



## Four arrested for stealing hydraulic jacks from flyover construction site

**Bhilai, May 16:**

Police have arrested four ruffians including a juvenile on charges of stealing hydraulic jacks from the construction site of a flyover at Dabrapara. The accused had stolen four nos high capacity hydraulic jacks, which were fixed beneath the slabs of the flyover. The accused had not just stolen the hydraulic jacks but had even put the under-construction structure at risk. The arrested accused are Dushyant Thakur (19), Rahul Sahu (19), Mohan Nirmalkar (30) and a juvenile, all residents of Dabrapara. Four nos hydraulic jacks and iron plates were recovered from them.

While addressing media persons at the crime scene, SP Dr Abhishek Pallava



informed that the theft of hydraulic jacks could have delayed the construction work by about four months. Further, the theft of hydraulic jacks could have caused damage to the under-construction structure and had caused threat to the lives of people engaged in construction work.

He informed that police had received a complaint

from one Kirtan Dutt Tiwari, who looks after the security arrangements of the flyover construction site in Dabrapara in Old Bhilai.

He complained that on the intervening night of May 14, a large number of iron plates, chairs, bar rods, centring plates and four nos hydraulic jacks (each of 250 tonne capacity) were stolen from the

site. The jacks were installed beneath the bridge to give support to the structure.

A joint team of Old Bhilai Police Station and ACCU led by Inspector Manish Sharma and Inspector Santosh Mishra swung into action and interrogated the locals and suspects. Meanwhile, the team came to know about four youths, whose activities were suspicious.

All the four suspects including Dushyant Thakur, Rahul Sahu, Mohan Nirmalkar and a juvenile were taken into custody. During sustained interrogation, they confessed to stealing the hydraulic jacks from the construction site. The stolen items have been recovered from them. Police have booked them under section 379 of IPC.

## Revenue officers asked to resolve the cases within time limit

**Bhilai, May 16:**

Additional Collector Padmini Bhoi Sahu reviewed the works of the officials of the Revenue Department in the Collectorate on Tuesday. In the review meeting, she sought information about all the undisputed cases related to land transfer, partition, demarcation, revenue collection, map, diversion etc and gave instructions to resolve them within the stipulated time frame. SDMs and Tehsildars of all development blocks were present in the meeting. She inquired about the pending cases in the High Court and the Rajiv Gandhi Landless Agricultural Laborers Justice Scheme. She asked to resolve the cases



related to demarcation received in Jandarshan within the time limit. Revenue officers were instructed to physically verify all the pending cases and dispose of them in priority order and monitor them.

On the demand of social organizations, the vacant land outside the city was identified on a large scale and instructions were given to give the

allot land to all the community heads. She instructed to resolve the cases of aabadi land allotment and tree felling at the earliest. Along with this, Deputy Electoral Officer Yogita Dewangan asked the officers to physically verify the polling booths and upload photos in view of the upcoming assembly elections. Along with this, the officers were asked to verify the

arrangement of the marked building. Instructions were given to prepare a list of polling station buildings and send them to the PWD, so that repair work could be completed within the time limit. She inquired about the arrangement of ramp for disabled voters in the polling stations, so that they do not face any inconvenience in reaching the polling station.

## Villagers approach Jandarshan with complaint of weak mobile network



**Bhilai, May 16:** A large number of applications were received in the Jandarshan organized in the Collectorate. Continuous efforts are being made by the officials of the district administration to resolve the issues at the earliest. A resident of the village Khudmuda, Amleshwar in Patan block filed an application seeking installation of a mobile tower in Nagar Palika Parishad Amleshwar. He said that there is a problem of weak mobile signals in the area. Mobile tower is installed in the area but the strength and area coverage is very weak. Locals are facing problems related to the internet and call drops. The applicant further stated that due to the weak mobile network, the residents have to move to other places for making mobile calls and accessing the internet. Students who are preparing for exams are also facing difficulties to watch videos of online

classes. He added that the residents are not getting significant information due to lack of internet services. His application was forwarded to the concerned authority for resolution of the problem.

A denizen submitted an application regarding the water problem in Junwani Ward No 1. The applicant said that the drinking water supply in the ward is not proper. In Junwani, a major water crisis has arisen due to the breakdown of the hand pump in the scorching heat. He said that the villagers have to depend mainly on the six hand pumps located in the area for drinking water and other works. All the hand pumps are out of order, he said. Complaints have been made for this in the past as well, but no proper action has been taken. Employees are sent by the Corporation for repairing work, but due to lack of resources, even the repairing work is not completed. In view of the seri-

### 141 applications received in Jandarshan

ousness of the matter, the concerned officer was instructed to take immediate action.

An old lady of Bhilai sought justice after being harassed by her son. She said that her son was making efforts to deprive her of her residential house. Her son often locks the house. Due to old age and weak economic conditions, she has no other option. The old lady requested that she should be given his residential house. The application was sent to SDM Durg for legal action.

A resident of Nandini Nagar Ahiwara made a complaint against encroachment on her house. She said that her husband is mentally retarded and the responsibility of the whole family is on her. The applicant said that her residence is built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna, but the way of door and window has been closed due to encroachment by the neighbour. Due to this encroachment, the applicant's family is facing difficulties in commuting. The application was forwarded to CMO Ahiwara for legal action. A total of 141 applications were received in Collector Jandarshan.

