Azad Khan who lodged complaint of robbery with police by dialing 112. According to driver Neelkanth, GPS system is fitted in the looted truck. On the basis of this, the police team engaged the informer along with technical analysis. Information was obtained from the present employees of Flipkart and the employees who had left the job in the past. Meanwhile, Raju Sharma, who had earlier worked in the company, was nabbed. On interrogation, he confessed to carrying out the robbery along with Amit Kharwar and others. Police is searching for other miscreants involved in the incident.

One nabbed for cheating travel agent of Rs 5 lakh

● Making false promise of making software for his travel firm

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, May 22: The inter-state accused involved in cheating a travel agent from Amlidih area of Rs 5 lakh in the name of preparing a software for his travel firm, was nabbed by the police here on Tuesday. A case under section 420, 406, 120 B of IPC has been filed against the accused.

The complainant filed a report in Telibandha thana that since 2-3 days back before Jan 29, 2023 he received a phone call



from mobile No. 8910782441 saying that they help in making software for website of different companies and said that since he is into travel business, they can make

a software for air-travel, train ticket, foreign tours and related to hotels for him and for this they charge Rs 18 lakh and initially he will have to pay Rs 5 lakh and for this one person Yogesh Patel will come to take Rs 5 lakh in cash from his office.

It was on Jan 29, 2023, one Yogesh Patel named person came to his office and cash of Rs 5 lakh was handed over to him and he promised the website by evening hours. After this the victim called Surya Sharma and Yotesh Patel, but their mobile phone numbers were found to be closed. On this a fraud of Rs 5 lakh was done and case was filed.

After the report, the Telibandha police, along with Cyber Unit and anti-crime checked the mobile number and tried to locate it and it was found from Bikaner. A team was sent to Rajasthan and camping their they continued to check the accused and nabbed one Bheraram Kaswa involved in the case. On serious interrogation he accepted the crime and informed that he used different phone numbers to call the travel agent and the mobile phones were also seized. The accused is Bheraram S/o Shankarlal Kaswa (31), R/o Kesar Desai Jatan, Thana Jasnok, District Bikaner, Rajasthan.

Certificate course on 'Applied Data Analytics: A Practical Approach'

Raipur, May 22: National Institute of Technology Raipur's Continuing Education Cell (CEC) is conducting a certificate course on "Applied Data Analytics: A Practical Approach". The duration for the course is 22nd May to 23rd June 2023 in online mode. As per the convenience of the participants this course is running in two individual batches, morning & evening. The course is being organized by the Continuing Education Cell (CEC) & Department of Information Technology, NIT Raipur. This event will cover Data Analytics it's applications along with case studies.

This certificate course was organized under the adept guidance of Dr. A. B. soni, Director (I/c) NIT Raipur. Organizing committee members of the course are Dr. S. Ghosh, Chairman

CEC, Dr. Rakesh Tripathi, HoD, Information Technology department, Dr. Govind P. Gupta, Assistant Professor, Information Technology department and Dr. Mridu Sahu, Assistant Professor, Information Technology department. Eminent speakers featured in the course are Dr. Rakesh Tripathi, Dr. Neelam Sinha, Dr. GR Sinha, Dr. Mukesh Raghuvanshi, Dr. Rajeev Choudhary, Dr. Govind P. Gupta, Dr. Mridu Sahu, Dr. DC Shariya, Dr. Chandan Singh, Dr. Deepak Singh, Dr. C. Jatoth, Prof. Monali Gulhane, Dr. Vikas Vidhyarthi, Dr. Sagar Badhiya, Dr. Padmavati Shrivastava, Dr. Samruddhi Mohdiwale. During this course duration, the eminent speakers will share their expertise in their respective fields with the participants.

The course was inaugurated with an online lamp lighting ceremony and a warm welcome of eminent speakers and the participants. Dr. Mridu Sahu gave a brief introduction about CEC and the certificate course stating its core objectives. Further, in vote of thanks Dr. Govind P. Gupta expressed his gratitude towards Dr. A. B. soni, Director (I/c) NIT Raipur, Dr. Prabhat diwan, Dean (R&C) and Dr. S. Ghosh, CEC Chairman for their support in organizing this course. He wished the participants would enjoy this course and gain valuable knowledge from it. The course has witnessed a participation of over 172 participants including 74 students from NIT Raipur, 84 students from other famous institutes as well as faculty members and industry representatives.

Ramayan teams from more than 10 states have agreed to participate in the national event

Program will feature beautiful performances by foreign teams as well

Famous artists and poets will attend the grand event

Program will feature performances by Kumar Vishwas, Maithili Thakur, Baba Hansraj Raghuvanshi, Lakhbir Singh Lakha, Shanmukha Priya, and Sharad Sharma

Raipur, May 22: Chhattisgarh will be imbued with the glory of Lord Ram in the coming month. The Culture Department is organizing the National Ramayan Festival in Raigarh's Ram Leela Ground from 01 to 03 June, for which preparations are in full swing. The festival will feature performances mainly centred on the theme of the Arnaya Kand in the Ramayan. It is believed that Lord Shri Ram spent most of his exile in the forests of Dandakaranya in Chhattisgarh. Foreign artists will also stage beautiful performances of Lord Ram's story at the festival.

The officers of the Culture Department said

that Ramayan teams from nearly 10 states, including Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Goa, Assam, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh have agreed to participate in the National Ramayan Festival. The event will also feature attractive stage presentations of the epic by Ramayan artists from foreign countries. Interestingly, the tradition of the stage performance of the Ramayana is prevalent in South-Eastern countries as well, and the teams from these countries will participate in the Ramayan Festival.

The three-day event will feature daily performances by eminent artists at the national level. Stars

from Indian Idol and Saregama, Shanmukha Priya and Sharad Sharma, will participate in the event on June 1. Famous singers Baba Hansraj Raghuvanshi and Lakhbir Singh Lakha will present their musical performances on June 2. Famous Bhajan singer Maithili Thakur and popular poet Kumar Vishwas will present their renditions of the story of Lord Shri Ram on June 3.

At the initiative of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel, the Chhattisgarh Government is developing places in the state connected with Lord Ram's journey during his exile through the

ambitious scheme of the Ram Van Gaman Tourism Circuit. These places, which range from Surguja to Bastar, are being developed as tourism spots by the government.

कालड़ा बर्न एवं प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर बनी रहे मुस्कान

कटे होंट व तालु का निःशुल्क इलाज स्माइल ट्रेन के सौजन्य से

नचरेट्टी नाका, प्रमत्ती रोड, कलन मॉल के पास, रायपुर
कॉल : 9827143060/8871003060
Ajay Advt.

Women are more empowered than ever today, says CM

Cong should fulfill promises made to tribals: Gagda

Says Edsmeta incident report is out and action be taken



Central Chronicle News

Bijapur, May 22: Former minister Gagda addressing a press conference in BJP's office said that the judicial inquiry report of the Edsmeta incident has arrived and it has many points. The government should have taken action by now. He charged that the Congress government has once again done the work of misleading the public and due to which there is great deal of resentment among the public.

Addressing the press conference, former cabinet minister Mahesh Gagda said that the Congress government was in opposition when Edsmeta incident took place. At that time the

existing Minister in-charge Kawasi Lakhma and existing MLA Vikram Mandavi and other Congress leaders and workers met the victims and said that if the Congress government comes, they will take appropriate action. Now the judicial inquiry report has come and the party should action, he demanded.

During the press conference, former minister Gagda said that former Congress President and CM Bhupesh Baghel has also made announcement of SIT investigation on everything and action in ten days. But after the formation of the government, the Congress had made several announcements to the victim's family and the tribals of

Bastar. But the result of those announcements is Silger, Burji, Bechupal, Phundri, Bedre Bhanupratappur, Antagarh, where the movement of tribals is going on. He charged that neither the Congress people nor those sitting on the administration are meeting these agitators.

Tribals have been kept confused only by misleading them. Gagda said that the judicial inquiry report of the Edsmeta incident has arrived, the report has many points. The government should have taken action by now. Gagda has demanded the government to fulfill the promises it has made to the tribals.

- Baghel visited RIPA in village Chirra of Rampur Vidhan Sabha and observed the activities there
- CM took selfie with the self-help group, and motivated them to keep up the good work



vide better income to the women of the village. He took a selfie with the members of the self-help group there and said that women have become more empowered and self-dependent, they are not 'Abila' anymore.

During his visit to RIPA, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel closely observed the activities of processing turmeric, chili, spices, gram flour, fragrant rice, pickle, badi, incense sticks, manufacturing of dona pattal, slippers, cow dung paint, ash bricks, paver block, putty, fencing etc. Meanwhile, he also interacted with the members of the self-help group and praised the activities conducted in RIPA.

He added that the activities conducted in RIPA have a potential to generate good profits and pro-

Mr. Baghel directed Collector Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Jha to open Gadkaleva and Coffee Point, in view of the potential for tourism here. Divyang Lalita Rathia of village Chirra informed Chief Minister about the activities conducted by various self-help groups in RIPA. She told that 15 activities are being conducted there and 64 people of the village are engaged in these activities, including 18 men.

Orders have been received from Rural Engineering Department and Tribal Department for turmeric, chili spice, dona pattal, gram flour, floor, bricks. An order for 7,000 liters of cow dung paint

was also received from the Rural Engineering Department. An order of two thousand slippers has also been received from the Tribal Development Department.

So far, there has been a net profit of Rs 2 lakh 15 thousand and goods worth more than Rs 6 lakhs produced under various economic activities have been sold. She informed that many departments have placed orders for the various products of RIPA. Chief Minister Mr. Baghel inaugurated the WiFi facility by pressing the button.

Collector Mr. Jha informed Chief Minister Mr. Baghel about the works of Narva development, RIPA

and an overview of the activities conducted there. Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel, Assembly Speaker Dr. Charan Das Mahant, Minister in charge of School Education and District Dr. Preme Sai Singh Tekam, Revenue Minister Mr. Jai Singh Aggarwal, MP Mrs. Jyotsna Mahant, MLA Mr. Mohit Ram Kerketta, Mr. Purushottam Kanwar, Mr. Nanki Ram Kanwar, along with other public representatives were present on the occasion.

Chief Minister planted jackfruit saplings

Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel planted a jackfruit sapling at Ripa Center in Chirra. Vidhansabha Speaker Dr. Charan Das Mahant planted mangoes and district in-charge minister Dr. Preme Sai Singh Tekam, Revenue Minister Mr. Jaisingh Aggarwal and Member of Parliament Jyotsna Charan Das Mahant planted mango saplings.

Ch'garh's 'Sian Jatan Clinic' gains national acclaim at NAM Conclave



- Medical Education Secretary P. Dayanand delivered a presentation on the Sian Jatan Clinic during the Conclave
- Sian Jatan Clinic served over four lakh senior citizens in one year

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, May 22: 'Sian Jatan Clinic', which operates in the Ayush institutions of the state every Thursday, has received national recognition. Medical

Education Secretary P. Dayanand presented this initiative during the National Ayush Mission (NAM) Conclave held recently at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi, organized by the Union Ministry of Ayush.

The conclave showcased excellent and innovative activities being conducted nationwide under the National Ayush Mission. The Government of India included the Sian Jatan Clinic-initiated in Chhattisgarh to ensure proper healthcare for the

elderly-as a special activity in this conclave.

During the National Ayush Mission Conclave, Secretary P. Dayanand representing Chhattisgarh provided information about the objectives, functioning, and beneficiaries of the Sian Jatan Clinic. He highlighted that special outpatient services and Panchakarma services for the elderly are conducted every Thursday in all 1,174 government Ayush institutions in the state.

Since its inception in May last year, these clinics have offered healthcare facilities to over four lakh senior citizens. The Sian Jatan Clinic received praise as an exemplary initiative from senior officials of the Government of India and officials from other states attending the conclave. They urged Chhattisgarh to provide essential guidance and technical support to establish similar clinics in their respective states.

Women of Gauthan presented painting made from cow dung to CM



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, May 22: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and former Union Minister Selja Kumari observed the different stalls set up by various departments during the Bharose ka Sammelan program organized at village-Sankra of Patan development block of Durg district on Sunday. While visiting the Agriculture Department's stall, they also interacted with the beneficiaries of Rajiv Gandhi NYAY Yojana and Godhan NYAY Yojana.

Chief Minister and former Union Minister Ms. Selja Kumari appreciated products made by cow dung by the members of Jai Bajrang self-help group of Sirsakhurd Gauthan in Durg district. They presented a painting of Gautam Buddha and a tribal art made from cow dung to the Chief Minister. Self-Help group members of Nawagarh Gauthan of Bemetara district presented Paira Art to Ms. Selja Kumari. Other ministers and officials were present on the occasion.

Collector expresses displeasure over pace of works

Conducts reviews of works in Bhairamgarh and Bijapur blocks



Central Chronicle News

Bijapur, May 22: Collector Rajendra Kumar Katara, while taking stock of the development works being conducted in Bhairamgarh block, expressed his displeasure over the slow progress in the construction work of Mahatma Gandhi Rural Industrial Park (RIPA) and called for quality work to be completed within the time-limit. He gave strict instructions to complete the same soon.

On the other hand, taking stock of the works of

the Prime Minister's Aawas Yojana in Jangla, necessary instructions were given. In Bijapur's Naimed Gram Panchayat, the work of making ice cream by the women of self-help groups is being done by the Skill Development Department. The Collector explained the women to work hard with dedication and also tasted the ice cream made by the group and gave instructions to improve the quality. During this, CEO District Panchayat Mr. Ravi Kumar Sahu and other officers were present.

Int'l Spiritual Narrator Devi Chitralekha meets Aditya Raje

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, May 22: Aditya Raje met Devi Chitralekha, renowned International Spiritual Narrator, motivational speaker and musical artist. Aditya Raje, continuing his legacy presented Devi Chitralekha with a plant, giving her his message about Environment Conservation. He also gifted her a Vedic Mala hand-made up of Cow dung. Devi Chitralekha has visited state capital for an eight days Shrimad Bhagwat Katha, started from 16th May'23 till 23rd May'23, at Birgaon, Raipur. 9 years old Aditya

Raje told her about the social activities being done by him in the field of environment, yoga, animal safety and etc. He also re-



cited her a renowned shloka from Shrimad Bhagwat Gita which impressed Devi Chitralekha. Both Devi ji and Aditya Raje Singh discussed on topics like betterment of cows, and various other animals and conservation of environment. Seeing the keen interest of Aditya Raje in spirituality & animal welfare Devi Chitralekha invited him to GauSevaDham Hospital & Research Center, Hodal, Haryana, to visit her Gaushala and Animal welfare hospital. Aditya Raje was blessed with a memento presented by Devi Chitralekha and she blessed him for his future upcomings.

Cashless treatment facilities now available to all CGHS beneficiaries at AIIMS-R

- CGHS Pensioners and other beneficiaries will be eligible for cashless treatment in OPD, investigations and Indoor treatment

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, May 22: Cashless treatment facilities will now be available to all CGHS beneficiaries (serving and pensioners) at six AIIMS located at Raipur, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Patna, Jodhpur, and Rishikesh. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between these six AIIMS and CGHS, Union Health Ministry in the presence of Rajesh Bhushan, Union Health Secretary.

Patient care facilities available at six fully functional AIIMS at Raipur, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar,



Patna, Jodhpur, and Rishikesh shall be extended to the CGHS beneficiaries on cashless basis. It will be particularly beneficial for the senior citizens (retired pensioner beneficiaries of CGHS) who find it difficult to submit individual reimbursement claims and follow up approvals.

According to Prof. (Dr.) Nitin M. Nagarkar, Director 'The CGHS beneficiaries will have the advantage of accessing state of art treatment facilities available in these AIIMS, without the hassle of first making payments and then seeking reimbursements

from CGHS. This initiative will save time, reduce paperwork and also delays in settlement of individual claims. Till now, CGHS pensioner beneficiaries, availing treatment at AIIMS, are required to first make payment and claim reimbursement later from CGHS.'

The Health Secretary lauded this development stating 'CGHS is a significant service-oriented vertical of the Health Ministry through which existing and retired employees can avail medical services. He further added that "the government endeavors to expand the number of hospi-

tals empaneled under CGHS providing excellent tertiary care facilities aligned with the rising requirements of the patients.'

The beneficiaries under the CGHS are referred to Government hospitals and private hospitals empaneled under CGHS for indoor treatment. CGHS pensioners and other entitled categories of CGHS beneficiaries are eligible for cashless facilities at empaneled hospitals. CGHS provides comprehensive healthcare (both OPD & IPD) to Central Government employees, pensioners and their dependent family members, Members of

Parliament, ex-MPs and other categories of beneficiaries. Presently CGHS is in operation in 79 cities in the Country.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) 22 new AIIMS have been established across the country and they are at varying stages of operationalization. Besides providing facilities for quality medical education and research, these Premier institutions provide specialized patient care health services in various specialties and super specialties including cardiology, neurology, neuro surgery, gastroenterology, urology, cardio vascular thoracic surgery, oncology etc. These institutes also provide trauma and emergency care services, state of the art diagnostic services, including blood bank facilities. Prof. Nagarkar was present at the MOA signing event.

