



### BRIEF



Bollywood actors Vicky Kaushal and Sara Ali Khan during a promotional event for their upcoming movie 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke', in Mumbai.

### 2 more cheetah cubs die

**Kuno National Park:** Two cheetah cubs born in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park nearly two months ago died on Thursday due to 'sweltering heat and weakness', the official said. As per the officials, the cubs which were born to a Namibian cheetah on March 24, died from apparent dehydration and weakness within the fenced area housing the mother and cubs. A female cheetah named Jwala brought from Namibia at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district, gave birth to four cubs in March this year.

### Tremor

**Ahmedabad:** A tremor of 3.0 magnitude hit Kutch district in Gujarat on Thursday evening with its epicentre near Bhachau, the Institute of Seismological Research (ISR) said. The tremor was recorded at 6.40 pm, the Gandhinagar-based institute said. The epicentre of the tremor was around 19 km north-north east (NNE) from Bhachau in the district, it added. This occurred a little over a week after the region was jolted by an earthquake measuring 4.2 magnitude on May 17.

### SBI penalised

**New Delhi:** A Delhi consumer forum has directed the SBI Cards & Payments Services Pvt. Ltd. to pay Rs 2 lakh to a person here for sending him bill even after his card's expiry and blacklisting him for non-payment of the charges. The New Delhi District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum comprising its president Monika A Srivastava and members Kiran Kausal and Umesh Kumar Tyagi directed the company to pay the amount to M J Anthony, a former journalist, for "deficiency in providing services".

### One dead

**Una (HP):** A 23-year-old man was killed and two people suffered serious injuries when a tree fell on their bike due to strong winds in this district of Himachal Pradesh, police said on Thursday. The incident took place in Haroli area on Wednesday night, they said. The three injured, residents of Ajauli Tehsil in this district, were taken to Una hospital where the doctors declared Sundan dead.

**Weather**  
High 41 Low 29

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 18,321.15  
SENSEX 61,872.62

**BULLION**  
GOLD 59,582  
SILVER 70,776

# CM Baghel questions dropping maoist leaders' names in NIA's final report

**Tenth anniversary of Jhiram valley attack**

**Raipur, May 25 (PTI):**

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Thursday asked the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) why the names of top Maoist leaders 'Ganpati' and 'Ramanna' were removed from the NIA's final report on the 2013 Jhiram Valley attack in which several Congress leaders were killed. Paying homage to the victims on the tenth anniversary of the attack, he also said that the Maoists



have been pushed on the backfoot in the state. Maoists attacked a convoy of Congress leaders during the party's 'Parivartan Rally' in the Jhiram Valley in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh on May 25, 2013, killing 29 people, including then

### Trust, Development, Security and Peace pushed Naxals on backfoot

Later, speaking at the event in Jagdalpur, the headquarters of Bastar district, Baghel said his government has pushed naxals on the backfoot with its three-pronged strategy of 'trust, development and security'. The event was held at Lalbag Maidan here where Jhiram Memorial has been built. "The supreme sacrifice of martyrs in the fight against Naxalism will not go in vain. The Bastar region will be freed from Naxalism and restored as an island of peace," Baghel said. "Our leaders who were martyred in that incident had talked about change. They used to say that we have to bring change in the lives of farmers, tribals, youth and women...Our government has worked hard to achieve their vision. With the strategy of development, trust and security, we have contained Naxals to a few limited areas," he said.

state Congress chief Nand Kumar Patel, former leader of opposition Mahendra Karma and former Union minister V C Shukla. Talking with re-

porters here at the Civil Lines heliport before leaving for Jagdalpur in Bastar to attend an event to pay respect to the victims of the attack, Baghel also accused the BJP of stalling the investigation into the incident. "The Jhiram Valley incident shocked the entire nation. The then UPA government had ordered a National Investigation Agency probe into it, while the then (BJP) state government (of Raman Singh) constituted a one member judicial commission headed by Justice Prashant Mishra to investigate it," Baghel said.

# Praveen Sood takes over as CBI director

**New Delhi, May 25:**

Senior IPS officer Praveen Sood took over as the new CBI director on Thursday and he will be in the post for two years, officials said. On his last working day, the outgoing director, Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, handed Sood the charge of the agency at its headquarters, they said. Sood is a 1986-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Karnataka cadre and was the state's director general of police. He is the senior-most IPS officer in the country after Jaiswal. Sood's name was cleared in a



**New CBI Director Praveen Sood (L) with outgoing CBI director Subodh Jaiswal, in New Delhi, Thursday, May 25.**

Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

Chowdhury, a Congress leader, had reportedly given a dissent note on the selection of Sood as the next CBI director. In an order, the department of personnel and training had said.

"Approval of the competent authority is hereby conveyed to the appointment of Praveen Sood, IPS (KN:86) as Director, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a period of two years from the date of assumption of charge of the office vice Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, IPS (MH:85) consequent upon completion of his tenure."

# Show 'big heart', attend Parl opening: BJP to Oppn

**New Delhi, May 25, PTI:**

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday alleged that the opposition parties have decided to boycott the inauguration of the new Parliament building by Prime Minister Narendra Modi just because it has been built at his initiative. Senior BJP leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the new building is a symbol of India's pride and appealed to the opposition parties to attend the 'historic day' of its inauguration on May 28 by showing a 'big heart'.



"We all respect the President, I don't want to drag the post of the President into any controversy today by recalling what Congress said about her. But India's prime minister is also an important part of Parliament. The prime minister also holds constitutional responsibility," he told reporters.

### PIL in SC seeks President should open new Parl

**New Delhi:** A PIL has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking a direction that the new Parliament building should be inaugurated by the President of India. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman urged the Opposition to attend. "It's a temple of democracy; even the PM entered the Parliament by bowing on its steps. I humbly request and appeal (to the Opposition), kindly re-think, change your stand and participate in the ceremony. Congress and 18 other opposition parties have decided to boycott the inauguration of the new Parliament Building, saying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to inaugurate the building without President Droupadi Murmu "insults the high office of the President, and violates the letter and spirit of the Constitution". In a joint statement, the like-minded opposition parties said that Prime Minister's decision to inaugurate the building by himself is "a direct assault on our democracy, which demands a commensurate response." The new Parliament building will be inaugurated on May 28.

# NCP will support Kejriwal: Sharad Pawar



**New Delhi, May 25, PTI:**

"There is a crisis in the country and it's not an issue limited to Delhi. NCP and the people of Maharashtra will support Kejriwal. We will also talk to other leaders to support Kejriwal. We must focus on bringing all non-BJP parties together," says NCP chief Sharad Pawar. Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday called on

Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar at Yashwantrao Chavan Centre in Mumbai to seek NCP's support against the Centre's ordinance on control of administrative services in the national capital. Kejriwal was accompanied by Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, AAP MP Raghav Chadha, Delhi Minister Atishi and other leaders. The Delhi CM also met Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday.

# Shah: 'Will go to Manipur soon', appeals for peace



**New Delhi, May 25, PTI:**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday appealed to people in Manipur to maintain peace and promised that justice will be ensured to all sections of society. Shah while laying the foundation stone of the tenth national campus of the National Forensic Sciences University to be set Changsari area of Kamrup district, said he will travel to the northeastern state to help resolve disputes. "I will go to Manipur soon and stay there for three days but before that, both groups should remove mistrust and suspicion among themselves and ensure that peace is restored in the state," he said.

# Need to focus on technological advancement in defence sector: Rajnath

**New Delhi, May 25 (PTI):**

India must focus on advancement in defence technology in view of "double threat" along the borders, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday in an oblique reference to challenges along the frontiers with China and Pakistan. In an address at a conference, Singh underlined the need for extensive research to develop defence technologies for the country to meet various security challenges. "For a country like India, it becomes very important because we are facing a double threat on our borders. In such a situation, it is very important for us to move forward in terms of technological advancement," he said. "Today we are one of the largest armies in the



**Defence Minister Rajnath Singh felicitates Krishanan Balasubramanian (IIT Madaras) during the inauguration of 'DRDO Academia Conclave', in New Delhi, Thursday, May 25.**

world, the bravery of our army is discussed all over the world. In such a situation, it becomes imperative that we have a technologically advanced army to protect the interests of the country," he added. The defence minister's comments came in the backdrop of the lingering border row in eastern Ladakh and Pakistan's continuous support to cross-border terrorism. In his remarks, Singh also called for collaboration between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and academia for ensuring desired technological advancement.

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हाट-बाजारों में मुफ्त और बेहतर इलाज से लाभान्वित

## 5 लाख वनाश्रित परिवार

58 लाख एकड़ जंगल, जमीन और उनके संसाधनों पर अधिकार

## 240 स्कूल

नक्सल प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में दशकों से बंद पड़े स्कूल फिर संचालित

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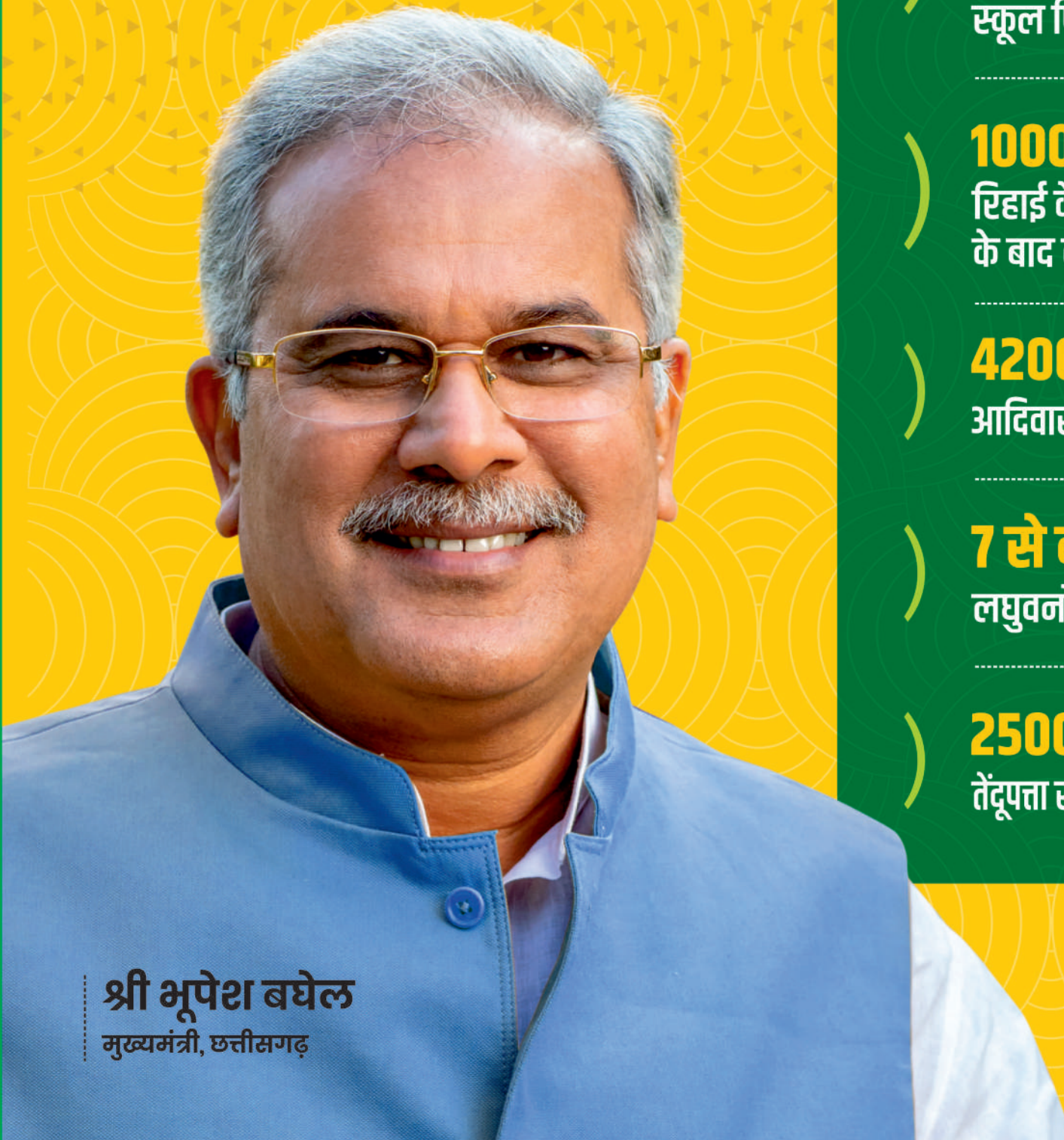
आदिवासी किसानों की अधिग्रहित भूमि वापस

## 7 से बढ़ाकर 65

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छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार  
भरोसे की सरकार

## Sal forests will be freed from Naxalism, peace will be restored: CM



**Raipur, May 25:** On the occasion of Jhiram Valley Martyrdom Day, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel paid tribute to the martyrs of Jhiram Valley by offering flowers at Jhiram Memorial in Lalbagh, Jagdalpur today. Chief Minister Mr. Baghel said that sacrifices of the martyrs against Naxalism will not go in vain, Sal forests of Bastar region will be freed from Naxalism and peace will be restored here once.

Chief Minister Baghel and the public representatives present on the occasion observed silence for two minutes in the honour of the martyrs of Jhiram. Baghel also administered an oath to all those present to make the state an island of peace once again. On the occasion, CM Baghel

met the families of the martyrs of Jhiram Valley and presented them with shawl-shrifal.

In his address, CM Baghel said that it has been ten years since the Jhiram Valley incident. Every year we pay homage to the martyrs of Jhiram on May 25, commemorating the martyrs and their sacrifices. Those who survived and saw the incident with their own eyes, describe it as terrifying and painful. Baghel said that the leaders who were martyred in this incident used to talk about the need to bring positive change in the lives of farmers, tribals, youth and women. Those leaders, who were determined to bring transformation in the lives of people, are no longer with us. They were martyred in

Jhiram. Recalling the Jhiram incident, Chief Minister said that when the naxals attacked the convoy, our Rajya Sabha member Phulo Devi Netam faced the attackers with a brave face, asking them to stop the atrocity on civilians. When naxalites besetted our leaders, Martyr Mahendra Karma came out and asked the Naxalites to stop killing innocent people. He said, "Your enmity is with me. So I surrender. I am Bastar Tiger, I am Mahendra Karma". Mahendra Karma did not apologise, he sacrificed his life for Bastar, for the state, for democracy, for all of us.

Chief Minister further said that we are consistently working towards



attaining the goal of Pariwarta Yatra, and to fulfill the dreams of our leaders. With the policy of development, trust and security, we have contained the Naxalites to a few areas only. He said that we have ensured the development of Bastar with our plans and policies. We have accelerated education, health, conservation of tribal culture and other development works.

On the tenth anniversary of Jhiram Valley Martyrdom Day, Industries Minister Kawasi Lakhma, Lok Sabha Constituency Bastar MP Deepak Baij, Chairman of Bastar Development Authority Lakheshwar Baghel, Vice President Vikram Mandavi, Parliamentary Secretary Rekchhand Jain, MLA Mohan Markam, Sangeeta Sinha, Chandan Kashyap, Mayor Jagdalpur Safira Sahu, Chairperson of

Municipality Kavita Sahu, Vice Chairman of Indravati Basin Development Authority Rajeev Sharma, Commissioner Shyam Dhawde, IG Sundarraj P, Collector Vijay Dayaram K., Senior Superintendent of Police Jitendra Meena and other public representatives also paid tribute to the martyrs.

**CM met the families of the martyrs**

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel met the families of the martyrs, after paying homage to the martyrs of Jhiram Valley. He honored the family members by presenting shawl-shreefal. Chief Minister became emotional while interacting with the families of the martyrs. Chief Minister asked them about their well being and told the family members that the sacrifice will not go in vain. Chhattisgarh government is with you every step of the way.

## WATERLOGGING



With slight rains before monsoon showers, there is waterlogging in the roads, causing problems to pedestrians.

## SC issues notice to ED on petition by Excise Secy

● **Hearing to be conducted in this case and other petitions on May 29**

**Raipur / New Delhi, May 25:**

The Excise Secretary Niranjan Das has filed a petition in the Supreme Court (SC) against the ED's action in alleged liquor scam and on which ED has been issued notice and hearing will be held on May 29. On the same day the hearing of other petitioners viz. businessman Arvind Singh and others too will be held in the SC.

It is notable here that Excise Secretary Niranjan Das in his petition in the SC has held the action by ED as politically motivated and has challenged the provisions of ED's in PMLA. The bench of Justice JK Maheshwari and Justice PL Narsimha have accepted the petition and asked to filed report in 3 days and so the hearing into the case will be held on May 29.

In the same way, the hearing into the petitions by businessman Arvind Singh, Amit Singh and Pinki Singh will also be

held on May 29. Arvindi Singh has held the raid by ED in the liquor case as unfortunate and has challenged the provisions of ED in PMLA. The Court would be hearing into the bail petition of the accused in liquor scam Anwar Dhebar and this petition has been filed by her wife Karishma Dhebar in the Supreme Court and it has been accepted. In this case, Justice Sanjay Kishan and Justice Asnuddin Amanullah's bench will be conducting hearing and for this June 4 has been finalised.

## BJP gheraoes RMC zone-1, 5

● **Over civic amenities, public grievances**

**Raipur, May 25:** Workers of BJP City District led by former Minister Rajesh Munat gheraoed Zone-1 and 5 offices of Raipur Municipal Corporation on issues of civic amenities and problems being faced by the residents. Thousands of BJP workers along with local public reached zone offices to gherao the offices.

The police administration had made elaborate arrangements to stop the protesters, but the BJP workers, defied all the arrangements of the administration and stormed the main gate of the zone offices. Women reached the zone offices with empty pots to protest against the water problems and broke the empty pots at the main gate of the corporation's zone offices. Munat told that



Municipal Corporation zone offices were gheraoed with permission, but the police forcibly stopped the workers and beat them up. Some workers were injured in police action, he said. He alleged the action to prevent the people's representatives from coming to zone offices was intended to crush peaceful movement. Munat, along with BJP workers, sat on a dharna in front of the zone offices protesting against the repressive action of the administration. He gave an ultimatum to

the zone officers, saying that he would give one month's time to the municipal corporation to rectify the entire system. He warned that BJP and the people of Raipur West Assembly will gherao the Municipal Corporation Headquarters and all the illegal tender works which are being distributed by the Municipal Corporation Mayor to their close ones will be stopped.

Ever since the Congress government came to power in the state, the administra-

tive situation is deteriorating day by day, Munat said, adding that condition of the streets of the capital city of Raipur is getting worse. Public representatives belonging to Congress are busy in filling their pockets with new methods of corruption, he alleged. People have become fed up with the tyranny of the Congress and now the departure of the Bhupesh Baghel government is almost certain, he said. District BJP President Jayanti Patel, state executive members Prafulla Vishvakarma, Ashok Pandey, Channi Verma, district general secretary Satyamu Duwa, opposition leader in municipal corporation Meenal Choubey, Omkar Bais, Gopi Sahu, Amit Maisheri, Bajrang Khandelwal, Akhilesh Kashyap and others participated in gheraoe programme.

## Tributes paid to the martyrs of Jhiram Naxal violence

**At Raipur Collectorate Office**  
**Collector Dr Bhure administers oath of non-violence and tolerance**

**Raipur, May 25:** People's representatives and citizens who were martyred ten years ago in Naxal violence in Jhiram valley of Bastar district were paid tribute today at Raipur collectorate office. On the occasion of Jhiram Tribute Day, a two-minute silence was observed here today in honor of martyrs. Collector Dr Sarveshwar Bhure administered oath to all the officers and employees to oppose any kind of violence by maintaining the tradition of non-violence and tolerance. Everyone resolved to oppose Naxalism and violence and make



Chhattisgarh state an island of peace again. Tributes were paid to

public representatives, senior office bearers, jawans of security forces who were

martyred in Naxal violence of Jheeram Valley and those who were martyred in incidents of naxal violence that took place in previous years and recently. Additional Collector NR Sahu, Additional Collector BC Sahu, Additional Collector BB Panchbhai, all the Joint and deputy Collectors and other staff of the office were present.

## Tributes paid to the Martyrs in Mantralaya

**Raipur:** Jhiram Tribute Day was observed at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan, where heartfelt tributes were paid to the public representative's senior officials and soldiers of the security forces who lost their lives in the tragic incident at Jhiram Valley in Bastar. A moment of silence lasting two minutes was observed as a mark of respect for the martyrs. Officials and employees of Mantralaya paid tribute to all those who have been martyred



in the past and more recently due to acts of naxal violence. Additionally, they also took an oath to firmly uphold the values of non-violence, and toler-

ance and to denounce all forms of naxalism violence by working towards restoring Chhattisgarh as a land of peace.

## Collector inspects the Mother and Child Hospital, Kalibari



**Raipur, May 25:** Collector Dr. Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure made a surprise observation and inspection of arrangements at the Mother and Child Hospital, Kalibari, Raipur here recently. He inquired about the cleanliness of the hospital, facilities provided to the patients etc. and also inspected various wards.

During the inspection, the Collector discussed with the patients about the arrangements related to their medical examination and treatment. He directed to use water tank located outside the OPD for drinking purpose. Doctors were directed to prescribe generic medicines. Collector reviewed the operation theater repair work of the hospital and

fourth OT. He directed Dr Nirmala Yadav, Superintendent, Mother and Child Hospital, Kalibari, Raipur to coordinate with the Public Works Department and civil surgeon for necessary action for site selection for making 04 bedded ICU.

The Superintendent and the Hospital Consultant were directed to select the site and take necessary action in coordination with the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Raipur, for the construction of smart toilets in the Mother and Child Hospital, Kalibari, Raipur. He directed to use the newly constructed room in SNCU and to increase the number of admissions in the in-patient department.

## BEd, DEd on June 17, Nursing entrance exam on June 24

**Raipur, May 25:** Applications for admission to Pre BEd, Pre DEED, B.Sc Nursing, MSc Nursing and Post Basic Nursing courses have to be filled online till May 28. Errors can be rectified in the filled applications till the next three days, 29, 30 and 31 May. Chhattisgarh Professional Examination Board (VYAPAM) is going to conduct BEd and DEd exams on June 17, 2023.

The admit cards for these examinations will be issued on VYAPAM website on June 9. The exam for admission to BSc Nursing, MSc Nursing and Post Basic Nursing courses will be

held on June 24. Admit cards for these exams will be issued on June 16. Candidates willing to appear in the examinations can apply by logging on to the website of Chhattisgarh Professional Examination Board, vyapam.cgstate.gov.in. According to the decision taken by the state government, no examination fee will be charged from the local resident participants of Chhattisgarh state for these examinations.

Certificates related to the candidate's caste, date of birth, local resident etc. will not be taken along with the online

application. The documents of the candidates will be tested during the counselling. The Professional Examination Board will not be responsible for wrong information provided by the candidate. The error made in the online application can also be rectified during the prescribed time limit for submission of the form. Apart from this, the facility of correction of errors will also be available in the time period of three days after the last date of filling the online form. No error correction facility will be given on the day of examination.

## Congmen demand strict action against accused

● **Trying to malign image of Rahul Gandhi for passing objectionable comments in Media**

**Raipur, May 25:** The activeness of the political parties on social media has increased with few months to go for the elections and with this the controversies too have started erupting. On Thursday, the Congress leaders submitted filed report in Kotwali Police thana against the accused for making objectionable



comments against the AICC ex-President and senior party leader Rahul Gandhi. Congress MLAs Satyanarayan Sharma,

Kuldeep Juneja, Vikas U padhyay, and Mayor Ajaz Dhebar and other party workers lodged complaint in Kotwali thana and charged the Congress lead-

## Judicial remand of Trilok Singh Dhillon extended for 14 days

● **Sent to Central Jail Raipur**

**Raipur, May 25:** ED produced the alleged accused in Rs 2000 cr liquor scam Trilok Singh Dhillon in the Court on completion of his remand here on Thursday and after 1 hour long hearing into the case in the Special Court of Judge Ajay Singh, he was sent to Judicial Remand for another 14 days



and now he would live in the Central Jail Raipur.

It is notable here that on Monday, ED taking a big action against all the accused, had attached the fixed assets and properties of the accused worth crores. ED in

its information on official Twitter has mentioned about attachment of 119 fixed assets and properties to the tune of Rs 121.87 cr that of IAS officer Anil Tuteja, Anwar Dhebar and AP Tripathi. In the liquor scam the total property attached till date has now reached Rs 180 cr. In this cash, FDs too has been put on the hold. In this case, ED is continuously taking action.

## Ganja worth 5 lakh seized from train coach

**Central Chronicle News**

**Raipur, May 25:** Raipur Railway Police has taken major action against drugs. Two interstate smugglers from Delhi and Chandigarh have been arrested while smuggling ganja. About 48 kg of ganja worth Rs 5 lakh has been recovered from their possession. According to information, Delhi's Rocky Kumar and Chandigarh's Vishal were caught illegally smuggling Ganja (marijuana) in the B-6 bogie Puri-LTT Super Fast Express in Dhekanal in Odisha. GRP has arrested both of them.