## Denizens to face power cut during water supply timings

**Bhilai, May 16:**

Many people use tullu pumps to fetch water in different areas of the city. Due to the illegal use of tullu pumps to fetch more water from the pipelines, water is not reaching to the last end. People would not be able to use tullu pumps if the power supply is cut during the water supply timings. This will also ensure water supply till the last end.

It needs to be mentioned here that the BMC had been appealing to the people for the last several weeks to stop using Tullu pumps. As the people did not respond in a positive manner, the BMC has sent a letter to the Electricity Department to ensure power cut for an hour

during the water supply timings. The Electricity Department has given its consent for a power cut in Bhilai Corporation area for one hour in the morning. Electricity supply will remain affected in Bhilai Corporation area from 06:30 hrs to 07:30 hrs from May 17.

It needs to be mentioned here that at the time of water supply, water is drawn by most of the people with Tullu pumps from the distribution pipeline. This reduces water pressure in the pipelines and water does not reach to the end. Considering the problem, the electricity supply will remain affected in Bhilai Corporation area from 6:30 am to 7:30 am from May 17 to ensure uniform water supply to every house.

## 'Fight the Bite' successful, not a single dengue case detected

**Bhilai, May 16:**

On the National Dengue Day, rallies were taken out in all the zones of Bhilai Municipal Corporation. Under a special public awareness campaign, people were detailed about mosquito eradication and dengue control and efforts were made to connect people with this campaign.

On the instructions of Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena, Fight the Bite campaign is being run in the BMC limits. The civic body adopted special activities under mosquito eradication in Bhilai and was successful to great extent. Not a single case of dengue has been found in the last 3 months.

Giving information in this regard, District Malaria Officer CBS Banjare said that due to awareness and mosquito eradication activities, there have been no cases of malaria and filariasis apart from dengue. Under Fight the Bite, a special campaign was launched and people were involved in it. Various colonies of Bhilai participated enthusiastically.

The winning colony has also been awarded citations and adjudged as first, second and third prize winners. On the in-



structions of Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas, a special team has been formed in Bhilai which works throughout the year for mosquito eradication and dengue control.

This team, under the leadership of Senior Sanitary Inspector KK Singh, has been carrying out dengue control and prevention activities in Bhilai Corporation area for the last one year. Survey of 7260 houses has been done by the special team from the month of March to May under mosquito eradication, 16554 coolers, tanks, containers etc have been checked. Under public awareness, efforts are being made to connect

people with the mosquito eradication campaign through pamphlets and interactions.

To prevent dengue, malaria and filariasis, mosquito nets should be used while sleeping, water should not be allowed to accumulate in vessels, Temifas should be used to kill mosquito larvae.

If symptoms of Vector Borne Disease appear, one should immediately get examined in the nearest hospital. The surrounding areas should be kept clean and water logging should not be allowed.

Keeping all these things in mind, citizens can actively participate in the mosquito eradication campaign.

## BSP employees of Instrumentation & Automation zone felicitated



**Bhilai, May 16:** Employees of the Instrumentation and Automation zone of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant were awarded with the 'Pali Shiromani' and 'Karm Shiromani' Awards for displaying commendable work performance, in an Award Ceremony held on May 16, 2023. Sant Kumar Keshkar, GM I/c (Instrumentation) was the chief guest of the Award Ceremony.

R Srinivas, Sr Mgr (Instrumentation) was awarded the 'Pali Shiromani Award' for his exemplary performance during the quarter January to March 2023. The 'Karm Shiromani Award' winners included Satinand Sharma for the month of February 2023 and Sohail Hussain Niaz

(Instrumentation) for the month of March 2023.

Present in the program were the General Managers of Instrumentation Zone, B Madhu Pillai, GK Kund, AM Danny, Rajneesh Jain, M Joy Joseph and MP Singh, GM (INCAS). Mementoes and Certificates were presented to the awardees, along with Letter of Appreciation to their respective Spouses. During the programme, the awardees were appreciated for their achievements and contributions at the workplace.

The programme was conducted by KL Soni from the Personnel Office, Power and Electricity Department, whereas Santosh Kathare proposed the Vote of Thanks.

## Women becoming self-reliant under Kaushal Vikas Yojna

**Bhilai, May 16:**

The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has always been a step ahead in discharging its social responsibility as a part of the organization's commitment to society. Women Empowerment is one of the prime areas where BSP's CSR Department contributes actively. In collaboration with the Chhattisgarh Handicrafts Development Board the CSR Department runs several skill development projects under the Kaushal Vikas Yojna, especially for the women in the adjoining rural areas of the Plant.

In the year 2022-23 total 9 training camps have been organized so far by the department, with 4 training camps still in progress. A total of 243 have benefited from these training sessions. Around 25 women can get trained in each camp, selected on the basis of prior application. This training is provided for three months, during which each trainee woman also receives a monthly honorarium of Rs 3000.

The CSR Department of



inaugurated a Handloom Training in collaboration with Rajhara Mahila Bunkar Samiti at Kumudkatta and Kopedera villages of Mahamaya Mines, for financially empowering the women of the area. Five Handloom Machines were also inaugurated at Village Kopedera. Under this initiative, 43 village women underwent month-long training in handloom weaving. After completion of the training the Loom Machines will be installed at the homes of respective trainees, to ensure lifelong livelihood from handloom weaving. The raw materi-

als and weaving equipment used in the training were supplied by the Chhattisgarh Handicraft Development Board.