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Cattle missing in Mavlipadar Gouthan: BJP

Central Chronicle News

Jagdarpur, May 22: In Bharatiya Janata Party's 'Chalbo Gouthan Kholbo Pol' campaign, BJP leaders inspected the gothan built in Mavlipadar Gram Panchayat of Darbha Mandal. Not a single cattle was found in the Gouthan built after spending lakhs of rupees. Water system was found missing. In the discussion, the villagers of the area termed Gouthan as useless and called it a means of earning govern-

ment money. District General Secretary Ramashray Singh, who came to inspect Gouthan in a remote rural area, said that according to the information received from the local villagers, this Gouthan was constructed three years ago and here not a single animal has been kept till date. Government money has been misused by making Gouthan with-



out animals. The shed made for keeping the animals has been made by cutting the crooked woods of the forest, which is on the verge of col-



lapse. Water bores have been dug, the solar panels installed for electricity have collapsed. General Secretary Ramashray Singh

charged that the Congress government of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is playing an open game of corruption in the name of cow and cattle. Its high level investigation should be done and strict action should be taken against

the culprits. District Vice President Yogendra Pandey said that it is the misfortune of Chhattisgarh that the Congress government of the pres-

ent state is involved in huge corruption in the name of dumb animals. This corruption of the state government is visible with open eyes. The BJP is exposing the misrule of the Congress. BJP workers and villagers including Kamalchand Bhanjdev, Phool Singh Sethia, Hari Prasad Kashyap, K. Janaki Rao, Baldev Mandavi, Jairam, Devi Prasad Benzam, Satish Bajpai, Baliram Manjhi, Meanath Kashyap, Durjan Singh Kashyap were present during the inspection of Gouthan.

State's first sugarcane base Ethanol plant in final stages

Central Chronicle News

Kawardha, May 22: The construction work of the State's first ethanol plant at village Ramhepur in Kabirdham district of Chhattisgarh is on final stages. This plant is taking shape on 35 acres of land near the state's first Bhoramdev Cooperative Sugar Factory, which is included in the flagship scheme of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and it is to be set up through PPP model, in contract between Bhoramdev Cooperative Sugar Factory and Chhattisgarh Distillery Limited's subsidiary unit N.K.J. Biofuel Ltd.

District Collector Janmejaya Mahobe here inspected the works of the ethanol plant and instructed to speed up the construction work and to complete within the time



limit. He inspected the production area, boiler, administrative building and other parts of the ethanol plant and gave strict instructions to complete the remaining under-construction works of the plant on priority by the month of June.

After visiting the plant, he took a joint meeting of the administrative offi-

cers of the district and the officers and employees associated with the plant and reviewed the ongoing works. The Collector also instructed to make eco-park, green zone in the reserved land areas from the main entrance to the plant around the plant and from the point of view of environmental protection and promotion,

trees of large species, instructions were given to develop horticulture on the lines of children's gardens.

MD of Bhoramdev Cooperative Sugar Factory Bhupendra Thakur, Bodla SDM Sandeep Thakur, Village Town Investment Officer and other officials were present in the meeting.

Mr. Thakur, General Manager of Bhoramdev Cooperative Sugar Factory, said that the ethanol plant will be built on hybrid technology, in which ethanol will be made directly from sugarcane juice during the sugarcane crushing season and from molasses during the off-season.

Due to the diversion of sugarcane juice to ethanol, more juice will be required, for which more and more sugarcane will be purchased from the farmers. Being the country's first instance of PPP model for setting up an ethanol plant of this capacity, the tender at the national level was successfully completed through a transparent process, keeping in mind the nuances of the process for investor selection, he said.

BJP workers allege irregularity on Gauthan inspection



Central Chronicle News

Dhamdha, May 22: On the appeal of the Bharatiya Janata Party state leadership, the workers of Dhamdha Mandal inspected the Gauthan constructed near Nagar Panchayat Dhamdha Tamer Para Muktidham.

The workers here after the inspection, alleged many flaws and irregulari-

ties in the Gauthan. They alleged scarcity of water and absence of bamboo and wooden structure.

The workers also inspected Titurghat's Gauthan, and Jwala Singh Thakur, the president of the slum, said that Bhupesh government is cheating the public in the name of Gauthan across the state.

Where the farmers are

also being cheated in the name of vermicompost manure, in which adulterants can be found on examination, making the quality of compost manure very low, he further alleged.

Prominently present were Hima Sahu, Rohit Rajput, Sunil Gupat, Bhushan Dheemara, Raja Swarnakar and many more party workers.

'Vat Savitri' fast celebrated with devotion

Central Chronicle News

Fingeshwar, May 22: 'Vat Savitri' fast was observed here by married women and amidst chanting of vedic mantras, women worshiped the banyan tree with Panchopachar method and circumambulated it by tying raw yarn to the tree a total of 12 times. Women dressed in red and yellow saris observed the fast and performed the rituals in large number across the region.

It is notable here that the festival of 'Vat Savitri' is an important festival of Hinduism and on this day, according to tradition, married women worship the old Banyan tree and tie it with a yellow thread and make rounds around it.

According to the Puranas, on the day of Vat Savitri, Sati saved her husband's life from Yamraj. The festival of Vat Savitri is celebrated with great



pomp by married women and there was enthusiasm among women from the city to the rural areas for the festival of Vat Savitri. From early morning, women reached near many old banyan trees, including Kali Mandir, near the tehsil office of the city, and wished for long life of their husbands and the traditional fast was performed with full dedication and devotion.

INC conducts District Congress Committee meeting

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, May 22: A meeting of the Rajnandgaon District Congress Committee was organized here on Sunday, May 20 at the Ambedkar Bhawan located in the city's Jan Sahyog Maidan. Chief Guest of the program Chandan Yadav, secretary of the All India Congress Committee and Congress organization co-in-charge in the state of Chhattisgarh, and Rajnandgaon district Congress in-charge Arun Singh Sisodia were prominently present.

On the occasion of this important meeting of the District Congress Committee, the Congress workers kept

their views openly in front of their leaders, while on many occasions the leaders also sought suggestions from the workers. In the meeting, the works of block presidents and office bearers of the organization were reviewed and proper guidelines were given to them in the interest of the party.

District Congress in-charge Arun Singh Sisodia took stock of the presence of the workers, as well as sought suggestions from the workers for victory in the upcoming assembly and Lok Sabha elections. The district in-charge thanked all the block presidents of the district for their cent percent attendance.

While giving a welcome speech in the pro-



gramme, District Congress President Padamsingh Kothari, gave detailed information about the main objective of the meeting, emphasized on taking the schemes of governance from the workers to the public. Chhattisgarh Congress co-in-charge

Chandan Yadav, the chief guest of the program, while addressing the workers, directed all the front organizations to work together with discipline keeping in mind the respect of each other.

Leaders present State Congress General Secretary

Md. Shahid, Thaneshwar Patila, Dongargaon MLA Daleshwar Sahu, Mohla Manpur MLA Indrashah Mandavi, Dongargaon MLA Bhuneshwar Baghel, Khujji MLA Channi Chandu Sahu, Khairagarh MLA Yashoda Verma, District Cooperative Bank

President Md. Nawaz, former MLA Bholaram Sahu, Girwar Janghel, Prakash Yadav, Chhattisgarh State Entrepreneur Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation President Dhanesh Patila, Chhattisgarh State Youth Commission President Jitendra Mudaliar, Chhattisgarh State Child Rights Protection Commission President Tejkunwar Netam, Chhattisgarh Tourism Board member Nikhil Dwivedi, former minister Govardhan Netam, Bharat Jodo Yatri Kranti Banjara, Rajnandgaon City Congress President Kulveer Chhabra and many other party workers were present.

Ramayana Mandali competition 2023 organized

At district panchayat level

Central Chronicle News

Simga, May 22: District Panchayat Level Ramayana Mandali Competition 2023 was organized in village Kamta and as per information 34 congregations had registered on the Chinnari portal. State Congress representative Sunil Maheshwari, who reached the program with his wife, said that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's government has done the work of connecting the new generation with Manas Mandali, and we all have faith in Lord Ram.

Mata Kaushalya's maternal home is in Chhattisgarh and because of this, Lord Ram is very



dear to all of us. Sunil Maheshwari further said that ever since Bhupesh Baghel's government was formed in the state, many schemes of the government are being run in the name of Lord Ram and in Chhattisgarh there is a

tradition of worshipping the feet of Bhancha because Kaushalya Mata was from Chhattisgarh, therefore the area from Surguja to Bastar has been called

Dandakaranya Dakshin Kaushal, and Chief

Minister Bhupesh Baghel's government's work in making Ram Vanpath Gaman Marg is remarkable.

Sangeeta Sunil Maheshwari, who was present in the programme, said that sin can

be absolved just by chanting the name of Lord Ram.

Here, the troupe is narrating the entire Manas to the people of the village, due to this, a different atmosphere of faith has been created among the people of the entire village. Vice President of District Panchayat Simga, Vivek Agarwal said that the government is working to connect people through the Ramayana Mandali competition.

This competition is being held from village to district and state level, in which people from everywhere will participate. During this Sarpanch Gangotri Siyaram Rakesh, former CEO of Janpad Panchayat Roop Ram Yadu, Hemlal Damodar, Ramasaran, Durgesh Sahu, Santosh, Gappu etc were present.

BJP opens front regarding illegal sand mining

Central Chronicle News

Arang, May 22: Bharatiya Janata Party Arang Vidhansabha delegation has asked the Raipur collector to take action within 24 hours, against illegal sand mining indiscriminately in the sand ghats of Arang area as well as illegal transportation and storage of other mineral wealth. A memorandum has been submitted regarding the demand, along with demanding proper and fair action by the Department of Minerals.

Keeping in mind the serious issues like loss of revenue to the state and the region and damage to the environment, after examining it meticulously, also the Party demanded to take legal action against the culprits and warned if appropriate action is not taken, a mass movement will be launched by the BJP taking the people along.



While handing over the memorandum prominently, Bharatiya Janata Party District President Raipur Rural Abhinash Kashyap, District General Secretary Shyam Narang, Former MLA Sanjay Dheedhi, Kisan Morcha State Minister Vedram Manhare, Mahila Morcha State Media Incharge Dr. Kiran Baghel, Deepak Bais, Mandal President Raja Tamboli, Krishna Verma, Lakhan Sahu, General Secretary Chaman Sahu, Senior Leader

Ganesh Sahu, Shekhar Sahu, Councillor Dhruvkumar Mirdha, Kuleshwar Bais, Rajesh Sahu, Sanchit Tiwari, Farnendra Verma, Suraj Lodhi, Shankar Jalakshatri, Narendra Lodhi, Ramkumar Bais, Shekhu Bais, Chaitram Pal, Ashok Chandrakar, Dilip Jalakshatri, district members Govind Sahu, Pilaram Nishad, Vicky Sahu, Alok Gupta, Suraj Sahu, Ritesh Sahu, Satish Sonkar, Nem Sahu, Satish Jalakshatri, Balram Sahu were present.

Heat waves bring crowd of patients to hospitals



Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, May 22: The increasing heat in the area has started showing its effect on health of the common man and people are not able to adapt the body according to the temperature and are falling sick. Complaints of cold, fever, headache, bodyache, vomiting-diarrhea and fever have become common, along with the heat, and there is

also a danger of dehydration.

Where the crowd has increased in the hospitals, the business of medical stores has also gone to a hike and patients are reaching the district hospital and private clinics for treatment. In the OPD of the district hospital, where patients are taking medicines after treatment, a dozen patients are admitted in the ward. Decreasing water level in the body due to rising temper-

ature can prove to be dangerous and Sodium chloride and electrolytes also come out from the body along with sweat, which can prove to be risky especially for diabetics and heart patients. To avoid heat and heat stroke in

rural areas, stale rice in curd is used in the morning and evening as a home remedy and with this experiment, the deficiency of salt and water in the body is fulfilled. According to BMO Dr. MK Roy although many types of dis-

eases surround people in summer, the risk of dehydration has also increased due to the rise in mercury in the month of May itself. One of the various causes of dehydration is staying in the heat for a long time.

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
Bank of India **BOI**

POSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)
[Under Rule-8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]
 Whereas, The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Bank of India, Bilaspur Branch under the Securitization 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 Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the following borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being detail as mentioned here under, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules as mentioned below.
 The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Bank of India, Bilaspur Branch for an amount detail given as below.

Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)	Description of the Properties	Demand Notice	Amount Due
M/s R S Industries, Prop. Mr. Vijay Kumar Lalchandani situated at Plot No. M-2, Sector-C, Near Om Oil mill, Sirgitti Industrial Area, Bilaspur (C.G.)	Packing Machine unit 1. Double Servo Based Auger Filler Machine 2. Solar Machine, Elevator, Conveyor 150mm (4Mtr) Reel Chalna, AC Separator Pneumatic System Etc.	Date 21.02.2023 Possession Notice Date 19.05.2023	₹ 26,90,563.45/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Ninety Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Three and Forty Five Paise Only) + interest w.e.f. 27.06.2022+ Other expenses.

Date: 23.05.2023, Place : Bilaspur
 Authorized Officer,
 Bank of India

Bilaspur Branch :- Dayalband, Bilaspur (C.G.), Tel.-07752-415900, 410472, 268655, E-mail : bilaspur.raipur@bankofindia.co.in

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda

Branch: Pendra, Marwahi Road, Beside PNB, Dist- Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi (C.G.) 495119

DEMAND NOTICE
NOTICE U/S 13 (2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

Borrower's & Guarantor's Name & Address	Type	Details of Mortgaged Property
	Limit	
M/s. Mittal Motors, Prop- Mr. Sushil Mittal Ward No. :- 04, Rest House Road, Gaurela Dist:- Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi- 495117	Cash Credit	Abadi Land and building bearing part of Kh No. 439 and 440/2, Total khasra 2, comprising area 16425 Sq. Ft situated at Ph No. 23, R.I.C-Gaurella, Situated at village: Rest House Road Gaurela Pendra road, Tal: Pendra road, Dist: Gaurel-Pendra-Marwahi (C.G.) belonging to Mr. Sushil Mittal S/O Late Mahavir Prasad Mittal.
	₹ 1,00,00,000/-	
	Total Dues as on 29.04.2023 an amount of	
	₹ 1,02,94,556.51	
	+ unapplied interest 01.02.2021	
	NPA Dt. 29.04.2023	

The Borrower mentioned above has availed total credit facilities as mentioned above from Bank of Baroda, Branch- Pendra (C.G.) and the mentioned Guarantors provided guarantee and secured by way of mortgaged of above mentioned property. The borrower failed to adhere to terms and conditions of sanction. The account became irregular and classified as NPA as mentioned above as per RBI guidelines. The Bank intends to enforce the said property mortgaged by you and issued Demand Notice as mentioned above for recovery of outstanding amount as mentioned above with interest and expenses thereon under registered post with acknowledgment due which were not served to the borrowers and guarantors. Hence this publication issued. Hereby Borrower/Guarantor are called upon to pay the amount mentioned above with rate of interest (Contractual Rate), costs, charges etc., thereon within 60 days from the date of publication failing which the undersigned will be constrained to initiate action against mortgaged property under section 13(4) and the provision of said Act to realize our Bank's dues. Your attention is invited to provisions of the Sec (8) of Sec (13) of the act in respect of time available to you to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 22.05.2023, Place: Pendra (C.G.) Authorized Officer, Bank of Baroda

BRIEF



A woman covering her face with a scarf walks on a road on a hot summer day, in New Delhi, Monday.

Arrested

■ **Chandigarh:** Four shooters of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang have been arrested and six pistols along with cartridges were recovered from them, Punjab Police here on Monday said. Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said the accused have been facing several criminal cases registered in Punjab and Haryana.

Stabbed

■ **New Delhi:** A 25-year-old man was stabbed by three people during a scuffle in northeast Delhi's Usmanpur area, police said on Monday. Around 8 pm on Sunday, Puneet, a resident of South Gamri in Usmanpur, reported that his father Mahesh was sitting outside their house when he was hit by a ball, Deputy Commissioner of Police (northeast) Joy Turkey said. Mahesh scolded the child who was playing with the ball following which, his family members came there and a heated argument ensued between the two sides, the police said.

Expansion

■ **Aurangabad:** The Bharat Rashtia Samithi on Monday began its drive to form party committees in Maharashtra, where it plans to expand as part of the move to go beyond the confines of its traditional stronghold Telangana. The K Chandrashekar Rao-led party had, in December last year, changed its name from Telangana Rashtia Samithi to Bharat Rashtia Samithi to underline its intention of becoming a national party.