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## Tributes paid to Jheeram Valley Martyrs

**Bhilai, May 25:**

On Thursday, the police officers and personnel took oath to maintain peace in the state on the occasion of "Jheeram Shradhanjali Diwas". Tributes were paid to public representatives, senior officials and security forces personnel, who were massacred by Naxals in Jheeram Valley.

As per the instructions of the Chief Minister, May 25 is observed as Jheeram Shradhanjali Diwas in memory of public representatives, senior officials, jawans of security forces and others who were martyred in Naxal violence in Jheeram Valley on May 25, 2013.

In this sequel, tributes were paid to the martyrs at Police Lines in Durg. Dr Abhishek Pallav (Superintendent of Police, Durg) and senior officers of the district paid homage to the martyrs and pledged to make the state an island of peace again.



ASP (City) Sanjay Dhruv, ASP (Rural) Anant Kumar Sahu, ASP (IUCAW) Meeta Pawar, CSP (Durg) Banker Vaibhav Ramanlal (IPS), CSP (Chhawan) Ashish Banchhor, DSP (Traffic) Satish Thakur, DSP (AJK) Vinod Minj, DSP (Crime) Rajeev Sharma, DSP (Police Line) Nilesh Dwivedi, Reserve Inspector Ramesh Chandra and officers/personnel of Durg Police were present.

## Prembhusan Ji Maharaj to narrate Shri Ram Katha from May 27

**Elaborate arrangements being made at Shri Shankaracharya Medical College, Junwani****Bhilai, May 25:**

Shri Ram Katha is being organised from May 27 to June 04 at Shri Shankaracharya Medical College in Junwani. A grand pandal is being constructed here next to Shri Anjaneya Hanuman Mandir in the Medical College campus for this mega religious event. Thousands of devotees are likely to participate in this event.

Renowned kathawachak Shri Prembhusan Ji Maharaj will narrate Shri Ram Katha. While addressing media persons on Thursday, renowned educationist IP Mishra (Chairman, Shri Shankaracharya Group) informed that the katha timings are from 3:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Renowned storyteller Prembhusan Ji Maharaj will narrate Shri Ram Katha for the first time in Bhilai-Durg. This event is a pure religious and spiritual event and will be far away from politics. There will also be an arrangement for about 6000 chairs at the venue. In view of the heat, arrangements of air cooling and drinking water have been made. Prasad and Bhandara will be served on all days after the katha in the evening.



Mishra further said in the year 2020-21, the entire humanity suffered a lot due to the coronavirus pandemic. The entire mankind was terrified and was praying to Almighty God with great hope and faith for their protection from the pandemic. Mishra added that the doctors and other medical staff of Shri Shankaracharya Hospital worked tirelessly to serve the people and humanity in this epidemic.

At this time, they also prayed to Shri Sankatmochak Hanuman Ji for their protection and wellbeing of their patients. Many people died in this tragedy even after every possible effort. In

this sequel, Shri Anjaneya Hanuman Temple was established in the medical college campus. After the establishment of this temple, the common devotees are receiving immense spiritual strength.

In this perspective, the story of Lord Shri Ram, the deity of Shri Anjaneya Hanuman, has been organized near Shri Anjaneya Hanuman Temple in the college campus.

Prembhusan Ji Maharaj will narrate the story of Shri Shiv Vivah on May 28, Shri Ram Janmotsav on May 30, Shri Sita Ram Vivah Mahotsav on June 01 and Shri Ram Rajyabhishek on June 04. The organisers have appealed to the devotees to attend Shri Ram Katha in large numbers. Nishant Tripathi, Dr Rahul Gulati and other members of the organising committee were present.

## BAKS approaches PMO for settlement of SAIL wage revision

**Bhilai, May 25:**

BSP Anadhisashi Karmachari Sangh (BAKS) has approached the PMO with its demand for fullest settlement and implementation of the SAIL Wage Revision. The union has sent a 28-page letter along with complete documents to the Prime Minister's Office, Steel Minister, Labour Minister, Steel Secretary, and DPE Secretary for early settlement of the wage revision.

In the letter, the union office bearers questioned the reason for pendency of wage settlement in SAIL in a situation when the wage revision has been

completed in all the other PSUs with full benefits and arrears to all the employees. Full NJCS meeting has not been called after the last full NJCS meeting held on 19 July 2022. Consequently, the wage revision agreement of the employees is incomplete even after 77 months.

Through the letter, the DPE Secretary has been requested to follow the guidelines given by DPE for wage revision of unionized workmen in the SAIL. The Labour Minister has also been requested to investigate the role of SAIL and NJCS leaders as to how most of the leaders have forcefully

become the representatives of the workers. In the letter sent to the Steel Minister and the Steel Secretary, the union has revealed on the basis of documentary evidence that how the Steel Ministry was misled in the wage settlement of SAIL employees and how discrimination was done between the employee and the executives working in the same company. The union has demanded from all the parties that the MOU made with the consent of only three unions out of five in NJCS has no legal basis, so the Prime Minister himself should intervene and direct the

Ministry of Steel to pay 15% MGB, 35% perks as well as 9% pension benefits from 2007 and fitment arrears and perks arrears to SAIL employees at par with the benefits provided to the executives of Maharatna companies and SAIL.

Union President Amar Patel said that they have not joined the SAIL just to carry the flag of protest. "Just as our labour is included in the production of the company, we also have the right to share in its profit. The employees have not formed the union for personal gain. If all the employees of Bhilai continue to cooperate in the

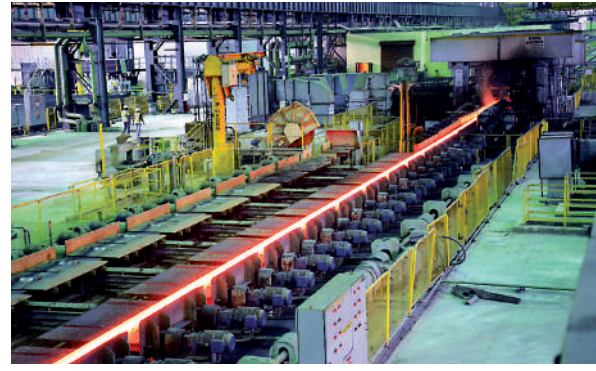
form of monthly membership fees, then the union can approach the court in the end to win the rights of the employees", he said.

General Secretary Abhishek Singh said that it is very unfortunate that the outsider and retired employees are leading the Trade Unions which are representing the employees who are working with dedication to bring profit to the company and reduce the debts. The employees of Bhilai have been watching the performance of NJCS leaders for the last 77 months. The union leaders have left an incomplete wage revision after curtailing all the facilities.

## Universal Rail Mill sets New Day Records

**Bhilai, May 25:**

SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Universal Rail Mill that rolls out the world's longest 130 metre rail in single piece and supplies 260 metre welded rail panels to Indian Railways has set several new day records on May 24, 2023. The Mill produced 3415 Tonnes of finished rails surpassing previous best of 3328 Tonnes on March 03, 2023. Production of 3321 Tonnes of prime rails May 24, 2023 was also the highest in a day, surpassing previous best of 3194 Tonnes on March 03, 2023. The Mill also set a new record of producing 337 numbers of 130 metre rails May 24, 2023 as against



previous best of 300 numbers of 130 metre rails produced on Sept 04, 2022.

Among other new day records made by URM on May 24, 2023 are highest number of 437 rails visually inspected as against previous best of 426 numbers

of rails visually inspected on March 03, 2023 and highest number of 430 rails tested through NDT (non-destructive testing) as against previous best of 417 numbers of rails tested through NDT on March 03, 2023.

## District Youth Congress performs 'Shramdaan' in Gauthan

**Bhilai, May 25:** In response to the BJP party workers are visiting Gauthans to expose condition under 'Chalbo Gauthan-Kholbo Pol' campaign in the entire state, The Bhilai District Youth Congress workers have come up with a counter of performing "Shram Daan" at Gauthans under the 'Mera Gauthan-Mera Abhimaan' programme. The members of the committee and the women working in Gauthan are also honouring the women of self-help groups. In this series, the Bhilai District Youth Congress under the guidance of Devendra Yadav, MLA Bhilai Nagar, and the instructions of Chhattisgarh State Youth Congress President Akash Sharma performed



"Shram Daan". District President Vibhor Duragkar and State General Secretary Aditya Singh, countering BJP's allegations, said that BJP has no other issue therefore they are again in-

dulging into cow politics which is an old habit. The BJP doing politics in the name of cow does not know that cows are not kept in the open or in sheds in such scorching heat. People keep their

cows in their homes, leave them in the evening in the cowsheds.

Mainly present in this campaign were District President Vibhor Duragkar, State General Secretary Aditya Singh, Vaishali Nagar Assembly President Palash Limesh, District Vice President Shoaib Mohammad, Khilish, District General Secretary Prince Shergill, Priyanshu Verma, Bhaskar Dubey, Ekant Sahu, Assembly Vice President Rohit Singh, Assembly General Secretary Naveen Agarwal, Bobiraj Pandey, Satnam Singh, Sumit Singh, Samar Randhawa, D Sagar, Nandkishore Sonkar, Tinku, Vikram Singh, Jitendra Dosanjh, Aman Sethia, etc.

## Brijesh Kumar of Railway Board witnesses Steel Making at Modex Units

**Bhilai, May 25:**

Additional Member (Works), Railway Board, Brijesh Kumar, arrived on a visit to SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant on May 25, 2023. He was welcomed at Bhilai Niwas by S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects) with Additional Charge of (P&A), Brijesh Kumar visited various production units of Bhilai Steel Plant and witnessed Steel Making at the Modex Units.

Soon after his arrival at Bhilai Niwas, Kumar planted a sapling before leaving for his visit to the Plant. During his visit to the Plant, Brijesh Kumar Additional Member (Works), Railway Board, took keen interest in operations at Modex Units, in-



cluding Blast Furnace 8, Steel Melting Shop 3 & Universal Rail Mill. At the beginning of his Plant visit, Kumar was briefed about safety at Safety Excellence Centre inside the Plant.

Accompanied by Tapas Dasgupta, CGM I/c (Iron) and other senior officers of

the Plant, Additional Member (Works), Railway Board, witnessed production of hot metal at Blast Furnace 8, production of crude steel at SMS 3 and production of world's longest 130 metre rail and loading of 260 metre welded rail panels at Universal Rail Mill. He also interact-

ed with senior officers of the Modex Units during his visit.

Following his Plant visit, Brijesh Kumar arrived at Ispat Bhavan where he was welcomed by Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), Dr AK Panda, ED (F & A), S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects & P&A), AK Chakraborty, ED (Materials Management), and Samir Swarup, CGM I/c Mines & Rowghat.

A presentation on highlights of performance in the area of production of rails was made at Director I/c Conference Hall, following which Brijesh Kumar interacted at length with a cross-section of senior officers on different aspects of current performance, as also about plans for the future.

### Classifieds

**REQUIREMENT**  
आवश्यकता है- दुकान में कार्य करने के लिए लड़कों एवं लड़कियों की आवश्यकता है  
संपर्क:- 7999745176  
श्रीनगर रोड महेश भवन के पास, मुदिगारी रायपुर छत्तीसगढ़

**Contact for Classified Advertisement:**  
**94242 03139**

**REQUIREMENT**  
Required Liaising Officer To deal with Govt. Office such as DIC, CSIDC, Pollution Dept., Revenue Dept., PWD, Factory Health & safety, Etc.  
**Contact- 92000-03591**

**Chronicle**

### Rashmi Jogi awarded PhD in Economics

**Bhilai, May 25:** Rashmi Jogi was awarded PhD in Economics during the 26th Convocation organized by Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Raipur. She did her research on the topic "An analytical study on Rural Poverty in Durg District of Chhattisgarh" under the guidance of Dr Neelam Agrawal (HoD, Economics, Government PG College Mahasamund) and Professor AK Pandey (Economics, RSU). Rashmi was born in village Sakra (Kumhari) and grew up in Bhilai. She is the daughter of Lalit Kumar Jogi, a farmer and granddaughter of Jai Lal Jogi. She is the wife of Dr Om Prakash Baghel, Assistant Professor (Economics). All her friends and relatives have congratulated her on this achievement.

### Employees of Blast Furnace felicitated with Karma Shiromani Awards

**Bhilai, May 25:** Employees of the Blast Furnace Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant were awarded with the 'Karma Shiromani' Award for their commendable work performance under the 'Shiromani Puraskar Yojana' of Bhilai Steel Plant. The Award Ceremony was organised in the auditorium of Welfare Building-8 (Blast Furnace), on May 24, 2023. Addressing the gathering, Tapas Dasgupta, CGM I/c (Iron) and Arvind Gupta, Acting CGM (Blast Furnace) congratulated the awardees and encouraged them to work with same spirit in future.

Onkar Singh Jamdar, Master Operator, and Shakeel Ahmed Siddiqui, Master Technician were awarded with 'Karma Shiromani Award' for their performance in the month of April 2023. Present in the programme were the other senior officers of the department, Rajesh Gaikwad, S Balraj, R Anand, N Madhu, Shantanu Mitra, Arjun Singh Bist, KSNR Ramesh, VK Diwaker and Ashish Aggarwal. All the present guests also congratulated the award winners by appreciating their exemplary performance.

The programme was conducted by Biju George, Senior Manager (Personnel), Blast Furnace. Madan Mohan Srivastav, Additional Labour Welfare Officer, Pradeep Khare, Mamta, Divya, Haseena Begum and Urmi also contributed for organising the programme successfully.

### DEO refuses fee hike at SSV-X

**Bhilai, May 25:** The District Education Officer of Durg has refused to allow the fee hike at Sri Sankara Vidyalaya, Sector 10 for the session 2023-24. This school is run by the Shri Sankara Education Society. The Nodal institute, Government Higher Secondary School Sector 9 Bhilai, had given its dissent on any kind of revision of fees at Sri Sankara Vidyalaya. Accordingly, the DEO has refused fee hike for the session 2023-24 at Sri Sankara Vidyalaya.

Work starts in New Fair Ground

Puja ghat to be 60 meters long



Rajim, May 25:

Work has finally started in new fair ground after the visit of Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, and the puja ghat reportedly is to be 60 meters long.

completed at least up to the level of water. Sand for other works Ballast etc has been dumped and on the other hand, some work has also been done to put mud in the ground.

before Monsoon is a question. In the coming time, the view of the fair will be seen in the new fair ground, roads have to be built apart from cottage, festival stage, permanent shops, pathways, permanent land for Meena Bazaar, mini circuit house etc.

Indira Chandravanshi felicitated with 'Kala Sadhak Samman'



Khairagarh, May 25:

Teacher Indira Chandravanshi was felicitated with 'Kala Sadhak Samman' in the national-level 'Vaicharik Sanghoshthi' and 'Lok Kala Sadhak' and 'Kala Ratna Samman Samroh' organised in Bhilai recently.

Chief Guest Vishnu Deo Sai (former Union Minister) and senior orator Purshottam Chandrakar. She was presented with a memento, srafal and stole for her remarkable works in protection and preservation of rich art & culture of Chhattisgarh.

SHO Sachin Singh presents honest example of humanity

Performs last rites of a person rejected by the family

Manendragarh, May 25:

The police station in-charge of Manendragarh has done such a thing that people are praising his noble work, completely different from the image of the police in the minds of the common people.

He performed the last rites of deceased husband, while taking the two-year-old child of the deceased in his lap when the pyre was lit.



front of City Kotwali in-charge Sachin Singh, she told that her husband had died. The woman informed that she had a love marriage with Nikki Valmiki, a resident of Jakhara in Gwalior district of Madhya Pradesh.

Fox Hole IED recovered and defused on the spot



Bijapur, May 25: Maoists had planted IEDs in series in 02 plastic containers of 25 kg each by making a Fox Hole of 8x8 feet length width and 5 feet depth in the middle of the road on Awapalli-Basaguda road IEDs were planted with the intention of causing great harm to the security forces.

शपथ पत्र

मै कमला देवी भट्ट (BHATTAD) उम्र लगभग 64 वर्ष पति श्री चैनसुख भट्ट (BHATTAD) पति श्री चैनसुख भट्ट हैं किन्तु मेरे द्वारा नैसर्गिक कारणों से 23/05/2023 को निधन हो गया है...

न्यायालय कलेक्टर, दुर्ग जिला-दुर्ग (छत्तीसगढ़)

व्यक्तिगत उपस्थिति समन रा.प्र.क्र. 110/ब-121/ वर्ष 2022-23 202303100100033 प्राधिकृत अधिकारी, बंधन बैंक लि. गृह फाइनेंस लि. शाखा- प्रथम तल केशरी कुंज मोहन नगर थाना के सामने...

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NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, VARSHA CHANDRAKER W/o. HITANSHU CHANDRAKER R/o. Daisy-402, B/Block Talpuri Bhilai, Tahsil & Distt.- Durg (C.G.) have changed my old name VARSHA CHANDRAKER W/o. HITANSHU CHANDRAKER. So in future I should be recognized by my new name that is VARSHA CHANDRAKER W/o. HITANSHU CHANDRAKER in all Government and other documents.

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) A notice is hereby given that the following Borrower(s) (Borrower), and guarantor have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA).

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA

Publication of Notice Regarding Possession of Property u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act 2002 Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a demand notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice.

न्यायालय कलेक्टर, दुर्ग जिला-दुर्ग (छत्तीसगढ़)

व्यक्तिगत उपस्थिति समन रा.प्र.क्र. 57/ब-121/वर्ष 2022-23 202302100100017 प्राधिकृत अधिकारी, भारतीय स्टेट बैंक शाखा- आर.ए.सी.पी.सी. भिलाई तह व जिला दुर्ग (छ.ग.) वादी प्रेषित्री

VARSHA CHANDRAKER

W/o.HITANSHU CHANDRAKER R/o.Daisy-402, B/Block Talpuri Bhilai, Tahsil & Distt.- Durg (C.G.)

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

Regional Office, 3rd floor, LIC Investment Building, Jeevan Beema Marg, Pandri, Raipur- 492004, Ph: 0771 2546004/05 POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule - 8 (1)] Whereas the Authorized Officers of Union Bank of India under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices to the following borrowers / guarantors/mortgagors calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the Notices within 60 days from the date of said Notices.

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र Bank of Maharashtra

Branch: : 1st floor, Shree Complex, Phool Chowk, Raipur, TELE : (0771) 4265618, e-mail : bom439@mahabank.co.in Head Office: LOKMANGAL, 1501, SHIVAJINAGAR,PUNE-5 DEMAND NOTICE Notice is hereby given that the following (Borrowers) and (Guarantors) have defaulted in repayment of principal and interest of the loan facilities obtained by them from the Bank of Maharashtra and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notice was issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known addresses. Further borrower & guarantor are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

## Baghel unveiled the statue of Shaheed Gundadhur

● The hero of 'Bhoomkal' movement

Raipur, 25 May: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel unveiled the life-size statue of Veer Gundadhur, the leader of the Bhumkal rebellion, at Shaheed Gundadhur Agricultural College campus in Kumravand, during his daylong visit to Bastar.

In his brief address on the occasion, Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel said that Veer Gundadhur was one of the great tribal leaders of Bastar, who led the great rebellion movement of Bhoomkal. In the honour of his contribution and sacrifices, a life-size statue of Veer Gundadhur has been installed in the agriculture college premise. He said that this statue will inspire the young students of the college to get acquainted with his indomitable courage and bravery. Tribal heroes of Bastar made significant contribution in the freedom struggle as well as in protecting and promoting



the tribal culture, taking inspiration from which the government is also making sincere efforts to save the tribal culture across Chhattisgarh including Bastar.

At the unveiling of the statue built at the cost of Rs 10 lakh sanctioned from Bastar Area Tribal Development Authority, Chief Minister Mr. Baghel met the great-grandsons of Veer Gundadhur - Jaydev Nag, Punu Nag, Dularu Nag, Pardesi Nag, who had come from Netanar.

Industries Minister Kawasi Lakhma, Bastar MP Deepak Baij, President

Jitendra Meena and other public representatives were present as well.

Shaheed Veer Gundadhur: The Great Martyr Veer Gundadhur led the 'Bhoomkal' movement against the British in 1910 to save the land of the tribals. Bhoomkal means earthquake or tremble in the land. And as the word describes, Bhoomkal movement shook the entire Bastar. Forest policy, compulsory education, changing religion, forced labour, bureaucracy were few of the many reasons behind this movement. Bhoomkal rebellion was so efficiently strategized that the tribals bravely fought the British army with bows and arrows and spears under the leadership of Veer Gundadhur. Not only Chhattisgarh but the entire country remembers the valour and heroism of Veer Gundadhur. And to honour his memories, Government of Chhattisgarh has established the 'Gundadhur Samman' for outstanding performance in the field of adventure and sports.

## CM flags off Nikshay Rath



Jagdalpur, May 25: As part of the 'Nikshay Mitra TB Mukta Chhattisgarh Abhiyan', patients will receive nutritious food throughout their six-month treatment period. This initiative involves providing TB

patients with a monthly nutrition kit valued at Rs. 1,000, with the active involvement of the community. The Nikshay Rath is being utilized to effectively raise awareness about this programme.

## CM Baghel pays tribute to the Jhiram Valley martyrs

Jagdalpur, May 25:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel paid his humble tributes to the martyrs of the Jhiram Valley at the Jhiram Memorial and had a meeting with their families.

Chief Minister, along with other public representatives, observed two minutes of silence in honour of the martyrs.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel administered an oath to make the state the



symbol of peace again on the occasion of 'Jhiram Shradhanjali Diwas'.

Chief Minister honoured the families of the martyrs by presenting them with shawls and Shripahals.

## Six players from Shri Gujrati School in state team



Shri Gujrati Shikshan Sangh Secretary Ashok Bhai Patel, Shri Gujrati Higher Secondary School Principal Anis Memon, English Medium School Principal Dr Shailesh Sharma, Primary Section In-charge Yogita Tank, coach Tikeswari Sahu, manager Jageshwar Dadsena and selected students pose for a group photograph.

## ● For National Muay Thai Championship

Raipur, May 25: Six students of Shri Gujrati School will represent Chhattisgarh in national Muay Thai Championship to be held in Chennai from May 25 to 30. The championship will be organised by United Muay Thai Association India and United Muay Thai Association India Tamil Nadu. 12 players of Raipur have been selected for the championship.

Six players of Shri Gujrati School - namely Kaniska Sriwas, Pallavi Sahu, Mansi Tandhi, Tisa Sahu, Ragni Sahu and Dhritesh Sahu have been se-

lected for the championship. These players called on Managing Committee of Shri Gujrati Shikshan Sangh Secretary Ashok Bhai Patel at the school camp.

Ashok Bhai Patel has congratulated the selected players for the championship. Shri Gujrati Higher Secondary School Principal Anis Memon, English Medium School Principal Dr Shailesh Sharma, Primary Section In-charge Yogita Tank, coach Tikeswari Sahu and manager Jageshwar Dadsena were present on the occasion. Total 58 players including 32 boys and 26 girls of Chhattisgarh will participate in the championship.

## NTPC Lara contributes for Clean Railway Station



Lara (Bilaspur), May 25: Under the observance of Swachhata Pakhwada (Cleanliness Fortnight), NTPC Lara provided dustbins, gloves, brooms to the Raigarh railway station authority on 23rd May 2023 and undertook cleaning activity at the station compound. On this matter a team of NTPC Lara under guidance of Samarendra Mallik, DGM (HR) and other officials met Shri P K Raut, Chief Station Master and Smt Rekha

Sinha from Railway and handed over those items to them.

Under the guidance of the central government, cleanliness fortnight is being observed at NTPC Lara from 16-31 May 2023. During this period various cleaning activities are being undertaken by NTPC Lara inside the plant and nearby villages. Besides various awareness generation activities like essay, drawing and painting competitions are being organized.

## 'BALCO celebrates Int'l Family Day with 'Proud Families'

Balcnagar, May 25: Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), India's iconic aluminium producer and a subsidiary of Vedanta Aluminium, created a truly memorable experience for its employees and their families on International Family Day this year, by organizing plant visits for the family members of the employees. The visits not only showcased the processes of aluminium manufacturing to the parents but also added to their pride by leaving a lasting impression and further strengthening their bond with the company.