Several training camps in various other vocational skills have also been initiated by the department, such as Godna Tattoo Art Training in village Nandauri, Dry flower Training in Khamhariya, Shishal Jute Training in Maroda Basti, Kasidakari Embroidery Training in Raipur Naka. Bamboo craft training has been conducted in Dulki village of Dulki Mines area and at present the Chhattisgarh Handicrafts Development

Board is conducting dry flower training in Bora, Jute craft in Pachpedi, and Godna Tattoo training is being provided in Chatauna, Hiri Mines, along with Handloom Training camps at villages Kumudkatta and Kopedera.

Today the women engaged in these training are becoming financially self-reliant by becoming capable of making various domestic and decorative items useful in the Household. The training is supervised by Shivrajan Nair GM (CSR), Sushil Kamde, Sr Mgr (CSR), Rajni Rajak, Development

Assistant (CSR), Ashutosh Soni Assistant (CSR) and other members of the CSR team.

The objective of the camps being organized by the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, in collaboration with the Chhattisgarh Handicrafts Development Board, is to empower and economically strengthen the women of rural areas so that they also can financially support their families, and thereby contribute to nation's development. Most of the women trainees belong to the Forest areas

and are Below the Poverty Line category. Today they are becoming self-reliant and generating employment for themselves by making various useful goods.

These products made by the women receiving training under BSP's CSR initiative include tray made of bamboo, Mirror Frame, Brush holder, Cup Stand, flower vase, bamboo chair and round tea table, multipurpose items of daily rural life such as Tukni, Chariha, Supa, Parri-Parra, Jhaapi, Jhouhan, etc. The women are also capable of embroidery. Making beautiful designs with Zardozi, Gotapatti, Mirror, Phulkari, Chikankari, Katha-Stitch etc.

They can also make shishal Jute bags, show-cases, tortoiseshell, Lord Krishna, hand purses, fancy sandals etc. The Gudna tattoo art practiced by the trainee women by embossing tattoo designs on colourful clothes is a popular art form in villages. Making different types of bouquets using waste, leaves, branches and easily available materials at home is a part of dry flower craft training.









BRIEF



In this photo provided by South Korea Presidential Office, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, right, shakes hands with Ukraine's first lady Olena Zelenska, at the presidential office, in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday.

Flooding damage

Mogadishu: Floods caused by the annual rains have left "a trail of destruction" across Somalia, a United Nations spokesman said, citing inundated homes and farmland as well as the shutdown of health facilities.

Fuel deforestation

Brussels: The 27 European Union countries have formally adopted new rules that should help the bloc reduce its contribution to global deforestation by regulating the trade in a series of goods.

Security protection

Dhaka: Bangladesh has withdrawn the "extra security escort" provided to top diplomats of India and three other countries, with foreign minister Dr AK Abdul Momen saying Dhaka will not provide this service with taxpayers' money.

Russia launches 'exceptional' air attack on Kyiv



Ukrainian Emergency firefighters put out fire caused by fragments of a Russian rocket after it was shot down by air defence system during the night Russian rocket attack in Kyiv, Ukraine, early hours Tuesday.

Kyiv, May 16 (AP)

Ukrainian air defences thwarted an intense Russian air attack on Kyiv early Tuesday, shooting down all 18 missiles aimed at the capital, officials said.

Loud explosions boomed over Kyiv as the nighttime attack combined Russian missiles launched from the air, sea and land in an apparent attempt to overwhelm Ukraine's air defences. No casualties

were reported as Western-supplied weapons helped fend off the assault. The barrage came as European leaders sought new ways to punish Russia for the war and a Chinese envoy sought

traction for Beijing's peace proposal.

Russia's latest attack on Kyiv was "exceptional in its density the maximum number of attacking missiles in the shortest period of time," said Serhii Popko, the head of the Kyiv military administration. Valentyna Myronets, a 64-year-old Kyiv resident, said she felt "pain, fear, nervousness, restlessness" amid the assaults.

Army vows to try 'spoilers' involved in recent attacks on military installations under stringent Act

Islamabad, May 16 (PTI)

The Pakistan Army's top brass has vowed to bring to justice the "spoilers" involved in the recent attacks on military installations, including the storming of its General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, through trials, including stringent the Pakistan Army Act and the Official Secret Act.

Former prime minister Imran Khan's arrest by the Rangers at the Islamabad High Court premises last Tuesday triggered unrest in Pakistan that continued till Friday and led to several deaths and dozens of military and state installations being destroyed by the protesters.

For the first time in the country's history, Khan's supporters stormed the Army headquarters in Rawalpindi and torched the historic Corps Commander's House in Lahore in retaliation to his dramatic arrest. The Pakistan Army's move to include the tough Army Act and the Official Secrets Act

is a serious provision in which Khan and his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters could be slapped with charges that can lead to either a death sentence or life imprisonment. A Special Corps Commanders Conference, chaired by Army chief General Asim Munir at the

Pak high court extends Imran Khan's bail in two cases until June 8

Islamabad, May 16 (PTI) A Pakistan high court on Tuesday extended bail of former prime minister Imran Khan in two cases pertaining to inciting violence and sedition until June 8.

A single bench of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) heard the pleas in cases pertaining to allegations against top officers of state institutions and the manhandling of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Mohsin Ranjha by Khan's supporters. Chief Justice Aamer

General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, also resolved that restraint will no longer be exercised against perpetrators who attack military installations, according to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) — the media wing of the Pakistan Army on Monday.

Farooq after hearing the arguments by the lawyers extended Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief's bail till June 8. The extension was given after the court also granted the former prime minister exemption from court appearance for the day. Justice Farooq also inquired about the registration of a first information report related to Khan's arrest made from the court's premises. The attorney general responded that a Supreme Court verdict is pending in the case.