Oppose

■ **New Delhi:** Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) Monday opposed before the Delhi High Court a PIL seeking 10 per cent reservation for students from economically weaker section (EWS) in terms of the 2019 amendment to the Constitution and said being a minority institution, it was not covered under the policy. In an affidavit filed in response to the plea, JMI said as per an office memorandum issued by the Government of India in January 2019, EWS reservation in central educational institutions is not applicable to minority institutions.

Dead

■ **Mumbai:** Actor, model and casting director Aditya Singh Rajput was found dead in the bathroom of his apartment in suburban Andheri here on Monday, police said. Rajput (33) was allegedly not keeping well since the last couple of days and he collapsed in the bathroom of his apartment in Oshiwara area this afternoon, an official said.

Material Recovery Facility transforming Jammu

● **Into clean, green city**

Jammu, May 22 (PTI):

Jammu city is rapidly transforming into a "clean and green city", with noticeable improvements in cleanliness in streets, footpaths, flyovers and residential areas.

The city is making significant progress towards achieving zero waste and at the forefront of this positive change is the Material Recovery Facility (MRF), also known as the 'Swachhta Kendra' (cleanliness centre), established in 2021.

The first-ever MRF in Jammu and Kashmir on the outskirts of the city operates under the collaboration of the Regional and Urban Development Agency (RUDA) and the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC). It employs a sustainable approach to integrated plastic waste management and efficient recycling within the city.



"This MRF in Jammu is the first of its kind. We have established it in partnership with the Jammu Municipal Corporation. It has been operational for almost three years now, with a daily capacity to handle five tonnes of waste. Currently, we collect, segregate, and recycle

approximately 150 to 200 tonnes of trash every month," Sajeew Arora, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of RUDA, told PTI. Equipped with state-of-the-art technology, the MRF collects, separates, and processes dry waste before sending it to recycling centres. As a result, it significantly contributes to the reduction of carbon emissions and the effort is to make the city clean and green, he said.

"To date, we have collected 7,000 metric tonnes of plastic waste, which we have successfully segregated and recycled. From an environmental perspective, every kilogram of plastic waste collected directly prevents three kilograms of carbon emissions. Through our efforts, we have already reduced 20,000 to 22,000 metric tonnes of carbon emissions in the atmosphere," Arora said.

The city corporation employs sanitation workers who collect segregated wet and dry waste from households and public areas. The waste is then either transported directly to the MRF or delivered to mini-sorting stations for further segregation and recycling, he said.

Arora said the waste collection system also has led to a positive economic impact.

DU reconstitutes committee to strengthen safety of students

● **In all-women colleges**

New Delhi, May 22 (PTI):

In the wake of incidents compromising the safety of students in all-women colleges, the Delhi University has reconstituted a committee to strengthen the safety and security of female students and employees on the campus.

The six-member committee will be headed by university proctor Rajni Abbi.

Speaking to PTI, Abbi said the committee has been reconstituted after harassment incidents were reported during cultural festivals at colleges.

"The university felt the need to have a specific committee to look into the issues of female safety. The committee that was formed after these incidents created generalised guidelines. But it was not specific to the safety of girl students," she said.

As per a notification issued on May 8, the university said, "The competent authority of the university has re-constituted a committee on women safety and security to strengthen the safety and security of female students and employees of the university." Besides Abbi, the other members of the committee

are Law Centre II's Vageshwari Deswal (member secretary) and Geeta Sahare (joint proctor), SRCC's Malika Kumar, assistant registrar Girish Kumar and advocate Niyati Sharma. Last month, the varsity issued a 17-point advisory to colleges and departments for holding programmes, events and fests in which it was enunciated that the responsibility for events will lie with colleges, and department authorities and the college concerned will be solely responsible for any "untoward incident". The guidelines were prepared in the wake of several all-women colleges wit-

nessing harassment incidents during cultural festivals. Students of the varsity's Indraprastha College for Women (IPCW) alleged that they were harassed by "unknown" men during a fest on March 28. The incident led to widespread protests by students who demanded the resignation of the college principal.

A similar incident in Miranda House was reported in October 2022 where several men allegedly climbed the college walls and gates to witness an open Diwali fest on the campus, and indulged in "cat-calling and sexist sloganeering".

'No rift in Tripura BJP'

Agartala, May 22 (PTI):

The ruling BJP in Tripura has denied any rift within the party following former chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb's allegation of 'outsider' interference in it.

BJP state unit president Rajib Bhattacharjee on Sunday said he will talk to Deb if he has any grievance in the handling of the party. The statement came hours after Deb made his allegation of 'outsider' interference in the ruling party which, he claimed, is hurting the organisation.

"Biplab da and Manik da (Chief Minister Manik Saha) are our leaders ... There is no trouble in the party. But if it is there we will try to remove it," Bhattacharjee said to questions by reporters of a probable rift within the saffron party. "Biplab da is our leader and the ex chief min-



Rajib Bhattacharjee

ister of Tripura. He is now the 'prabhari' (in-charge) of Haryana. I saw him venting his anger before the media. We will hold talks to know the reason for his feelings. We want to work together as a family," he added. The allegation by Deb, a Rajya Sabha member of the BJP, at a press meeting came just a day before the crucial BJP Tripura state executive meeting on Monday to chalk out the party's strategy for the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

He said "outsiders" were

interfering in the BJP's organisational affairs and weakening it. Deb said he has apprised the party's leadership of it.

He left for Delhi later on Sunday after an "urgent call" from the BJP central leadership. He is set to skip the state executive meeting, party sources said on Monday. Bhattacharjee said he was not aware of Deb intimating the central leadership on the 'outsider' interference issue. "But we will try to sort it out. We will surely talk to Deb," he iterated. The president of district units of BJP are expected to lay their reports on the party's organisational situation on the table during the meeting. BJP state in-charge Mahesh Sharma, Chief Minister Manik Saha and Bhattacharjee will be present in the meeting among other party leaders, sources in the party said.

NCP supporters protest outside ED office

● **Over summons to Jayant Patil**

Mumbai, May 22 (PTI):

Hundreds of NCP workers on Monday staged a protest outside the Enforcement Directorate's office in south Mumbai against summons issued by it to state party president Jayant Patil in a money laundering case.

The protesters claimed the Centre and the ED were indulging in "political vendetta".

Patil appeared before the ED here on Monday in a money laundering case linked to alleged financial irregularities in the now bankrupt financial services firm IL&FS, an official said.

The agency's office is located close to the Nationalist Congress Party's (NCP) office at Ballard Estate in south



Students at a school celebrate after HSLC Class 10 exam results were declared, in Guwahati, Monday.

Andhra CM launches Rs 5,156-crore Machilipatnam port works

Machilipatnam, May 22 (PTI):

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday launched work on the Machilipatnam port, which is estimated to cost Rs 5,156 crore and will have an initial capacity to move 35 million tons of cargo.

The Chief Minister unveiled a pylon and offered special prayers on the beach, marking the start of the work on the port, which is scheduled to be completed in two years, a press note shared by the state government on Monday said.

"The capacity of the 4-berth deep water port would be increased to 116 million tons as the cargo traffic increases gradually," Reddy was quoted as saying in the release.

In the next 24 months,

he said, people can start seeing large vessels anchoring at Machilipatnam's port.

Following land acquisition, finalising tender procedures and financial closures, procuring permissions and resolving all legal hurdles allegedly created by N Chandrababu Naidu, the port is becoming a reality, the chief minister said.

According to the CM, the port will propel Machilipatnam to grow like developed ports cities such as Mumbai and Chennai, considering it is connected with national highway number 216. He said however that railway connectivity was required to enhance accessibility to the port.

Machilipatnam will become the go-to place for trade and commerce as well as industrial growth,

as Telangana and Chhattisgarh too will make use of this port located in Andhra Pradesh's Krishna district, and it will spark growth in ancillary industries, which would create employment for lakhs of people, Reddy said.

Thanking the farmers who gave up their land for the port, the CM noted that 4,000 acres of government land would be gradually linked to the port being built in a 242-acre land parcel.

Reddy also spoke about the new medical college being built in the seaside town at a cost of Rs 550 crore, which would commence its maiden academic year in August or September and help serve the healthcare needs of people from Pedana, Avanigadda, Kaikaluru and other places.



NCP workers stage a protest at the party office after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) summoned party leader Jayant Patil, in Mumbai, Monday.

Mumbai.

The protesters, wearing Gandhi caps and holding placards and banners, also carried a large size cut-out of NCP chief Sharad Pawar.

They shouted slogans against the Union government and the ED, accusing them of indulging in "political vendetta".

Earlier, speaking to reporters before going to the

ED's office, Patil said, "I am part of the opposition and one needs to face such type of suffering. I never heard the name of the IL&FS in the past, but the ED officials have summoned me to appear before them. I will try to address their queries in the legal framework."

"I appeal to the party workers to maintain peace and allow the offi-

cials to do their work. I also ask party workers not to be afraid of it," said Patil, a seven-term legislator who is former Maharashtra minister of home and finance.

Considering the crowd of Patil's supporters, the Mumbai Police made elaborate security arrangements and placed barricades on the road leading to the ED's office.

In February last year, the ED arrested former Maharashtra minister and NCP leader Nawab Malik under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with a probe linked to the activities of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim and his aides.

In November 2021, the ED arrested former state home minister and NCP leader Anil Deshmukh in another money laundering case.

Experts concerned over dipping water level

● **Of Rabindra Sarobar in Kolkata**

Kolkata, May 22 (PTI):

The water level of Rabindra Sarobar in south Kolkata's Dhakuria area has gone down drastically in the past several months raising concern among environmentalists and regular visitors.

Pointing out that dredging should be undertaken immediately at Rabindra Sarobar, labelled as a national lake, environmentalist and spokesperson of anti-pollution 'Save Rabindra Sarobar' campaign (launched to stop religious festivals in the water body five years back), S M Ghosh told PTI Sunday that the water level has declined to six feet (1.82 metre) at some spots in the middle of the lake. "Even 60 years back people from Gobindapur slum, adjacent to the lake,

used to come here to wash utensils, and children had a good time splashing water. The structure of the old ghat which had submerged has resurfaced. The water level of the lake has depleted by more than half in past years which has resulted in the drop in groundwater level," Ghosh said. The Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA), custodian of the water body, undertakes dredging of the lake.

A KMDA official said visitors and staff have reported that 'char' (surface land) has come up in two parts of the lake near its boundary, and water level has come down to some extent in the middle of the lake. "This is unprecedented in the lake's history in recent years. We are aware of the development and an emergency meeting has been called to take stock of the situation." "Lack of adequate rain in past one

year might have triggered the crisis but we have to think of alternatives to restore the lake to its earlier state," the official said.

Asked about the remedial measures, he said the KMDA is mulling over a proposal to temporarily plug outlet channels which carry the flow of water from the water body to outside.

The lake will soon be mapped by experts, the official said.

Another KMDA official said the water body has a depth of about 20 feet in the middle. Geo Scientist Sujib Kar said "Previously Rabindra Sarobar was linked with river Ganga. But after a devastating storm in 1737, the lake was detached from the river and the flow from the Adi-Ganga was choked." The lake is still linked with Adi-Ganga through a sub-surface water-bearing strata, extending from 16 mt. to 46 mt, as a result of

which the discharge of water in the form of sub-surface flow towards Adi-Ganga canal is causing a drop in the water level of the lake, he explained.

Rabindra Sarobar is a 90-acre water body surrounded by around 100 acre of surface area rich in flora and fauna.

"Protection of the water body is urgent and if we are unable to protect the lake, then vast areas between Golpark and Tollygunje in southern parts of the city might be affected," Kar said.

Rampant withdrawal of ground water in various parts of Kolkata and restricted recharge of ground water due to dwindling number of water bodies is causing strain on Rabindra Sarobar which acts as the feeder of ground water of a vast area and this is triggering seasonal fluctuations of water level in the lake, Kar said.

BRIEF



Britain's Kate, Princess of Wales talks with pupils from schools taking part in the first Children's Picnic at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, London, Monday.

Driving fine

■ **London:** In her first reaction to a UK media report claiming she attempted to bypass the usual process after being caught speeding while driving outside London last year, UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman insisted on Monday "nothing untoward" happened in relation to the incident. Addressing reporters during an interview on camera, Braverman, 43, admitted that she got a speeding ticket and paid the fine. It came as Downing Street said British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who has just returned from the G7 summit in Japan, is still "updating himself" on all the information related to the issue. It is believed he has discussed the matter with his independent adviser on ministerial ethics, Sir Laurie Magnus, amid Opposition demands for an investigation.

Grenade attack

■ **Indiana:** A hand grenade found as a family went through an older relative's belongings exploded, killing an Indiana man and injuring his two teenage children, police said. The explosion fatally injured the 47-year-old man Saturday evening at the home in the community of Lakes of the Four Seasons in northwestern Indiana, according to the Lake County Sheriff's Department. His two children, a 14-year-old boy and 18-year-old girl, were taken to a hospital with shrapnel wounds. Sheriff Oscar Martinez said investigators were trying to determine what caused the grenade to explode in the home about 30 miles (50 kilometers) southeast of Chicago. Authorities didn't immediately release any additional information about the grenade or why the relative had it. (AP)

Fire kills 6

■ **Dubai:** A house fire in Abu Dhabi killed six people and injured seven on Monday, according to the civil defense authority in the United Arab Emirates. An Investigation is underway to find out the cause of the fire which erupted in the city's Al Moazza area. The UAE has been grappling with a series of recent fires, exacerbated by flammable cladding materials and escalating temperatures, which can soar up to 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) during the summer. Another apartment fire last month killed 16 and injured 9 in Dubai's historic Deira neighborhood. On Saturday, Abu Dhabi experienced a dust storm and temperatures of 43 degrees Celsius (109 degrees Fahrenheit). One worker was injured as five wooden boats anchored on Sharjah Creek went ablaze that day.

PM Modi showcases India as reliable partner of Pacific island nations

Port Moresby, May 22 (PTD)

Eyeing to bolster India's footprint in the Indo-Pacific, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday showcased New Delhi as a "reliable" partner of the Pacific island nations as he said those considered trustworthy were "not standing by" the region in times of need, in what is being seen as an oblique reference to China. A friend in need is a friend indeed, Modi told top leaders of 14 Pacific Island nations at a summit, assuring that India is ready to share its capabilities and experiences with the region "without any hesitation" and that "we are with you in every way."

Referring to adverse im-

First Indian-origin Lord Mayor elected in Australia's Parramatta City Council

Melbourne, May 22 (PTD)

The City of Parramatta Council in Sydney on Monday elected Indian-origin Councillor Sameer Pandey as its new Lord Mayor. Pandey's election to the post coincided with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's arrival in Sydney on Monday for a two-day visit at the invitation of his Australian counterpart.

Pandey was first elected to the council in 2017 and in 2022, became the City's first Deputy Lord Mayor from the Indian subcontinent, an official statement said. Pandey was elected as Donna Davis stepped down from the role following her election as the State Member for Parramatta in Australia's New South Wales state. Asserting that it was a privi-



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, center, addresses a meeting with Pacific Island leaders to discuss ways to better cooperate in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, Monday.

fact of Covid-19 pandemic and other global developments, Modi said India stood by the Pacific Island nations in the challenging time and conveyed to them that they can rely on New Delhi as it respects their priorities and its approach for cooperation is based on human values. "Those whom we considered trustworthy, it turned out that

they were not standing by our side in times of need. During these challenging times, an old saying has proven true: 'A Friend in need is a friend indeed,'" he said at the FIPIC (Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation) summit without naming any country. "I am glad that India stood with its Pacific island friends during this

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Momen ridicules report calling him 'pro-Chinese'

Dhaka, May 22 (PTD)

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen on Monday dismissed as "false and baseless" a newspaper article which called him "pro-Chinese" who worked as a lobbyist for a Chinese organisation before becoming a minister in 2018.

"This (description of him) is very strange and surprising," Momen told a press conference, referring to an article published on Sunday in the *Kabela*, a Bangla newspaper with a headline titled "US Sanctions is Coming, Government Remains Ready". The foreign minister called a press confer-

ence to brief the media about Bangladesh Premier Sheikh Hasina's upcoming Qatar visit.

The article, written as an analysis, claimed that Momen worked as a lobbyist for a Chinese organisation before becoming a minister in 2018.

Refuting the statement, Momen called the article "false and baseless". He pointed out that the article could not provide any reference or source to support its claim and said, "I (rather) stayed in the USA and worked there for decades".

Before joining politics in 2017, Momen served as Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the United Nations. He stayed in the US for over three decades, serving as an economics professor at a university in Boston.

Momen became the country's foreign minister after the 2018 general elections, which installed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government for the third consecutive term.