BALCO, under the 'Proud Families' initiative had provided a comprehensive schedule to all the visiting families that covered an understanding of the crucial functions of the company. From parents to siblings and spouses, the participating family members indulged in an overall understanding of plant operations over the well-guided trip that also included discussions with the plant representatives. Keeping the standards of safety intact at every level, the families were given an extraordinary opportunity to witness the entire



journey of aluminium production, starting from pot rooms to power plants and the Finishing Line Areas (Casthouses). They had also witnessed the transformation of aluminium into a multitude of end products that serve vital purposes across various industries. The visits were concluded with an enriching experience at BALCO Museum and Learning Centre, a rich repository of BALCO's heritage where the families were introduced to the fascinating legacy of BALCO. Here, the families spent time learning about BALCO- independent India's first Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), and its contribution to the industrial progress of the nation. Around 110 people had a joyful experience from the family visits spread over a week.

Speaking about the impor-

tance of employee well-being and fostering a nurturing workplace, Mr. Rajesh Kumar, CEO, and Director, BALCO said, "Families play a pivotal role in the lives of employees, providing them with a strong support system and contributing to their performance and success. At BALCO, we understand this and work towards creating a healthy work-life balance for the overall happiness and well-being of our employees. We are committed to fostering a happy and healthy work culture for realizing the truest potential of our employees, crucial for their holistic growth and success." BALCO prioritizes the well-being of employees' families by providing a diverse range of family-friendly benefits. Through the innovative 'Spouse hiring policy', BALCO offers deserving and

experienced spouses, opportunities to join the company's workforce. The company also ensures that the health needs of employees' family members are taken care of through comprehensive medical coverage. BALCO facilitates a comfortable living environment within its township, with easy accessibility to schools, parks, hospitals, and grocery stores in the vicinity which, ensures that families have all the essential amenities. Additionally, the company also provides opportunities for families to socialize and have an engaging lifestyle by organizing vibrant events and celebrating all major festivals. BALCO is committed to transforming the workplace by embracing internationally recognized best practices in people management. The company takes continuous measures for fostering a diverse and inclusive work culture, distinguishing itself as an organization that actively supports LGBTQIA+ employees in core operations. Through new-age learning & growth opportunities, the company is working towards creating a strong platform to empower the employees.

## TLM workshop organised



Simga, May 25: A TLM workshop is being organised at Teachers Learning Centre, Simga of Balodabazar District. In the field of education, TLM is a commonly used acronym that stands for "teaching/learning materials." Broadly, the term refers to a spectrum of educational materials that teachers use in the classroom to support specific learning objectives, as set out in lesson plans. The teachers learning material is a supportive resource to address any concept with better clarity among young children. It is significant as it helps young children to learn with ease and enjoyment. Government Primary School teachers are partici-

pating in this three days workshop. However it will run for 6 days in two batches. To highlight that Resource persons of Azim Premji Foundation & BRCC Simga are collaboratively running this workshop.

Foundation's Resource persons Ankit, Atul and Abhas are currently facilitating and contributing to the workshop. The foundation has been particularly working towards improving the teaching learning process through supporting different modes of teachers training along with field support. Their vision is to establish just a equitable, humane and sustainable society. In the field of education.

# Continuous action on encroachment in Tiger Reserve forest

## Ichradi village to be removed on May 26

Thousands of trees cut to settle the villagers

Mainpur, May 24: Thousands of costly trees have been cut inside Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve for settling more than half-a-dozen villages. Now the forest department in the last one and half month has twice taken action for the removal of illegal settlements and got success in their attempts. The first such drive was taken on April 06 when 59 houses were bulldozed in the village Sornamal. Another drive was taken on May 19 in which 70 houses were removed in the village Goharamal. Now the forest department is preparing for another action on May 26 in the village Ichradi located inside buffer zone Tourenga forest area of Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve. The notice has been served to the villagers and has been asked to vacate the place by May 25 or else encroachment will be removed on May 26. Deputy Director Varun Jain said, now the time has come for all the people who are aware towards conservation of environment to come forward or

else the forest cannot be saved for being desert. He added, in the Ichradi village thousands of trees on 525 acres have been cut.

As per information received, encroachment has been done by 65 persons by cutting thousands of trees on about 200 hectares and 525 acres of land in Gariba Beat's reserved section no 1201 and 1202. After the survey, the image matching of the above land was done through the Indian Space Research Center ISRO satellite map of the year 2008 and 2012 and Google Earth image, in which most of the year 2011-12 and in some forest areas after the year 2019-20 encroachment followed by hut construction and farming has started, after which the first notice was given on 19/04/2023 with 10 days time, after the first notice, no satisfactory answer and claim objection related to the occupation of forest land by the said encroachers was submitted. After which again the second notice was given on 03/05/2023, in which seven days time has been served and eviction proceedings will be done on May 26, many villagers who left their homes after locking their houses were seen in front of their houses. Google earth and drone survey map obtained from it has also been handed



Villagers of Ichradi village with eviction notice.

over with notice, where forest department has made complete preparations for eviction proceedings on coming May 26. According to the information received, villagers from Odisha, Vishrampur, Dudhwa, Narharpur, Makdi, Kanker have settled in this illegally settled Ichradi village, some villagers are also from the surrounding villages.

Shocking case of lease on Illegal land of Ichradi Kanker, Vishrampur and residents of different areas of Odisha have settled in this village. When the forest staff asked for the name and address of the accused for action, it was revealed from the Aadhaar card received. Taurenga ranger BL Soori said that a few years back when action was being taken on some people who were ploughing on this forest land, they informed of taking the land on lease

from another person after paying them annually in



A view of Ichradi village.

return, apart from this, POR action was done several times in the last 5 years, every time the name of the accused has changed. In the present action being taken, 7 people are missing and they have

fled after locking their huts. Based on these facts, the Forest Department has an apprehension that some local people who are the alleged heads of these occupied areas have given these lands on lease. Till now it was believed that illegal felling is done due to the greed of forest land, but now not only the forest staff, but the administration too is being shocked by the recently found proof of giving land on lease.

Fertile land, better production, hence the demand increased. Ichradi is adjacent to Navrangpur area of Odisha, cultivation of maize in Odisha increased after 2010, forest land



The school running in this illegally settled village.

proved to be very fertile as compared to other land, production of pulses and maize increased by 30 percent as compared to other land. It was due to better production, outsiders broke down to grab forest land, one kharif crop gives an earning of more than 8 lakhs per hectare, rent of Rs 50 thousand to 1 lakh rupees per hectare is collected. As the income from illegal forest land increased, people who earn from Ichradi have also increased the facility. Apart from tractors, threshers, pumps, they are equipped with many other latest agriculture machineries, a large consignment of illegal chemical fertilizers is also consumed in this area every year. Solar lights in illegal settlement, bore apart from ration cards, arrangements have also been made for the people

living there to teach their children by making arrangement of schools and teachers.

For illegal encroachment, the officers and employees of the Forest Department were also under suspicion. Ichradi village, which has been built by cutting thousands of trees from the dense forest and is inhabited by 65 families, all of a sudden this cannot happen in a day or two; during these period role of the officers and employees of the responsible Forest Department are also under suspicion. The people of the area have made a demand to Director Varun Jain that when the illegal encroachment was happening at that time, then the responsible officers and employees of the Forest Department posted here

have been inactive and encroachment has taken place under their protection, so after investigating the matter impartially, such guilty local forest officer employee should be punished and action should also be taken.

Solar panel in illegally settled village, handpump, government facility are beyond understanding.... When Ichradi village is an illegally settled village, government facilities like opening of SRT center school, hand-pump and solar panels, construction of kuccha roads in 2013-14 are the subject of public discussion in this village.

## What does Deputy Director say....

Varun Jain, Deputy Director of Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, told in the discussion that people having illegal encroachments in Ichradi village have been given protection under Section 34 (a) of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and Section 80 (a) of the Indian Forest Act 1927 (amendment). Notices have been served and action will be taken to remove the encroachment on May 26.





## CENTRAL Chronicle

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### Inauguration Row

#### Need To Unite The Nation Beyond Politics

The upcoming inauguration of the new Parliament building by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the center of a contentious battle between the ruling government and the Opposition. With the Congress, Trinamool Congress, DMK, and Aam Aadmi Party among the nineteen parties boycotting the event, an unfortunate divide has overshadowed this momentous occasion. In a joint statement, these parties have deemed the PM's decision to personally inaugurate the building as "a direct assault on our democracy," asserting that the "soul of democracy" has been drained from Parliament. Citing constitutional norms, the Congress argues that the President, as the "head of Parliament," should conduct the inauguration rather than the Prime Minister. However, the Centre counters by accusing the Opposition of politicizing a historic event. They point out that previous prime ministers, such as Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, had similarly inaugurated parliamentary structures. The Parliament House Annexe and Parliament Library were opened during their tenures, with the respective Presidents involved in the ceremonies. In the present case, PM Modi laid the foundation stone for the new building in December 2020 and is now set to inaugurate it. It is worth noting that when PM Modi first entered Parliament House in 2014, he knelt and bowed his head in reverence for the "temple of democracy." It is through his unwavering dedication that this grand 21st-century monument of India has been completed less than a year after the nation celebrated 75 years of independence. Now, it is time for him to step back and allow this remarkable building, representing a vibrant democracy, to bask in the limelight. By embracing the Opposition's request to invite the President for the inauguration, PM Modi can showcase his magnanimity and ensure that no controversy tarnishes this momentous event. The new Parliament building stands as a testament to India's democratic spirit and progress. Its awe-inspiring architecture blends tradition with modernity, symbolizing the nation's aspirations and commitment to democratic values. The structure showcases the strength of India's democracy, providing a physical embodiment of the people's power and their collective voice. Beyond the political wrangling, this inauguration should serve as an opportunity to unite the nation and celebrate its democratic heritage. The occasion should not be marred by divisive rhetoric or power struggles. Instead, it should foster a sense of camaraderie and inclusivity among all political parties. By setting aside differences and coming together on this significant day, leaders can demonstrate their dedication to the nation and the democratic principles it upholds. In a diverse country like India, where opinions often diverge, it is essential to prioritize the greater good and work towards the betterment of society. The new Parliament building offers a physical space that can inspire collaboration, dialogue, and progress. It should symbolize a shared commitment to serving the people and strengthening the democratic institutions that form the backbone of our nation. Prime Minister Modi has an opportunity to rise above the political fray and set a precedent for statesmanship. By inviting the President to inaugurate the new Parliament building, he can demonstrate his willingness to put the nation's interests first. This act of humility and inclusivity will help bridge the gap between the ruling party and the Opposition, fostering an atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation. The inauguration of the new Parliament building is not just about a physical structure; it is a celebration of democracy itself. It is an occasion to reflect on the progress made, the challenges faced, and the future aspirations of the Indian nation. This event should unite the nation under a common purpose and inspire citizens to actively participate in shaping the destiny of the country. As the nation eagerly awaits the inauguration of the new Parliament building, it is a time for reflection and unity. It is a moment to celebrate the resilience of India's democracy and to reaffirm our collective determination to uphold its values. Let us seize this opportunity to rise above political bickering and embrace the spirit of collaboration, for in doing so, we strengthen the very foundation of our great nation.

### India's Dual Reality

#### Space Progress and Social Intolerance

Kajal Chatterjee, Kolkata

India, a nation known for its remarkable strides in space technology, stands at a crossroads where scientific achievements intersect with the challenges of religious orthodoxy and intolerance. The incident involving a BJP leader in Uttarakhand, who felt compelled to postpone his daughter's marriage due to fears of law and order disruption simply because the groom was Muslim, highlights the disheartening reality that plagues our society. In a country that prides itself on being a multi-religious and diverse democracy, where the Constitution upholds the cherished values of secularism, the disapproval faced by individuals who choose love and marriage based on their personal preferences is deeply concerning. The very essence of personal freedom and autonomy is being questioned, with romantic relationships becoming subject to scrutiny and disdain. What is even more alarming is that such intolerance persists despite the presence of a legal framework governing the state. If a political leader from the ruling party feels helpless and succumbs to the dictates of intolerant communal elements within his own community, one can only imagine the immense ordeal faced by individuals with lesser credentials when religion becomes a factor in their matrimonial decisions. This is a grave indictment of our society and a stark reminder of the challenges we must confront. It is disheartening to witness prominent figures in the political landscape celebrating India's accomplishments in conquering space, be it attaining the Mars orbit or successful missile launches, while simultaneously witnessing the erosion of morality and humanitarian values. While the world applauds our scientific prowess, we must confront the uncomfortable truth that our society is rapidly descending into the depths of a dark communal pit. We cannot afford to prioritize the conquest of space over addressing the rampant assault on humanity. The insidious narratives of "love jihad" and "honour killings" continue to poison our social fabric. The very concept of personal space and individual choices is being infringed upon shamelessly. If we allow such assaults on our collective conscience to persist unchecked, India risks moral disintegration, becoming a society governed by the law of "Might is Right." It is imperative that we confront these challenges head-on. Our nation's progress should not be limited to technological achievements alone but should also encompass the values that define us as a humane and compassionate society. Our leaders must rise above political rhetoric and take decisive action to address religious intolerance, working towards building a society where personal choices are respected and diversity is celebrated. India's future is at stake. While we marvel at our achievements in space, we must also acknowledge the urgent need to safeguard the fundamental principles that make us who we are.

Central Chronicle invites articles, write-ups, and comments on a wide range of issues for our editorial page. Submissions should be between 800-900 words in length. In addition, we welcome letters to the editor for this page. While letters may be edited for clarity, we aim to preserve the integrity of the original message, and ask that they be kept to around 50-60 words. Submissions can be sent via email to editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com.

### RAINY STRIDE



Pedestrians cross a road amid rainfall, in Shimla, Thursday, May 25.

## Narendra Modi: A Respected Global Leader Shaping India's Influence



DR MANMOHAN PRAKASH



#### Modi's International Influence

Irrespective of a country's economic status, development level, or political power, the influence of Narendra Modi transcends borders. Leaders from various nations demonstrate their admiration for him in different ways, such as patting his back, bowing down, saluting, or even touching his feet. Some countries have even gone to the extent of breaking protocols for Modi, while others have expressed a desire to confer upon him the highest honors of their respective nations. The chant of "Har Har Modi, Ghar Ghar Modi" echoes through the native and foreign citizens of every country he visits, signifying the global recognition of his leadership.

India's presence under Modi's leadership is sought after by numerous international organizations, including G-5, G-7, and G-20, despite not being a member. The international community sees a ray of hope in Modi, be it for fostering cordial relationships, promoting free trade, resolving conflicts, enhancing peace in the Indo-Pacific region, or addressing environmental concerns. Nations like France, America, Britain, and Russia have welcomed India's political and administrative moves under Modi's leadership, leading to increased trade and job opportunities for their own countries.

#### International Crisis Management

Modi's leadership extends beyond bilateral relations and economic growth. Whenever Indians

face trouble abroad, there is a strong belief that the presence of Prime Minister Modi will resolve the situation. Recent instances in Ukraine and Sudan have proven this notion true, further bolstering India's reputation and the influence of its people in global politics. These achievements instill a sense of pride among Indians, raising their respect in the international society under Modi's guidance.

#### Strategic Partnerships and Global Philanthropy

Under Modi's leadership, India has witnessed a surge in strategic partnerships and collaborations with developed and nuclear-powered countries. Many nations are eager to forge alliances and supply modern technologies and warheads, a testament to the credibility and trust established by Modi on the global stage. Furthermore, countries seek to sell their goods in the vast Indian market, while others express a keen interest in purchasing Indian goods. India's philanthropic efforts remain unwavering, as evidenced by its swift response in providing aid to regions affected by natural disasters across the globe. The Indian government banks continue to perform well and contribute positively to the country's financial stability, even as some banks in countries like America face bankruptcy.

#### Domestic Challenges and Opposition

While Modi's leadership enjoys admiration abroad, domestic conditions present a different perspec-

On today's world, the charismatic personality of India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has garnered immense respect and admiration not only within the borders of his own nation but across the globe. Leaders from all corners of the world acknowledge and appreciate Modi's popularity and pay their respects to his voice. This article explores the profound impact of Modi's leadership, highlighting the way in which he has earned admiration and recognition from countries worldwide. It also delves into the challenges and criticisms faced domestically, showcasing the complexities of his leadership within India.

It is important to note that not all Indians or opposition parties are satisfied with the policies implemented under Modi's administration. Concerns regarding law and order, farmer welfare, unemployment, and reservation status have been raised, resulting in electoral gains for the opposition in some assembly elections. However, the prospect of victory in national elections remains uncertain for the opposition parties.

Despite ideological differences, the opposition parties are contemplating joining forces to contest the upcoming central elections. History shows that a united opposition can pose a significant challenge to the ruling party, as witnessed in the 1977 central elections when the combined power of opposition parties led to their victory against the Congress party. However, the reluctance of individual parties to dissolve their own existence provides assurance to Modi and his party that they have a strong chance of winning the upcoming central elections.

#### Understanding the Common Indian Citizen's Perspective

To gauge the mood of the common Indian citizen, it becomes apparent that many attribute significant progress in key areas to Modi's leadership. Initiatives such as the resolution of the Ram Mandir issue, the abolition of triple talaq, the revocation of special rights in Kashmir, and the focus on resolving problems in the North East have all been perceived as outcomes of Modi's dedication and interest. The people of India look towards Modi with hopeful eyes for

addressing other pressing issues such as implementing a common civil code, establishing a population register, and resolving the Shri Krishna Janam Bhoomi dispute. Even in the face of some setbacks in various states, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerged victorious in the last central election. This further strengthens the belief that Modi and his party have the potential to secure victory in the upcoming central elections.

However, the BJP faces challenges in certain states, including Himachal, Punjab, and Karnataka, where they do not possess an indisputable winning face. The presence of anti-incumbency sentiment in these states may provide an advantage to the opposition. It is worth noting that the electoral landscape has seen a shift, with parties like AAP gaining power in Delhi and Punjab by promising extensive welfare measures. If this trend extends to the central elections, the results could be unpredictable.

Narendra Modi's leadership has undeniably garnered respect and admiration on the global stage. Leaders from around the world acknowledge his popularity and pay their respects to his voice. India's presence and influence in international organizations are desired, and Modi's initiatives have led to increased trade and job opportunities for various countries. Furthermore, his effective crisis management has bolstered India's reputation and strengthened the perception of Indian citizens in global politics. (Views are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Jai Ho Modi: Global Admiration

The chanting of "Jai Ho Modi" by world leaders and citizens is a source of pride for every Indian. Modi's international itinerary and the participation of world representatives in the G20 conference in Srinagar are testaments to his global influence. India achieved a major victory when most countries acknowledged Kashmir as part of India. However, challenges remain with nuclear-armed neighboring countries, China and Pakistan, posing strategic concerns. India's approach is based on mutual respect and interests, aiming for normalization. Pakistan's turmoil and currency devaluation further complicate the situation. Despite these challenges, India's economic growth has catapulted it to the fifth-largest economy globally. Remarkable instances like the President of Papua New Guinea touching Modi's feet and the President of the USA requesting his autograph highlight Modi's exceptional stature. Modi's visits abroad will likely impact the 2024 parliamentary elections, as voters now differentiate between state and national elections. Ultimately, the warm reception for India's Prime Minister in foreign countries is a matter of immense pride.

Yash Pal Raihan, Jalandhar

#### Pink is turning to Yellow

The abolition of the 2000 (pink) note by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) hasn't caused the same uproar as the initial demonetization, but concerns remain. The four-month window for exchanging pink notes may have eased tensions. However, the decision has led to a surge in gold demand (yellow metal), reflecting the volatility generated by demonetization. Those holding large quantities of pink notes are now turning to gold as a new investment. Reports indicate a rise in jewelry purchases as people seek to safeguard their wealth. India's cultural affinity for gold complicates efforts to unlock the potential of these dormant assets for productive growth. Balancing currency management and economic development remains a challenge for policymakers.

Dr. Vijaykumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

#### Modi's Charisma Fading

The Karnataka Assembly elections have revealed a decline in the charismatic appeal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The BJP's heavy reliance on Modi's persona did not yield the desired results, indicating that voters can no longer be taken for granted. The grandeur of election rallies and pageantry no longer holds sway over the electorate, who are now more discerning. The ruling party's inability to effectively address crucial issues such as the Adani controversy, sexual harassment cases, and cow vigilantism has not gone unnoticed. Today's voters are astute and can comprehend the reasons behind the delayed action against BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

MK Nair Raipur

## MODI-fication of Rupee's Trade Value

S K Nag

Money makes the economy move, which was the concept behind the ascent of money. Otherwise, barter would have been our mode of transaction until today. The global economy and the domestic economy at large wanted to have some currency, leading to the conceptualization of legal tender known as currency or money. Since the ages after we transitioned to the gold standard, the US dollar remained a benchmark currency, giving the US a leading position in controlling the global economy. But lately, international players have started to believe that the USD cannot be the standard anymore, and for the world to grow more prominent, it would need to think independently without USD. So, countries are coming forward to settle international

trades in some alternative bilaterally accepted currency, keeping USD aside. China and India will be the two major players looking to occupy this space. In the future, market share will be distributed among many others too, but these two countries will become significantly prominent and emerge as power centers, at least in Asian markets.

An international trading currency should have some unique, acceptable attributes like stability against volatility. The rupee in the global market may fetch a higher valuation that the world needs to see in the coming days. To sustain such currency valuations, it has to be backed up by robust export capabilities and improved competitive advantage; otherwise, international valuation would be short-term. The central bank will need more liq-

uidity to stabilize the rupee's valuation in international and domestic markets.

Therefore, focusing on export-oriented business through big and small players is a complementary approach to the new initiatives of RBI. Financial policies and the RBI roadmap must sync to augment future economic prospects. Indian budgets predominantly focus on tax collection and meeting expenditures. The budgets for the last 6/7 years did not indicate any policies supporting the vision of positioning the rupee in the international market to establish a global footprint. Therefore, in the coming years, these engagement initiatives might increase to enhance the currency's value through a more global presence, but not through traditional RBI buying-selling mechanisms. However, infla-

tionary pressure on the currency will sometimes have more impact on the economy. Therefore, a business-friendly and sustainable roadmap for the future must be in place to achieve our aspirations. Financial pragmatism needs to include what India used to have in their ministry in the past. In the past, especially in the 90s, leaders showed extraordinary capabilities to steer the economy in dire situations. India survived many recessions due to the size of the domestic market, which is the hidden strength of the country, and that is why all global companies are eyeing to try their prospects in India.

External influences sometimes work in the reverse direction if a solid and well-thought-out financial framework is not established before promoting a currency as a feasible alternative in inter-

national markets. The commoditization of money in global trade platforms often carries risks and invites volatility. The value of cash and the stability of the domestic economy will be at stake if robust financial plans are not in place.

Although a vast economic potential is approaching due to India's population strength, how to control currency volatility is a matter for RBI to consider with a futuristic strategy taking into account a time horizon of at least 30/40 years ahead. Reinventing the international currency, where global peace is at stake and seems to continue for a while, is a risky roadmap. Therefore, at this juncture, financial transactions in a divided world due to the Russia-Ukraine war pose a challenge that can be solved by staying united.



**BRIEF**

**Delayed projects**



**New Delhi:** Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh on Thursday said the government will crack down on developers of power projects, who miss the scheduled commercial date of operation or deadline to complete the project. Addressing a CII conference, Singh said the electricity generation capacity addition is a big challenge, as people are sitting on several projects won under the bidding process. Singh said that all these projects (power projects) are won under the bidding process and if they miss the SCOD (scheduled commercial date of operation or deadline to complete the project), then the developer will be banned from participating in project bidding for one year.

**Money laundering**

**New Delhi:** Industry body ASSOCHAM has inked an agreement with cost accountants' apex body ICMAI with an aim to prevent money laundering and transnational financial crimes. Both entities have entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in this regard. The strategic collaboration aims to drive professional and organisational development in the realm of money laundering prevention and related transnational financial crimes, according to a release on Thursday.

**Processing plant**



**Dharamsala:** Himachal Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu said that Rs 250 crore will be invested to upgrade the facilities of the Dhagwar milk processing plant in Kangra district. The state government aims to collect milk from cattle herders and sell milk products to boost the rural economy, he said during a visit to the milk plant. In line with this objective, the government is launching the 'Him-Ganga' scheme, which focuses on developing a milk-based economy in the state.

**Extends deadline**

**New Delhi:** The Income Tax department extended the deadline for charitable and religious trusts to furnish applications for registration till September 30. Under Income Tax law, the income of charitable institutions, religious trusts, medical and educational institutions are exempt from tax. However, these institutions are required to seek registration from the I-T department.

## BSNL 4G to go live in next 2 weeks; 5G by December: Vaishnav

Dehradun, May 25:



BSNL has started rolling out of 4G network with 200 sites, and after a three-month trial, it will launch an average of 200 sites per day, Union IT and Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said. The minister said the 4G network of BSNL will be upgraded to 5G by November-December.