2 dead in shooting at Georgia motorcycle club event

Augusta, May 15 (AP)

Two people were killed and four were injured when more than 150 shots were fired in a gun fight between rival motorcycle clubs in a Georgia city, a sheriff said Monday.

The Richmond County Sheriff's Office charged 12 people with murder and aggravated assault in the gunfight in Augusta on Saturday night, including the four injured people, Sheriff Richard Roundtree said.

The violence erupted at a clubhouse of one of the motorcycle groups in a largely residential area,

the sheriff said. Deputies recovered more than 150 spent shell casings, he said, some of them found a block away.

"With the amount of firepower and carnage we saw at the scene, this could have been a much more horrific event," Roundtree said during a news conference Monday.

Investigators believe the gunfight stemmed from a prior confrontation between members of the two rival clubs in Florida, said Roundtree, who declined to provide details.

Of the 12 people arrested, he said, 11 came from out of town. He said those

arrested included members of both clubs.

"This was a coordinated attack by individuals who came from as far away as Florida," Roundtree said. "We're talking about travelling three or four hours to come to Augusta, armed to engage in gun violence."

Richmond County Coroner Mark Bowen identified the dead as Keith Coates, 30, of Valdosta, Georgia, and Germaine Farrell, 51, of Daytona Beach, Florida.

Three of those who were injured were still being treated at a hospital Monday, the sheriff said.

Defense ministers from Japan, China inaugurate hotline to avoid clashes, build trust

Tokyo, May 16 (AP)

The Japanese and Chinese defense ministers inaugurated their long-awaited hotline on Tuesday as a step to build trust and improve communication at a time when Japan and other neighbors are concerned about Beijing's increasingly assertive military activities.

Japan's Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada and his Chinese counterpart, Li Shangfu, talked for about 20 minutes through the hotline

for the first time since it was established on March 31, the Japanese Defence Ministry said.

The two ministers welcomed the start of the operational use of the hotline and affirmed the importance of "the maritime and aerial communication mechanism," which includes the hotline, in building trust between the two sides while avoiding contingencies.

Tokyo and Beijing are embroiled in a dispute over tiny Japanese-controlled islands in the East

China Sea, known as the Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China.

China routinely sends coast guard vessels and planes into waters and airspace surrounding the islands to harass Japanese vessels and forcing Japan's military to scramble jets in response.

China's naval fleet also regularly circles around Japanese coasts, sometimes in joint military exercises with Russia, irking Tokyo. Japan is increasingly worried about the tensions around self-ruled

Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its territory and has threatened to annex by force if necessary.

Hamada, noting the row over the islands and other disputes between Japan and China, said candid communication between them is necessary especially when their relations are not as good.

Hamada and Li also ensured the hotline was working properly, and agreed to continue communication between their respective defense authorities.

Fire at New Zealand hostel kills at least 6 people

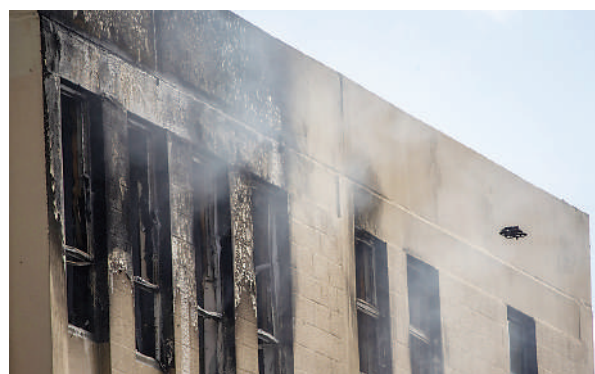
Wellington, May 16 (AP)

A fire ripped through a hostel in New Zealand's capital overnight, killing at least six people and forcing others to flee the four-story building in their pajamas in what a fire chief on Tuesday called his "worst nightmare".

Fifty-two people had made it out of the building but firefighters were still trying to account for others, Wellington fire chief Nick Pyatt said.

Loafers Lodge resident Tala Sili told news outlet RNZ that he saw smoke pouring through under his door and opened it to find the hallway pitch black.

"I was on the top floor



A drone inspects damage following a fire near a hostel in central Wellington, New Zealand, Tuesday.

and I could not go through the hallway because there was just too much smoke, so I jumped out the window or just burn inside the building," Sili said.

He said he fell onto a

roof two floors below.

"It was just scary, but I knew I had to jump out the window or just burn inside the building," Sili told RNZ.

5 sentenced to prison for 100-million-euro jewellery heist

Berlin, May 16 (AP)

A German court on Tuesday convicted five men over the theft of 18th-century jewels worth more than 100 million euros from a Dresden museum in 2019. They were sentenced to prison sentences of between four years and four months and six years and three months, German news agency dpa

reported. One defendant was acquitted.

The Dresden state court ruled that the five men aged 24 to 29 were responsible for the break-in at the eastern German city's Green Vault Museum on November 25, 2019, and the theft of 21 pieces of jewellery containing more than 4,300 diamonds, with a total insured value of at least 113.8 million euros

(USD 129 million).

They were convicted of particularly aggravated arson in combination with dangerous bodily injury, theft with weapons, damage to property and intentional arson.