Hours after the article was published on Sunday, the Foreign Ministry strongly condemned part of the analysis, stating that the comment about Momen was a "blatant lie" and made with ill intention as it tarnished the Bangladesh government's image.

Tim Scott set to announce launch of his 2024 GOP presidential campaign

North Charleston (US), May 22 (AP): As he launches his presidential campaign on Monday, Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina is officially wading into a GOP primary battle already largely dominated by two commanding figures: former President Donald Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Scott, the only Black Republican senator, will make his campaign announcement in his hometown of North Charleston after making it official last week with the Federal Election Commission.

The late morning event is taking place at Charleston Southern University, Scott's alma mater and a private school affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Then he'll spend Tuesday with donors in

3 Palestinians killed in Israeli raid in occupied West Bank

Tel Aviv, May 22 (AP)

Three Palestinians were killed in an Israeli army raid in a West Bank refugee camp early on Monday, Palestinian health officials said, while the Biden administration sharply condemned Israel's latest act of settlement expansion.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said the three men were killed during a raid in Balata, a refugee camp near the city of Nablus.

Six people were wounded, including one who was in critical condition, the ministry said. The Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a militant group with connections to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party, identified the men killed as its members.

The army later con-

firmed soldiers had raided Balata; it said troops came under fire and killed three Palestinians. Three others were arrested there, the army said. Israel has stepped up raids over the past year in response to a spate of Palestinian attacks and said Monday's operations netted weapons and an explosives manufacturing operation in a home, which it detonated.

Meanwhile, the Biden administration issued a sharply worded statement on Sunday criticizing Israel for moving to reestablish settlers at the formerly evacuated outpost of Homesh in northern West Bank.

In March, the Israeli government repealed a 2005 act that dismantled four West Bank settlements. Over the weekend, the top Israeli army gener-

al in the West Bank signed an order attaching Homesh to a local settler regional council a move paving the way for reconstruction of the outpost.

The United States was "deeply troubled" by what US State Department spokesman Mathew Miller said was Israel's illegal policy on the outpost in the occupied territory.

Miller also expressed Washington's concerns about ultranationalist National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's visit to the Temple Mount, the holiest site in Judaism. The contested site is also home to the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third-holiest site in Islam.

"This holy space should not be used for political purposes, and we call on all parties to respect its sanctity," Miller said in the statement.

Court orders release of former human rights minister as crackdown on PTI workers continue

Islamabad, May 22 (PTD)

A top court in Pakistan on Monday ordered the release from jail of Shireen Mazari, a close aide of former prime minister Imran Khan even as several other senior party leaders and thousands of workers remain in detention following the May 9 protests.

Justice Chaudhry Abdul Aziz of the Rawalpindi Bench of the court issued an order to release Mazari, who served as the minister for human rights from 2018 to 2022 and was arrested on May 12 from his house in Islamabad after a crackdown was launched on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party following the violence. Her daughter Imaan Mazari-Hazir had challenged the arrest in

the Lahore High Court (LHC). The judge ruled that Mazari, 57, should be set free if not named in any case and directed the former minister to submit an affidavit to the deputy commissioner that she will not be involved in any such disruptive activity in the future. However, it is not clear when she will be allowed to walk out of jail as several cases have been filed by police against PTI leaders and workers for their alleged role in the May 9 violence, which has been termed as "Black Day" in the history of the creation of Pakistan.

Mazari's daughter told the media that the former minister was arrested three times in a week but the court in its ruling ordered his release.

Belarusian dissident pardoned

Tallinn (Estonia), May 22 (AP):

The Belarusian state news agency on Monday reported that a dissident journalist who was pulled off a flight that was forced to land in the country and was later sentenced to eight years in prison says he has received a presidential pardon.

"I literally just signed all the relevant documents that I was pardoned. This, of course, is just great news," Raman Pratasevich was quoted as saying by the news agency Belta.

Pratasevich was convicted and sentenced May 3 for organizing unrest and plotting to seize power.

He ran a Telegram messaging app channel that was widely used by participants in mass protests against the disputed August 2020 election that gave authoritarian Belarusian

President Alexander Lukashenko a sixth term in office.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE FOR MODIFICATION WORK	
Tender Notice No.: TRD-R-2023-E03,	Date: 18.05.2023.
Name of Work: "OHE Modification for provision of full length OHE over line no 3, Engine stabling line and their extension along with new cross over in MMBD siding take off from Dadhapara Station".	
Tender Value: ₹ 49,48,396.38. Earnest Money Deposit: ₹ 99,000/-.	
Submission of Tender: Upto 12.00 hours on 20.06.2023. Opening of Tender: 12.30 hours on 20.06.2023.	
For further details of tender document, eligibility criteria and the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)/South East Central Railway, Raipur or refer/download tender document which is available on our website: www.ireps.gov.in	
Sr.Div. Electrical Engineer (TRD)/PR/RSr.DE(ETD)/IP/46 Raipur.	
f South East Central Railway @secrail	

South Korea, EU agree to boost pressure on Russia, condemn North Korean missile tests

Seoul, May 22 (AP)

Leaders of South Korea and the European Union agreed on Monday to increase pressure on Russia over its war against Ukraine and condemn North Korea's ballistic missile tests.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol met with European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in Seoul after attending the weekend summit of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations in Hiroshima, Japan.

"We agree to maintain and increase the collective pressure on Russia, partic-

ularly through effective implementation of the respective restrictive measures," they said in a joint statement. "We are committed to support Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction and remain resolved to support Ukraine for as long as it takes." Michel said Russia's continued attacks against Ukraine show that deeper cooperation between the EU and South Korea is "not a luxury. It's a vital necessity."

The three leaders called on North Korea to cease actions that raise military tensions and return to nuclear disarmament talks.

"The European Union will never accept (North Korea's) possession of nu-

clear weapons as the normal state of affairs, just like we do not accept Russia's military aggression against Ukraine," von der Leyen said at a joint news conference.

Yoon said the three leaders recognised that North Korea's nuclear and missile programs pose a threat beyond the Korean Peninsula.

North Korea has launched about 100 missiles since the start of 2022, many of them nuclear-capable weapons that place the US mainland and South Korea within striking distance. Experts say North Korea believes its expanded weapons arsenal will help it wrest concessions from its rivals.

Iran's president appoints new official in powerful security post



In this undated photo released, Ali Akbar Ahmadian, the former chief of the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard's strategic center, left, sits next to the late Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani, in Tehran.

Dubai, May 22 (AP)

Iran's president on Monday appointed a new official to take over the post of secretary of the country's Supreme National Security Council, replacing the longtime powerful official Ali Shamkhani after becoming implicated in a recent spy scandal.

President Ebrahim Raisi issued a decree replacing Shamkhani who has faced persistent corruption allegations

which he denied as well as scrutiny because of close ties with a British-Iranian man hanged on spying charges earlier this year in Iran. Shamkhani was a key player in negotiations with the West over Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, as well as years of tensions that followed then-President Donald Trump's 2018 decision to unilat-

erally withdraw America from the accord. The decree, reported by the state-run IRNA news agency, offered no explanation for the change. In a message on Twitter on Sunday night, as rumors about his position circulated, Shamkhani cryptically posted a verse by the 14th century Persian poet Mohtasham Kashani.

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER TRANSMISSION CO LTD (A Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking) CIN:U40108CT2003SGC015320-22AADCC5773E1ZX OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (LINE) Block-4, Near CSPHCL Dispensary,Dagania, Raipur (C.G.) Website- www.cspc.co.in e-mail:- ce.cht@cspc.co.in Ph. No. 071-2574221 Fax No. 071-2574222 CE/LINE/Works/EE-I/TR-1102,TR-1103,TR-1104/409 Raipur, Date:19.05.2023				
NOTICE INVITING TENDER				
Sealed tenders are invited for following works:				
TR No	Name of work	EMD (Rs)	Cost of tender form (Rs) (incl. GST)	Date of opening
TR-1102 RFX No.- 8100031403	2nd circuiting of 132 KV Kanker-Nagri line (RL- 62.81 KM approx) on labour contract basis when one circuit is live	68,330/-	1770/-	09.06.2023
TR-1103 RFX No.- 8100031404	2nd circuiting of 132 KV Nagri - Indagaon line (RL- 67.84 KM approx.) on labour contract basis when one circuit is live	73,810/-	1770/-	12.06.2023
TR-1104 RFX No.- 8100031405	Revetment work of 220 KV DCDSS Gurur-Barsoor line (loc. No. 265 & 535), 220 KV DCDSS Jagdalpur-Barsoor line (loc. No. 196, 211, 214, 215, 219, 223, 170, 175) and 132 KV DCDSS Barsoor Bijapur line (loc. No. 142)	64,700/-	1770/-	13.06.2023
For all other details of NIT and terms & conditions, please visit our web site ' www.cspc.co.in/cspc/tendernotices '				
SAVE ELECTRICITY S-37096/2			CHIEF ENGINEER (LINE) CSPCL, RAIPUR	

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT	
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER	
MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN, RAIPUR (C.G.)	
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE	
eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in	
(2 nd Call)	
System Tender No. : 134737/NIT No. : 06/SAC/2023-24,	
Chhuikhadan, Dated : 22.05.2023	
Online Tenders are Invited for the following works up to	
09.06.2023 at 17:30 Hour	
Name of Work : Construction of Feeder main canal from R.D. 5550 m to R.D. 7050 m including construction of 02 Nos. Inlet, 01 Nos. D.C, 01 Nos. Fall, 03 No VRB, 04 No. Minor Head, 1 No. Super Passage and fixing of 11 Nos. Collaba of Sidhababba tank scheme in block Chhuikhadan of District Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai.	
Probable Amount of Contract - Rs. 261.27 Lakhs	
(As per S.O.R Dated 01.08.2010 (As amended dated 01.08.2014))	
The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) from Date 29.05.2023, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.	
NOTE :- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/ Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.	
Executive Engineer	
Water Resources Division, Chhuikhadan	
for, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godawari Basin	
Raipur (C.G.)	
G-01537/1	

छत्तीसगढ़ लोक सेवा आयोग, नवा रायपुर

“केविएट – सूचना”

क्रमांक / 749 / पेड़ / विधि / 2023

नवा रायपुर, दिनांक : 19 MAY 2023

छत्तीसगढ़ लोक सेवा आयोग द्वारा निम्न विज्ञापन जारी किए गए हैं :-

क्र.	विज्ञापन क्रमांक	विज्ञापित पद	प्रकाशन तिथि
1	28 / 2022 / परीक्षा / दिनांक 26 / 11 / 2022	राज्य सेवा परीक्षा – 2022	30/11/2022
2	29 / 2022 / परीक्षा / दिनांक 08 / 12 / 2022	व्यवहार न्यायाधीश (प्रवेश स्तर) परीक्षा – 2022	14/12/2022
3	02 / 2023 / परीक्षा / दिनांक 08 / 05 / 2023	जिला आयुर्वेद अधिकारी (चिकित्सा शिक्षा (आयुष) विभाग)	10/05/2023
4	03 / 2023 / परीक्षा / दिनांक 08 / 05 / 2023	सहायक संचालक (तकनीकी) (चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग)	10/05/2023
5	04 / 2023 / परीक्षा / दिनांक 08 / 05 / 2023	व्याख्याता, चिकित्सा शिक्षा (आयुष) विभाग)	10/05/2023
6	05 / 2023 / परीक्षा / दिनांक 13 / 05 / 2023	छात्रावास अधीक्षक श्रेणी 'द' (आदिम जाति तथा अनुसूचित जाति विकास विभाग)	17/05/2023
7	06 / 2023 / परीक्षा / दिनांक 18 / 05 / 2023	सहायक संचालक कृषि (कृषि विकास एवं किसान कल्याण तथा जैव प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग)	24/05/2023

2/ उक्त विज्ञापनों के अंतर्गत विज्ञापित पद हेतु चयन प्रक्रिया प्रारंभ किया जाना है। अभ्यर्थियों द्वारा किसी भी कारण को आधार बनाते हुए आयोग के उक्त सहायकार आयोगन एवं चयन परिणाम की कार्यवाही को निरस्त करने/स्थगित करने अथवा किसी भी प्रकार के अनुरोध को प्राप्त करने के लिए कोई भी रिट याचिका अथवा कार्यवाही माननीय उच्च न्यायालय के सम्म प्रस्तुत की जाती है, तो ऐसी याचिका में उपरोक्त किसी भी प्रकार के अनुरोध को प्रदान किए जाने के पूर्व आयोग को सुनवाई का अवसर प्रदान किए जाने हेतु आयोग की ओर से एक केविएट आवेदन पत्र आयोग के प्रतिकृत अधिवक्ता श्री आनंद मोहन तिवारी (मो-9826194499 ईमेल anand_tiwari7@yahoo.com) के माध्यम से माननीय उच्च न्यायालय के सम्म एक केविएट आवेदन पत्र प्रस्तुत किया जा रहा है, जिस हेतु वह सूचना-पत्र का प्रकाशन किया जा रहा है

सचिव
छत्तीसगढ़ लोक सेवा आयोग,
अटल नगर, नवा रायपुर

G-01534/1



CENTRAL
Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 11 No. 53

India's Rising Horizon

Expanding Influence and Shaping
a New World Order

In an increasingly interconnected world, India's presence and influence on the global stage are undeniable. Despite being consistently ranked low in various global indices, India's true trajectory paints a different picture—one of growth, resilience, and an expanding role in shaping the international landscape. As the nation surges forward, it is crucial to acknowledge and explore India's growing global footprints. In recent years, India has faced criticism from foreign governments and anti-India organizations, often funded by global oligarchs, who project a grim future for the country. They claim that India is heading toward a social collapse, suppressing various forms of freedom. Such pessimistic views, often fueled by opposition to the current Delhi administration, fail to recognize the reality of India's progress. The truth is that India's economic rise has caught the attention of nations worldwide, presenting opportunities for growth and collaboration. Despite challenges and criticisms, India's relevance on the global stage continues to grow. This is evident in its acceptance by major powers, including Russia and the United States, who value India as a strategic partner. The ability to establish open lines of communication with leaders from both countries on the same day exemplifies India's unique position in global diplomacy. India's importance in international affairs is further underscored by the upcoming G20 summit in Delhi. The presence of global leaders such as Biden, Putin, and Xi in the same room highlights India's growing stature and diplomatic prowess. Holding the presidency of both the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the G20 simultaneously, India has demonstrated its ability to navigate relationships with different blocs without compromising its own interests. Additionally, India remains a prominent player in the Quad, a major Indo-Pacific grouping. Recognizing India's technical expertise and global acceptance, the United States sought India's involvement in countering the increased presence of China in West Asia. As the US influence in the region wanes, China has taken advantage, brokering peace between Saudi Arabia and Iran and undermining US sanctions on Iran. China's investments in infrastructure development in West Asia and North Africa, totaling an estimated USD 270 billion since 2005, have cemented its influence in the region. In response, the US realized the importance of countering China's expansion and turned to India as a key ally. Recent interactions between the National Security Advisors (NSAs) of the US, India, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE in Riyadh underscored the collaborative efforts to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The proposed infrastructure project aims to connect Gulf and Arab countries through a comprehensive railway network, ultimately linking India and South Asia via multiple seaports. This ambitious undertaking promises mutual benefits for West Asian nations and South Asia, fostering regional interconnectivity and prosperity. The significance of India's role in such projects cannot be overstated. India's expertise in infrastructure development, as demonstrated through its involvement in railway projects across the globe, positions it as a trusted partner. The success of India's public sector enterprise, RITES, in completing projects in 55 countries, including West Asia, highlights India's track record of excellence. While India's connectivity with West Asia has been hindered by the need for overland routes passing through Afghanistan and Pakistan, the proposed infrastructure project would not only enhance India's reputation as a global infrastructure builder but also strengthen its ties with the region. This development would significantly impact India's oil imports, making them more cost-effective. Moreover, as West Asia transitions from confrontation to collaboration, it presents an opportune moment for India to deepen its engagement in the region. The potential inclusion of India's invested Chabahar port in this corridor remains uncertain but holds great promise. India's story goes beyond its infrastructure capabilities and economic growth. It is a narrative of resilience, adaptability, and seizing opportunities amidst adversity. Despite the negative projections and biased assessments, India's relevance and demand on the global stage continue to rise. Foreign governments and international players are increasingly recognizing India's potential as a key player in the new world order. The nation's expanding global influence is driven by its technical expertise, diplomatic finesse, and commitment to fostering mutually beneficial relationships.