"The 4G-5G telecom stack we have developed in India. That stack deployment started with BSNL. Between Chandigarh and Dehradun, 200 sites installations have been done and within the next maximum of two weeks, it will go live," Vaishnav said. BSNL has placed an advance purchase order of over Rs 19,000 crore with Tata Consultancy Services and ITI Limited for the de-

ployment of a 4G network, comprising more than 1.23 lakh sites. "The speed at which BSNL will deploy, you will be surprised. After testing for three months, we will be doing 200 sites a day. That is the average at which we will go. BSNL network will work initially like 4G. Very soon, somewhere around November- December, with a very small software adjustment this will be-

come 5G," Vaishnav said. He was speaking to reporters after commissioning the 2,00,000th site in Gangotri along with Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama.

"Today practically every minute one 5G site is getting activated. The world is surprised. It is a matter of pride for us that the 2,00,000th site has been installed in Chardham," Vaishnav said. The Prime Minister has said that India will stand along with the world in 5G and take the lead in 6G, he noted. Vaishnav said that gone are the days when technology transfers used to be signed.

"Today India has become a technology exporter," Vaishnav added. The first 1 lakh 5G sites

were rolled out within 5 months of the launch of service by the Prime Minister on October 1. The next 1 lakh sites have been rolled out in three months. "We had set a target to have around 1.5 lakh sites by December 31, 2023. Already 2 lakh sites have been completed, I feel by December 31, it should be more than 3 lakh sites," Vaishnav said. He said that countries like the US have started deploying made-in-India telecom technologies. "Today, devotees of Chardham have received a present in the form of a 5G site. Now, our border area will also get wrapped up with mobile connectivity. The dream that we saw of high-speed connectivity in the hilly area of Uttarakhand has been fulfilled today," Dhama said.

### BMW India drives in new Z4 Roadster



**Priced at Rs 89.3 lakh**

New Delhi, May 25:

Luxury automaker BMW India on Thursday said it has launched new version of Z4 Roadster in the country priced at Rs 89.3 lakh (ex-showroom). The model comes as a completely built-up unit (CBU). "It is the epitome of driving pleasure with its powerful engine, rear-wheel drive and a vehicle concept centered around agility," BMW Group India President Vikram Pawah said in a statement. The petrol powered three-litre six-cylinder engine helps the car surge from 0-100 km/hr in 4.5 seconds. The Z4 Roadster comes with various driver assistance features like active park distance control (PDC), rear view camera assisted optional parking assistant function and driving assistant function among others.

## I-T exemption limit for leave encashment upon retirement

**For salaried employees hiked to Rs 25 lakh**

New Delhi, May 25:

In line with the Budget announcement, the finance ministry on Thursday hiked the tax exemption limit for leave encashment upon retirement for private sector salaried employees to Rs 25 lakh. So far, the tax exemption on leave encashment for non-government employees was Rs 3 lakh which was fixed in 2002, when the highest basic pay in the government was Rs 30,000 per month.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), in a statement, said the aggregate amount exempt from income tax under section 10(10AA)(ii) shall not exceed the limit of Rs 25

lakh, where any such payments are received by a non-government employee from more than one employer.

The increased limit for tax exemption on leave encashment on retirement or otherwise of non-government salaried employees to Rs 25 lakh with effect from April 1, 2023. "In pursuance to the proposal in the Budget speech, 2023... the central government has notified the increased limit for tax exemption on leave encashment on retirement or otherwise of non-government salaried employees to Rs 25 lakh w.e.f. 01.04.2023," the CBDT said. In 2023-24 Budget, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had increased the tax exemption on leave encashment on retirement of non-government salaried employees to Rs 25 lakh, from Rs 3 lakh.

## Lexus India rolls out new LC 500H Luxury Coupe



**Tagged at Rs 2.39 cr**

New Delhi, May 25:

Lexus India on Thursday said it has launched announced the new LC 500H Luxury Coupe in the country priced at Rs 2.39 crore (ex-showroom). The company said the model now comes with all new instrument panels to the layout of the centre console, among others. "The transition to the new model of LC 500h is in sync with our commitment to

designing products that offer unparalleled comfort and superior performance to our discerning guests," Lexus India President Naveen Soni said in a statement. The new enhanced LC will surely catch the imagination of luxury consumers with newer technology and design upgrades, he added. The automaker said it has teamed up with designers Abraham and Thakore to release limited edition jackets, featuring custom designs inspired by Lexus.

## PM to chair NITI Aayog Governing Council meet on Saturday

New Delhi, May 25:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair NITI Aayog's eighth Governing Council meeting on May 27, which will deliberate on several issues including, health, skill development, women empowerment and infrastructure development, with an aim to make India a developed nation by 2047.

The council, the apex body of NITI Aayog, includes all chief ministers, lieutenant governors of Union Territories, and several Union ministers. Modi is the Chairman of NITI Aayog. "NITI Aayog will be organising its 8th Governing Council Meeting on the theme of 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047: Role



of 'Team India' on May 27, 2023," the Aayog said in a statement. The statement noted that as the world's fifth largest economy and the most populous nation, India is at a stage in its economic development trajectory where it can achieve accelerated growth over the next 25 years. In this context, the statement said the 8th Governing Council Meeting provides an opportunity to create a roadmap for Viksit Bharat by 2047 in which Centre and states can work together as Team India. "Eight prominent themes will be discussed, including Viksit Bharat@2047, thrust on MSMEs, infrastructure and investments, minimising compliances, women empowerment, health and nutrition, skill development, and Gati Shakti for area development and social infrastructure," the statement said.

According to the statement, as a prelude to the 8th Governing Council meeting, the 2nd Chief Secretaries Conference was held in January 2023 where these themes were extensively discussed.

## LG India expects 10% growth

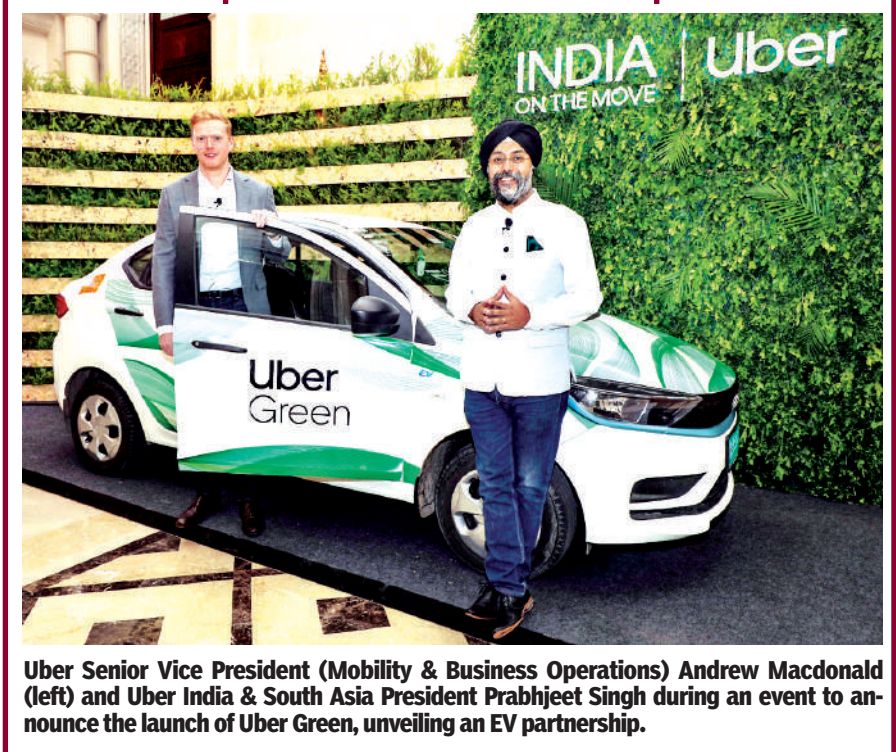
**Exploring new business categories as Health care, says MD**

New Delhi, May 25:

LG Electronics India expects around 10 per cent growth in FY24 and exploring new business categories such as healthcare and water purification here besides investing further in its manufacturing ecosystem, its Managing Director Hong Ju Jeon said on Wednesday. India is an important market for the South Korean chaebol, where it sees a "big potential" as the economic situation is bright compared to other global markets with a growing population with more youths, he said. The company is working towards increasing the domestic value addition of India-made products and is

even inviting its sister concerns from South Korea to set up plants for component manufacturing here, Jeon told PTI in an interaction here. It is also looking to increase exports to other countries from India by enhancing the cost competitiveness and more products in its offerings. "We will support the India government's make-in-India initiatives and will increase the exports from here and contribute to the Indian Economy," said Jeon. Jeon also lauded India's growth story this year and said its economy is growing despite other markets facing tough times on account of global disruption from war and other factors. When asked about the growth expectation of LG business in India, he said: "LG also has the same expectation.

### EV PARTNERSHIP



Uber Senior Vice President (Mobility & Business Operations) Andrew Macdonald (left) and Uber India & South Asia President Prabjeet Singh during an event to announce the launch of Uber Green, unveiling an EV partnership.

### Unacademy celebrates outstanding success of UPSC CSE 2022

New Delhi, May 25:

Unacademy, India's largest learning platform, is proud to announce the exceptional achievements of its learners in the UPSC CSE (Civil Services Examination) 2022. Among the top rankers of Unacademy are Smriti Mishra (AIR 4), Kanika Goyal (AIR 9), Rahul Srivastava (AIR 10), Abhinav Sivach (AIR 12) and Vidushi Singh (AIR 13). 300+ Unacademy Learners have secured top ranks, showcasing their dedication, perseverance, and the effectiveness of Unacademy's comprehensive learning platform. Among the Unacademy Learners, 206 rank holders were from the online program, benefiting from exclusive guidance provided by India's Top Educators.

## FinMin agrees to allow highway contractors to convert bank guarantees into surety bonds, says Gadkari

New Delhi, May 25:

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has said the finance ministry has agreed to allow contractors engaged by state-owned NHAI and NHIDCL to convert their bank guarantees into insurance surety bonds. Gadkari had recently said changes will be made to the surety bond offering to make it more lucrative as no contractor is buying it because of the strict conditions imposed by insurance regulator Irdai. "I conveyed to the road transport secretary that he should talk to the finance secretary once to give it (allowing conversion of bank guarantee to

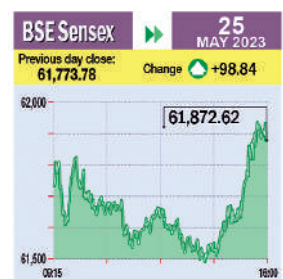


surety bonds) from retrospective effect. "In NHAI, in the road ministry and NHIDCL whatever bank guarantees are there, if they want, they can convert them into insurance surety bonds. Permission should be given for this," Gadkari said on Wednesday at an event or-

ganised by the National Highways Authority of India. Last year in December, Gadkari launched the country's first-ever surety bond insurance product with an aim to reduce the dependence on infrastructure developers on bank guarantees. "I am happy to tell you that the road transport secretary talked to the finance secretary and the finance secretary has agreed. Now you can convert it," the road transport and highways minister said. The product, from the stable of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, has been developed in response to a demand by the industry and the government.

## Markets bounce back from intra-day lows; settle higher on fag-end buying

Mumbai, May 25:



Equity benchmark indices bounced back from intra-day lows to settle in the positive territory on Thursday helped by fag-end buying. In a volatile trade amid the monthly derivatives expiry, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 98.84 points or 0.16 per cent to settle at 61,872.62. During the day, it hit a high of 61,934.01 and a low of 61,484.66. The NSE Nifty gained 35.75 points or 0.20 per cent to end at 18,321.15 after beginning the trade on a weak note. From the Sensex pack, Bharti Airtel, ITC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Power Grid, Bajaj Finance, Infosys, Nestle, Asian Paints and Mahindra & Mahindra

were among the major gainers. Wipro, Tata Motors, IndusInd Bank, HDFC, Hindustan Unilever, State Bank of India and Tata Steel were the major laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower, while Tokyo ended in the green. Equity markets in Europe were trading on a mixed note. The US market ended lower on Wednesday.

## NLC Bharat is the need of the hour

Mumbai, May 25:

Several prominent leaders have endorsed the National Legislators' Conference (NLC) Bharat scheduled to take place next month in Mumbai. Cutting across party lines, the leaders have expressed that the exercise that will see congregation of over 2,500 legislators, will be a historic event. Speaking at recent event organized at the Jio World Convention Centre, Sumitra Mahajan, former Lok Sabha Speaker said, "MLCs and MLAs from different regions will come together to discuss sustainable issues, exchange perspectives, and learn about the challenges being addressed in their respective states. It is essential to prioritise the nation first, followed by the state, and then the individual

constituency. Such gatherings facilitate communication and understanding between legislators from different regions, allowing them to learn about each other's constituencies and exchange ideas."

The leaders believe that in a diverse culture like ours, there is a need to bring legislators from across the country, cutting across party lines to have a meaningful dialogue. Speaking through video conference during the recent event, Dr Meira Kumar, former Lok Sabha Speaker said, "There are very few countries where there are multiple religions and sects. The forthcoming conference is all set to create history. Several issues related to social justice, international relations, or education, are going to be discussed.

## Rupee falls 7 paise to close at 82.75 against US dollar

Mumbai, May 25:

The rupee fell 7 paise to close at 82.75 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, weighed down by the strength of the American currency in the overseas market. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 82.76 against the dollar, and finally settled at 82.75 (provisional), down 7 paise from its previous close. During the day, the rupee touched a high of 82.70 and a low of 82.78 against the greenback. On Wednesday, the rupee had settled at 82.68 against the dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.13 per cent to 104.02. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, declined 1.47 per cent to USD 77.21 per barrel.

## Cambridge International students shine with remarkable results

New Delhi, May 25:

Cambridge International, the largest provider of international education for 5 to 19-year-olds in India and globally, has announced the results of its March 2023 exam series for Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and Cambridge International AS & A Level. With 65,157 entries submitted from 379 schools across the country, the March 2023 exam series has once again produced excellent results for Cambridge International students in India. Cambridge IGCSE had a 5 per cent and Cambridge International AS & A Levels saw 12 per cent increase with over 47,800 entries for the year 2022-23 compared to 45,000 entries last year, and Cambridge International

AS & A Level saw growth of 12 per cent with 15,600 entries for the year 2022-23 compared to 13,833 entries last year. Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, First Language English, and Biology were the most popular Cambridge IGCSE subjects, while Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Economics, and Business were the most popular subjects for Cambridge International AS & A Level. Meanwhile, a 6 per cent increase in entries for STEM subjects - with over 25,539 entries in total shows that students in India continue to have inclination for these subjects. Mahesh Srivastava, Regional Director, South Asia, Cambridge International, said: "Cambridge International is proud to announce the results achieved by our students in India for the March 2023 exam series.



# Upbeat MI hold the edge vs Titans in Qualifier 2

# Sindhu, Prannoy enter quarterfinals of Malaysia Masters

Kuala Lumpur, May 25 (PTI):

Star Indian shuttler PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy booked their places in the quarterfinals of the Malaysia Masters with contrasting wins over their respective rivals here on Thursday. While double Olympic medallist and sixth seed Sindhu disposed of Aya Ohori of Japan in straight games in women's singles, Prannoy had to dig deep to get the better of Shi Feng Li of China in a tough three-game men's singles contest. Taking the court first, world No. 13 Sindhu extended her domination over Ohori, ranked 28th, taking just 40 minutes to beat the Japanese 21-16, 21-11 in the round of 16. Sindhu, thus, enjoys a commanding 12-0 head-to-head record against Ohori. Sindhu will face China's Yi Man Zhang in the quarterfinals. World No. 9 Prannoy then overcame a game deficit to beat world No. 11 Li 13-21, 21-16, 21-11 in one hour and 10 minutes to book his berth in



the last-eight stage. Prannoy will next meet the winner of the match between third seed Jonatan Christie of Indonesia and Japan's Kenta Nishimoto. Later in the day, Lakshya Sen will be seen in action against Angus Ng Ka Long of Hong Kong while Kidambi Srikanth will play eight seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand in their respective men's singles round-of-16 matches.

# Sathiyam, Sharath, Manika among retained players ahead of UTT season 4

Mumbai, May 25 (PTI):

Veteran Sharath Kamal and G Sathiyam are among the four players retained by their respective franchises of the Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) league. Defending champions Chennai Lions have retained ten-time national champion Sharath, while UTT Season 3 finalists Dabang Delhi TTC have decided to continue with Sathiyam at the fore. India's star female paddler Manika Batra has been retained by Bengaluru Smashers with



the retention transfer originating from her former franchise, while Asian Games bronze medalist Manav Thakkar will continue at U Mumbai TT. "The Season 4 and this will be my fourth consecutive season for Dabang

Delhi. The most unforgettable moment was certainly winning the championship point for Dabang Delhi in Season 2. I am eagerly looking forward to play for Delhi family again and win the UTT this year," Sathiyam said.

I am not Bumrah's replacement: Madhwal



Chennai, May 25 (PTI):

Akash Madhwal, who engineered Mumbai Indians' comprehensive 81-run win over Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL Eliminator, doesn't consider himself as Jasprit Bumrah's replacement and is happy to fulfil the responsibility entrusted on him by the team. Madhwal, an engineer from Uttarakhand, returned impressive figures of 5 for 5 in 3.3 overs as MI inched one step closer to the IPL summit clash on Wednesday night. "I am trying my best to fulfil the responsibilities given to me by the team. I am not Bumrah's replacement but I'm trying my best to do what I can," Madhwal told reporters after the match.

# Decision on Asia Cup hosts on May 28: Jay Shah

New Delhi, May 25 (PTI):

A decision on Asia Cup's fate will be taken on the sidelines of the IPL final, which will be attended by a host of top Asian Cricket Council (ACC) dignitaries, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said on Thursday.



Pakistan have the hosting rights for this year's Asia Cup but with BCCI deciding against sending its team to the neighbouring country without government permission, PCB chairman Najam Sethi had proposed a 'hybrid model' where they will organise at least four games on home soil and India will play their matches at a neutral venue. It couldn't be confirmed whether Sethi has been formally invited for the IPL final. "As of now, the decision with regards to hosting of Asia Cup hasn't yet been finalised. We are busy with IPL but the top digni-

ties of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), Bangladesh and Afghanistan Cricket Board are coming to watch the IPL final. We will have a discussion and take a final decision in due course," Jay Shah told PTI. It has been learnt from ACC sources that Sethi's proposed hybrid model looks like a feasible solution although ACC had made no formal statements. According to the model, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Afghanistan play four preliminary matches in Pakistan and India would play all their games at neutral venues.



Time: 7:30PM IST.

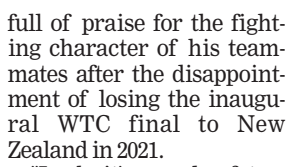
last league game against Sunrisers Hyderabad. Veterans Piyush Chawla (21 wickets in 15 matches) and Jason Behrendorff (14 wickets in 11 matches) have also been impressive, while an otherwise expensive Chris Jordan also enjoyed a fine outing of 2-1-7-1 in the Eliminator. Gujarat Titans, out-clashed and outgunned in Qualifier 1 by Mahendra Singh Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings, will have one last chance to gather themselves up and put their best foot forward in familiar conditions here in order to qualify for their second IPL final on the trot. It will be imperative for the defending champions that their batting clicks in unison, since Shubman Gill and Vijay Shankar have done bulk of the heavy lifting with the bat in the last few games. Gill might have had an off day against CSK but his two centuries in the closing stages of the league round make him the biggest threat for Mumbai Indians. With 722 runs in 15 matches at an average of 55.53, including

two centuries and four fifties, the India batter has 421 runs more than the second-best GT batter -- Shankar with 301 runs in 12 matches -- and is also just eight runs short of going past RCB's Faf du Plessis to finish with most runs in this IPL. The Titans will also expect more with the bat from their captain Hardik Pandya, who is going through a form slump, notching scores of 8, DNB, 8, 4 and 25 in his last five games. The Titans' lower middle-order lynchpin David Miller too has gone without a fifty this season and also failed to get into double figures in his last three outings. The contest here on Friday night will be the third meeting between GT and MI this season, with both teams winning one game each. After the Titans crushed MI at this venue by 55 runs in a one-sided game, in their next game, Suryakumar struck his maiden IPL century to power MI to a 27-run win -- a margin which could have been a lot bigger had Rashid Khan not smashed a brutal 32-ball 72.

# Individuals showed a lot of character to reach successive WTC finals: Rohit

New Delhi, May 25 (PTI):

Captain Rohit Sharma feels all individuals showed a lot of character and stepped up when needed to take India to the World Test Championship final for the second consecutive time, especially after losing in the inaugural edition in 2021. India will take on Australia at The Oval in the 2021-2023 cycle WTC final, starting June 7. "After the World Test Championship (2021 final) in Southampton, we quickly had to regroup and get ready for the next cycle," Rohit said in a video posted by BCCI on its website. "I thought in that cycle we played some really tough cricket. We were challenged a lot of times and I thought to come out of that was obviously going to take a lot of character from not just a few individuals, but everyone." Rohit was



full of praise for the fighting character of his teammates after the disappointment of losing the inaugural WTC final to New Zealand in 2021. "Look, it's a cycle of two years and we play a lot of Test matches during that period. Lot(s) of players have played in that cycle," he said. "Different individuals have stepped up, putting the performances that we were looking for from the individual."

# Lautaro Martinez scores 2 as Inter beats Fiorentina 2-1 for Italian Cup title

Rome, May 25 (AP):

Take note, Manchester City: the bigger the match, the bigger the performance from Lautaro Martinez lately. After scoring key goals against Benfica and city rival AC Milan to help secure Inter Milan a spot in the Champions League final, Martinez netted twice as the Nerazzurri produced a 2-1 comeback win over Fiorentina to defend the Italian Cup trophy on Wednesday. It's the second trophy that Inter has won this season after also beating Milan in the Italian Super Cup in January when Martinez also scored. After a couple of matches to finish up Serie A, Martinez and Inter will be aiming for one more trophy when they face City in the Champions League final on June 10 in Istanbul. "In all honesty, I



Inter Milan's players celebrate after their victory of the Italian Cup final soccer match between Fiorentina and Inter Milan at the Rome's Olympic Stadium.

am moved, because for a couple of years we have been bringing trophies to this great club and we've got to continue this way," said Martinez, who also played a big role when Inter won Serie A in 2021. "I want to keep contributing for Inter, because that's

what matters." Martinez now has a career-best 27 goals across all competitions for Inter this season, having also helped Argentina win the World Cup in December. He's also the only player to have appeared in all 54 of Inter's matches this season.

# The Epic Clash: India vs. Australia World Test Championship Final: The Ultimate Showdown

Vasishth M.C

The stage is set, and the cricketing world holds its breath as the giants of the game, India and Australia, prepare to face off in the highly anticipated final of the World Test Championship. Scheduled for the 7th of June 2023, this monumental clash will take place at the prestigious Oval cricket ground. As an ardent cricket enthusiast and historian, I have compiled a booklet that delves into the rich history of India-Australia cricket, highlighting the major events and victories leading up to this momentous occasion. **The First Encounter: 1947-48 Tour of Australia** The journey between India and Australia began in the post-independence era when the Indian cricket team embarked on its first official tour of Australia in 1947-48. Led by the charismatic Lala Amarnath, the Indian team showcased their mettle against their formidable opponents. Although Australia emerged victorious in the series, the tour laid the foundation for future encounters, fostering a healthy rivalry between the two nations.