15 killed in clash between 2 tribes over delimitation of coal mine

Peshawar, May 16 (PTI)

At least 15 people were killed in a bloody clash over the delimitation of a coal mine in the restive north-western region of Pakistan on Monday, police said. The incident occurred between the Sunnykhel and Zarghun Khel tribes in the Darra Adam Khek area,

around 35 km southwest of Peshawar, in Kohat district over the delimitation of the mine, they added.

The bodies and those injured were shifted to a Peshawar hospital. The exact number of injured people was not immediately

known, but there were casualties on both sides in the exchange of fire, police said.

Joint teams of police and other security forces rushed to the site and halted the firing between the rival tribes.

संचालनालय रोजगार एवं प्रशिक्षण, (प्रशिक्षण पक्ष) इन्द्रावती भवन, ब्लॉक-4, प्रथम तल, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, छत्तीसगढ़

क्र.एफ 1-1041/संघेप/स्थाप-प्रशि/छ.अधि/2023 / नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, दिनांक -:: सक्षिप्त विज्ञापन ::-

Table with 3 columns: स.क्र., पद का नाम, कुल पदों की संख्या. Rows include छात्रावास अधीक्षक (45) and छात्रावास अधीक्षिका (09).

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संचालक रोजगार एवं प्रशिक्षण G-01284/1

Indian pleads guilty to illegally prescribing opioids

New York, May 16 (PTI): A 76-year-old Indian-American doctor in the US state of California has pleaded guilty to three counts of illegally prescribing opioids and other medication, authorities said.

According to a statement from US Attorney Phillip A. Talbert, Sawntara Chopra of Modesto pleaded guilty last Wednesday to three counts of illegally prescribing opioids and other medications outside the usual course of professional practice and not for a legitimate medical purpose.

These drugs are highly addictive and commonly abused, the statement said, adding that the medications, which affect the central nervous system, may only be prescribed when medically required. Chopra surrendered his medical license in 2020 as the case was pending, the statement said. Chopra is scheduled to be sentenced on September 5 by US District Judge Jennifer L. Thurston and faces a maximum statutory penalty of 20 years in prison and a USD 1 million fine if convicted, the US Attorney's Office, Eastern District of California said in a press release.

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## CENTRAL Chronicle

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### Electoral Prelude

Decisive Assembly Polls and Their Significance for the 2024 LS Elections

As the echoes of the Karnataka Assembly Elections fade away, the political landscape of India braces itself for an intense year ahead. The triumph of the Indian National Congress, securing an absolute majority with over 136 seats, has set the stage for a year filled with anticipation and political fervor. With at least five more state assembly elections on the horizon, the democratic carnival of India is far from over in 2023. The northeastern states of Nagaland, Tripura, and Meghalaya kickstarted the electoral spree this year. However, these legislative assembly elections hold a greater significance than ever before, as they serve as determinants for the impending 2024 Lok Sabha Elections. The fate of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's BJP government at the center hangs in the balance, making these state assembly elections critical precursors to the upcoming General Elections. Since assuming office in 2014, Prime Minister Modi has been the driving force behind India's governance. However, the winds of change blow strong in the face of democracy, and the upcoming state assembly elections are poised to test the ruling government's popularity and strength. The latter part of 2023 promises a series of assembly polls, with terms of legislative assemblies in Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh expiring on different dates in December. Rajasthan and Telangana will follow suit in January 2024, marking a crucial period of electoral fervor. In addition, it is not implausible to expect simultaneous polls in these five states, as the logistical challenges of conducting elections in quick succession may favor such a decision. Furthermore, the assembly elections in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be overlooked, with reports suggesting a possible schedule once the winter conditions subside. Looking ahead, the terms of the legislative assemblies in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, and Odisha will conclude on different dates in June of the following year. Given that Lok Sabha polls typically take place in April-May, the likelihood of simultaneous assembly elections in these three states alongside the parliamentary exercise cannot be ignored. The year 2023 is poised to be a pivotal moment in Indian politics, where power dynamics will be redefined and electoral strategies meticulously planned. The assembly elections taking place across the nation will serve as a battleground for political parties to test their mettle and gauge public sentiment. The outcome of these polls will undoubtedly shape the trajectory of the nation, leading up to the decisive 2024 Lok Sabha Elections. The forthcoming assembly polls provide a platform for political parties to showcase their strategies and articulate their vision for the future. It is essential for voters to critically analyze the performance of the incumbent governments, assess the promises made by the opposition, and weigh the potential impact of their choices on their respective states and the nation as a whole. Moreover, the significance of these state assembly elections extends beyond regional boundaries. The outcomes will shape the political landscape and influence the course of action at the national level. A strong showing by the ruling party in these assembly elections would solidify their position and potentially boost their campaign momentum for the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections. On the other hand, a resurgence of the opposition parties could indicate a shift in public sentiment and serve as a harbinger of change. In this era of social media and instant communication, it is crucial to foster healthy political discourse. While political parties engage in competitive rhetoric and mud-slinging, it is up to the people, as responsible citizens, to rise above the noise and focus on the issues that truly matter. It is important to hold elected representatives accountable, demand transparency, and insist on policies that address the pressing challenges faced by our nation. The assembly polls scheduled for the year 2023 will undoubtedly set the stage for an intense political year, paving the way for the high-stakes 2024 Lok Sabha Elections. The outcomes of these elections will shape the future of our nation, impacting policies, governance, and the aspirations of millions.