Unraveling the Enigma

The Controversial Fate of Rs. 2,000 Banknotes

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee

In an announcement, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made a significant decision to withdraw the Rs. 2,000 banknotes from circulation as part of its "Clean Note Policy." This move, aimed at ensuring economic security, has sparked discussions and raised questions about the rationale behind the decision. While it is crucial to support the withdrawal of the Rs. 2,000 notes, it is equally important to reevaluate the flawed reasoning behind the "Clean Notes Policy." Former Finance Minister and senior Congress leader, P Chidambaram, aptly referred to the Rs. 2,000 note as a "dirty note." The introduction of the Rs. 2,000 note was initially meant to curb corruption, yet ironically, it has become a tool for facilitating illicit activities. Recognizing this, the RBI's decision to withdraw these notes is a step in the right direction. It is important to note that the withdrawal of the Rs. 2,000 notes is akin to a mini-demonetisation, as there are still a staggering Rs. 3.62 lakh crore worth of these notes in circulation. Individuals holding substantial amounts of this currency will be required to explain the source of such cash when depositing or exchanging these notes. Failure to provide a satisfactory explanation may result in the notes being demonetized, rendering them no longer legal tender. This move not only ensures greater transparency but also lightens the burden on the RBI, relieving them of the liability associated with these notes. The decision to withdraw the Rs. 2,000 notes should not come as a surprise, as many analysts and experts had predicted this move for several years. In fact, these notes had already become increasingly rare in the marketplace. The RBI's decision to proceed with the withdrawal, even after nearly seven years, is a testament to their commitment to maintaining the integrity of the Indian economy. The Rs. 2,000 note, as per the RBI's directive, will meet its untimely demise as legal tender on September 30th. This bold step is aimed at dismantling the channels through which corruption and black money flow. By eliminating the high-value denomination, the government hopes to foster a more transparent and accountable financial ecosystem. While the withdrawal of the Rs. 2,000 notes is commendable, it is essential to reevaluate the "Clean Notes Policy" itself. The term "clean notes" may give the impression that the Rs. 2,000 notes are inherently unclear or tainted, which is misleading. Instead, the focus should be on the need for a comprehensive strategy to combat corruption, money laundering, and illicit financial activities. Furthermore, the withdrawal of the Rs. 2,000 notes highlights the importance of embracing digital payment systems and promoting financial inclusivity. Encouraging the use of electronic transactions and increasing access to banking services will not only reduce the reliance on cash but also foster a more efficient and transparent financial landscape. RBI's decision to withdraw the Rs. 2,000 banknotes is a necessary step towards ensuring economic security and combating corruption. However, it is vital to move beyond the flawed reasoning of the "Clean Notes Policy" and address the underlying issues that contribute to financial malpractice. By adopting a comprehensive approach, India can strengthen its economy, promote transparency, and enhance the well-being of its citizens.

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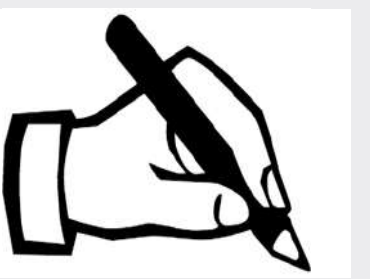
FISHING BAN



Fishermen rest on boats anchored at Kasimedu harbour during the 61-day annual fishing ban, in Chennai, Monday.

Extradition Victory: India's Zero Tolerance against Terrorism

YASH PAL RALHAN



In a significant development confirming India's unwavering commitment to combat terrorism, Pakistan Canadian citizen Tahawwur Rana, the mastermind behind the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, is set to be extradited to India. The decision, subject to clearance from the US court, marks a diplomatic victory for India and underscores its zero tolerance approach towards terrorism. The Mumbai attacks, which occurred over a decade ago, claimed the lives of 174 people, including six American nationals. It is both encouraging and commendable that diligent efforts by Indian diplomats and national security agencies have paved the way for the extradition process to move forward. The prolonged delay in reaching this decision highlights the complexities involved in addressing international terrorism. Rana, who was attempting a plea bargain, could have escaped with a lenient sentence if the offer had been accepted. However, India's pursuit of justice remained resolute, and now Rana's extradition awaits approval from US Secretary of

State Antony Blinken. Once approved, he will be handed over to India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) for further investigation into his role in the 26/11 attacks. This development comes just ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled state visit to the United States, invited by President Joe Biden. The timely court order bodes well for enhanced cooperation between the two nations in addressing terrorism and securing justice. Bilateral ties between India and the US have significantly improved over the years, with cooperation extending to various spheres, including economic, strategic, and military domains. The presence of 4.3 million Indian-origin individuals in the US further strengthens the bond between the two countries. Leveraging these relations, Indian diplomats and national security functionaries have diligently pursued cooperation with the US and other Western nations in combating terrorism. This extradition serves as a reminder that collaboration and information sharing between countries play a crucial

role in curbing the menace of terrorism. It is vital for India to intensify its efforts in this regard, ensuring more extraditions, increased action against terrorists and their supporters, and mounting pressure on Pakistan to cease its nefarious activities against India. Tahawwur Rana's arrest in the US, based on India's extradition request, is a significant step towards justice for the victims of the Mumbai attacks. The US court's consent to India's request further strengthens the foundation of the extradition agreement between the two nations. India has accused Rana of several offenses, including conspiracy to wage war, murder, committing terrorist acts, and conspiracy to commit a terrorist act. His conviction in Chicago in 2011 for providing support to Lashkar-e-Taiba, the terror group responsible for the Mumbai attacks, adds weight to India's case for his extradition. As the extradition process progresses, it is essential to ensure Rana's swift transfer to Indian custody for trial. Mumbai's resilience in the face of the horrific 26/11 attacks remains etched in memory, and justice must be served to honor the lives lost and the survivors who continue to bear the scars. India's confirmation of zero tolerance against terrorism through the forthcoming extradition of Tahawwur Rana sends a strong message to perpetrators of violence. It reaffirms India's determination to fight terrorism at all

levels, bolstered by international cooperation and the pursuit of justice. The extradition of Rana not only serves as closure for the victims and their families but also stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of Mumbai and India's resolve to combat terrorism. It is a step towards a safer and more secure world, where terrorism finds no refuge. The confirmation of Tahawwur Rana's extradition reflects India's resolute commitment to upholding global security and combating terrorism. This victory serves as a reminder that justice may be delayed, but it will eventually prevail. The extradition of Rana showcases the perseverance and determination of Indian authorities in pursuing those responsible for heinous acts of terrorism. However, it is crucial to recognize that the battle against terrorism is far from over. While Rana's extradition is a significant milestone, there are still other individuals and organizations that pose threats to peace and stability. The fight against terrorism requires constant vigilance, cooperation, and the sharing of intelligence among nations. India has been actively engaging with international partners, particularly the United States, in its pursuit of justice for the Mumbai attacks. The strengthened bilateral ties between India and the US have facilitated information sharing and collaboration, enabling a more effective response to the global threat of terrorism.

LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Preserve Earth

While humans can't prevent natural disasters, they can mitigate their impact through global efforts. Industrial greenhouse gas emissions, agricultural waste burning, and traditional fuel use in rural areas can be minimized by adopting alternative solutions. It's imperative that individuals worldwide prioritize reducing global temperatures. The severity of floods, droughts, earthquakes, storms, and volcanoes can be lessened through measures proposed in global conferences. Let's unite and save our planet by preserving Mother Earth, recognizing the urgent need for a sustainable future. Together, we can combat climate change and protect our home.

MK Nair, Raipur

Combat Climate

The WMO's alarming climate change forecast demands immediate attention. It is crucial to take action and reduce carbon emissions for a safer future. Protecting the environment becomes paramount in ensuring our well-being. Now is the time for collective efforts, as emphasized by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at the COP27 summit. The unchecked rise in greenhouse gas emissions and soaring global temperatures pose a grave threat. We must heed this warning to save our planet from catastrophic consequences. Combating global warming requires concerted efforts from nations worldwide to achieve tangible results and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Ashutosh Rana, New Delhi

Distorting Truth

The recent lifting of the ban on the Kerala Story by the apex court highlights the importance of freedom of expression. However, the absolute nature of this freedom remains a subject of debate, especially when it is used to manipulate facts and promote a divisive agenda, jeopardizing national and social harmony. It is disheartening to witness the exploitation of cinema, a powerful medium, for political gains. This disregards the inclusive legacy of Hindi cinema, exemplified by timeless classics like Naya Daur and Upkar. Let us reflect on the responsible use of this medium and uphold the values of truth and unity.

Krishna Kumar KA, Kollam, Kerala

Politicized Ban

The recent SC ruling on The Kerala Story exposes the political motives behind bans imposed for the sake of controversy. It is evident that the West Bengal government's ban, claiming potential disturbance of peace, was driven by political agenda. Once a film obtains clearance from the censor board, it is the audience's responsibility to discern its factual accuracy. The court's stipulation for a disclaimer, clarifying the lack of authentic data supporting the claim of 32,000 Hindu and Christian girls converting to Islam, should quell any opposition to its screening. Let us prioritize freedom and safeguard the right to express diverse perspectives.

Nazir Ahamad, Jodpur

Building Dreams: Honoring the Craftsmen of Construction



Perna Boorakoti

Every individual dreams of having a place they can truly call home—a sanctuary where cherished memories are woven into every wall. It's a place where families come together, where the pride of peace and belonging thrives, and where children's laughter fills the rooms. This dream home stands as a beacon of hope, driving us to work hard and save diligently to make it a reality.

Amidst this pursuit, have we ever stopped to ponder who brings life to the construction and texture of our homes? Who transforms our wildest imaginations into tangible spaces, blending new designs with vibrant colors? The answer lies not with some distant entity, but with the ordinary laborers living in our society—people who, like us, think, speak, eat, and earn a living. These laborers, driven by their hearts and minds, hold their own hopes and dreams. Despite their personal aspirations, they dedicate themselves to their work, building houses brick by brick, mixing cement, and toiling under the scorching sun. They infuse our dreams with life, treating our aspirations as if they were their own. Despite lacking formal education, these laborers skillfully shape the structure of our homes. While we may occasionally criticize their food and clothing, we often forget that they soil their clothes

and bodies with mud and water to craft beautiful buildings—a task beyond our capabilities. Instead of recognizing their immense contributions, we sometimes disrespect them and consider them lesser than ourselves. Yet, it is through their tireless efforts that our dream homes manifest into stunning realities. They accomplish feats that we, with our limited abilities, cannot even fathom. Their strength lies in their ability to turn dreams into tangible structures—a feat that cannot be measured in mere pennies. Rather than offering encouragement, we often undermine them, disregarding their worth. It is time we take a pledge to inspire and support these individuals for their invaluable contributions. In a world where our dream homes are erected by the hands of these unsung heroes, it is our responsibility to uplift them when they need it most. We must acknowledge their relentless dedication and strive to create an envi-

ronment that appreciates their skills and empowers them. To begin, we can advocate for better working conditions and fair compensation for laborers. Additionally, we can encourage skill development programs that enable them to enhance their expertise and broaden their opportunities. By providing avenues for growth, we can empower these individuals and help them flourish in their chosen field. Furthermore, let us foster a culture of respect and appreciation for these laborers. Rather than belittling their work, let us celebrate their contributions and honour their craftsmanship. By recognizing their talents and valuing their role in shaping our communities, we can create a more inclusive and harmonious society. As individuals, we can also contribute by engaging in acts of kindness towards these laborers. Simple gestures like offering them water

on a hot day or expressing gratitude for their hard work can go a long way in uplifting their spirits. Together, we have the power to transform the narrative surrounding the construction industry. By championing the cause of laborers and fostering an environment of cooperation and encouragement, we can pave the way for a brighter future, not only for these unsung heroes but for our entire society. So, let us take a brand new step today. Let us pledge to recognize, appreciate, and support the laborers who turn our dreams into reality. Together, we can build a society that values their contributions, honours their skills, and uplifts their lives. It is time to celebrate the true heroes behind our dream homes and embark on a journey of cooperation and encouragement.

(Writer is Bureau Chief Punjab, Government of India. Views are personal)

BRIEF

Testing lab

■ **Ahmedabad:** Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Sunday inaugurated the 'Advanced Organic Testing Laboratory' at AmulFed Dairy in Gandhinagar in Gujarat. The state-of-the-art facility at AmulFed Dairy, a unit of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF) that sells its products under the 'Amul' brand, will verify whether food items labelled 'organic' are produced without the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals.

Large orders

■ **New Delhi:** Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Monday said it has bagged large orders worth over Rs 2,500 crore in the domestic and offshore markets. The power transmission & distribution (PT&D) business of its arm Larsen & Toubro Construction has secured large orders to be set up on engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) basis, it said in a statement. In Saudi Arabia, the business has secured two orders to establish 380kV overhead power transmission lines connecting prominent cities situated on the Red Sea coast. Another order is to design, supply, and construct a 380kV substation in the central region of Saudi Arabia, the company said. "In India, the PT&D business continued its winning streak in the Revamped Reforms Based and Results-Linked Distribution Sector (RDSS) Scheme projects with fresh orders from a prominent Gujarat DISCOM.

COPOLCO plenary



■ **New Delhi:** India will host the 44th edition of the annual International Organization for Standardisation's Committee on Consumer Policy (COPOLCO) plenary from Tuesday in the national capital. Union Minister of Food and Consumer Affairs Piyush Goyal will inaugurate the four-day event (May 23-26). COPOLCO Chair Sadie Dainton, International Organization for Standardisation (ISO) General Secretary Sergio Mujica and other senior officials will participate in the event, an official statement said.

AI offerings

■ **New Delhi:** Tata Consultancy Services has expanded its partnership with Google Cloud for generative AI offerings, the company said on Monday. Under the partnership, TCS will leverage Google Cloud's generative AI services to design and deploy custom-tailored business solutions for the clients. "Our launch partnership with Google Cloud on generative AI enables us to rapidly create value for our customers.

Impact of Rs 2,000 notes withdrawal 'very very marginal' on economy: Shaktikanta Das

New Delhi, May 22:

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said the impact of withdrawal of Rs 2,000 currency notes will be "very very marginal" on the economy because it accounts for only 10.8 per cent of currency in circulation. Describing the withdrawal exercise as part of currency management operations of the Reserve Bank, he said, he expects most of the withdrawn Rs 2,000 notes to be returned to the exchequer by the deadline of September 30. Talking to reporters, Das said, "the impact of this on the economy will be very very marginal because it is only 10.8 per cent of currency in circulation. As you know that Rs 2,000 notes were not commonly used in any transaction We have found that it is hardly being used for carrying out transactions. Therefore, economic activity will not be impacted." As part of a clean note



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das speaks to the media in Mumbai, Monday, May 22.

policy, he said, RBI has been conducting such exercise of withdrawal of currency notes from time to time and such exercise was undertaken in 2013-14, whereby the notes which were printed prior to 2005, were withdrawn from public circulation. So, he said, withdrawal of Rs 2,000 notes is part of clean note policy and they continue to be a legal tender. Asked if Rs 2,000 notes will continue to be a legal tender, Das said "It will continue

Provide shade and water to those exchanging or depositing Rs 2,000 notes

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank on Monday advised banks to provide shade from the sun and water to customers waiting to exchange or deposit Rs 2,000 notes. It can be noted that during the note ban in 2016, there were allegations of customers dying while waiting in queues to exchange bank notes. Following the Friday's announcement of withdrawing Rs 2,000 notes – the notes continue to be legal tender unlike demonetisation exercise – there were concerns about customers facing inconvenience, especially given the summer being at peak. "Banks are advised to provide appropriate infrastructure at the branches such as shaded waiting space, drinking water facilities, etc. considering the summer season," RBI said in a notification on Monday.

as legal tender. We will wait how many notes are coming. I cannot give a speculative answer about what will happen post September 30." Most of the notes are expected to come back, he said, adding "that is our expectation at this stage. We will see how many notes come back. And as we approach September 30, we will decide at that stage." He said there is enough time available for exchange and deposit in bank accounts so

people should not panic. There is more than adequate quantity of printed notes available in the system not just with the RBI, but also at the currency chests which are operated by the banks, he said. "So there is adequate stock available and there is no reason to worry whatsoever. We have more than sufficient stocks," he said. The Governor also said that the RBI is sensitive to the difficulties which may be faced by people who are

on long foreign visits or living abroad on work visas. "It will be our endeavour to address the difficulties of the people and to complete the entire process in a smooth manner," he said. To a question regarding black money coming back to the system, he said, there is a set procedure for deposits in your account or cash exchange. "What we have said is that the existing requirements or the existing procedures have to be followed by the banks.

We have not come out with an additional procedure. You must be aware that there's an income tax rule if you deposit cash above Rs 50,000 then you have to produce your PAN. So existing rules will apply," he said. On whether it will impact India's currency management system, Das said, it is very robust and India's exchange rate is among the least volatile among peer countries vis-a-vis the dollar.