### Border-Gavaskar Trophy: A Spirited Battle

The Border-Gavaskar Trophy, initiated in 1996-97, has been a fiercely contested series between India and Australia. This prestigious trophy has witnessed enthralling encounters, intense rivalries, and breathtaking performances from both sides. Over the years, the series has produced iconic moments like Sourav Ganguly's shirt-waving celebration at Lord's in 2002 and Harbhajan Singh's hat-trick in 2001. **2001 Kolkata Test: The Iconic Turnaround** One of the most memorable matches in cricket history took place in 2001 during the second Test of Australia's tour to India. Facing a follow-on, India orchestrated a remarkable comeback, spearheaded by VVS Laxman's majestic 281 and Rahul Dravid's gritty 180. This historic partnership led India to victory, inflicting Australia's first Test defeat after a record-breaking streak of 16 consecutive wins. **2008 Perth Test: Triumph Amidst Tragedy** During the 2007-08 tour of Australia, tragedy struck when promising Indian bats-

**India Vs Australia 1947 - 2023**  
76 years of Cricket, India's famous victories

- 1948, Adelaide, Vijay Hazare scored century (116 & 145) in each innings of the test.
- 1959, Kanpur, India's first test victory against Australia. Jassa Patel took 14 wickets in the test. (9-68 & 5-99)
- 1961, Melbourne, Kapil Dev took 5-28, India beat Australia by 59 runs.
- 1986, Chennai, famous tied test, score Australia 574-7 & 170-5, India 397 & 347
- 2001, Kolkata test, V.V.S. Laxman (281) and Rahul Dravid (176) put 376 for the 5th wicket. India beat Australia after following.
- 2001, Chennai test, India won the test by 2 wickets and the series, 2-1.
- 2003, Adelaide, India won by 4 wickets, thanks to the brilliant batting performance of Dravid (233 & 72)
- 2007, First 20-20 World Cup, India beat Australia in the semifinal by 15 runs.
- 2008, Perth test, India won by 72 runs, one of India's famous test victory
- 2013, Australia in India, India won the test series 4-0
- 2019, India's first test series victory against Australia in Australia. (2-1)
- 2021, India's classic win at Brisbane. India won by three wickets
- India clinch first 4-0 series win
- WINNER

man, Rahul Dravid, was struck by a bouncer from Mitchell Johnson at the WACA Ground in Perth. Despite the adversity, the Indian team showcased incredible resilience and emerged victorious in a hard-fought battle, winning the Test

by 72 runs. This victory symbolized the team's determination and spirit in the face of adversity. **2018-19 Test Series: Historic First Down Under** In the 2018-19 Test series, history was scripted as India achieved their first-ever Test

series victory on Australian soil. Under the captaincy of Virat Kohli, the Indian team exhibited exceptional skill, resilience, and character throughout the series. Notable performances included Cheteshwar Pujara's monumental run-scoring spree

and Jasprit Bumrah's incisive bowling. The series win was a significant milestone in India's cricketing journey. **2020-21 Border-Gavaskar Trophy: The Brisbane Miracle** The 2020-21 Border-Gavaskar Trophy will forever be etched in cricketing history as a testament to India's resilience and determination. Despite facing numerous challenges, including injuries to key players and being dismissed for a paltry 36 runs in the first Test at Adelaide, the Indian team staged a remarkable comeback. Led by stand-in captain Ajinkya Rahane, they secured a historic victory in the series decider at the Gabba in Brisbane. The triumph marked India's second consecutive Test series win on Australian soil. **The Rise of Virat Kohli and Steve Smith** The rivalry between two modern-day cricketing giants, Virat Kohli of India and Steve Smith of Australia, has captivated fans worldwide. Known for their batting prowess and consistent run-scoring ability, Kohli and Smith have engaged in enthralling battles on the field.

Their performances have often determined the outcome of matches and have added another layer of excitement to the India-Australia contests. The upcoming World Test Championship Final between India and Australia represents the pinnacle of their rivalry in the longest format of the game. It serves as an opportunity for both teams to showcase their skills, tactical acumen, and mental fortitude on a global stage. The match will be a culmination of their cricketing journeys and an event that fans eagerly anticipate. As we delve into the rich history of the India-Australia cricket rivalry, it becomes evident that this clash in the World Test Championship Final is not just a battle for supremacy but also a celebration of the spirit of cricket, where two great cricketing nations come together to compete and etch their names in the annals of the sport's history. *(Writer is Former Head of the Department of History, Malabar Christian College, Calicut.)*

## Cong called sacred Sengol 'gift to Nehru': BJP

New Delhi, May 25, PTI:

The BJP on Thursday alleged that the Congress displayed disregard for Hindu traditions by calling the sacred 'Sengol' a "golden stick gifted" to former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru and tucking it away in a museum.

The ceremonial sceptre, which will be installed in the new Parliament building, was given to Nehru to symbolise the transfer of power from the British to India in August 1947. It was kept in the Nehru Gallery of the Allahabad Museum.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will now install the 'Sengol' "in the

Lok Sabha, prominently close to the Speaker's podium", BJP IT cell head Amit Malviya said, asserting that it has been given its rightful place.

His remarks come a day after 20 Opposition parties, including Congress, TMC, Samajwadi Party and AAP, announced to boycott the inauguration of the building on May 28 by Modi. They said the prime minister's decision to inaugurate it by himself, "completely sidelining President Droupadi Murmu, is not only a grave insult but a direct assault on our democracy which demands a commensurate response".

The vesting of the "sacred 'Sengol'" with Nehru,

on the eve of India's Independence, was the exact moment of transfer of power from the British to India, Malviya said. "But instead of being given the pride of its place, it was tucked away in Anand Bhawan, and called the golden stick gifted to Nehru," he said in a tweet, adding, "Such is the disdain for Hindu rituals in the Congress".

Malviya said Prime Minister Modi will now install the 'Sengol' from 1947, "in the Lok Sabha, prominently close to the Speaker's podium". It will be displayed for the nation to see, and it will be also "taken out on special occasions", he said. "It is now Sengol vs Opposition," the

BJP leader added.

Made of silver with a coat of gold, the historical sceptre will be installed near the Chair of the Lok Sabha Speaker on the same day the new Parliament building is dedicated to the nation. Following the announcement of boycott by the Opposition parties, the BJP-led National Democratic alliance on Wednesday launched a sharp counterattack on the Opposition parties for their decision to boycott the new Parliament building's inauguration, slamming their stand as a "blatant affront to democratic ethos and constitutional values of our great nation".

## VANDE BHARAT TRAIN FLAG OFF



Locals at the Dehradun railway station during the flag-off ceremony of the Delhi-Dehradun Vande Bharat Express train, in Dehradun, Thursday, May 25. Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the train.

## 20 TN priests to oversee new Parl inauguration

New Delhi, May 25, PTI:

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said 20 "adeenamams" from Tamil Nadu have been invited for the inauguration of the new Parliament building on May 28, where the 'Sengol' will be installed, as did in 1947 to symbolise the power transformation from the British.

Addressing reporters in Chennai along with the Governors of Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Nagaland, she said TN has a "big proud part" to the episode of handing over of the Sengol (sceptre) to the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, symbolising the power transfer from the

British to the people of India in 1947. This was done on the advice of the Tiruvavduthurai adheenam after the late CR Rajagopalachary discussed it with the Shaivite pontiff following Nehru's consultations with him.

"With the Sengol to be installed in the new Parliament building on May 28 during its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 20 'adeenamams' from Tamil Nadu, including Tiruvavduthurai, Perur and Madurai have been invited for the event," she said.

In Tamil, the word 'Adeenam' refers to both a Shaivite monastery and the head of such a math. "The

pontiffs will attend the event, there will be Oduvars (scholars in Shaivite scriptures and hymns) who will recite the Thevaram. In 1947 also the Sengol was handed over to Nehru when othuvargal recited Kolaru Pathigam," she said. The same Sengol will be installed in Lok Sabha near the chair of the Lok Sabha Speaker with much reverence and it will symbolise "governance with justice and without any bias," she added. TN Governor RN Ravi, his Telangana and Nagaland counterparts, Tamilsai Soundararajan and La Ganesan, respectively, Union Minister L Murugan and TN Minister PK Sekar Babu were present.

## Gangster Lawrence Bishnoi moves jail



New Delhi, May 25, PTI:

Gangster Lawrence Bishnoi was early Thursday morning brought to Delhi from a Gujarat jail and lodged in the national capital's Mandoli prison, officials said today. Bishnoi has been sent to the Mandoli jail, due to security reasons, an official said.

This comes in the wake of killing of Tillu Tajpuria in Tihar Jail earlier this month and the jail administration took the decision to keep Bishnoi in a separate prison to prevent any possibility of a gang war, offi-

cial said. Tajpuria, an accused in Delhi's Rohini court shootout case was stabbed to death by rival gang members in Tihar jail on May 2. According to sources, Lawrence Bishnoi has been kept in cell number 15 of the jail.

The notorious gangster was brought from Gujarat to Delhi airport amidst tight security at around 12.30 am. Last month the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) got the custody of Bishnoi in connection with a case of cross-border smuggling of drugs.

## Teen kills sister, chops off fingers, burns face

Vaishali, May 25, PTI:

A 13-year-old girl allegedly killed her younger sister with the help of her boyfriend and aunt and burnt the deceased's face with acid and chopped off fingers to conceal the identity in Bihar's Vaishali district, a senior police officer said on Thursday.

Police have arrested all three accused, including the minor, involved in the incident. While the 13-

year-old girl has been sent to Balika Sudhar Grah' (correction home) in the district, her 18-year-old boyfriend and aunt are in judicial custody, an officer said. Talking to reporters on Thursday, Vaishali SP Ravi Ranjan Kumar, said the incident took place on May 15 at Harprasad village when the parents of the girls had gone to a relative's village to participate in a wedding ceremony.

When the parents re-

turned home they found their younger nine-year-old-daughter missing, Kumar said, adding the parents lodged a complaint at Jandaha police station. The local police constituted a special investigation team (SIT) and lodged a missing report which was later converted into a murder case after the recovery of the body from a field behind her home on May 19, the SP said.

## There are some in govt service who have doctorate in corruption: Kerala CM

Thiruvananthapuram, May 25 (PTI): Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Thursday said there were some persons in the government service who have a "doctorate" in corruption and that the problem can be addressed only by a collective effort, including by those working with such individuals.

Vijayan said that the LDF government's stand was that there would be no compromise where corrupt activities are concerned and those engaged in it would not be protected.

Therefore, while stringent measures are being taken by the government and the vigilance, even the concerned departments

and those working with such persons — who are engaged in corrupt practices — should also intervene.

The CM was referring to the recent arrest of a field assistant at Palakkayam village in Palakkad district of the state for allegedly accepting a bribe.

Cash and bank deposits worth over Rs 1 crore were allegedly recovered during a search from his rented accommodation.

Vijayan said that the official in question was allegedly using the bribe amounts for his needs and his salary was lying untouched.

The CM also said that

while in big offices and departments, it may be difficult to know if someone is engaged in corrupt practices.

However, in smaller offices, like the one in the recent incident, it was difficult to believe that everyone there was oblivious to what was happening.

"In such incidents, the others there should intervene and prevent such practices. The majority of those in the government sector are honest. But there are some who have taken a doctorate in committing corruption."

"They have acquired a taste for it and do not want to give it up," Vijayan said after inaugurating here a state-level conference of

the Kerala Municipal and Corporation Staff Union.

The matter requires serious consideration as such practices ruin the distinction that Kerala has earned of being the state in India with the least corruption, he said.

He said that those in government service should have a people-friendly attitude and help them out wherever it was legally possible.

"What cannot be done legally, should not be done."

He said digitisation of government services and providing them online would be a step towards transparency and swift delivery of services to the people.

## Pilot has not given ultimatum to party: Cong

New Delhi, May 25:

Congress MLA and Punjab's state chief Harish Chaudhary on Wednesday made it clear that Sachin Pilot has not given any ultimatum to the party but wanted to speak to the party and prefers to build a bridge between the people and the state government.

"Sachin Pilot has not given any ultimatum to the party but he has tried to speak to the government. Any leader who is talking to the government or anybody else, it needs to be heard and resolved on the basis of merit. I am hopeful that government will come up with a solu-



tion," Chaudhary said. His statement comes referring to the former Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister and Congress leader Sachin Pilot's ultimatum to his own party's government in Rajasthan to probe the alleged paper leak scam. He warned the

Gehlot government that if his demands were not met by this month, he would agitate across the state.

When asked about the paper leak case in the state, Harish Chaudhary said that he always had a very clear stand on the

issue both in the assembly and outside the assembly that there should not be any injustice to the students at any cost.

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## BRIEF



Bollywood actors Vicky Kaushal and Sara Ali Khan during a promotional event for their upcoming movie 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke', in Mumbai.

## 2 more cheetah cubs die

**Kuno National Park:** Two cheetah cubs born in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park nearly two months ago died on Thursday due to 'sweltering heat and weakness', the official said. As per the officials, the cubs which were born to a Namibian cheetah on March 24, died from apparent dehydration and weakness within the fenced area housing the mother and cubs. A female cheetah named Jwala brought from Namibia at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district, gave birth to four cubs in March this year.

## Tremor

**Ahmedabad:** A tremor of 3.0 magnitude hit Kutch district in Gujarat on Thursday evening with its epicentre near Bhachau, the Institute of Seismological Research (ISR) said. The tremor was recorded at 6.40 pm, the Gandhinagar-based institute said. The epicentre of the tremor was around 19 km north-north east (NNE) from Bhachau in the district, it added. This occurred a little over a week after the region was jolted by an earthquake measuring 4.2 magnitude on May 17.

## SBI penalised

**New Delhi:** A Delhi consumer forum has directed the SBI Cards & Payments Services Pvt. Ltd. to pay Rs 2 lakh to a person here for sending him bill even after his card's expiry and backlisting him for non-payment of the charges. The New Delhi District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum comprising its president Monika A Srivastava and members Kiran Kausal and Umesh Kumar Tyagi directed the company to pay the amount to M J Anthony, a former journalist, for "deficiency in providing services".

## One dead

**Una (HP):** A 23-year-old man was killed and two people suffered serious injuries when a tree fell on their bike due to strong winds in this district of Himachal Pradesh, police said on Thursday. The incident took place in Haroli area on Wednesday night, they said. The three injured, residents of Ajauli Tehsil in this district, were taken to Una hospital where the doctors declared Sundan dead.

**Weather**  
High 41 Low 29

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 18,321.15  
SENSEX 61,872.62

**BULLION**  
GOLD 59,582  
SILVER 70,776

# CM Baghel questions dropping maoist leaders' names in NIA's final report

**Tenth anniversary of Jhiram valley attack**

**Raipur, May 25 (PTI):**

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Thursday asked the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) why the names of top Maoist leaders 'Ganpati' and 'Ramanna' were removed from the NIA's final report on the 2013 Jhiram Valley attack in which several Congress leaders were killed.

Paying homage to the victims on the tenth anniversary of the attack, he also said that the Maoists have been pushed on the backfoot in the state. Maoists attacked a convoy of Congress leaders during the party's 'Parivartan Rally' in the Jhiram Valley in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh on May 25, 2013, killing 29 people, including then



state Congress chief Nand Kumar Patel, former leader of opposition Mahendra Karma and former Union minister V C Shukla. Talking with reporters here at the Civil Lines helipad before leaving for Jagdalpur in Bastar to attend an event to pay respect to the victims of the attack, Baghel also accused the BJP of stalling the investigation into the incident. "The Jhiram Valley incident shocked the entire nation. The then UPA government had ordered a National Investigation

## Trust, Development, Security and Peace pushed Naxals on backfoot

Later, speaking at the event in Jagdalpur, the headquarters of Bastar district, Baghel said his government has pushed naxals on the backfoot with its three-pronged strategy of 'trust, development and security'. The event was held at Lalbag Maidan here where Jhiram Memorial has been built. "The supreme sacrifice of martyrs in the fight against Naxalism will not go in vain. The Bastar region will be freed from Naxalism and restored as an island of peace," Baghel said. "Our leaders who were martyred in that incident had talked about change. They used to say that we have to bring change in the lives of farmers, tribals, youth and women... Our government has worked hard to achieve their vision. With the strategy of development, trust and security, we have contained Naxals to a few limited areas," he said. His government ensured development of Bastar with its schemes and policies and accelerated its pace by providing education, health and infrastructure facilities while preserving tribal culture, Baghel added. On the occasion, Baghel and his cabinet colleagues paid floral tribute to those killed in the attack. The CM also administered a pledge to those present to remake Bastar as an island of peace.

Agency probe into it, while the then (BJP) state government (of Raman Singh) constituted a one member judicial commission headed by Justice Prashant Mishra to investigate it," Baghel said. "The NIA in its FIR had named Naxal leaders Ganpati (also spelt as Ganapathi) and Ramanna and their names were in the case

till August 2014. However, in September 2014, when the initial report was presented by the NIA in court the names of the two Maoist leaders were missing. In the final report too they have not been named as accused," Baghel said.

He asked why the Narendra Modi government at the Centre had "saved" Ganpati and Ramanna, adding that the name of a criminal is not removed once it is included in an FIR. "The BJP should clarify why their (Ganpati and Ramanna's) names were removed and why they want to save these Naxal leaders," Baghel said. The judicial commission headed by Justice Mishra submitted its report to the Raj Bhawan (Governor) and not to the chief secretary or the state government in 2021, he noted.

# Praveen Sood takes over as CBI director

**New Delhi, May 25:**

Senior IPS officer Praveen Sood took over as the new CBI director on Thursday and he will be in the post for two years, officials said.

On his last working day, the outgoing director, Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, handed Sood the charge of the agency at its headquarters, they said.

Sood is a 1986-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Karnataka cadre and was the state's director general of police. He is the senior-most IPS officer in the country after Jaiswal. Sood's name was cleared in a meeting of a high-powered committee comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. Chowdhury, a Congress



New CBI Director Praveen Sood (L) with outgoing CBI director Subodh Jaiswal, in New Delhi, Thursday, May 25.

leader, had reportedly given a dissent note on the selection of Sood as the next CBI director. In an order, the department of personnel and training had said. "Approval of the competent authority is hereby conveyed to the appointment of Praveen Sood, IPS (KN:86) as Director, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a period of two years from the date of assumption of charge of the office vice Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, IPS (MH:85) consequent upon completion of his tenure."

# Show 'big heart', attend Parl opening: BJP to Oppn

**New Delhi, May 25, PTI:**

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday alleged that the opposition parties have decided to boycott the inauguration of the new Parliament building by Prime Minister Narendra Modi just because it has been built at his initiative.

Senior BJP leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the new building is a symbol of India's pride and appealed to the opposition parties to attend the 'historic day' of its inauguration on May 28 by showing a 'big heart'. "We all respect the President, I don't want to drag the post of the President into any controversy today by recalling what Congress said about her. But India's prime minister is also an important part of Parliament. The prime minister also holds constitutional responsibility," he told reporters.



Prasad urged the opposition leaders not to use the boycott of the event as a platform to forge opposition unity, saying they will have more opportunities to do so. "Mughals built Lal Quila, Jama Masjid and Humayun's Tomb. Qutab-ud-din Aibak built Qutab Minar, they claim. The British built North Block, South Block, President House which was called Viceroy House, and a Sansad Bhavan," Prasad said, and asked 'What did we build in 75 years of Independence?' "After 75 five years of in-

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# World wants to know what India thinks: Modi

**New Delhi, May 25:**

Concluding his three-nation visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday morning arrived in Delhi and said, today the world wants to know what India is thinking. While addressing the public gathered to welcome him, PM Modi said, "The people here asked me why I gave the vaccines to the world. I want to say that this is the land of Buddha, Gandhi. We care even for our enemies... Today the world wants to know what India is thinking." "When I talk



about the culture of my country, I look into the eyes of the world. This confidence has come because you have formed a government with an absolute majority in the country. Those who have come here are people who love India, not PM Modi," he said. PM Modi further talked about the release of the Tok Pisin translation of the book 'Thirukkural' in Papua New Guinea and said, "Tamil language is our language. It is the language of every Indian. It is the oldest language in the world."

# NCP will support Kejriwal: Sharad Pawar

**New Delhi, May 25, PTI:**

"There is a crisis in the country and it's not an issue limited to Delhi. NCP and the people of Maharashtra will support Kejriwal. We will also talk to other leaders to support Kejriwal. We must focus on bringing all non-BJP parties together," says NCP chief Sharad Pawar.

Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday called on



NCP Chief Sharad Pawar in a meeting with Delhi Chief Minister and AAP Convener Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and AAP leaders Sanjay Singh, Raghav Chadha and Atishi Marlena, in Mumbai, Thursday, May 25.

Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar at Yashwantrao Chavan Centre in Mumbai to seek NCP's support against the Centre's ordinance on control of administrative services in the national capital. Kejriwal was accompanied by Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, AAP MP Raghav Chadha, Delhi Minister Atishi and other leaders. The Delhi CM also met Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday.

# Shah: 'Will go to Manipur soon', appeals for peace

**New Delhi, May 25, PTI:**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday appealed to people in Manipur to maintain peace and promised that justice will be ensured to all sections of society. Shah while laying the foundation stone of the tenth national campus of the National Forensic Sciences University to be set Changsari area of



Kamrup district, said he will travel to the northeastern state to help resolve disputes. "I will go to

Manipur soon and stay there for three days before that, both groups should remove mistrust and suspicion among themselves and ensure that peace is restored in the state," he said. "The Centre will ensure that justice is given to all who suffered in the clashes which broke out in the state, but 'people must hold a dialogue to ensure peace in the state', Shah said.

# MiG-29K fighter makes maiden night landing on INS Vikrant

**Navy terms it 'historic milestone'**

**New Delhi, May 25 (PTI):**

For the first time, the MiG-29K fighter aircraft undertook night landing on indigenously-built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, a feat described by the Indian Navy as a "historic milestone".

The Navy said the "challenging" night landing trial demonstrated the resolve, skill and professionalism of the crew of the INS Vikrant and the naval pilots. The milestone was achieved on Wednesday night when the ship was sailing in the Arabian Sea, officials said. "The Indian Navy achieves another historic milestone by under-

taking the maiden night landing of MiG-29K on INS Vikrant. This is indicative of the Navy's impetus towards Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance)," Indian Navy spokesperson Vivek Madhwal said.

"This challenging night landing trial also demonstrates the resolve, skill and professionalism of the Vikrant crew and the Naval pilots," he said.

In February, Russian-origin MiG-29K and a prototype of the Naval variant of the indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas jets had conducted day landings on the aircraft carrier. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the Indian Navy for the successful

maiden night landing trials of MiG-29K on INS Vikrant. "Congratulations to the Indian Navy for successfully undertaking the maiden night landing trials of MiG-29K on #INSVikrant," Singh said on Twitter.

"This remarkable achievement is a testimony to the skills, perseverance and professionalism of the Vikrant crew and Naval pilots. Kudos to them," he tweeted. In September last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi commissioned India's first indigenously-built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant that made the country part of an elite group of nations capable of manufacturing aircraft carriers above 40,000 tonnes category.

# Need to focus on technological advancement in defence sector: Rajnath

**New Delhi, May 25 (PTI):**

India must focus on advancement in defence technology in view of "double threat" along the borders, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday in an oblique reference to challenges along the frontiers with China and Pakistan.

In an address at a conference, Singh underlined the need for extensive research to develop defence technologies for the country to meet various security challenges. "For a country like India, it becomes very important because we are facing a double threat on our borders. In such a situation, it is very important for us to



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh felicitates Krishanan Balasubramanian (IIT Madras) during the inauguration of 'DRDO Academia Conclave', in New Delhi, Thursday, May 25.

backdrop of the lingering border row in eastern Ladakh and Pakistan's continuous support to cross-border terrorism.

In his remarks, Singh also called for collaboration between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and academia for ensuring desired technological advancement. "The only way for this advancement is research. It is the need of the hour that both DRDO and academia work in tandem," he said. "The more this partnership grows, I think India's research sector will also grow in the same proportion. Scientists and experts from both the DRDO and academia are sitting here," he said.

move forward in terms of technological advancement," he said. "Today we are one of the largest armies in the world, the bravery of our army is discussed all over the world. In

such a situation, it becomes imperative that we have a technologically advanced army to protect the interests of the country," he added. The defence minister's comments came in the



# अधिकारों के साथ वन आश्रितों का बढ़ा विश्वास



## 85 लाख लोग

हाट-बाजारों में मुफ्त और बेहतर इलाज से लाभान्वित

## 5 लाख वनाश्रित परिवार

58 लाख एकड़ जंगल, जमीन और उनके संसाधनों पर अधिकार

## 240 स्कूल

नक्सल प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में दशकों से बंद पड़े स्कूल फिर संचालित

## 1000 आदिवासियों की रिहाई

रिहाई के लिए गठित कमेटी द्वारा समीक्षा के बाद वापस लिए गए प्रकरण

## 4200 एकड़

आदिवासी किसानों की अधिग्रहित भूमि वापस

## 7 से बढ़ाकर 65

लघुवनोपजों की समर्थन मूल्य पर खरीदी

## 2500 से बढ़ाकर 4000 रु

तेंदूपत्ता संग्राहकों को प्रति मानक बोरा पारिश्रमिक

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मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़

छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार  
भरोसे की सरकार

## Sal forests will be freed from Naxalism, peace will be restored: CM



**Raipur, May 25:** On the occasion of Jhiram Valley Martyrdom Day, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel paid tribute to the martyrs of Jhiram Valley by offering flowers at Jhiram Memorial in Lalbagh, Jagdalpur today. Chief Minister Mr. Baghel said that sacrifices of the martyrs against Naxalism will not go in vain, Sal forests of Bastar region will be freed from Naxalism and peace will be restored here once.

Chief Minister Baghel and the public representatives present on the occasion observed silence for two minutes in the honour of the martyrs of Jhiram. Baghel also administered an oath to all those present to make the state an island of peace once again. On the occasion, CM Baghel

met the families of the martyrs of Jhiram Valley and presented them with shawl-shrifal.