### Addressing the Global Concern of 'Forever Chemicals'

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

Forever chemicals are highly persistent and toxic substances that do not easily break down in the environment or our bodies. They are known as per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and can last for thousands of years. PFAS are found in everyday products like non-stick pans, food packaging, cosmetics, and firefighting foam. These chemicals seep into the environment, contaminating water bodies, animals, and even our drinking water. PFAS have been linked to serious health issues, including cancer, immune system damage, hormone disruption, and developmental delays. To minimize exposure, it is recommended to avoid using non-stick cookware and products containing PFAS, choose alternative materials, and opt for natural and biodegradable cleaning products. Purchasing food packaged in glass, metal, or paper containers instead of plastic can also reduce the risk of PFAS contamination. Water filtration systems designed to remove these chemicals are useful in areas with concerns of PFAS contamination. The presence of forever chemicals is a global issue, affecting not only humans but also wildlife. Traces of these chemicals have been found in wildlife worldwide, including endangered species. The risk extends to polar bears in the Arctic, tigers, monkeys, pandas, dolphins, and fish across the world's oceans. Addressing forever chemicals requires stricter regulations, monitoring systems, and proper disposal methods. In March 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established Maximum Contaminant Level goals for PFAS in drinking water. However, more comprehensive measures are needed to protect public health and the environment. In India, PFAS contamination is also a concern, and regulatory agencies like the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) play a crucial role in monitoring and regulating the use of forever chemicals. Stricter regulations, proper disposal methods, and awareness campaigns are necessary to mitigate the risks posed by these chemicals. Scientists have made progress in developing filtration systems and methods to degrade forever chemicals. A breakthrough method using common reagents and low temperatures has been discovered to degrade PFAS. This research provides hope for effectively eliminating these pollutants from water sources. However, the challenge of disposing of PFAS after filtration remains, as current methods require harsh treatments. Recent studies have also revealed that toilet paper contains PFAS, further highlighting the pervasiveness of these chemicals in everyday items. This raises concerns about water pollution and the need for effective monitoring and control measures. Overall, forever chemicals pose significant risks to human health and the environment. It is crucial to take precautionary measures, promote safer alternatives, and advocate for stricter regulations to address this global issue.

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@editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com](mailto:email@editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com).

### CELEBRATION TIME



Students celebrate after the declaration of the Haryana Board of School Education (HBSE) class 10th exam results, at a school in Gurugram, Tuesday.

### Religion-based mobilization in politics fueling communalism



DR SATYAVAN SAURABH



When did Gita say this, and where did Quran say it? In the name of religion, the earth bleeds

Communalism is based on the assumption that Indian society is divided into religious communities whose interests are not only different but also in conflict with each other. It is an aggressive political ideology linked to religion. However, communalism is about politics, not religion. Although sectarians are intimately involved with religion, there is no necessary relationship between individual faith and sectarianism. One of the distinguishing features of communalism is its claim that religious identity is above all else. There is not only one factor responsible for the persistence of communalism in India. Historically, the British used the divide-and-rule policy to undermine nationalist aspirations by creating a rift between Hindus and Muslims. This resulted in communal tension between the two groups and it is believed that the Hindu-Muslim split took place during the continuation of British rule in India. The partition of India was the result of this policy. The gap of socio-economic inequality that remained after independence widened and the internal tension and tension between the majority community and the minority necessity of life also gives rise to communal hatred. Widespread

poverty and unemployment create a sense of hopelessness among the people. The unemployed youth of both communities can be easily trapped by the religious fundamentalists and used by them for communal riots. Fundamentalism and communalism have some ideological elements in common. Both attack the concept of separation of religion from politics and the state. Both are opposed to the concept of common truth in all religions. It is against the concept of religious harmony and tolerance. The criminalization of politics has made electoral politics in India more costly and competitive. Political parties are not hesitating to use any means, fair or foul, to win elections. They even create communal tension and try to take political advantage of it. Therefore, the communication of politics as a process is supporting the growth of communalism in India. The role of media in spreading communal ideologies, behavior, and reactions of different communities has been very powerful. In almost every major communal riot, media-backed rumors play a role. For example, The Muzaffarnagar riots of 2013 are a prime example of how social media can play an active role during communal tension. External actors including non-state actors

Communalism was and is still one of the major challenges to democracy in our country. Communalism can take various forms such as majoritarian dominance, religious prejudice and conservatism, and political mobilization along religious lines. Communal thinking often leads to the search for political dominance in one's religious community. The framers of our constitution were aware of this challenge and therefore chose the secular state model. Apart from this, there is a need to counter communal prejudices and propaganda in everyday life and to counter religion-based mobilization in the field of politics.

have a hand in making the problem of communalism worse. They aim to create an atmosphere of instability and gain the sympathy of the minority community. To overcome the problem of communalism, there is an important need for value-based education in the country today. Emphasis should be on imparting values like compassion, secularism, peace, non-violence, and humanism through education and inculcating scientific temper in society. Reforms in the criminal justice system are the need of the hour; The criminal justice system has often been criticized, especially as it stems from communal violence. Measures should be taken to reform police procedures and practices and special investigation and prosecution agencies should be set up to deliver timely justice. Removing ideological bias is beneficial at such times and news channels play a huge role in influencing the thoughts and mindset of people, so when they are biased towards one community or religion, it affects the people watching those news channels. Prejudices can develop in the approach. Therefore, the media should focus on presenting a balanced view to the audience. Steps should be taken to understand different cultures by arranging festivals, celebrations, and social gatherings to facilitate social and cultural amalgamation. Stopping ghettos and geographical segregation based on religion, promoting inter-religious marriages, etc. should be taken. In creating communal aware-