'RBI expects return of most Rs 2,000 currency notes in circulation by Sep 30'

New Delhi, May 22:

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said most of the withdrawn Rs 2,000 rupee notes are expected to be returned by the deadline of September 30. Speaking to reporters for the first time since the surprise decision to withdraw the highest denomination currency note was announced, Das said the decision was part of currency management. Rs 2,000 currency notes continue to be legal tender, Das added. Indian currency management system is very robust, exchange rate has remained stable despite crisis in financial markets due to war in Ukraine and failure of certain banks in the West, he said. The impact of the withdrawal on the economy will be "very very marginal", he said, adding Rs 2,000 currency notes made up for just 10.8 per cent of the total currency in circulation. He said Rs 2,000 rupee notes were intro-

duced primarily to replenish the currency that was withdrawn following 2016 demonetisation, he said. While the withdrawn 2,000 rupee notes can either be deposited in bank accounts or exchange for other currency, banks have been advised to make necessary arrangements for exchange, he said. "We expect most of Rs 2,000 bank notes to come back to the exchequer by September 30," he said. "We have more than adequate quantities of printed notes already available in the system, not just with RBI but with currency chests operated by banks. There is no reason for worry. We have sufficient stocks, no need to worry," RBI, he said, was sensitive to difficulties faced by people and would come out with regulations if need be. Existing income tax requirement of furnishing PAN for deposits of Rs 50,000 or more in bank accounts will continue to apply for deposits of the withdrawn 2000 rupee notes, he said.

SBI slow in procurement from GeM portal

Lags behind smaller counterparts in 2022-23

New Delhi, May 21:

India's largest lender SBI was quite slow in procuring goods and services from government-owned GeM portal in 2022-23 and lagged behind smaller counterparts, including Canara Bank and Punjab National Bank, according to the government data. Canara Bank emerged as the largest buyer among the state-owned lenders in 2022-23, making total purchases of Rs 592.82 crore from the portal, the data showed. Punjab National Bank (Rs 164.57 crore) was the second largest, followed by

Indian Overseas Bank (Rs 159.82 crore), State Bank of India (Rs 158.22 crore), Indian Bank (Rs 111.59 crore), Bank of India (Rs 63.81 crore), Bank of Baroda (Rs 48.63 crore), Union Bank of India (Rs 37.03 crore), Bank of Maharashtra (Rs 10.26 crore), Punjab and Sind Bank (Rs 9.98 crore), UCO Bank (Rs 5.30 crore) and Central Bank of India (Rs 4.54 crore) in 2022-23. The SBI did not respond to an email query on the subject. The GeM portal was launched on August 9, 2016, for online purchasing of goods and services by all the central government

ministries and departments. GeM has over 63,000 government buyer organisations and over 62 lakh sellers and service providers offering a wide range of products and services. Currently, government departments, ministries, public sector units, state governments, and central armed police forces are allowed to carry out transactions through this portal. The portal provides a wide range of products from office stationery to vehicles. Automobiles, computers and office furniture are some of the major product categories.

Tata Motors launches CNG version of Altroz

■ Price starts at Rs 7.55 lakh

New Delhi, May 22:

Tata Motors on Monday launched the CNG version of its premium hatchback Altroz at an introductory price of Rs 7.55 lakh (ex-showroom all-India). The Altroz iCNG comes in six variants priced between Rs 7.55 lakh and Rs 10.55 lakh (all prices ex-showroom all-India), Tata Motors said in a statement.

It is equipped with a twin-cylinder CNG technology and comes with advanced features such as voice-assisted electric sunroof, wireless charger and air purifier, among others. The twin CNG cylinders



are located below the luggage area with valves and pipes protected under the load floor thereby minimising the risk of potential damage, the company added.

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd Managing Director Shailesh Chandra said customers

are increasingly choosing alternate fuel options with the intent of economical as well as eco-friendly drive and CNG as a fuel with its wide availability and accessibility has gained a lot of acceptance. However, opting for a CNG meant compromising on aspirational features and to give up boot space significantly, which Tata

Motors was able to address in January last year by launching the advanced iCNG technology in other models Tiago and Tigor, he added.

"With the breakthrough of the twin-cylinder CNG technology and advanced features we are expecting more personal segment buyers to strongly consider this option.

"Our multi-powertrain strategy in the Altroz portfolio today offers petrol, diesel, turbo and iCNG, providing an array of options for the customers to choose from," Chandra said.

The Altroz iCNG will bolster Tata Motors' 'New Forever' range and continue to sustain growth momentum in passenger cars, he added.

Realme unveils its slimmest smartphone Narzo N53

New Delhi, May 22:

Realme, the most trusted technology brand in India, has unveiled its latest smartphone today, the realme narzo N53, which boasts a slim form factor and cutting-edge features for next-gen users. The smartphone is the slimmest smartphone launched by realme and is equipped with 33W fast charging technology and an industry-leading 50MP AI camera. With a long-lasting 5000mAh battery, the realme narzo N53 also comes equipped with the Mini Capsule, which provides users with three essential features. The narzo series is a stylish range of smartphones that offer a comprehensive experience and has a large follower base of 12.3M users in India. The narzo N se-

ries is the next generation of smartphones, created



with

leap-forward technology and design to help users stay ahead of the curve and showcase their individuality. The realme narzobrand is dedicated to providing Gen-Z with next-gen devices and a seamless shopping experience with Amazon. in. Commenting on the launch of the realme narzo N53, Manish Kumar Mishra, Business

Development Manager, realmenarzo said, "We have always been committed to providing our customers with cutting-edge technology and a leap-forward experience. We at realme have worked with Amazon to understand the needs of Indian customers to develop this smartphone which combines style and functionality with cutting-edge features. It is with great enthusiasm

that we unveil the latest addition to our narzo series: the realme narzo N53, an exceptionally sleek phone that redefines the boundaries of slimmest within realme's lineup." Talking about the launch, Mr. Ranjit Babu, Director Wireless and Home Entertainment, Amazon India said, "We at Amazon are committed to providing customers with the widest range of products from India's favorite brands. In line with that promise, we are excited to add the new narzo N53 to the realme-product range on Amazon.in. With prices starting at just INR 8,999, we are positive that this smartphone will be a delightful upgrade to customers looking for a sleek and powerful device".

Samsung unveils 2023 Neo QLED TVs

Mumbai, May 22:

Samsung, global number one TV brand for 17 years, unveiled its new, ultra-premium Neo QLED TV range at Dhamani Enterprises. Promising a bigger and better holistic experience, Samsung's next-generation premium televisions will be simultaneously unveiled in 36 more cities this week in a series of events. Riding on the launch of the new Neo QLED TVs, Samsung expects a 2X growth in the premium segment in 2023. When it comes to Neo QLED 8K TVs, the brand doubled its business last year and expects to grow 3X this year. Notably, Samsung was the first brand to launch an 8K TV in India. The latest lineup of Samsung's Neo QLED

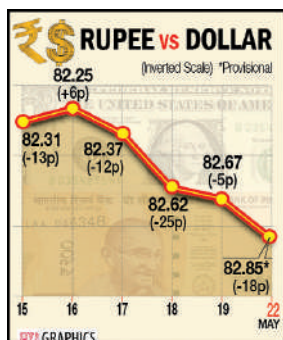
TVs is a testament to the rising premiumization in India, which is not limited to big cities only. Premium televisions have been gaining massive momentum in Tier-II and other smaller cities as well; in fact, growing twice as fast as metros. There have been two prominent trends observed in consumer behavior over the last few years: firstly, they are opting for larger screens and secondly, they are embracing premium televisions like never before.

The 2023 range of Neo QLED TVs come with breathtaking picture quality and stunning design. "In 2023, we are pushing boundaries of innovation to offer consumers more than just premium picture quality, but a holistic, premium de-

vice experience tailored to what they need and want out of their connected home. Our latest Neo QLED TVs are 'More Wow than Ever'.

They are beautiful, accessible, and sustainable with eco-conscious technologies, offer immersive gaming and with SmartThings, our advanced technology is seamless and intuitive, making life more convenient and enjoyable every day. With these ultra-large screens, 8K resolution and next-level image and sound quality, we are confident that Neo QLED TVs will strengthen our leadership in the premium TV market in India," said Mohandeep Singh, Senior Vice President, Consumer Electronics Business, Samsung India.

Rupee falls 18 paise to close at 82.85 against US dollar



Mumbai, May 22: The rupee fell 18 paise to close at 82.85 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, weighed down by a strong greenback in the overseas market. However, a firm trend in domestic equities and sliding crude prices in international markets restricted the rupee's loss, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domes-

tic unit opened at 82.80 against the dollar, and finally settled at 82.85 (provisional), down 18 paise from its previous close. During the day, the rupee touched a high of 82.70 and a low of 82.85 against the greenback. On Friday, the rupee had settled at 82.67 against the dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.09 per cent to 103.10. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, declined 0.16 per cent to USD 75.46 per barrel.

The rupee depreciated today to the lowest levels since February 2023 on underlying strength in the greenback and buying of Dollars by the RBI to shore up its forex reserves, said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

Jewellers getting more inquiries for gold after RBI withdraws Rs 2,000 notes; no panic buying

Mumbai, May 22: Jewellers in India, the world's second largest gold consuming country after China, have started receiving more inquiries for purchase of gold or silver immediately after the Reserve Bank's announcement to withdraw Rs 2,000 notes from circulation.

However, there is no panic buying of the precious metal unlike the situation witnessed in 2016 during demonetisation, jewellers body GJC said on Sunday. In fact in the last two days, the actual gold purchase has been less in exchange of Rs 2,000 notes due to strict Know your Customer (KYC) norms although sources said some jewellers have started charging a 5-10 per cent premium, taking the gold prices to Rs 66,000 per 10 grams level. Currently, gold prices have corrected to

around Rs 60,200 per 10 grams level in the country. "There have been a lot of inquiries about purchasing gold or silver with Rs 2,000 notes, hence the higher footfalls on Saturday. However, due to strict KYC norms actual purchase has been less," apex industry body All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) Chairman Saiyam Mehra told PTL. There is "no such panic" and footfalls have also settled down as the RBI has kept a larger window of four months as the deadline for withdrawing the pink notes from the market, he said. On May 19, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced withdrawal of Rs 2,000 currency notes from circulation but gave public time till September 30, to either deposit such notes in accounts or exchange them at banks. It

has asked banks to stop issuing Rs 2,000 notes with immediate effect. Mehra further said implementation of goods and services tax (GST) and Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) hallmarks has encouraged jewellery manufacturers to become organised and carry out formal business. "Large-denomination currency notes are normally required to deal in cash, which has now become insignificant in India's jewellery industry and consumers are more inclined towards digital formats. Therefore, the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 currency notes will not have a major impact on India's gold and jewellery business," he added. However, according to sources, many jewellery retailers did sell gold on Saturday against Rs 2,000 notes and that too at a premium rate.

Stock markets climb for 2nd day on buying in IT stocks, Reliance Industries



Mumbai, May 22: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty rallied for a second straight session on Monday following buying in index heavyweight IT counters and Reliance Industries amid optimism in Asian markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 234 points or 0.38 per cent to settle at 61,963.68. During the day, it jumped 314.78 points or 0.50 per cent to 62,044.46.

The NSE Nifty rallied 111 points or 0.61 per cent to end at 18,314.40. Among the Sensex firms, Tech Mahindra, Wipro, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies, Larsen & Toubro, ITC, Sun Pharma, NTPC and Titan were the major gainers.

Nestle, Axis Bank, Tata Motors, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and Bharti Airtel were the laggards. All the ten listed Adani group stocks ended with significant gains as a Supreme Court-appointed expert committee said it has found no evidence of stock price manipulation in group companies, while a separate Sebi probe into alleged violation in money flows from offshore entities has "drawn a blank".

YAS Island Abu Dhabi, gears up to welcome IIFA back!

Abu Dhabi: For the second successive year, YAS Island is hosting one of the biggest calendar events of the year and in preparation for the 2023 Shobha IIFA Weekend and NEXA Awards Abu Dhabi's favourite holiday destination and entertainment hub is all decked up. Stakeholders and destination partners, the Department of Culture and Tourism-Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi) and Miral, Abu Dhabi's leading curator of immersive destinations and experiences, in strong support of the IIFA team, are all set to welcome over 120 celebrities from across the globe, along with a 240-plus delegation of media persons and thousands of visitors.

Tickets to the eagerly-awaited three-day extravaganza, from May 25th to 27th, are almost sold-out. An audience of around 13K is expected to attend the Nexa IIFA Awards and up to 10K for Shobha Realty IIFA Rocks. A crew of 200-plus has come together to deliver this mammoth production over a record of five days. NEXA continues as the title sponsor for the seventh consecutive edition. It is joined for the first time by Shobha Realty, the title sponsor of the IIFA Weekend.

'W Abu Dhabi- YAS Island' is the

- **Hotel W Abu Dhabi- YAS Island and Ethiad Area all lit up for over 120 celebrities, 240 -plus media persons and thousands of visitors between May 25-27**
- **Tickets almost sold out, 13,000 are expected to attend IIFA Award and up to 10000 will pack in IIFA Rocks**
- **More than 65 suites at W being customised for celebrity guests**
- **Restaurants running dine-n-draw contests; DINERS can win free ticketto the show whileIIFA ticketholders get dining discounts**

official host hotel for IIFA 2023. A 10-minute drive from the Abu Dhabi International Airport and 15 minutes from the City Centre, this world-class facility is unique in that it is set half on land and half in water and directly overlooks the Formula 1 racing circuit. Hotel W is all lit up, as is the Etihad Arena. The Nexa IIFA Awards, as well as Shobha Realty IIFA Rocks, will be staged at the Middle East's largest state-of-art indoor entertainment venue, a part of the picture-perfect YAS Bay Waterfront.



On the list are a number of Bollywood A-listers, including Salman Khan, Kamal Haasan, Hrithik Roshan, Anil Kapoor, Abhishek Bachchan, Varun Dhawan, Rajkummar Rao, Vicky Kaushal and Fardeen Khan. The actresses who have confirmed their participation include Alia Bhatt, Kriti Sanon, Jacqueline Fernandez, Rakul Preet Singh, Dia Mirza, Nora Fatehi, Mrunal Thakur, Mouni Roy and Genelia D'Souza who will be accompanying husband Riteish Deshmukh. Over 65 suites at Hotel W are being customized, with personalized messages and décor, and the best of amenities, so the celebrity guests feel completely at home during their stay.

That there is plenty of food for thought is evident from the fact that restaurants across YAS Island and Abu Dhabi are running dine & draw contests. Diners get a chance to win tickets to the biggest celebra-

About the Department of Culture and Tourism-Abu Dhabi

The Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi) drives the sustainable growth of Abu Dhabi's culture and tourism sectors and its creative industries, fueling economic progress and helping to achieve Abu Dhabi's wider global ambitions. By working in partnership with the organizations that define DCT Abu Dhabi's position as a leading international destination, DCT Abu Dhabi strives to unite the ecosystem around a shared vision of DCT Abu Dhabi's potential, coordinate effort and investment, deliver innovative solutions, and use the best tools, policies and systems to support the culture, tourism and creative industries. DCT Abu Dhabi's vision is defined by the emirate's people, heritage and landscape. We work to enhance Abu Dhabi's status as a place of authenticity, innovation, and unparalleled experiences, represented by its living traditions of hospitality, pioneering initiatives and creative thought.

tion of film, music, fashion and culture. Some outlets are also offering dining discounts to IIFA ticket holders.

Culinary experiences with an Indian celebrity chef are also being planned and multi-cuisine a la carte menus are being curated and celebrity DJs are flown in for 'Starry Nights'.

Shopping arcades and stores at the YAS Mall which is walking distance from Hotel W, are showcasing exclusive ranges of the world's top

brands. Guests can also shop for couture apparel and designer accessories from the 'InstaRunway'.

Nabila continues as IIFA's official makeup and hair partner. The beauty guru and entrepreneur who has glammed up several celebrities will be hosting a Zero Makeup Lounge at Hotel W. Nabila's signature makeup collection is a huge hit globally and the Lounge offers the lure of product sales and expert advice from her makeup and hair beauty advisors. The makeup artist and

stylist who kickstarted her career in a makeshift 8x8 salon in her home in the 1980s and is an international icon today will also be hosting a Masterclass to showcase on-and-off screen looks. She has a team of over 60 makeup and hair stylists who will style guests over the weekend.

A dozen iconic locations and attractions across Greater Abu Dhabi have been identified for shoots of the IIFA televised show that commands a viewership of over 800 million worldwide. A logistics plan to manage the marathon fleet of 130 cars that will drive the IIFA contingent around is in place. Seventy-five volunteers have been recruited and trained to join 'Friends of IIFA', a legacy-driven educational initiative. An online Visitor Guide has been created with details of the entire IIFA Weekend (Link to Guide - <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/758063174/>).

Since June 24, 2000, when the first award was staged at the Millennium Dome in London, IIFA has brought the world together in a celebration of cinematic excellence. This year, once again, it will take Indian cinema, music, fashion and culture to the world and Abu Dhabi is already celebrating.