In his address, CM Baghel said that it has been ten years since the Jhiram Valley incident. Every year we pay homage to the martyrs of Jhiram on May 25, commemorating the martyrs and their sacrifices. Those who survived and saw the incident with their own eyes, describe it as terrifying and painful. Baghel said that the leaders who were martyred in this incident used to talk about the need to bring positive change in the lives of farmers, tribals, youth and women. Those leaders, who were determined to bring transformation in the lives of people, are no longer with us. They were martyred in

Jhiram.

Recalling the Jhiram incident, Chief Minister said that when the naxals attacked the convoy, our Rajya Sabha member Phulo Devi Netam faced the attackers with a brave face, asking them to stop the atrocity on civilians. When naxalites besetted our leaders, Martyr Mahendra Karma came out and asked the Naxalites to stop killing innocent people. He said, "Your enmity is with me. So I surrender. I am Bastar Tiger, I am Mahendra Karma". Mahendra Karma did not apologise, he sacrificed his life for Bastar, for the state, for democracy, for all of us.

Chief Minister further said that we are consistently working towards



attaining the goal of Parivartan Yatra, and to fulfill the dreams of our leaders. With the policy of development, trust and security, we have contained the Naxalites to a few areas only. He said that we have ensured the development of Bastar with our plans and policies. We have accelerated education, health, conservation of tribal culture and other development works.

On the tenth anniversary of Jhiram Valley Martyrdom Day, Industries Minister Kawasi Lakhma, Lok Sabha Constituency Bastar MP Deepak Baij, Chairman of Bastar Development Authority Lakheshwar Baghel, Vice President Vikram Mandavi, Parliamentary Secretary Rekchhand Jain, MLA Mohan Markam, Sangeeta Sinha, Chandan Kashyap, Mayor Jagdalpur Safira Sahu, Chairperson of

Municipality Kavita Sahu, Vice Chairman of Indravati Basin Development Authority Rajeev Sharma, Commissioner Shyam Dhawde, IG Sundarraj P, Collector Vijay Dayaram K., Senior Superintendent of Police Jitendra Meena and other public representatives also paid tribute to the martyrs.

**CM met the families of the martyrs**

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel met the families of the martyrs, after paying homage to the martyrs of Jhiram Valley. He honored the family members by presenting shawl-shreefal. Chief Minister became emotional while interacting with the families of the martyrs. Chief Minister asked them about their well being and told the family members that the sacrifice will not go in vain. Chhattisgarh government is with you every step of the way.

## WATERLOGGING



With slight rains before monsoon showers, there is waterlogging in the roads, causing problems to pedestrians.

## SC issues notice to ED on petition by Excise Secy

● Hearing to be conducted in this case and other petitions on May 29

**Raipur / New Delhi, May 25:**

The Excise Secretary Niranjan Das has filed a petition in the Supreme Court (SC) against the ED's action in alleged liquor scam and on which ED has been issued notice and hearing will be held on May 29. On the same day the hearing of other petitioners viz. businessman Arvind Singh and others too will be held in the SC.

It is notable here that Excise Secretary Niranjan Das in his petition in the SC has held the action by ED as politically motivated and has challenged the provisions of ED's in PMLA. The bench of Justice JK Maheshwari and Justice PL Narsimha have accepted the petition and asked to filed report in 3 days and so the hearing into the case will be held on May 29.

In the same way, the hearing into the petitions by businessman Arvind Singh, Amit Singh and Pinki Singh will also be

held on May 29. Arvindi Singh has held the raid by ED in the liquor case as unfortunate and has challenged the provisions of ED in PMLA. The Court would be hearing into the bail petition of the accused in liquor scam Anwar Dhebar and this petition has been filed by her wife Karishma Dhebar in the Supreme Court and it has been accepted. In this case, Justice Sanjay Kishan and Justice Asnuddin Amanullah's bench will be conducting hearing and for this June 4 has been finalised.

## BJP gheraoes RMC zone-1, 5

● Over civic amenities, public grievances

**Raipur, May 25:** Workers of BJP City District led by former Minister Rajesh Munat gheraoed Zone-1 and 5 offices of Raipur Municipal Corporation on issues of civic amenities and problems being faced by the residents. Thousands of BJP workers along with local public reached zone offices to gherao the offices.

The police administration had made elaborate arrangements to stop the protesters, but the BJP workers, defied all the arrangements of the administration and stormed the main gate of the zone offices. Women reached the zone offices with empty pots to protest against the water problems and broke the empty pots at the main gate of the corporation's zone offices. Munat told that



Municipal Corporation zone offices were gheraoed with permission, but the police forcibly stopped the workers and beat them up. Some workers were injured in police action, he said. He alleged the action to prevent people's representatives from coming to zone offices was intended to crush peaceful movement. Munat, along with BJP workers, sat on a dharna in front of the zone offices protesting against the repressive action of the administration. He gave an ultimatum to

the zone officers, saying that he would give one month's time to the municipal corporation to rectify the entire system. He warned that BJP and the people of Raipur West Assembly will gherao the Municipal Corporation Headquarters and all the illegal tender works which are being distributed by the Municipal Corporation Mayor to their close ones will be stopped.

Ever since the Congress government came to power in the state, the administra-

tive situation is deteriorating day by day, Munat said, adding that condition of the streets of the capital city of Raipur is getting worse. Public representatives belonging to Congress are busy in filling their pockets with new methods of corruption, he alleged. People have become fed up with the tyranny of the Congress and now the departure of the Bhupesh Baghel government is almost certain, he said. District BJP President Jayanti Patel, state executive members Prafulla Vishvakarma, Ashok Pandey, Channi Verma, district general secretary Satyam Duwa, opposition leader in municipal corporation Meenal Choubey, Omkar Bais, Gopi Sahu, Amit Maisheri, Bajrang Khandelwal, Akhilesh Kashyap and others participated in gheraoe programme.

## Tributes paid to the martyrs of Jhiram Naxal violence

**At Raipur Collectorate Office**  
**Collector Dr Bhure administers oath of non-violence and tolerance**

**Raipur, May 25:** People's representatives and citizens who were martyred ten years ago in Naxal violence in Jhiram valley of Bastar district were paid tribute today at Raipur collectorate office. On the occasion of Jhiram Tribute Day, a two-minute silence was observed here today in honor of martyrs. Collector Dr Sarveshwar Bhure administered oath to all the officers and employees to oppose any kind of violence by maintaining the tradition of non-violence and tolerance. Everyone resolved to oppose Naxalism and violence and make



Chhattisgarh state an island of peace again. Tributes were paid to public representatives, senior office bearers, jawans of security forces who were

martyred in Naxal violence of Jheeram Valley and those who were martyred in incidents of naxal violence that took place in previous years and recently. Additional Collector NR Sahu, Additional Collector BC Sahu, Additional Collector BB Panchbhai, all the Joint and deputy Collectors and other staff of the office were present.

## Tributes paid to the Martyrs in Mantralaya

**Raipur:** Jhiram Tribute Day was observed at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan, where heartfelt tributes were paid to the public representative's senior officials and soldiers of the security forces who lost their lives in the tragic incident at Jhiram Valley in Bastar. A moment of silence lasting two minutes was observed as a mark of respect for the martyrs. Officials and employees of Mantralaya paid tribute to all those who have been martyred



in the past and more recently due to acts of naxal violence. Additionally, they also took an oath to firmly uphold the values of non-violence, and tolerance and to denounce all forms of naxalism violence by working towards restoring Chhattisgarh as a land of peace.

## Collector inspects the Mother and Child Hospital, Kalibari



**Raipur, May 25:** Collector Dr. Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure made a surprise observation and inspection of arrangements at the Mother and Child Hospital, Kalibari, Raipur here recently. He inquired about the cleanliness of the hospital, facilities provided to the patients etc. and also inspected various wards.

During the inspection, the Collector discussed with the patients about the arrangements related to their medical examination and treatment. He directed to use water tank located outside the OPD for drinking purpose. Doctors were directed to prescribe generic medicines. Collector reviewed the operation theater repair work of the hospital and

fourth OT. He directed Dr Nirmala Yadav, Superintendent, Mother and Child Hospital, Kalibari, Raipur to coordinate with the Public Works Department and civil surgeon for necessary action for site selection for making 04 bedded ICU.

The Superintendent and the Hospital Consultant were directed to select the site and take necessary action in coordination with the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Raipur, for the construction of smart toilets in the Mother and Child Hospital, Kalibari, Raipur. He directed to use the newly constructed room in SNCU and to increase the number of admissions in the in-patient department.

## BEd, DEd on June 17, Nursing entrance exam on June 24

**Raipur, May 25:** Applications for admission to Pre BEd, Pre DEEd, B.Sc Nursing, MSc Nursing and Post Basic Nursing courses have to be filled online till May 28. Errors can be rectified in the filled applications till the next three days, 29, 30 and 31 May. Chhattisgarh Professional Examination Board (VYAPAM) is going to conduct BEd and DEd exams on June 17, 2023.

The admit cards for these examinations will be issued on VYAPAM website on June 9. The exam for admission to BSc Nursing, MSc Nursing and Post Basic Nursing courses will be

held on June 24. Admit cards for these exams will be issued on June 16. Candidates willing to appear in the examinations can apply by logging on to the website of Chhattisgarh Professional Examination Board, vyapam.cgstate.gov.in. According to the decision taken by the state government, no examination fee will be charged from the local resident participants of Chhattisgarh state for these examinations.

Certificates related to the candidate's caste, date of birth, local resident etc. will not be taken along with the online

application. The documents of the candidates will be tested during the counselling. The Professional Examination Board will not be responsible for wrong information provided by the candidate. The error made in the online application can also be rectified during the prescribed time limit for submission of the form. Apart from this, the facility of correction of errors will also be available in the time period of three days after the last date of filling the online form. No error correction facility will be given on the day of examination.

## Congmen demand strict action against accused

● Trying to malign image of Rahul Gandhi for passing objectionable comments in Media

**Raipur, May 25:** The activeness of the political parties on social media has increased with few months to go for the elections and with this the controversies have started erupting. On Thursday, the Congress leaders submitted filed report in Kotwali Police thana against the accused for making objectionable



comments against the AICC ex-President and senior party leader Rahul Gandhi. Congress MLAs Satyanarayan Sharma,

Kuldeep Juneja, Vikas U padhay, and Mayor Ajaz Dhebar and other party workers lodged complaint in Kotwali thana and charged the Congress lead-

## Judicial remand of Trilok Singh Dhillon extended for 14 days

● Sent to Central Jail Raipur

**Raipur, May 25:** ED produced the alleged accused in Rs 2000 cr liquor scam Trilok Singh Dhillon in the Court on completion of his remand here on Thursday and after 1 hour long hearing into the case in the Special Court of Judge Ajay Singh, he was sent to Judicial Remand for another 14 days



and now he would live in the Central Jail Raipur.

It is notable here that on Monday, ED taking a big action against all the accused, had attached the fixed assets and properties of the accused worth crores. ED in

its information on official Twitter has mentioned about attachment of 119 fixed assets and properties to the tune of Rs 121.87 cr that of IAS officer Anil Tuteja, Anwar Dhebar and AP Tripathi. In the liquor scam the total property attached till date has now reached Rs 180 cr. In this cash, FDs too has been put on the hold. In this case, ED is continuously taking action.

## Ganja worth 5 lakh seized from train coach

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, May 25:**

Raipur Railway Police has taken major action against drugs. Two interstate smugglers from Delhi and Chandigarh have been arrested while smuggling ganja. About 48 kg of ganja worth Rs 5 lakh has been recovered from their possession. According to information, Delhi's Rocky Kumar and Chandigarh's Vishal were caught illegally smuggling ganja (marijuana) in the B-6 bogie Puri-LTT Super Fast Express in Dhekanal in Odisha. GRP has arrested both of them.

ered from their possession. According to information, Delhi's Rocky Kumar and Chandigarh's Vishal were caught illegally smuggling ganja (marijuana) in the B-6 bogie Puri-LTT Super Fast Express in Dhekanal in Odisha. GRP has arrested both of them.

## Tributes paid to Jheeram Valley Martyrs

**Bhilai, May 25:**

On Thursday, the police officers and personnel took oath to maintain peace in the state on the occasion of "Jheeram Shradhanjali Diwas". Tributes were paid to public representatives, senior officials and security forces personnel, who were massacred by Naxals in Jheeram Valley.

As per the instructions of the Chief Minister, May 25 is observed as Jheeram Shradhanjali Diwas in memory of public representatives, senior officials, jawans of security forces and others who were martyred in Naxal violence in Jheeram Valley on May 25, 2013.

In this sequel, tributes were paid to the martyrs at Police Lines in Durg. Dr Abhishek Pallav (Superintendent of Police, Durg) and senior officers of the district paid homage to the martyrs and pledged to make the state an island of peace again.



ASP (City) Sanjay Dhruv, ASP (Rural) Anant Kumar Sahu, ASP (IUCAW) Meeta Pawar, CSP (Durg) Banker Vaibhav Ramanlal (IPS), CSP (Chhawan) Ashish Banchhor, DSP (Traffic) Satish Thakur, DSP (AJK) Vinod Minj, DSP (Crime) Rajeev Sharma, DSP (Police Line) Nilesh Dwivedi, Reserve Inspector Ramesh Chandra and officers/personnel of Durg Police were present.

## Prembhusan Ji Maharaj to narrate Shri Ram Katha from May 27

**Elaborate arrangements being made at Shri Shankaracharya Medical College, Junwani****Bhilai, May 25:**

Shri Ram Katha is being organised from May 27 to June 04 at Shri Shankaracharya Medical College in Junwani. A grand pandal is being constructed here next to Shri Anjaneya Hanuman Mandir in the Medical College campus for this mega religious event. Thousands of devotees are likely to participate in this event.

Renowned kathawachak Shri Prembhusan Ji Maharaj will narrate Shri Ram Katha. While addressing media persons on Thursday, renowned educationist IP Mishra (Chairman, Shri Shankaracharya Group) informed that the katha timings are from 3:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Renowned storyteller Prembhusan Ji Maharaj will narrate Shri Ram Katha for the first time in Bhilai-Durg. This event is a pure religious and spiritual event and will be far away from politics. There will also be an arrangement for about 6000 chairs at the venue. In view of the heat, arrangements of air cooling and drinking water have been made. Prasad and Bhandara will be served on all days after the katha in the evening.



Mishra further said in the year 2020-21, the entire humanity suffered a lot due to the coronavirus pandemic. The entire mankind was terrified and was praying to Almighty God with great hope and faith for their protection from the pandemic. Mishra added that the doctors and other medical staff of Shri Shankaracharya Hospital worked tirelessly to serve the people and humanity in this epidemic.

At this time, they also prayed to Shri Sankatmochak Hanuman Ji for their protection and wellbeing of their patients. Many people died in this tragedy even after every possible effort. In

this sequel, Shri Anjaneya Hanuman Temple was established in the medical college campus. After the establishment of this temple, the common devotees are receiving immense spiritual strength.

In this perspective, the story of Lord Shri Ram, the deity of Shri Anjaneya Hanuman, has been organized near Shri Anjaneya Hanuman Temple in the college campus.

Prembhusan Ji Maharaj will narrate the story of Shri Shiv Vivah on May 28, Shri Ram Janmotsav on May 30, Shri Sita Ram Vivah Mahotsav on June 01 and Shri Ram Rajyabhishek on June 04. The organisers have appealed to the devotees to attend Shri Ram Katha in large numbers. Nishant Tripathi, Dr Rahul Gulati and other members of the organising committee were present.

## BAKS approaches PMO for settlement of SAIL wage revision

**Bhilai, May 25:**

BSP Anadhishasi Karmachari Sangh (BAKS) has approached the PMO with its demand for fullest settlement and implementation of the SAIL Wage Revision. The union has sent a 28-page letter along with complete documents to the Prime Minister's Office, Steel Minister, Labour Minister, Steel Secretary, and DPE Secretary for early settlement of the wage revision.

In the letter, the union office bearers questioned the reason for pendency of wage settlement in SAIL in a situation when the wage revision has been

completed in all the other PSUs with full benefits and arrears to all the employees. Full NJCS meeting has not been called after the last full NJCS meeting held on 19 July 2022. Consequently, the wage revision agreement of the employees is incomplete even after 77 months.

Through the letter, the DPE Secretary has been requested to follow the guidelines given by DPE for wage revision of unionized workmen in the SAIL. The Labour Minister has also been requested to investigate the role of SAIL and NJCS leaders as to how most of the leaders have forcefully

become the representatives of the workers. In the letter sent to the Steel Minister and the Steel Secretary, the union has revealed on the basis of documentary evidence that how the Steel Ministry was misled in the wage settlement of SAIL employees and how discrimination was done between the employee and the executives working in the same company. The union has demanded from all the parties that the MOU made with the consent of only three unions out of five in NJCS has no legal basis, so the Prime Minister himself should intervene and direct the

Ministry of Steel to pay 15% MGB, 35% perks as well as 9% pension benefits from 2007 and fitment arrears and perks arrears to SAIL employees at par with the benefits provided to the executives of Maharatna companies and SAIL.

Union President Amar Patel said that they have not joined the SAIL just to carry the flag of protest. "Just as our labour is included in the production of the company, we also have the right to share in its profit. The employees have not formed the union for personal gain. If all the employees of Bhilai continue to cooperate in the

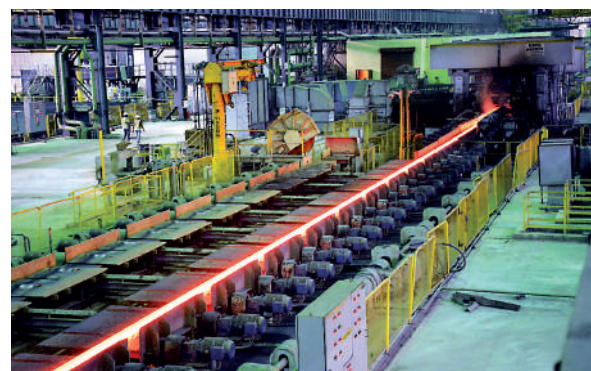
form of monthly membership fees, then the union can approach the court in the end to win the rights of the employees", he said.

General Secretary Abhishek Singh said that it is very unfortunate that the outsider and retired employees are leading the Trade Unions which are representing the employees who are working with dedication to bring profit to the company and reduce the debts. The employees of Bhilai have been watching the performance of NJCS leaders for the last 77 months. The union leaders have left an incomplete wage revision after curtailing all the facilities.

## Universal Rail Mill sets New Day Records

**Bhilai, May 25:**

SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Universal Rail Mill that rolls out the world's longest 130 metre rail in single piece and supplies 260 metre welded rail panels to Indian Railways has set several new day records on May 24, 2023. The Mill produced 3415 Tonnes of finished rails surpassing previous best of 3328 Tonnes on March 03, 2023. Production of 3321 Tonnes of prime rails May 24, 2023 was also the highest in a day, surpassing previous best of 3194 Tonnes on March 03, 2023. The Mill also set a new record of producing 337 numbers of 130 metre rails May 24, 2023 as against



previous best of 300 numbers of 130 metre rails produced on Sept 04, 2022.

Among other new day records made by URM on May 24, 2023 are highest number of 437 rails visually inspected as against previous best of 426 numbers

of rails visually inspected on March 03, 2023 and highest number of 430 rails tested through NDT (non-destructive testing) as against previous best of 417 numbers of rails tested through NDT on March 03, 2023.

## District Youth Congress performs 'Shramdaan' in Gauthan

**Bhilai, May 25:** In response to the BJP party workers are visiting Gauthans to expose condition under 'Chalbo Gauthan-Kholbo Pol' campaign in the entire state, The Bhilai District Youth Congress workers have come up with a counter of performing "Shram Daan" at Gauthans under the 'Mera Gauthan-Mera Abhimaan' programme. The members of the committee and the women working in Gauthan are also honouring the women of self-help groups. In this series, the Bhilai District Youth Congress under the guidance of Devendra Yadav, MLA Bhilai Nagar, and the instructions of Chhattisgarh State Youth Congress President Akash Sharma performed



"Shram Daan". District President Vibhor Duragkar and State General Secretary Aditya Singh, countering BJP's allegations, said that BJP has no other issue there before they are again in-

dulging into cow politics which is an old habit. The BJP doing politics in the name of cow does not know that cows are not kept in the open or in sheds in such scorching heat. People keep their

cows in their homes, leave them in the evening in the cowsheds.

Mainly present in this campaign were District President Vibhor Duragkar, State General Secretary Aditya Singh, Vaishali Nagar Assembly President Palash Limesh, District Vice President Shoaib Mohammad, Khilesh, District General Secretary Prince Shergill, Priyanshu Verma, Bhaskar Dubey, Ekant Sahu, Assembly Vice President Rohit Singh, Assembly General Secretary Naveen Agarwal, Bobiraj Pandey, Satnam Singh, Sumit Singh, Samar Randhawa, D Sagar, Nandkishore Sonkar, Tinku, Vikram Singh, Jitendra Dosanjh, Aman Sethia, etc.

**Bhilai, May 25:**

Additional Member (Works), Railway Board, Brijesh Kumar, arrived on a visit to SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant on May 25, 2023. He was welcomed at Bhilai Niwas by S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects) with Additional Charge of (P&A), Brijesh Kumar visited various production units of Bhilai Steel Plant and witnessed Steel Making at the Modex Units.

Soon after his arrival at Bhilai Niwas, Kumar planted a sapling before leaving for his visit to the Plant. During his visit to the Plant, Brijesh Kumar Additional Member (Works), Railway Board, took keen interest in operations at Modex Units, in-



cluding Blast Furnace 8, Steel Melting Shop 3 & Universal Rail Mill. At the beginning of his Plant visit, Kumar was briefed about safety at Safety Excellence Centre inside the Plant.

Accompanied by Tapas Dasgupta, CGM I/c (Iron) and other senior officers of

the Plant, Additional Member (Works), Railway Board, witnessed production of hot metal at Blast Furnace 8, production of crude steel at SMS 3 and production of world's longest 130 metre rail and loading of 260 metre welded rail panels at Universal Rail Mill. He also interact-

ed with senior officers of the Modex Units during his visit.

Following his Plant visit, Brijesh Kumar arrived at Ispat Bhavan where he was welcomed by Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), Dr AK Panda, ED (F & A), S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects & P&A), AK Chakraborty, ED (Materials Management), and Samir Swarup, CGM I/c Mines & Rowghat.

A presentation on highlights of performance in the area of production of rails was made at Director I/c Conference Hall, following which Brijesh Kumar interacted at length with a cross-section of senior officers on different aspects of current performance, as also about plans for the future.

## Rashmi Jogi awarded PhD in Economics

**Bhilai, May 25:** Rashmi Jogi was awarded PhD in Economics during the 26th Convocation organized by Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Raipur. She did her research on the topic "An analytical study on Rural Poverty in Durg District of Chhattisgarh" under the guidance of Dr Neelam Agrawal (HoD, Economics, Government PG College Mahasamund) and Professor AK Pandey (Economics, RSU). Rashmi was born in village Sakra (Kumhari) and grew up in Bhilai. She is the daughter of Lalit Kumar Jogi, a farmer and granddaughter of Jai Lal Jogi. She is the wife of Dr Om Prakash Baghel, Assistant Professor (Economics). All her friends and relatives have congratulated her on this achievement.



## Employees of Blast Furnace felicitated with Karma Shiromani Awards

**Bhilai, May 25:** Employees of the Blast Furnace Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant were awarded with the 'Karma Shiromani' Award for their commendable work performance under the 'Shiromani Puraskar Yojana' of Bhilai Steel Plant. The Award Ceremony was organised in the auditorium of Welfare Building-8 (Blast Furnace), on May 24, 2023. Addressing the gathering, Tapas Dasgupta, CGM I/c (Iron) and Arvind Gupta, Acting CGM (Blast Furnace) congratulated the awardees and encour-



aged them to work with same spirit in future.

Onkar Singh Jamdar, Master Operator, and Shakeel Ahmed Siddiqui, Master Technician were awarded with 'Karma Shiromani Award' for their performance in the month of April 2023.

Present in the programme were the other

senior officers of the department, Rajesh Gaikwad, S Balraj, R Anand, N Madhu, Shantanu Mitra, Arjun Singh Bist, KSNR Ramesh, VK Diwaker and Ashish Aggarwal. All the present guests also congratulated the award winners by appreciating their exemplary performance.

The programme was conducted by Biju George, Senior Manager (Personnel), Blast Furnace. Madan Mohan Srivastav, Additional Labour Welfare Officer, Pradeep Khare, Mamta, Divya, Haseena Begum and Urmi also contributed for organising the programme successfully.

## DEO refuses fee hike at SSV-X

**Bhilai, May 25:** The District Education Officer of Durg has refused to allow the fee hike at Sri Sankara Vidyalaya, Sector 10 for the session 2023-24. This school is run by the Shri Sankara Education Society. The Nodal institute, Government Higher Secondary School Sector 9 Bhilai, had given its dissent on any kind of revision of fees at Sri Sankara Vidyalaya. Accordingly, the DEO has refused fee hike for the session 2023-24 at Sri Sankara Vidyalaya.