ness in civil society, NGOs can tie up with the government to create communal awareness, build strong community relations and inculcate the values of communal harmony. By telecasting the heritage of the past, efforts should be made to remind the countrymen of those glorious moments of history in which Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs were together to protect the interests of the nation. Also, people should be made aware of how India's diversity has served as a source of unity for the country. The principle of the Uniform Civil Code is laid down in Article 44 of the Constitution. Without the UCC, it is observed that each community has separate and conflicting interests. Implementing this can help reduce religious differences. Communalism was and is still one of the major challenges to democracy in our country. Communalism can take various forms such as majoritarian dominance, religious prejudice and conservatism, and political mobilization along religious lines. Communal thinking often leads to the pursuit of political dominance of one's religious community. Our constitution makers were aware of this challenge and therefore chose the secular state model. Apart from this, there is a need to counter communal prejudices and propaganda in everyday life and to counter religion-based mobilization in the field of politics. (Dr. Satyavan Saurabh, Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, All India Radio and TV panelist. Views are personal.)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Governor's Role: Ornamental or Operational?

The recent rulings by the Supreme Court regarding the role of governors in states and lieutenant governors in Union Territories have significant implications for the future. During the Constituent Assembly discussions, the post of governor was conceived as a means to ensure the diligent implementation of the Constitution. However, the court's scathing remarks against former Maharashtra Governor Koshiari shed light on the need for clarity in defining the governor's responsibilities. The court rightly emphasized that neither the Constitution nor the law empowers the governor to interfere in political disputes within or between parties. The discretion exercised by Governor Koshiari in demanding a floor test from Chief Minister Thackeray was deemed unlawful. It is crucial that governors comprehend the constitutional limits of their power, acting strictly within the framework provided. The Supreme Court's observations on the governor's extraordinary power to act without the Council of Ministers' advice underscore the significance of preserving parliamentary democracy. Discretion to call for a floor test must be exercised judiciously and supported by objective evidence, not merely by requests. The governor's role should not extend beyond constitutional boundaries, and they should refrain from meddling in intra-party or inter-party conflicts.

Yash Pal Raihan, Jalandhar

#### Monumental Task For Congress

Following its easy victory in Karnataka, the Congress now faces the monumental task of selecting a candidate for CM. The two obvious candidates are DK Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah, but there is also the possibility that party President and seasoned politician Mallikarjun Kharge will run. Even though party observers will compile each newly elected legislator's personal opinion, the final decision will be made by the high command for sure. Another chance is that Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar to take turns holding the chair for two and half years. If both refuse to agree on the rotating CM-proposal, Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge, who has failed to win the position of Chief Minister at least four times before, could be elected as CM.

Dr. Vijaykumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

## Safeguarding Medical Staff: Ensuring Optimal Care in a Secure Environment

### Rising Instances of Violence

Regrettably, cases of verbal and physical abuse, as well as outright assaults, against caregivers have been on the rise. Medical professionals, who tirelessly work to save lives, find themselves at the receiving end of aggression from attendants of patients who perceive negligence or dissatisfaction with the treatment provided. Shockingly, a report by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) reveals that 75% of doctors have experienced abuse or assault at some point in their careers. In Kerala alone, there were 137 reported attacks on doctors in the year 2022. These distressing statistics demand immediate attention and effective measures to address this alarming trend. The Need for Prompt Action

The tragic incident involving the brutal assault on house surgeon Vandana Das in a Kerala hospital has not only highlighted the dangers faced by medical personnel in the line of duty but has also brought attention to the alarming lack of security measures in place to protect them. The failure to ensure the safety of Dr. Das, despite clear indications of the patient's potential for violence, is a distressing reflection of the existing vulnerabilities faced by healthcare professionals. This incident serves as a wake-up call, reminding us of the urgent need to prioritize the security of medical staff to create an environment where they can deliver the best possible care.

Recognizing the gravity of the situation, the Kerala High Court had issued directives in December, emphasizing the need for swift action. It mandated that a First Information Report (FIR) be registered within one hour of any attack on medical personnel. In March of this year, the court further stressed that the state government must publicly declare through the media that strict actions will be taken against those responsible for such acts of violence. However, the recent tragedy involving Dr. Das has prompted the court to call for enhanced

protection not only for doctors but also for medical interns, house surgeons, and postgraduate students. The court has also criticized the police for their failure to anticipate and prevent the attack on Dr. Das.

### Addressing the Lack of Deterrents

The Kerala unit of the IMA has rightly drawn attention to the lack of adequate deterrents in place. Despite the existence of a 2012 legislation that prohibits violence against healthcare staff, with offenses punishable by imprisonment of up to three years, very few convictions

have been made so far. The state government, which has faced criticism for allowing the situation to deteriorate, must take decisive action to strengthen the law and ensure its effective implementation. Expedited efforts are needed to create a safe and stress-free environment in hospitals, not only for the well-being of medical professionals but also for the benefit of patients who deserve the best possible care.

### Conclusion

The security and well-being of medical staff are essential to ensure the delivery

of optimal healthcare services. It is imperative that governments, healthcare institutions, and society as a whole recognize the urgent need to address the growing incidents of violence against medical personnel. Strict implementation of existing laws, prompt registration of FIRs, and swift conviction of offenders are crucial steps towards creating a safe environment for doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers.

Additionally, enhanced security measures, including the presence of trained personnel and effective surveillance systems, should be implemented to deter potential acts of violence. Only by safeguarding our medical staff can we create an environment that fosters excellence in healthcare and ensures that patients receive the best possible care.