John Abraham dubs Ravi Teja-starrer 'Tiger Nagawara Rao' teaser



Action star John Abraham has turned into a voiceover artiste for Ravi Teja's forthcoming pan-India release, 'Tiger Nageshwara Rao'.

Sharing a glimpse of the dubbing session, John Abraham shared a video post on his Twitter profile and wrote in the caption: "Excited to be a small part of this wonderful project #TigerNageswaraRao The first look video is stunning! Hope you all love it."

The teaser will be launched on May 24 at an event. Helmed by Vamsee, the film has been bankrolled by 'The Kashmir Files' producer Abhishek Agarwal.

'Tiger Nageswara Rao' is a biopic on the notorious thief and is set in the 1970s in a village named Stuartpuram. The film also features Nupur Sanon, Gayathri Bharadwaj, Anupam Kher, Renu Desai and Jisshu Sengupta in important roles.

Last seen in the phenomenal hit 'Pathaan', Abraham is busy wrapping 'Tehran', directed by Arun Gopalan, written by Ritesh Shah and Ashish Prakash Verma, and produced by Dinesh Vijan, Shobhna Yadav, and Sandeep Leyzell.

Anupama Solanki on her 'Nath Zewar Ya Zanjeer' role: This is a 2-in-1 character

Actress Anupama Solanki feels lucky to have bagged the show 'Nath Zewar Ya Zanjeer' and said that she is loving her character which is negative with a comic side.

"Nath Zewar Ya Zanjeer is taking a 15-year leap. This time, 99 per cent of the star cast has changed. Actually, this show is becoming a new show and they have changed the show name also. It's now called Nath Gauri Aur Krishna Ki Kahani."

"My latest character is a combination of Maddam sir and Bindia Sarkar. This character is a 2-in-1 character who is negative and slightly comic as well. This is quite new and challenging compared to an only negative shade. My character is Kalawati, Chahat Pandey is playing the role of Krishna and my mother is playing Vandana Vithalini," she said.

She added: "It's like a cherry on the cake to play two shades together. This is the first time I am playing this type of character who has dual shades."

"I am not tense about being typecast in a particular role because last



year I did 'Maddam Sir', where I portrayed a positive character and before that I portrayed Mohini, a character who is the incarnation of Lord Vishnu. I am not worried about type cast."

Ask her if she is satisfied with the roles she is getting to play, she said: "I am totally satisfied with my career because frequently I am doing different roles."

'Sapnon Ki Chhalaang' brings viewers an engaging narrative about Radhika

Sony Entertainment Television's 'Sapnon Ki Chhalaang' brings viewers an engaging narrative about Radhika, a girl from Jhansi who takes a leap of faith to the maximum city of Mumbai. Starring Megha Ray as the protagonist, the show has seen Radhika convince her parents, especially her father, to let her pursue a career in Mumbai. She now faces the challenge of living in an alien city, adjusting with roomies from diverse backgrounds and trying to handle the pressures of her first job while appeasing her tough boss.

Bringing alive relatable issues that young India faces, this coming-of-age drama addresses the perils of panic attacks through its character Preeti Dhingra (One of Radhika's roommates), played by the brilliant actress Alma Hussein. Talking about the show and the situation her character goes through, Alma Hussein shares, "The month of May is attributed to 'Mental Health Awareness', talking about its importance, especially for a generation that is so lost in running on the hamster wheel. My character Preeti wears her heart



on her sleeve, and she always feels very deeply about the situations surrounding her. She is fighting some tough battles that cause her to have anxiety and panic attacks while overthinking things. Characters like Preeti Dhingra must be written, and their stories must be told, because seldom do we find characters on TV as real as her.

I have seen people go through problems like this, bottling up everything inside. I want to urge all viewers to please speak up! Some ears will be lent to you, people who will hold your hand or if you want, just sit with you till you calm down. I want to tell viewers that

they are not alone in their struggle, just like Preeti has her gang of girls - her roommates! Preeti's character is one of the most challenging characters I have ever played, and I am glad to be bringing forth such a relatable character. It's truly a learning experience for me as well."

In the ongoing track, viewers have witnessed how Radhika's life changes after her father finds out that Radhika has to go to Goa for a work trip!

Tune in to find out what happens next. Watch 'Sapnon Ki Chhalaang', every Monday to Friday at 9:30 pm, only on Sony Entertainment Television!

Nushratt Bharuccha reveals her list of qualities for an ideal husband

"great sense of humour" and "hero qualities", are what actress Nushratt Bharuccha will look for in an ideal husband.

Nushratt will be seen on 'The Kapil Sharma Show'. She will feature alongside Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas, Bhagyashree, Karan Singh Chhabra, Palak Mucchal, director V.V. Vinayak, and producer Jayantilal Gada as they will be coming for their film 'Chatrapathi'.

In the episode, host Kapil will face an interrogation by an internationally renowned talk show host, Karan Singh Chhabra. He would also



take the opportunity to pose a question to his co-actress Nushratt, asking her about the qualities her husband should possess.

Nushratt said: "I believe the person should be able to make me laugh a lot, have a great sense of humour, is single, and also has the qualities of a hero." Further, Kapil will intervene and jokingly mention that he is married in Andheri West and single in film city, implying that he meets the criteria and is fully eligible. 'The Kapil Sharma Show' airs on Entertainment Television.

CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

- Concern
- Undue speed
- Iridescent gem
- Like the Sahara
- Selected
- "The Way We ____"
- Enrolled
- Margin
- Macaroni, e.g.
- Army division
- Spain's cont.

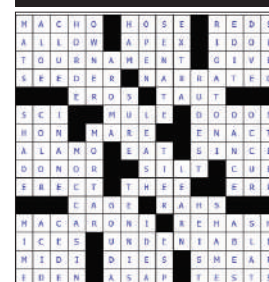
DOWN

- Food fish
- Precinct
- Tractor-trailers
- Rework proofs
- Torrid
- Mimic
- Stroke a guitar
- Young adult
- Whirlpools
- Be beholden to
- Walker
- Debate
- Ogles
- Window part
- Jogging gait
- Warmth
- Money drawer
- Fly lightly
- Birch or spruce

- Ice pellets
- Tattle
- Trips to the bank, e.g.
- Juneau's state
- Butter's rival
- Sombrero, e.g.
- Night twinker
- Flies alone
- Ohio lake
- Agreement to marry
- Bard of ____
- Like old bread
- Machu Picchu native
- Great ____
- Nervous
- Little piggies

- Japan's continent
- Perceived character
- Samples food
- According to
- Strong metal
- Coasted
- Building extensions
- At this location
- Caribous' kin
- Most recent
- Fragrant flower
- Leading
- Young insect
- Church instrument
- Initial stake
- Leave out
- Letterman's rival
- ____ upon a time..."
- Depots (abbr.)
- Compass dir.
- Gore and Roker
- ____ whiz!

SOLUTION 652



Fear of Unknown: CSK meets 'CSK Lite' as Dhoni faces 'Gill Test'

Chennai, May 22 (PTI):

The astute tactician in Mahendra Singh Dhoni will dig deep into his reserves to counter Indian cricket's new 'Crown Prince' Shubman Gill as four-time champions Chennai Super Kings will meet their match in current title holders Gujarat Titans in Qualifier-1 of the IPL here on Tuesday.

Gill, who almost single-handedly knocked out a star-studded Royal Challengers Bangalore with a century for the keeps, has overshadowed Virat Kohli and will certainly force one of India's greatest captains to go back to drawing board and make plans for him.

Gill is in the midst of a dream season and what will be Dhoni's tactical play to stop the dashing 'Mohali Marauder' is there to be seen.

This season, Gujarat Titans haven't played at the Chepauk, which hasn't behaved in a singular manner during CSK's seven home games and that prompted head coach Stephen Fleming to raise apprehensions about what to expect. What makes this battle even more interesting is the fact that GT is a

'I think we have a great bowling attack for that Chennai wicket'

Bengaluru, May 22 (PTI): Gujarat Titans' batting mainstay Shubman Gill feels that his recent success in international and franchise cricket is primarily due to a thorough understanding of his own game and knowing the player that he is. "I know my game... for any player it's important to know who you are," Gill, who has a good shot at the 'Orange Cap' with 680 runs under his belt (50 short of Faf du Plessis' 730) said after his team's victory. "The new ball was holding on a bit. I was getting wet due to the dew. I thought Vijay Shankar was trying to go too

hard. Once he found the momentum, he hit it a long way," he added. He also sounded a warning to Chennai Super Kings with a scintillating century and an assertion that they have a great bowling attack to challenge MS Dhoni's team "on that wicket" at Chepauk in the playoffs. "I think we have a great bowling attack for that (Chennai) wicket. It's going to be an exciting one, playing against Chennai in Chennai. Hopefully, we'll make it to the final for the second time," Gill said at the post-match presentation.



team that seems closest to being a proto-type of what CSK had been all these years in IPL.

A solid management and an administration team that stays in the background and never interferes in cricketing matters, which is left to the trio of Ashish Nehra, Gary Kirsten and Vikram Solanki.

A captain, who swears that his understanding of leadership is cut from Dhoni's 'captaincy cloth',

and head coach Nehra, who just like his former teammate doesn't believe in too many changes even if a couple of games go wrong.

They don't field players based on their auction worth — remember CSK bought Krishnappa Gowtham for nearly Rs 10 crore and he got a single game as he didn't fit the combination.

For Gujarat, tackling the slowness of the Chepauk track will be a

challenge and how well they negotiate Deepak Chahar's powerplay overs and Matheesha Pathirana's slingers at the back-end, will determine the outcome of the match.

And herein, Pandya and Nehra will find Sri Lanka skipper Dasun Shanaka's inputs handy as he has handled both Pathirana and spinner Maheesh Theekshana for the national team.

While Shanaka might be used more as an all-rounder,

Titans depending on the toss can also try out left-arm spinner R Sai Kishore, who knows these conditions well.

For CSK, a good start by the crack pair of Devon Conway and Ruturaj Gaikwad will be important. But at the Chepauk, even Ajinkya Rahane could become a factor while Shivam Dube would love to add to his 33 sixes for the season.

How the CSK opening duo handles the relentless Shami may prove vital and it would be important for the under-performing middle-order to step up in a crunch game.

The pitches at Chepauk so far have been a bit up and down, with a few being slow in nature while some have been good to bat on. CSK head coach Fleming said as much after the win over Delhi Capitals, claiming that the team is unsure about the conditions (at home).

If a sluggish pitch is rolled out for the match, the spinners in the two teams would have a huge part to play. If CSK has Ravindra Jadeja, Moeen Ali and Theekshana, the Titans boast of a line-up that includes Rashid and Noor Ahmad.

ICC charges Bhatinda-based umpire Jatin Kashyap for breaching anti-corruption code

Dubai, May 22 (PTI):

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday charged Bhatinda-based umpire Jatin Kashyap for breaching its anti-corruption code following an investigation into "international matches in 2022".

The ICC did not specify the incidents related to the breach. Kashyap has officiated in district level matches in Punjab but is not on the BCCI panel.

Kashyap has not officiated even in district matches in the last four years and had vanished from state cricket's umpiring circuit till the global body sought his background from Punjab Cricket Association (PCA).

Kashyap has been charged with "failing or refusing, without compelling justification, to co-operate with the Anti-Corruption Unit's (ACU) investigation in relation to possible Corrupt Conduct under the Code..." "Including (without limitation) failing to provide accurately and completely any information and/or



documentation requested by the ACU (whether as part of a formal Demand pursuant to Article 4.3 or otherwise) as part of such investigation."

The second breach relates to "obstructing or delaying the ACU's investigation in relation to possible Corrupt Conduct under the Code including (without limitation) concealing, tampering with or destroying any documentation or other information that may be relevant to that investigation and/or that may be evidence of or may lead to the discovery of evidence of Corrupt Conduct under the Code," read an ICC statement.

PCA secretary Dilsher Khanna insisted that ICC charges against Kashyap have nothing to do with the game in the state.

"The charges have nothing to do with Punjab cricket. The release makes it clear that he has been charged following an investigation into international games," Khanna said.

The ICC has given Kashyap 14 days to respond to the charges.

"In accordance with Code Article 4.6.6, Mr Kashyap has 14 days from 19 May to respond to the charges. The ICC will not make any further comment in respect of these charges at this stage," the ICC release added.

While ICC officials don't want to reveal more, sources in the know of things said that Kashyap must have been either a conduit between bookies or suspected individuals, who might have featured in the "Persons of Interest" list of the ACU.

"If you look at the charges pressed, it doesn't seem Kashyap is a bookie but may be a go-between, whose whereabouts were being tracked during international games," a BCCI source in the know of things told PTI.

Kohli among first batch of players to leave for WTC final

New Delhi, May 22 (PTI):

Virat Kohli will be among the first batch of India players to leave for the World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia in London, departing in the wee hours of Tuesday.

Kohli's Royal Challengers Bangalore teammate Mohammad Siraj will also board the same flight, a day after their team was knocked out of the IPL. Spinners R Ashwin and Axar Patel, and all-rounder Shardul Thakur, will also be on the flight as well as the team's support staff led by Rahul Dravid. The two other players who complete the



first list of seven cricketers are Kolkata Knight Riders pacer Umesh Yadav and Lucknow Super Giants' Jaydev Unadkat, who is recovering from a shoulder injury.

The final will be played at the Oval from June 7-11.

"There will be two or three departures in total. The first batch leaves at 4.30 am tomorrow," said a BCCI source. The seven

players, who will stay back in India for the IPL play-offs, include skipper Rohit Sharma, Ravindra Jadeja, Ishan Kishan, Shubman Gill, Mohammad Shami, KS Bharat and Ajinkya Rahane. Cheteshwar Pujara is already playing county cricket in England and will link up with the squad in London.

It must be mentioned that India won't play any warm-up game as the English County Championship is on and also this being an ICC event, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is under no obligation to arrange practice matches for the visiting team.

Melbourne, May 22 (PTI):

Cricket Australia on Monday declared the country's seasoned speedster Josh Hazlewood "fit and available" for the upcoming World Test Championship (WTC) final against India and the Ashes series against old rivals England. The 32-year-old Hazlewood returned to Australia after reporting "minor side soreness" after his recent Indian Premier League outing for Royal Challengers Bangalore two weeks ago, raising concerns about his participation in the forth-



coming international assignments. However, CA said he is fit to travel to the UK. "Josh Hazlewood re-

turned home from the IPL last weekend after experiencing minor side soreness after the completion of his most recent IPL match," a CA spokesperson said.

"After a brief and precautionary rest period, Hazlewood returned to high intensity bowling last week and will continue to increase his bowling workloads in preparation for the WTC and Ashes series. Hazlewood is considered fit and available for the WTC and Ashes Series."

In a relief for the pacer, scans have revealed no damage as he returned to

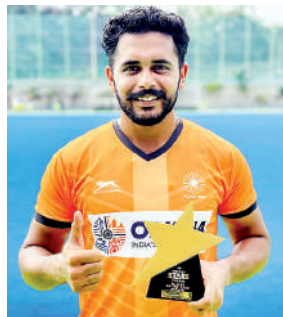
bowling ahead of the Australian squad's departure for the UK. Known for his accuracy and often compared to the legendary Glenn McGrath, his presence will be a huge boost for the Australian bowlers when they go up against the likes of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Cheteshwar Pujara at the Oval. The experienced Hazlewood has battled injuries over the last two years and had a four-month layoff from bowling to recover from an Achilles issue sustained in the Sydney Test in January.

'Focus to be on Asian Games during European leg of Hockey Pro League'

Bengaluru, May 22 (PTI):

India men's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh says his side's focus will be on Asian Games, an Olympic qualifier, as they embark on the European tour for Pro League matches, starting May 26.

The team left for London on Monday for the first leg of the European tour where it will face reigning Olympic champions Belgium (May 26 and June 2) and hosts Great Britain (May 27 and June 3). They will then travel to Eindhoven for their last set of matches against the



Netherlands (June 7 and 10) and Argentina (June 8 and 11).

India are currently leading the Pro League table with 19 points from eight matches in the nine-team tournament. United Kingdom too have an iden-

tical number of points but are second on the table due to an inferior goal difference.

The skipper said the matches will play a crucial role in India's preparation for the Asian Games in September, where the gold medallist will automatically qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

"We have very crucial matches coming up as we get to the business end of the Pro League season. We are in a strong position in the table so far and we will look to get as many points as possible in the remaining matches.

World Cup champion Argentina to play Australia in China

Sydney, May 22 (AP):

World Cup champion Argentina will play Australia at the Workers' Stadium in Beijing and take on Indonesia during a two-game exhibition tour to Asia next month.

Argentina will play the Soccerros on June 15 in the Chinese capital. It'll be the first meeting between the teams since Lionel Messi and his Argentina lineup beat Australia 2-1 in the Round of 16 en route to winning the World Cup title last December in Qatar.