## Classifieds

**REQUIREMENT**

आवश्यकता है- दुकान में कार्य करने के लिए लड़कों एवं लड़कियों की आवश्यकता है  
संपर्क:- 7999745176  
श्रीनगर रोड महेश भवन के पास, मुदिगारी रायपुर छत्तीसगढ़

**REQUIREMENT**

Required Liaising Officer To deal with Govt. Office such as DIC, CSIDC, Pollution Dept., Revenue Dept., PWD, Factory Health & Safety, Etc.  
Contact- 92000-03591



## Work starts in New Fair Ground

Puja ghat to be 60 meters long



**Rajim, May 25:** Work has finally started in new fair ground after the visit of Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, and the puja ghat reportedly is to be 60 meters long. The supervisor overseeing the work told that the length of the ghat will be 60 metres and a total of three ghats will be built one after the other. The length of the remaining two ghats will be thirty meters each and every effort is being made to prepare the Puja Ghat

before the monsoon. It has to be told that sand is being removed and in order that the work continues even after filling the water, the work will be completed at least up to the level of water. Sand for other works Ballast etc has been dumped and on the other hand, some work has also been done to put mud in the ground. Here it takes a mention that in this year's budget, the Chief Minister of the state, Bhupesh Baghel, has

made plans for the new fair ground, with a provision of 30 cr. It is also necessary to mention that on the closing occasion of 2023 Maghi Punni Mela, Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu had announced a budget of 100 crores for the new fair ground. However, the work of building the ghat has only started and its completion before Monsoon is a question. In the coming time, the view of the fair will be seen in the new fair

ground, roads have to be built apart from cottage, festival stage, permanent shops, pathways, permanent land for Meena Bazaar, mini circuit house etc. Though the Naveen Mela Maidan is a big project, despite this, the district administration has not cleared the situation of the work order yet. According to the announcement, two roads are to be constructed soon and it is not known from where to where this road will be built and what will be its length and width. The road work has also not started yet. The Electricity Department has started the construction of 32/11 KV electrical substation for adequate power supply in the surrounding villages and localities including the Naveen Mela Maidan, and the target of completing which has been set in three months.

## SHO Sachin Singh presents honest example of humanity

■ Performs last rites of a person rejected by the family

Manendragarh, May 25:

The police station in-charge of Manendragarh has done such a thing that people are praising his noble work, completely different from the image of the police in the minds of the common people. Here the station in-charge took the responsibility of women rejected by the family, after the death of the woman's husband. He performed the last rites of deceased husband, while taking the two-year-old child of the deceased in his lap when the pyre was lit. According to the information, Savita Singh, a



resident of Amalibahara of Podi Uproda in Korba district reached Manendragarh police station with a dead body at around 8 pm on Tuesday night. There, she narrated her pain in front of City Kotwali in-charge Sachin Singh, she told that her husband had died. The woman informed that she had a love marriage with Nikki

Valmiki, a resident of Jakhara in Gwalior district of Madhya Pradesh, due to which the family members were angry with her, now there is no one to shoulder the dead body. Listening to the helpless and crying woman Kotwali in-charge Sachin Singh pacified her and assured her to perform the last rites of the deceased

husband along with the staff. On Wednesday morning, City Kotwali in-charge Sachin Singh along with his police station staff started preparing for the last rites and reached Muktidham in the morning with the policemen. There the last rites of the deceased were performed with full Hindu customs. The Kotwali in-charge took the two-year-old child of the deceased in his lap, lit the fire and got the last rites done. The suffering of the helpless woman was reduced to some extent by the example of humanity presented by the SHO by performing the last rites of the deceased, the people have also appreciated this noble work of the SHO and the entire staff.

## Career guidance program held

■ 10th and 12th toppers felicitated

Karelibedi, May 25:

Hundreds of children participated in one day personality building career guidance youth camp in Kareli, along with 10th and 12th toppers were also felicitated in the camp. The camp was organized by the Officers' Association in the High School building. Kanwal Ram Sahu, threw light on the sources of successful life with a quiz. Special guest Dr. Tarun Sahu and Dr. Aishwarya Sahu, Medical Officer Chhura, Gariaband highlighted how children should choose their subject in



studies by starting their talk with whether they want to become a boss or a servant. Dr. Harishankar Sahu, President of the Officer Employees Association, said that failure proves that the effort for success was not done properly. Failure is a challenge, accept it and move forward, this is the key to a successful life. Chhabi Ram Sahu Bhendri said that we have

three gurus, Google, YouTube and teachers, we can move forward with their guidance. If these apps are used properly then you will definitely get success. Lecturer Budeni Raju Sahu, Yogeshwar Sinha Ved Ram Sahu, Lalit Sinha Nagesh Kumar Sahu, Santosh Sarathi Panchu Ram Nishad, Amar Singh Bhande, Hemant Nishad, Bhushan Nishad these in-

tellectuals by keeping their views gave positive guidance to the young generation regarding the future. Sarpanch of the village Mr. Domar Sahu said to the children, why have you come here, what will you say to your parents after going home; it is a right lesson to implement what is being told by the Guru in your life. After the lecture, certifi-

cates and medals were awarded to Kumari Reshma, class XII, first 82% and Dinesh Kumar, class XII, second 79%. In the end, Mr. Chandras Sahu Lecturer Bhendri expressed his gratitude to everyone and urged the children that if anyone's parents are unable to provide higher education, such children can take help from the officers and staff organization Kareli Badi. All the children and guests were provided with snacks. Sugarcane juice was arranged for everyone by Mr. Bhagirathi Sonkar Sankul Coordinator. The program concluded with wishes for a happy life for all the children. 97 young women took part in the camp and got acquainted with career guidance.

## BJYM holds protest against illicit sale of liquor



**Dongargarh, May 25:** Under BJP Dongargarh Mandal guidance, the workers of BJYM staged dharna and chakka-jam against illicit sale of liquor at different chowks and squares and localities in the city and to wake-up the Congress government and later submitted a memoran-

dum to SDM (revenue) and TI Dongargarh to take action against those involved in such crimes. Among the leaders present in this protest and submission of memo included ex-MLA Ramji Bharti, Mandal President Amit Jain, District BJYM President Monu

Bahadur, Gramin Mandal President BJP Jain Meshram, BJYM President Sumit Mishra, Vijendra Singh Thakur, Ashish Dongre, Pintu Veram, Prakhari Shrivastava, Shivam Yadav, Khushal Yadav, Santosh Rao, Rakesh Agrawal, Amit Chabda and others.

## Fox Hole IED recovered and defused on the spot



Bijapur, May 25:

Maoists had planted IEDs in series in 02 plastic containers of 25 kg each by making a Fox Hole of 8x8 feet length width and 5 feet depth in the middle of the road on Awapalli-Basaguda road IEDs were planted with the intention of causing great harm to the security forces. On



May 24, IED was recovered at 3.00 pm near Durga Temple on Awapalli-Basaguda road by the team of Police Station Awapalli, CRPF 168 and 222. The IED was defused by CRPF 168,222 and Bijapur BDS team on the spot. The plans of the Maoists was foiled by the vigilance and intelligence of the security forces.

## Water scarcity hits the region

Churikala, May 24:

Even after starting the water augmentation scheme in the city, the common people are facing a huge water problem; they have to run for a bucket of water, while the panchayat administration and public representatives have not taken any initiative to solve the problem. Anger has started rising among the people towards the people's representative and the city panchayat administration. Awatpara Ward of Nagar Panchayat In number 8, 9 and 6, the water problem has become very serious; one has to wander here and there for a bucket of water. A tanker is being sent at intervals, which is proving to be like cum in the camel's mouth. The women of the ward say that a complaint has been made by the women of the ward to the Nagar Panchayat public representative regarding the water problem, but no initiative has been taken regarding water, due to compulsion, the women of the ward have to fetch



water from private borewells installed in nearby houses. On the other hand, due to not getting enough water from the tap, they have to go outside for defecation and disposal. Ward residents say that the tap water augmentation scheme has been started, then why is the problem of water arising, the whole city should get enough water; but despite the start of tap water augmentation, the serious water problem has increased. Regarding the water problem, the women of the ward are increasing

indignant towards the panchayat administration and public representatives. Apart from this, there is a serious problem of water in Indira Chowk ward number 7 and 10, the heart of the city. No time has been fixed for tap water supply in this ward, sometimes it is supplied in the morning, sometimes in the afternoon and sometimes in the evening. It is noteworthy that the councilors of both the wards have not taken the water problem seriously till date, they remain engaged in their personal business only.

## Indira Chandravanshi felicitated with 'Kala Sadhak Samman'



Khairagarh, May 25:

Teacher Indira Chandravanshi was felicitated with 'Kala Sadhak Samman' in the national level 'Vaicharik Sanghosthi' and 'Lok Kala Sadhak' and 'Kala Ratna Samman Samroh' organised in Bhilai recently. It is notable here that 'Kala Sadhak Samman' is organised by Sanskar Bharti, Chhattisgarh for protection and conservation of Chhattisgarh rich art & culture. In this the Chief Guest was Durg LS MP Vijay Baghel and it was chaired by 'Kasth Shilp' artist and Padam Shri recipient Ajay Mandavi.

Special guest on the occasion was Brijesh Bijpuria, BJP President Bhilai, Rajulal Netam, President BJP's SCST Cell Bhilai. During the programme the teacher Indira Chandravanshi, posted in Khairagarh block was felicitated with 'Kala Sadhak Samman' at the hands of Chief Guest Vishnu Deo Sai (former Union Minister) and senior artist Purshottam Chandrakar. She was presented with a memento, shawl and stole for her remarkable works in protection and preservation of rich art & culture of Chhattisgarh. Hailing the organisation of such pro-

grammes, Indira Chandravanshi said that with such efforts, our original art & culture could be safeguarded. During this the other well-known artists of the state were also presented with Chhattisgarh Kala Ratna and Kala Sadhak samman. The head of organising samiti and recipient of President's honour Amruta Barle, Pandwani Singe and Padam Shri recipient Dr Teejan Bai, Rikhi Kshtriya, and Dholmaru singer Rajni Rajak felicitated with President's honour extended greetings to all the artists who were honoured.

## Undeclared power cuts and low voltage prevalent

Mungeli May 24:

The electricity consumers of urban areas are facing the brunt of undeclared power cuts and poor system and the public is getting troubled due to low-voltage, undeclared cuts and poor supply system. There is also water problem due to power cut and due to the negligence of the Electricity Department, power shut-down for hours at any time has become a daily problem. Due to the heat, people stay in the house in the name of heat, in such a



time there is a sudden power cut, due to which people are suffering in the heat. Everyday power cuts of one to two hours have become common and also there is a problem of low voltage in the villages. There is also water problem due to power cut and maintenance is almost

non-existent in rural areas. The Electricity Department is doing maintenance work worth crores in rural and urban areas, but people are not getting relief from old transformers and dangling wires. The department does maintenance

work before the rainy season in May-June, due to which electricity is switched off during this period. Despite this, unannounced cuts are made and citizens say that all this is the result of lack of awareness among the officials of the department. Relying on old resources and limited staff, it is not possible for the consumers to get rid of the problem of electricity. Most importantly, the public has opined that the phone is not picked up by the staff and officers, when in urgency.

		Regional Office - Bilaspur, 1st floor, TR Complex, Opposite SBI, RAJKISHORE NAGAR BRANCH, LINGIYADIH, BILASPUR - 495006 (C.G.), PH:07752-310229/ 310231, E-mail: recovery.bilaspur@bankofbaroda.com		<b>POSSESSION NOTICE</b>
(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers / guarantors calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The under mentioned Borrower / Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 and under section 14 of the Act of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.				
S. N.	Branch Name/Ph.No.	Name of Borrower / Guarantor	Description of Property	Demand Notice Date, Amount & Symbolic / Physical Possession Date
01	Sarangarh Branch Sarangarh 9752410753	M/s Kailash Cycle & Electricals Stores Prop: Mr. Kailash Kumar Khute S/o Mr. Jaggulal Khute, Mr. Kailash Kumar Khute S/o Mr. Jaggulal Khute Legal Heir of Late Mr Jaggulal Khute (Mortgagor and Guarantor)	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Diverted Land situated at Chhind (Bilaspur Road ) PH No. - 12/15 Kh No 578/2 Area - 0.036 Hect and Kh. No. - 579/3 Area 0.045 Hec Tahsil: Sarangarh, and Erstwhile District:- Raigarh, Current District:-Sarangarh- Bilaigarh, C.G. in the name of Mr. Jaggulal Khunte S/o Chheduram Khunte. Boundary Marks: North-Bilaspur N.H. Road, South:- Plot Of Shyam Lal, East:- Plot Of Shyam Lal, West:-Plot Of Dasrath.	07.10.2021 Rs. 17,81,138.50 + interest + other charges 23.05.2023 Symbolic Possession
The Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the above mentioned property and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for above mentioned amount interest and other charges thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. Date: 26.05.2023, Place: Bilaspur (C.G.)				
				Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

## Baghel unveiled the statue of Shaheed Gundadhur

**The hero of 'Bhoomkal' movement**

**Raipur, 25 May:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel unveiled the life-size statue of Veer Gundadhur, the leader of the Bhumkal rebellion, at Shaheed Gundadhur Agricultural College campus in Kumravand, during his daylong visit to Bastar.

In his brief address on the occasion, Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel said that Veer Gundadhur was one of the great tribal leaders of Bastar, who led the great rebellion movement of Bhoomkal. In the honour of his contribution and sacrifices, a life-size statue of Veer Gundadhur has been installed in the agriculture college premise.

He said that this statue will inspire the young students of the college to get acquainted with his indomitable courage and bravery. Tribal heroes of Bastar made significant contribution in the freedom struggle as well as in protecting and promoting



the tribal culture, taking inspiration from which the government is also making sincere efforts to save the tribal culture across Chhattisgarh including Bastar.

At the unveiling of the statue built at the cost of Rs 10 lakh sanctioned from Bastar Area Tribal Development Authority, Chief Minister Mr. Baghel met the great-grandsons of Veer Gundadhur - Jaydev Nag, Punu Nag, Dularu Nag, Pardesi Nag, who had come from Netanar.

Industries Minister Kawasi Lakhma, Bastar MP Deepak Baij, President

Jitendra Meena and other public representatives were present as well.

Shaheed Veer Gundadhur: The Great Martyr Veer Gundadhur led the 'Bhoomkal' movement against the British in 1910 to save the land of the tribals. Bhoomkal means earthquake or tremble in the land. And as the word describes, Bhoomkal movement shook the entire Bastar. Forest policy, compulsory education, changing religion, forced labour, bureaucracy were few of the many reasons behind this movement. Bhoomkal rebellion was so efficiently strategized that the tribals bravely fought the British army with bows and arrows and spears under the leadership of Veer Gundadhur. Not only Chhattisgarh but the entire country remembers the valour and heroism of Veer Gundadhur. And to honour his memories, Government of Chhattisgarh has established the 'Gundadhur Samman' for outstanding performance in the field of adventure and sports.

## CM flags off Nikshay Rath



**Jagdalpur, May 25:** As part of the 'Nikshay Mitra TB Mukta Chhattisgarh Abhiyan', patients will receive nutritious food throughout their six-month treatment period. This initiative involves providing TB

patients with a monthly nutrition kit valued at Rs. 1,000, with the active involvement of the community. The Nikshay Rath is being utilized to effectively raise awareness about this programme.

## CM Baghel pays tribute to the Jhiram Valley martyrs

**Jagdalpur, May 25:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel paid his humble tributes to the martyrs of the Jhiram Valley at the Memorial and had a meeting with their families.

Chief Minister, along with other public representatives, observed two minutes of silence in honour of the martyrs.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel administered an oath to make the state the

symbol of peace again on the occasion of 'Jhiram Shradhanjali Diwas'.

Chief Minister honoured the families of the martyrs by presenting them with shawls and Shripahals.

## Six players from Shri Gujrati School in state team



**Shri Gujrati Shikshan Sangh Secretary Ashok Bhai Patel, Shri Gujrati Higher Secondary School Principal Anis Memon, English Medium School Principal Dr Shailesh Sharma, Primary Section In-charge Yogita Tank, coach Tikheshwari Sahu, manager Jageshwar Dadsena and selected students pose for a group photograph.**

### For National Muay Thai Championship

**Raipur, May 25:** Six students of Shri Gujrati School will represent Chhattisgarh in national Muay Thai Championship to be held in Chennai from May 25 to 30. The championship will be organised by United Muay Thai Association India and United Muay Thai Association India Tamil Nadu. 12 players of Raipur have been selected for the championship.

Six players of Shri Gujrati School - namely Kaniska Sriwas, Pallavi Sahu, Mansi Tandi, Tisa Sahu, Ragni Sahu and Dhritesh Sahu have been se-

lected for the championship. These players called on Managing Committee of Shri Gujrati Shikshan Sangh Secretary Ashok Bhai Patel at the school camp.

Ashok Bhai Patel has congratulated the selected players for the championship. Shri Gujrati Higher Secondary School Principal Anis Memon, English Medium School Principal Dr Shailesh Sharma, Primary Section In-charge Yogita Tank, coach Tikheshwari Sahu and manager Jageshwar Dadsena were present on the occasion. Total 58 players including 32 boys and 26 girls of Chhattisgarh will participate in the championship.

## NTPC Lara contributes for Clean Railway Station



### Lara (Bilaspur), May 25:

Under the observance of Swachhata Pakhwada (Cleanliness Fortnight), NTPC Lara provided dustbins, gloves, brooms to the Raigarh railway station authority on 23rd May 2023 and undertook cleaning activity at the station compound. On this matter a team of NTPC Lara under guidance of Samarendra Mallik, DGM (HR) and other officials met Shri P K Raut, Chief Station Master and Smt Rekha

Sinha from Railway and handed over those items to them.

Under the guidance of the central government, cleanliness fortnight is being observed at NTPC Lara from 16-31 May 2023. During this period various cleaning activities are being undertaken by NTPC Lara inside the plant and nearby villages. Besides various awareness generation activities like essay, drawing and painting competitions are being organized.

## 'BALCO celebrates Int'nl Family Day with 'Proud Families'

**Balcnagar, May 25:** Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), India's iconic aluminium producer and a subsidiary of Vedanta Aluminium, created a truly memorable experience for its employees and their families on International Family Day this year, by organizing plant visits for the family members of the employees. The visits not only showcased the processes of aluminium manufacturing to the parents but also added to their pride by leaving a lasting impression and further strengthening their bond with the company.

BALCO, under the 'Proud Families' initiative had provided a comprehensive schedule to all the visiting families that covered an understanding of the crucial functions of the company. From parents to siblings and spouses, the participating family members indulged in an overall understanding of plant operations over the well-guided trip that also included discussions with the plant representatives. Keeping the standards of safety intact at every level, the families were given an extraordinary opportunity to witness the entire



journey of aluminium production, starting from pot rooms to power plants and the Finishing Line Areas (Casthouses). They had also witnessed the transformation of aluminium into a multitude of end products that serve vital purposes across various industries. The visits were concluded with an enriching experience at BALCO Museum and Learning Centre, a rich repository of BALCO's heritage where the families were introduced to the fascinating legacy of BALCO. Here, the families spent time learning about BALCO - independent India's first Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), and its contribution to the industrial progress of the nation. Around 110 people had a joyful experience from the family visits spread over a week.

Speaking about the impor-

tant of employee well-being and fostering a nurturing workplace, Mr. Rajesh Kumar, CEO, and Director, BALCO said, "Families play a pivotal role in the lives of employees, providing them with a strong support system and contributing to their performance and success. At BALCO, we understand this and work towards creating a healthy work-life balance for the overall happiness and well-being of our employees. We are committed to fostering a happy and healthy work culture for realizing the truest potential of our employees, crucial for their holistic growth and success." BALCO prioritizes the well-being of employees' families by providing a diverse range of family-friendly benefits. Through the innovative 'Spouse hiring policy', BALCO offers deserving and

experienced spouses, opportunities to join the company's workforce. The company also ensures that the health needs of employees' family members are taken care of through comprehensive medical coverage. BALCO facilitates a comfortable living environment within its township, with easy accessibility to schools, parks, hospitals, and grocery stores in the vicinity which, ensures that families have all the essential amenities. Additionally, the company also provides opportunities for families to socialize and have an engaging lifestyle by organizing vibrant events and celebrating all major festivals. BALCO is committed to transforming the workplace by embracing internationally recognized best practices in people management. The company takes continuous measures for fostering a diverse and inclusive work culture, distinguishing itself as an organization that actively supports LGBTQIA+ employees in core operations. Through new-age learning & growth opportunities, the company is working towards creating a strong platform to empower the employees.

## TLM workshop organised



### Simga, May 25:

A TLM workshop is being organised at Teachers learning Centre, Simga of Balodabazar District. In the field of education, TLM is a commonly used acronym that stands for "teaching/learning materials." Broadly, the term refers to a spectrum of educational materials that teachers use in the classroom to support specific learning objectives, as set out in lesson plans. The teachers learning material is a supportive resource to address any concept with better clarity among young children. It is significant as it helps young children to learn with ease and enjoyment. Government Primary School teachers are partici-

pating in this three days workshop. However it will run for 6 days in two batches. To highlight that Resource persons of Azim Premji Foundation & BRCC Simga are collaboratively running this workshop.

Foundation's Resource persons Ankit, Atul and Abhas are currently facilitating and contributing to the workshop. The foundation has been particularly working towards improving the teaching learning process through supporting different modes of teachers training along with field support. Their vision is to establish just a equitable, humane and sustainable society. In the field of education.

# Continuous action on encroachment in Tiger Reserve forest

## Ichradi village to be removed on May 26

**Thousands of trees cut to settle the villagers**

**Mainpur, May 24:** Thousands of costly trees have been cut inside Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve for settling more than half-a-dozen villages. Now the forest department in the last one and half month has twice taken action for the removal of illegal settlements and got success in their attempts. The first such drive was taken on April 06 when 59 houses were bulldozed in the village Sornamal. Another drive was taken on May 19 in which 70 houses were removed in the village Goharamal. Now the forest department is preparing for another action on May 26 in the village Ichradi located inside buffer zone Tourenga forest area of Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve. The notice has been served to the villagers and has been asked to vacate the place by May 25 or else encroachment will be removed on May 26. Deputy Director Varun Jain said, now the time has come for all the people who are aware towards conservation of environment to come forward or

else the forest cannot be saved for being desert. He added, in the Ichradi village thousands of trees on 525 acres have been cut.

As per information received, encroachment has been done by 65 persons by cutting thousands of trees on about 200 hectares and 525 acres of land in Gariba Beat's reserved section no 1201 and 1202. After the survey, the image matching of the above land was done through the Indian Space Research Center ISRO satellite map of the year 2008 and 2012 and Google Earth image, in which most of the year 2011-12 and in some forest areas after the year 2019-20 encroachment followed by hut construction and farming has started, after which the first notice was given on 19/04/2023 with 10 days time, after the first notice, no satisfactory answer and claim objection related to the occupation of forest land by the said encroachers was submitted. After which again the second notice was given on 03/05/2023, in which seven days time has been served and eviction proceedings will be done on May 26, many villagers who left their homes after locking their houses were seen in front of their houses. Google earth and drone survey map obtained from it has also been handed



Villagers of Ichradi village with eviction notice.

over with notice, where forest department has made complete preparations for eviction proceedings on coming May 26. According to the information received, villagers from Odisha, Vishrampur, Dudhwa, Narharpur, Makdi, Kanker have settled in this illegally settled Ichradi village, some villagers are also from the surrounding villages.

Shocking case of lease on Illegal land of Ichradi Kanker, Vishrampur and residents of different areas of Odisha have settled in this village. When the forest staff asked for the name and address of the accused for action, it was revealed from the Aadhaar card received. Taurenga ranger BL Soori said that a few years back when action was being taken on some people who were ploughing on this forest land, they informed of taking the land on lease

from another person after paying them annually in



A view of Ichradi village.

Fertile land, better production, hence the demand increased. Ichradi is adjacent to Navrangpur area of ??Odisha, cultivation of maize in Odisha increased after 2010, forest land



The school running in this illegally settled village.

proved to be very fertile as compared to other land, production of pulses and maize increased by 30 percent as compared to other land. It was due to better production, outsiders broke down to grab forest land, one kharif crop gives an earning of more than 8 lakhs per hectare, rent of Rs 50 thousand to 1 lakh rupees per hectare is collected. As the income from illegal forest land increased, people who earn from Ichradi have also increased the facility. Apart from tractors, threshers, pumps, they are equipped with many other latest agriculture machineries, a large consignment of illegal chemical fertilizers is also consumed in this area every year. Solar lights in illegal settlement, bore apart from ration cards, arrangements have also been made for the people

living there to teach their children by making arrangement of schools and teachers. For illegal encroachment, the officers and employees of the Forest Department were also under suspicion. Ichradi village, which has been built by cutting thousands of trees from the dense forest and is inhabited by 65 families, all of a sudden this cannot happen in a day or two; during these period role of the officers and employees of the responsible Forest Department are also under suspicion. The people of the area have made a demand to Director Varun Jain that when the illegal encroachment was happening at that time, then the responsible officers and employees of the Forest Department posted here

have been inactive and encroachment has taken place under their protection, so after investigating the matter impartially, such guilty local forest officer employee should be punished and action should also be taken.