Argentina's football federation said the national

squad would play Indonesia in Jakarta on June 19.

"Football is truly the global game and for Australia to be invited to play this match in China, and against the world No. 1, we hope this will open further opportunities for our two nations to work together both on and off the football field," Football Australia chief executive James Johnson said in a statement Monday.

Argentina's game in Indonesia is scheduled for a week after the under-20 World Cup final in La Plata.

Squash World Cup: Ghosal, Joshna to lead Indian challenge

Chennai, May 22 (PTI):

The Squash World Cup will be held here from June 13 to 17 with Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa spearheading the Indian challenge, the sport's governing body in the country said on Monday.

The tournament will be held at the Express Avenue Mall and the Indian Squash & Triathlon Academy (ISTA), it was announced here on Monday.

Nine countries will participate in the tournament. Besides hosts India,



Tamil Nadu Sports Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin speaks during a press conference to announce the International Squash Championship, in Chennai, Monday.

the other countries taking part are Hong Kong, China, Japan, Malaysia, Egypt, South Africa,

Australia, and Colombia.

The last edition of the World Cup was also held in Chennai, in 2011.

"I'm delighted to announce that Chennai will once again host the prestigious SDAT-WSF Squash World Cup from June 13 to 17. This tournament marks a new chapter in the history of our event as we revive and revamp it to enhance its significance further," N

R a m a c h a n d r a n , Honorary life president of Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI), said at a press meet.

Anju Bobby George says her protege Shaili Singh can 'conquer' world in long jump in 4-5 years

New Delhi, May 22 (PTI):

Legendary long jumper Anju Bobby George feels that her protege Shaili Singh can "conquer" the world in four or five years just like Neeraj Chopra is doing currently in javelin throw, going by her performances at the age of 19. Earlier this year, Shaili had logged 6.76m at the Indian Grand Prix, the all-time second-longest long jump by an Indian woman after Anju herself. Anju's national record of 6.83m still stands since 2004. On Sunday, Shaili won her first international medal

at the senior level — a bronze — with a jump of 6.65m in her first global competition at the Seiko Grand Prix, a World Athletics Continental Tour gold-level meet, in Yokohama, Japan.

"For a 19-year-old, the distance she (Shaili) has jumped is incredible. At 19, she has jumped 6.76m. She is a rare talent and we have to groom her very carefully so that she becomes one of the world's best when she matures," Anju told PTI.

"She has to get used to this kinds of things, competing against some of

the best in the world and winning medals. In four or five years, it will be Shaili and Neeraj conquering the world among women and men respectively," Anju, the lone Indian woman to win a world championships medal with a bronze in the 2003 edition in Paris, and her husband Robert Bobby George had spotted Shaili in 2017 when she was just 13. Shaili is currently training under Robert, who is also a High Performance coach of the Sports Authority of India at the National Centre of Excellence in

Bengaluru. Anju said the bronze in Japan will be the first step in Shaili's transition from a talented athlete to a medal winner at the global level consistently. "This medal will do a world of good to her confidence. You need this kind of competitions and honours to make the transition. Age is with her side and she will achieve more in the coming years.

"I am hoping that Shaili can win at least a medal in the Asian Games and also qualify for the (2023) World Championships in Budapest.

Valencia closer to avoiding drop with win over Madrid

Madrid, May 22 (AP):

Valencia moved even closer to staying in the top tier with a 1-0 win over Real Madrid on Sunday but the Spanish league game was marred by more racist abuse against Vinicius Junior. The 22-year-old Vinicius, who is Black, has been subjected to racist abuse since he came to play in Spain five years ago. The match had to be temporarily stopped after Vinicius said he was insulted by a fan behind one of the goals at Mestalla Stadium. Diego Lopez earlier scored a 33rd-minute winner to leave Valencia five points above the relegation zone entering the final three rounds. "It's a huge victory that takes us



Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior, left, confronts Valencia fans in front of Valencia's Jose Luis Gaya during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Valencia and Real Madrid, at the Mestalla stadium in Valencia.

closer to reaching our goal," Valencia coach Ruben Baraja said. Valencia goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili made two

big saves near the end of the match to secure the second win in a row for the club that last played in the second division in 1986-87.

'Spanish league "now belongs to racists" after enduring more abuse'

Madrid: Vinicius Junior was subjected to racist abuse yet again with the Brazil star saying the Spanish league "now belongs to racists." "It wasn't the first time, or the second or the third. Racism is normal in LaLiga. The competition thinks it's normal, as does the federation, and the opponents encourage it," Vinicius said on Instagram and Twitter.

"If we can ask for our fans to be respectful, we can ask for the same thing from our opponents," Baraja said.

Nitish Kumar meets Kharge, Rahul

● Discusses roadmap for Oppn unity

New Delhi, May 22 (PTI):

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi here on Monday, the second such meeting in the last one and a half months amid efforts to strengthen Opposition unity to take on the BJP in the 2024 general elections.

Kumar met Kharge and Gandhi at the Congress chief's 10, Rajaji Marg residence here. Sources said during the meeting the roadmap for strengthening Opposition unity and a possible meeting of Opposition leaders in Patna was being discussed.

Congress General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal and JD(U) chief Lalan Singh were also present during the meeting, which came a day after Kumar and Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal called for opposition unity to take on the BJP.

The JD(U) leader met



Bihar CM Nitish Kumar interacts with Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during a meeting, in New Delhi, Monday.

the AAP convenor at his residence here and extended "complete support" to him in the ongoing face-off with the Centre over the control of administrative services.

Significantly, Bihar Chief Minister Kumar, Tejashwi Yadav, Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren, Nationalist Congress Party president Sharad Pawar, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah attended the swearing-in ceremony of Siddaramaiah as the Karnataka chief minister on Saturday, in a show of opposition unity.

Kumar has been meeting Opposition leaders

and regional satraps as part of the unity exercise which is yet to take a concrete shape.

Late last month, Kumar had hinted that a meeting of opposition leaders may take place in Patna after the Karnataka assembly polls were over and issues related to forging opposition unity are expected to be discussed at length at that meeting.

Baghel hails Nitish's efforts to unite Oppn parties against BJP

Chief Minister Bhupesh

Baghel on Monday hailed his Bihar counterpart Nitish Kumar and exuded confidence that the latter will succeed in uniting opposition parties.



Talking to reporters at Helipad Police Lines, Baghel also accused the Bharatiya Janata Party of being against the Other Backward Classes (OBCs). "He (Nitish Kumar) had met Mallikarjun Kharge ji (Congress President) in Bengaluru with other national leaders. Luckily I was seated beside Kumar. We

had a lengthy discussion about his efforts (to unite the opposition). I believe he will succeed in his endeavour," the Chhattisgarh CM said. Reacting to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's recent statement accusing the Congress of neglecting OBC community, the CM said, "Most people belonging to OBC category are into farming. They (BJP) had promised to double the income of farmers but has it happened? Has caste based census taken place?"

Kerala witnesses Jewish wedding after 15 years

Kochi, May 21 (PTI):

The Jewish community of Kerala on Sunday celebrated a traditional wedding after a gap of 15 years capturing the essence of Jewish customs.

The ceremony, which was held at a private resort here was attended by the family, friends, and community members and officiated by a rabbi who reached the state from Israel. Rachel Malakhai, a data Scientist in the US and the daughter of the former crime branch SP Benoy Malakhai got married to Richard Zachary Rowe, an American citizen and a NASA engineer. Rabbi, Ariel Tyson, from Israel officiated the wedding. The wedding ceremony took place

under a canopy (that symbolised the home) called Huppah.

Family sources said this was the first wedding in Kerala that happened outside a synagogue.

The event assumed significance due to the rare nature of such weddings in Kerala. The last Jewish wedding to take place in the state was in 2008 after a gap of nearly two decades at the Thekkumbhagam synagogue, Mattancherry.

As the number of participants were limited inside the synagogue, the families decided to conduct the ceremony at the private resort in order to allow other family members also to witness in the rituals.

Sameer Wankhede claims he and wife getting death threats

● Submits letter to Mumbai police

Mumbai, May 22 (PTI):

Former Mumbai NCB chief Sameer Wankhede, accused in a cruise 'drug bust' bribery case, on Monday submitted a letter to the office of the Mumbai police commissioner seeking protection after claiming he and his wife were receiving death threats for the last few days. An official said a letter was sent to the police commissioner in south Mumbai through a representative of Wankhede.

The Central Bureau of Investigation booked Wankhede and four others

on May 11 for allegedly seeking a bribe of Rs 25 crore from actor Shah Rukh Khan for not implicating the actor's son Aryan in the Cordelia cruise 'drug bust' case.

Wankhede, who has been booked for alleged criminal conspiracy and threat of extortion as well as provisions pertaining to bribery under the Prevention of Corruption Act, was questioned by the CBI in connection with the case on Saturday and Sunday. The Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer claimed he and his wife Kranti Redkar have been receiving death threats and also abusive messages on social media platforms over the last four days.

HC seeks govt stand on PIL seeking Rs 1 cr compensation

● To family of doctor killed in taluk hospital

Kochi, May 22 (PTI):

The Kerala High Court on Monday sought the state government's stand on a PIL seeking Rs one crore compensation to the family of the young doctor who was stabbed to death in a taluk hospital by a patient earlier this month.

A bench of Acting Chief Justice S V Bhatti and Justice Basant Balaji, while asking the state government to file its response to the plea, tagged the matter with another similar petition

before the court regarding safety of healthcare workers.

In the PIL by an advocate — Manoj Rajagopal — whose mother is a retired civil surgeon grade-I and a consultant surgeon, it has been contended that the government announced lakhs of rupees as compensation to the family of the victims in the recent boat accident in Malappuram and the train arson incident in Kozhikode districts of the state. However, no such announcements were made with regard to the brutal killing of Dr Vandana Das by G Sandeep, a school teacher by profession, who

was taken to the taluk hospital in Kollam district of the state for treatment of an injury to his leg, the petitioner has claimed.

Sandeep had stabbed the doctor several times, leading to her death, despite the presence of the police officers who accompanied him to the hospital, prompting the high court to remark that her death was an outcome of "systemic failure".

Besides the compensation of Rs one crore for the family of Dr Das, the PIL, filed through advocate C Rajendran, has also sought monitoring of the probe in the murder case by the high court.

Rise in payments with Rs 2,000 notes for fuel at petrol pumps

● In Indore

Indore, May 22 (PTI):

Days after the RBI's announcement of withdrawal of Rs 2,000 currency notes, there has been a five-fold rise in payments with this denomination for fuel purchase by customers at petrol pumps in Indore, an office-bearer of a petrol pumps association claimed on Monday.

Some of the customers have been paying in Rs 2,000 notes while buying fuel worth only Rs 100 for their two-wheelers, he said. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday made a surprise announcement of withdrawal of Rs 2,000 currency notes, but gave the public time till September 30 to either deposit the Rs 2,000 notes in accounts or exchange them at banks.

The RBI said it had asked banks to stop issuing Rs 2,000 notes with immediate effect.

Talking to PTI, Indore Petrol-Pump Dealers Association president Rajendra Singh Vasu said, "Payments in Rs 2,000 currency notes by customers for fuel purchase at petrol pumps has increased by at least five times. But, it is not a matter of concern for us as these notes can be easily exchanged in banks."

TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS



DMK MP Kanimozhi pays tribute to those who were shot dead during the anti-sterilite protest, in Thoothukudi, Monday.

'Prove 40% commission charge against BJP with evidence'

Bengaluru, May 22 (PTI):

Former Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday demanded the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government in the state to prove with evidence that there was 40 per cent commission during the previous BJP rule.

The saffron party leader also urged the government to investigate alleged scams or irregularities that took place during the previous BJP and Congress governments, and let the truth come out.

"I want to clearly say — let them probe. They have alleged 40 per cent commission, they have to prove it with evidence now. I demand that the Congress, being in the government, to give us all the proof and show there was a 40 per cent commission," Bommai said in a response to a question on the Congress government reportedly planning to probe the alleged scams during BJP rule. Speaking to reporters here, he said, "the Contractors'



Basavaraj Bommai

Association had alleged 40 per cent, I want to tell its President Kempanna — they (Congress) may claim that there is no 40 per cent commission with Congress in power — so here on in all the projects contractors' will have quote 40 per cent less in the tenders. If they continue to quote the same tender amount as earlier, it means that 40 per cent has continued." "So Kempanna has a huge responsibility, the Contractors' Association should tell all its contractors to quote 40 per cent less in their tender," he added.

During the previous BJP

regime, the state Contractors' Association under its President Kepanna had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging 40 per cent commission charge against public representatives and officials for public works, which the Congress, then in the opposition, had used it as a major weapon against the then ruling party, during the campaign for the Assembly polls.

To a question as to whether the Contractors' Association would release documents at least now, Bommai said, "Let them, Kempanna has not done it so far, also they have not given it to courts, but have indulged in false campaigning (against BJP). Congress benefitted from it, so let them do it at least now." Regarding claims that the Police Sub-inspector (PSI) recruitment scam will be probed, he said, "Let them investigate everything. We have given the Lokayukta and CID — cases regarding the scams which took place during their (previous Congress)

tenure...let what happened during both their and our (BJP) tenures be probed, and let the truth come out." The former Chief Minister also expressed pain over the death caused due to rain on Sunday and said the Met department had given warning about rains, but it is clear the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has not taken any measures. "I urge the Chief Minister, we have created SDRF (State Disaster Response Force) in Bengaluru, immediately press them into service at the vulnerable spots and take measures at places which are bottleneck, as there are predictions of more rains in the days to come. Also measures should be taken regarding tree falls to avoid any disaster or inconvenience to people," he added.

A 23-year old woman died on Sunday after the vehicle she was travelling in got submerged in a flooded K R Circle underpass, following thunderstorm and heavy rains in the city.

Apex Court raps ISKCON Kolkata officials

● Says spiritual leaders engaging in frivolous litigations to settle personal scores

New Delhi, May 22 (PTI)

The Supreme Court has rapped International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) Kolkata officials for filing a "frivolous, irresponsible and senseless" case of bus theft against ISKCON Bengaluru office bearers while strongly denouncing the misuse of the legal process for settling personal scores.

Imposing a cost of Rs 1 lakh on the Kolkata officials, the top court said the matter should be viewed

seriously as people claiming to be global spiritual leaders are indulging in such practice to settle personal scores and to nurture their egos.

A bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and Bela M Trivedi said there is no doubt that the complaint filed by ISKCON Kolkata after a delay of eight years was an abuse of the process of law.

"There remains no shadow of doubt that the complaint filed by the respondent-complainant after an inordinate unexplained delay of eight years was nothing but sheer misuse and abuse of the process of law to settle the personal scores with the appellants.

"...and that continuation of such malicious

prosecution would also be further abuse and misuse of process of law, more particularly when neither the allegations made in the complaint nor in the charge sheet, disclose any prima facie case against the appellants," the bench said. The apex court said the allegations made against the president and vice president of ISKCON Bengaluru are so absurd and improbable that no prudent person can ever reach a conclusion that there is a sufficient ground for proceeding against them.

"We would like to add that just as bad coins drive out good coins from circulation, bad cases drive out good cases from being heard on time. Because of

the proliferation of frivolous cases in the courts, the real and genuine cases have to take a back seat and are not being heard for years together.

"The party who initiates and continues a frivolous, irresponsible and senseless litigation or who abuses the process of the court must be saddled with exemplary cost, so that others may deter to follow such course," the bench said. The apex court quashed the criminal proceedings pending against the president and vice president of ISKCON Bengaluru. "The matter should be viewed more seriously when people who claim themselves and project themselves to be the global spiritual leaders,

engage themselves in such kind of frivolous litigations and use the court proceedings as a platform to settle their personal scores or to nurture their personal ego," the bench said.

According to the complaint, a letter was written by the branch manager of ISKCON Kolkata on September 30, 2006 addressed to the officer in-charge, Ballygunge police station, Kolkata, in respect of an alleged theft of a bus in 2001. However, no action was taken by police.

Subsequently, officials of ISKCON Kolkata claimed to have come to know the bus was in the illegal custody of Madhu Pandit Das, president of ISKCON, Bengaluru.

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- Personality Development Programs
- Gyan Manthan-Management Fest
- Industrial tour/visits (Local & National)
- Guest Lectures, Seminars & Workshop
- Case Based Teaching
- Induction Program
- Industrial Training & Placement
- Model United Nations
- Forum activities
- Engfinity Club
- Technovation
- International students exchange program
- Current News Analysis (CNA)

Career Scope :

- Business Entrepreneur
- Finance Manager
- Business Administrator
- Researcher
- Human Resource Manager
- Research & Development Manager
- Business Consultant
- Information Systems Manager
- Marketing Manager

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