Solar panel in illegally settled village, handpump, government facilities are beyond understanding.... When Ichradi village is an illegally settled village, government facilities like opening of SRT center school, hand-pump and solar panels, construction of kuccha roads in 2013-14 are the subject of public discussion in this village.

### What does Deputy Director say....

Varun Jain, Deputy Director of Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, told in the discussion that people having illegal encroachments in Ichradi village have been given protection under Section 34 (a) of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and Section 80 (a) of the Indian Forest Act 1927 (amendment). Notices have been served and action will be taken to remove the encroachment on May 26.





## CENTRAL Chronicle

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### Inauguration Row

#### Need To Unite The Nation Beyond Politics

The upcoming inauguration of the new Parliament building by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the center of a contentious battle between the ruling government and the Opposition. With the Congress, Trinamool Congress, DMK, and Aam Aadmi Party among the nineteen parties boycotting the event, an unfortunate divide has overshadowed this momentous occasion. In a joint statement, these parties have deemed the PM's decision to personally inaugurate the building as "a direct assault on our democracy," asserting that the "soul of democracy" has been drained from Parliament. Citing constitutional norms, the Congress argues that the President, as the "head of Parliament," should conduct the inauguration rather than the Prime Minister. However, the Centre counters by accusing the Opposition of politicizing a historic event. They point out that previous prime ministers, such as Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, had similarly inaugurated parliamentary structures. The Parliament House Annexe and Parliament Library were opened during their tenures, with the respective Presidents involved in the ceremonies. In the present case, PM Modi laid the foundation stone for the new building in December 2020 and is now set to inaugurate it. It is worth noting that when PM Modi first entered Parliament House in 2014, he knelt and bowed his head in reverence for the "temple of democracy." It is through his unwavering dedication that this grand 21st-century monument of India has been completed less than a year after the nation celebrated 75 years of independence. Now, it is time for him to step back and allow this remarkable building, representing a vibrant democracy, to bask in the limelight. By embracing the Opposition's request to invite the President for the inauguration, PM Modi can showcase his magnanimity and ensure that no controversy tarnishes this momentous event. The new Parliament building stands as a testament to India's democratic spirit and progress. Its awe-inspiring architecture blends tradition with modernity, symbolizing the nation's aspirations and commitment to democratic values. The structure showcases the strength of India's democracy, providing a physical embodiment of the people's power and their collective voice. Beyond the political wrangling, this inauguration should serve as an opportunity to unite the nation and celebrate its democratic heritage. The occasion should not be marred by divisive rhetoric or power struggles. Instead, it should foster a sense of camaraderie and inclusivity among all political parties. By setting aside differences and coming together on this significant day, leaders can demonstrate their dedication to the nation and the democratic principles it upholds. In a diverse country like India, where opinions often diverge, it is essential to prioritize the greater good and work towards the betterment of society. The new Parliament building offers a physical space that can inspire collaboration, dialogue, and progress. It should symbolize a shared commitment to serving the people and strengthening the democratic institutions that form the backbone of our nation. Prime Minister Modi has an opportunity to rise above the political fray and set a precedent for statesmanship. By inviting the President to inaugurate the new Parliament building, he can demonstrate his willingness to put the nation's interests first. This act of humility and inclusivity will help bridge the gap between the ruling party and the Opposition, fostering an atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation. The inauguration of the new Parliament building is not just about a physical structure; it is a celebration of democracy itself. It is an occasion to reflect on the progress made, the challenges faced, and the future aspirations of the Indian nation. This event should unite the nation under a common purpose and inspire citizens to actively participate in shaping the destiny of the country. As the nation eagerly awaits the inauguration of the new Parliament building, it is a time for reflection and unity. It is a moment to celebrate the resilience of India's democracy and to reaffirm our collective determination to uphold its values. Let us seize this opportunity to rise above political bickering and embrace the spirit of collaboration, for in doing so, we strengthen the very foundation of our great nation.

### India's Dual Reality

#### Space Progress and Social Intolerance

Kajal Chatterjee, Kolkata

India, a nation known for its remarkable strides in space technology, stands at a crossroads where scientific achievements intersect with the challenges of religious orthodoxy and intolerance. The incident involving a BJP leader in Uttarakhand, who felt compelled to postpone his daughter's marriage due to fears of law and order disruption simply because the groom was Muslim, highlights the disheartening reality that plagues our society. In a country that prides itself on being a multi-religious and diverse democracy, where the Constitution upholds the cherished values of secularism, the disapproval faced by individuals who choose love and marriage based on their personal preferences is deeply concerning. The very essence of personal freedom and autonomy is being questioned, with romantic relationships becoming subject to scrutiny and disdain. What is even more alarming is that such intolerance persists despite the presence of a legal framework governing the state. If a political leader from the ruling party feels helpless and succumbs to the dictates of intolerant communal elements within his own community, one can only imagine the immense ordeal faced by individuals with lesser credentials when religion becomes a factor in their matrimonial decisions. This is a grave indictment of our society and a stark reminder of the challenges we must confront. It is disheartening to witness prominent figures in the political landscape celebrating India's accomplishments in conquering space, be it attaining the Mars orbit or successful missile launches, while simultaneously witnessing the erosion of morality and humanitarian values. While the world applauds our scientific prowess, we must confront the uncomfortable truth that our society is rapidly descending into the depths of a dark communal pit. We cannot afford to prioritize the conquest of space over addressing the rampant assault on humanity. The insidious narratives of "love jihad" and "honour killings" continue to poison our social fabric. The very concept of personal space and individual choices is being infringed upon shamelessly. If we allow such assaults on our collective conscience to persist unchecked, India risks moral disintegration, becoming a society governed by the law of "Might is Right." It is imperative that we confront these challenges head-on. Our nation's progress should not be limited to technological achievements alone but should also encompass the values that define us as a humane and compassionate society. Our leaders must rise above political rhetoric and take decisive action to address religious intolerance, working towards building a society where personal choices are respected and diversity is celebrated. India's future is at stake. While we marvel at our achievements in space, we must also acknowledge the urgent need to safeguard the fundamental principles that make us who we are.

Central Chronicle invites articles, write-ups, and comments on a wide range of issues for our editorial page. Submissions should be between 800-900 words in length. In addition, we welcome letters to the editor for this page. While letters may be edited for clarity, we aim to preserve the integrity of the original message, and ask that they be kept to around 50-60 words. Submissions can be sent via [emailto:editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com](mailto:emailto:editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com).

### RAINY STRIDE



Pedestrians cross a road amid rainfall, in Shimla, Thursday, May 25.

## Narendra Modi: A Respected Global Leader Shaping India's Influence



DR MANMOHAN PRAKASH



#### Modi's International Influence

Irrespective of a country's economic status, development level, or political power, the influence of Narendra Modi transcends borders. Leaders from various nations demonstrate their admiration for him in different ways, such as patting his back, bowing down, saluting, or even touching his feet. Some countries have even gone to the extent of breaking protocols for Modi, while others have expressed a desire to confer upon him the highest honors of their respective nations. The chant of "Har Har Modi, Ghar Ghar Modi" echoes through the native and foreign citizens of every country he visits, signifying the global recognition of his leadership.

India's presence under Modi's leadership is sought after by numerous international organizations, including G-5, G-7, and G-20, despite not being a member. The international community sees a ray of hope in Modi, be it for fostering cordial relationships, promoting free trade, resolving conflicts, enhancing peace in the Indo-Pacific region, or addressing environmental concerns. Nations like France, America, Britain, and Russia have welcomed India's political and administrative moves under Modi's leadership, leading to increased trade and job opportunities for their own countries.

#### International Crisis Management

Modi's leadership extends beyond bilateral relations and economic growth. Whenever Indians

face trouble abroad, there is a strong belief that the presence of Prime Minister Modi will resolve the situation. Recent instances in Ukraine and Sudan have proven this notion true, further bolstering India's reputation and the influence of its people in global politics. These achievements instill a sense of pride among Indians, raising their respect in the international society under Modi's guidance.

#### Strategic Partnerships and Global Philanthropy

Under Modi's leadership, India has witnessed a surge in strategic partnerships and collaborations with developed and nuclear-powered countries. Many nations are eager to forge alliances and supply modern technologies and warheads, a testament to the credibility and trust established by Modi on the global stage. Furthermore, countries seek to sell their goods in the vast Indian market, while others express a keen interest in purchasing Indian goods. India's philanthropic efforts remain unwavering, as evidenced by its swift response in providing aid to regions affected by natural disasters across the globe. The Indian government banks continue to perform well and contribute positively to the country's financial stability, even as some banks in countries like America face bankruptcy.

#### Domestic Challenges and Opposition

While Modi's leadership enjoys admiration abroad, domestic conditions present a different perspec-

tion. In today's world, the charismatic personality of India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has garnered immense respect and admiration not only within the borders of his own nation but across the globe. Leaders from all corners of the world acknowledge and appreciate Modi's popularity and pay their respects to his voice. This article explores the profound impact of Modi's leadership, highlighting the way in which he has earned admiration and recognition from countries worldwide. It also delves into the challenges and criticisms faced domestically, showcasing the complexities of his leadership within India.

It is important to note that not all Indians or opposition parties are satisfied with the policies implemented under Modi's administration. Concerns regarding law and order, farmer welfare, unemployment, and reservation status have been raised, resulting in electoral gains for the opposition in some assembly elections. However, the prospect of victory in national elections remains uncertain for the opposition parties.

Despite ideological differences, the opposition parties are contemplating joining forces to contest the upcoming central elections. History shows that a united opposition can pose a significant challenge to the ruling party, as witnessed in the 1977 central elections when the combined power of opposition parties led to their victory against the Congress party. However, the reluctance of individual parties to dissolve their own existence provides assurance to Modi and his party that they have a strong chance of winning the upcoming central elections.

#### Understanding the Common Indian Citizen's Perspective

To gauge the mood of the common Indian citizen, it becomes apparent that many attribute significant progress in key areas to Modi's leadership. Initiatives such as the resolution of the Ram Mandir issue, the abolition of triple talaq, the revocation of special rights in Kashmir, and the focus on resolving problems in the North East have all been perceived as outcomes of Modi's dedication and interest. The people of India look towards Modi with hopeful eyes for

addressing other pressing issues such as implementing a common civil code, establishing a population register, and resolving the Shri Krishna Janam Bhoomi dispute. Even in the face of some setbacks in various states, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerged victorious in the last central election. This further strengthens the belief that Modi and his party have the potential to secure victory in the upcoming central elections.

However, the BJP faces challenges in certain states, including Himachal, Punjab, and Karnataka, where they do not possess an indisputable winning face. The presence of anti-incumbency sentiment in these states may provide an advantage to the opposition. It is worth noting that the electoral landscape has seen a shift, with parties like AAP gaining power in Delhi and Punjab by promising extensive welfare measures. If this trend extends to the central elections, the results could be unpredictable.

Narendra Modi's leadership has undeniably garnered respect and admiration on the global stage. Leaders from around the world acknowledge his popularity and pay their respects to his voice. India's presence and influence in international organizations are desired, and Modi's initiatives have led to increased trade and job opportunities for various countries. Furthermore, his effective crisis management has bolstered India's reputation and strengthened the perception of Indian citizens in global politics. (Views are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Jai Ho Modi: Global Admiration

The chanting of "Jai Ho Modi" by world leaders and citizens is a source of pride for every Indian. Modi's international itinerary and the participation of world representatives in the G20 conference in Srinagar are testaments to his global influence. India achieved a major victory when most countries acknowledged Kashmir as part of India. However, challenges remain with nuclear-armed neighboring countries, China and Pakistan, posing strategic concerns. India's approach is based on mutual respect and interests, aiming for normalization. Pakistan's turmoil and currency devaluation further complicate the situation. Despite these challenges, India's economic growth has catapulted it to the fifth-largest economy globally. Remarkable instances like the President of Papua New Guinea touching Modi's feet and the President of the USA requesting his autograph highlight Modi's exceptional stature. Modi's visits abroad will likely impact the 2024 parliamentary elections, as voters now differentiate between state and national elections. Ultimately, the warm reception for India's Prime Minister in foreign countries is a matter of immense pride.

Yash Pal Raihan, Jalandhar

#### Pink is turning to Yellow

The abolition of the 2000 (pink) note by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) hasn't caused the same uproar as the initial demonetization, but concerns remain. The four-month window for exchanging pink notes may have eased tensions. However, the decision has led to a surge in gold demand (yellow metal), reflecting the volatility generated by demonetization. Those holding large quantities of pink notes are now turning to gold as a new investment. Reports indicate a rise in jewelry purchases as people seek to safeguard their wealth. India's cultural affinity for gold complicates efforts to unlock the potential of these dormant assets for productive growth. Balancing currency management and economic development remains a challenge for policymakers.

Dr. Vijaykumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

#### Modi's Charisma Fading

The Karnataka Assembly elections have revealed a decline in the charismatic appeal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The BJP's heavy reliance on Modi's persona did not yield the desired results, indicating that voters can no longer be taken for granted. The grandeur of election rallies and pageantry no longer holds sway over the electorate, who are now more discerning. The ruling party's inability to effectively address crucial issues such as the Adani controversy, sexual harassment cases, and cow vigilantism has not gone unnoticed. Today's voters are astute and can comprehend the reasons behind the delayed action against BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

MK Nair Raipur

## MODI-fication of Rupee's Trade Value

S K Nag

Money makes the economy move, which was the concept behind the ascent of money. Otherwise, barter would have been our mode of transaction until today. The global economy and the domestic economy at large wanted to have some currency, leading to the conceptualization of legal tender known as currency or money. Since the ages after we transitioned to the gold standard, the US dollar remained a benchmark currency, giving the US a leading position in controlling the global economy. But lately, international players have started to believe that the USD cannot be the standard anymore, and for the world to grow more prominent, it would need to think independently without USD. So, countries are coming forward to settle international

trades in some alternative bilaterally accepted currency, keeping USD aside. China and India will be the two major players looking to occupy this space. In the future, market share will be distributed among many others too, but these two countries will become significantly prominent and emerge as power centers, at least in Asian markets.

An international trading currency should have some unique, acceptable attributes like stability against volatility. The rupee in the global market may fetch a higher valuation that the world needs to see in the coming days. To sustain such currency valuations, it has to be backed up by robust export capabilities and improved competitive advantage; otherwise, international valuation would be short-term. The central bank will need more liq-

uidity to stabilize the rupee's valuation in international and domestic markets.

Therefore, focusing on export-oriented business through big and small players is a complementary approach to the new initiatives of RBI. Financial policies and the RBI roadmap must sync to augment future economic prospects. Indian budgets predominantly focus on tax collection and meeting expenditures. The budgets for the last 6/7 years did not indicate any policies supporting the vision of positioning the rupee in the international market to establish a global footprint. Therefore, in the coming years, these engagement initiatives might increase to enhance the currency's value through a more global presence, but not through traditional RBI buying-selling mechanisms. However, infla-

tionary pressure on the currency will sometimes have more impact on the economy. Therefore, a business-friendly and sustainable roadmap for the future must be in place to achieve our aspirations. Financial pragmatism needs to include what India used to have in their ministry in the past. In the past, especially in the 90s, leaders showed extraordinary capabilities to steer the economy in dire situations. India survived many recessions due to the size of the domestic market, which is the hidden strength of the country, and that is why all global companies are eyeing to try their prospects in India.

External influences sometimes work in the reverse direction if a solid and well-thought-out financial framework is not established before promoting a currency as a feasible alternative in inter-

national markets. The commoditization of money in global trade platforms often carries risks and invites volatility. The value of cash and the stability of the domestic economy will be at stake if robust financial plans are not in place.

Although a vast economic potential is approaching due to India's population strength, how to control currency volatility is a matter for RBI to consider with a futuristic strategy taking into account a time horizon of at least 30/40 years ahead. Reinventing the international currency, where global peace is at stake and seems to continue for a while, is a risky roadmap. Therefore, at this juncture, financial transactions in a divided world due to the Russia-Ukraine war pose a challenge that can be solved by staying united.







## Cong called sacred Sengol 'gift to Nehru': BJP

New Delhi, May 25, PTI:

The BJP on Thursday alleged that the Congress displayed disregard for Hindu traditions by calling the sacred 'Sengol' a "golden stick gifted" to former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru and tucking it away in a museum.

The ceremonial sceptre, which will be installed in the new Parliament building, was given to Nehru to symbolise the transfer of power from the British to India in August 1947. It was kept in the Nehru Gallery of the Allahabad Museum.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will now install the 'Sengol' "in the

Lok Sabha, prominently close to the Speaker's podium", BJP IT cell head Amit Malviya said, asserting that it has been given its rightful place.

His remarks come a day after 20 Opposition parties, including Congress, TMC, Samajwadi Party and AAP, announced to boycott the inauguration of the building on May 28 by Modi. They said the prime minister's decision to inaugurate it by himself, "completely sidelining President Droupadi Murmu, is not only a grave insult but a direct assault on our democracy which demands a commensurate response".

The vesting of the "sacred 'Sengol'" with Nehru,

on the eve of India's Independence, was the exact moment of transfer of power from the British to India, Malviya said. "But instead of being given the pride of its place, it was tucked away in Anand Bhavan, and called the golden stick gifted to Nehru," he said in a tweet, adding, "Such is the disdain for Hindu rituals in the Congress".

Malviya said Prime Minister Modi will now install the 'Sengol' from 1947, "in the Lok Sabha, prominently close to the Speaker's podium". It will be displayed for the nation to see, and it will be also "taken out on special occasions", he said. "It is now Sengol vs Opposition," the

BJP leader added.

Made of silver with a coat of gold, the historical sceptre will be installed near the Chair of the Lok Sabha Speaker on the same day the new Parliament building is dedicated to the nation. Following the announcement of boycott by the Opposition parties, the BJP-led National Democratic alliance on Wednesday launched a sharp counterattack on the Opposition parties for their decision to boycott the new Parliament building's inauguration, slamming their stand as a "blatant affront to democratic ethos and constitutional values of our great nation".

## VANDE BHARAT TRAIN FLAG OFF



Locals at the Dehradun railway station during the flag-off ceremony of the Delhi-Dehradun Vande Bharat Express train, in Dehradun, Thursday, May 25. Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the train.

## 20 TN priests to oversee new Parl inauguration

New Delhi, May 25, PTI:

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said 20 "aadeenam" from Tamil Nadu have been invited for the inauguration of the new Parliament building on May 28, where the 'Sengol' will be installed, as did in 1947 to symbolise the power transformation from the British.

Addressing reporters in Chennai along with the Governors of Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Nagaland, she said TN has a "big proud part" to the episode of handing over of the Sengol (sceptre) to the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, symbolising the power transfer from the

British to the people of India in 1947. This was done on the advice of the Tiruvavduthurai adheenam after the late CR Rajagopalachary discussed it with the Shaivite pontiff following Nehru's consultations with him.

"With the Sengol to be installed in the new Parliament building on May 28 during its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 20 'aadeenam' from Tamil Nadu, including Tiruvavduthurai, Perur and Madurai have been invited for the event," she said.

In Tamil, the word 'Aadeenam' refers to both a Shaivite monastery and the head of such a math. "The

pontiffs will attend the event, there will be Oduvars (scholars in Shaivite scriptures and hymns) who will recite the Thevaram. In 1947 also the Sengol was handed over to Nehru when othuvargal recited Kolaru Pathigam," she said. The same Sengol will be installed in Lok Sabha near the chair of the Lok Sabha Speaker with much reverence and it will symbolise "governance with justice and without any bias," she added. TN Governor RN Ravi, his Telangana and Nagaland counterparts, Tamilsai Soundararajan and La Ganesan, respectively, Union Minister L Murugan and TN Minister PK Sekar Babu were present.

## Gangster Lawrence Bishnoi moves jail



New Delhi, May 25, PTI:

Gangster Lawrence Bishnoi was early Thursday morning brought to Delhi from a Gujarat jail and lodged in the national capital's Mandoli prison, officials said today. Bishnoi has been sent to the Mandoli jail, due to security reasons, an official said.

This comes in the wake of killing of Tillu Tajpuria in Tihar Jail earlier this month and the jail administration took the decision to keep Bishnoi in a separate prison to prevent any possibility of a gang war, offi-

cial said. Tajpuria, an accused in Delhi's Rohini court shootout case was stabbed to death by rival gang members in Tihar jail on May 2. According to sources, Lawrence Bishnoi has been kept in cell number 15 of the jail.

The notorious gangster was brought from Gujarat to Delhi airport amidst tight security at around 12.30 am. Last month the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) got the custody of Bishnoi in connection with a case of cross-border smuggling of drugs.

## Teen kills sister, chops off fingers, burns face

Vaishali, May 25, PTI:

A 13-year-old girl allegedly killed her younger sister with the help of her boyfriend and aunt and burnt the deceased's face with acid and chopped off fingers to conceal the identity in Bihar's Vaishali district, a senior police officer said on Thursday.

Police have arrested all three accused, including the minor, involved in the incident. While the 13-

year-old girl has been sent to Balika Sudhar Grah' (correction home) in the district, her 18-year-old boyfriend and aunt are in judicial custody, an officer said. Talking to reporters on Thursday, Vaishali SP Ravi Ranjan Kumar, said the incident took place on May 15 at Harprasad village when the parents of the girls had gone to a relative's village to participate in a wedding ceremony.

When the parents re-

turned home they found their younger nine-year-old-daughter missing, Kumar said, adding the parents lodged a complaint at Jandaha police station. The local police constituted a special investigation team (SIT) and lodged a missing report which was later converted into a murder case after the recovery of the body from a field behind her home on May 19, the SP said.

## There are some in govt service who have doctorate in corruption: Kerala CM

Thiruvananthapuram, May 25 (PTI): Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Thursday said there were some persons in the government service who have a "doctorate" in corruption and that the problem can be addressed only by a collective effort, including by those working with such individuals.

Vijayan said that the LDF government's stand was that there would be no compromise where corrupt activities are concerned and those engaged in it would not be protected.

Therefore, while stringent measures are being taken by the government and the vigilance, even the concerned departments

and those working with such persons — who are engaged in corrupt practices — should also intervene.

The CM was referring to the recent arrest of a field assistant at Palakkayam village in Palakkad district of the state for allegedly accepting a bribe.

Cash and bank deposits worth over Rs 1 crore were allegedly recovered during a search from his rented accommodation.

Vijayan said that the official in question was allegedly using the bribe amounts for his needs and his salary was lying untouched.

The CM also said that

while in big offices and departments, it may be difficult to know if someone is engaged in corrupt practices.

However, in smaller offices, like the one in the recent incident, it was difficult to believe that everyone there was oblivious to what was happening.

"In such incidents, the others there should intervene and prevent such practices. The majority of those in the government sector are honest. But there are some who have taken a doctorate in committing corruption.

"They have acquired a taste for it and do not want to give it up," Vijayan said after inaugurating here a state-level conference of

the Kerala Municipal and Corporation Staff Union.

The matter requires serious consideration as such practices ruin the distinction that Kerala has earned of being the state in India with the least corruption, he said.

He said that those in government service should have a people-friendly attitude and help them out wherever it was legally possible.

"What cannot be done legally, should not be done."

He said digitisation of government services and providing them online would be a step towards transparency and swift delivery of services to the people.

## Pilot has not given ultimatum to party: Cong

New Delhi, May 25:

Congress MLA and Punjab's state chief Harish Chaudhary on Wednesday made it clear that Sachin Pilot has not given any ultimatum to the party but wanted to speak to the party and prefers to build a bridge between the people and the state government.

"Sachin Pilot has not given any ultimatum to the party but he has tried to speak to the government. Any leader who is talking to the government or anybody else, it needs to be heard and resolved on the basis of merit. I am hopeful that government will come up with a solu-



tion," Chaudhary said.

His statement comes referring to the former Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister and Congress leader Sachin Pilot's ultimatum to his own party's government in Rajasthan to probe the alleged paper leak scam. He warned the

Gehlot government that if his demands were not met by this month, he would agitate across the state.

When asked about the paper leak case in the state, Harish Chaudhary said that he always had a very clear stand on the

issue both in the assembly and outside the assembly that there should not be any injustice to the students at any cost.

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