BRIEF

Appointment



New Delhi: The government has appointed Ravneet Kaur as the Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI)...

Indian banks request RBI for more time for new loan provisioning system

Mumbai, May 16:



more year." He also added that in the "worst case scenario", the banking system is gearing up for the switch to the new system...

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has already come up with its proposed guidelines on the switch to ECL but a definite timeline is yet to be decided.

whatever trade surplus they have, you can invest in government bonds," Mehta said. The Russian investments are for shorter duration because how long the war and the sanctions on Russia will last is still unclear...

Banks provide them with resources and big customer base, he added. According to him, the problems with fintechs emanate because of poor governance and non-compliance with regulatory mandates.

NITI Aayog pitches for easy financing to attract private investment

In setting up nuclear reactors

New Delhi, May 16:

NITI Aayog has pitched for establishing attractive financing frameworks such as blending finances and green bonds to attract private sector investment in setting up small modular reactors (SMR) to decarbonise India's energy sector...

centivising private investors," it said.

According to the report, it has been observed that venture capital is a poor fit for the "hard" SMR sector.

Noting that successful deployment of SMR technology must leverage private sector investment, the report said a robust and technology-neutral policy framework is required for securing private investment including factors currently having growing influence on investment flows such as tax-

onomies and environmental, social and governance factors.

The report also pointed out that early realisation of a few demonstration plants for SMR designs can reduce the intensity of risk perception, which can give impetus to supply chain formation and bring investment and stability to the industry.

SGX Nifty to be known as GIFT Nifty from July 3: NSE

New Delhi, May 16:

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Tuesday said that SGX Nifty will be known as GIFT Nifty from July 3 as all orders of Singapore Exchange will be completely transferred to NSE IFSC bourse for matching.

an NSE spokesperson said. NSE IFSC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NSE, is an exchange at International Financial Service Center (IFSC) in GIFT City, Gujarat. Singapore Exchange (SGX), last month, announced that NSE IFSC-SGX Connect at International Financial Service Center in GIFT City will become operational on July 3 after the transition of SGX Nifty derivatives to NSE IFSC.

The NSE IFSC-SGX Connect (Connect) with the transition of SGX Nifty derivatives to NSE IFSC will take place on July 3, 2023. Following the transition, all US dollar-denominated Nifty derivatives contracts will be exclusively traded on NSE IFSC.

Kant calls for unfettered access to US nuclear technology

To build small modular reactors

Mumbai, May 16:



India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant on Tuesday called for an "unfettered access" to nuclear technology from the US to build small modular reactors (SMR) in the country.

dressing a session at the energy transition working group of G20 meeting here. "We should create an ability to co-produce SMRs in the US and India, and further bring down their costs," Kant said adding that the initiative can be a win-win situation for both countries and will radically re-

duce time, cost overruns and and capex. The career bureaucrat-turned-Sherpa said such an access will ultimately lead to manufacturing of SMRs in India and their export also.

"Private sector participation needs to be allowed in the atomic energy sector for SMRs to take advantage of higher effi-

ciencies," he said, adding that state discoms should also build such plants of up to 300 MW capacity with help of the private sector.

WagonR

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India on Tuesday said its hatchback WagonR has crossed 30 lakh milestone in over two decades.

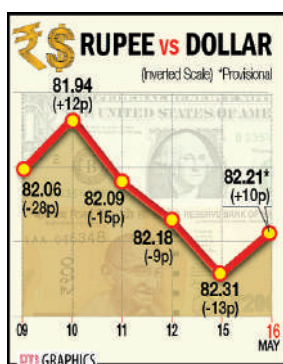
Circular economy



New Delhi: Circular economy is the need of the hour to promote entrepreneurship and livelihood security for better health index of the people.

Rupee rises 10 paise to 82.21 against US dollar on FII inflows

Mumbai, May 16:



The rupee appreciated by 10 paise to 82.21 against the US dollar on Tuesday, as the American currency retreated from its elevated levels.

strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.14 per cent to 102.28. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures fell 0.29 per cent to USD 75.01 per barrel.

Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities. The local unit outperforms Asian currencies as the trade deficit narrows to a 21-month low.

Though the rupee outperformed among Asian currencies, the range remained narrow ahead of US debt ceiling talks. It is widely expected to see no compromise created and a continuation of the current uncertainty, making haven assets volatile.

FinMin says stands by 2021 Parl reply that SEBI was investigating Adani Group cos

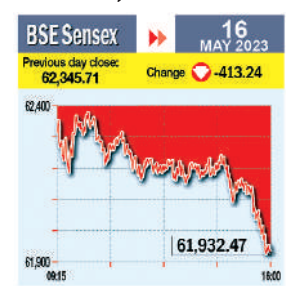
New Delhi, May 16:

As a political row erupted over SEBI telling Supreme Court that it has not been probing the Adani group since 2016, the Finance Ministry on Monday said it stands by its July 2021 written reply in Parliament that had stated that the stock market regulator was investigating some Adani group companies.

Markets fall after 2-day rally; HDFC twins, Reliance drag

Sensex over 413 points lower

Mumbai, May 16:



Benchmark equity indices ended lower on Tuesday after two days of rally, dragged down by index majors HDFC twins and Reliance Industries. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 413.24 points or 0.66 per cent to settle at 61,932.47 even after beginning the trade on a firm note.

Airtel, Tata Motors, Reliance Industries and Maruti were the biggest laggards.

Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India, NTPC, Hindustan Unilever, Titan, Infosys, Bajaj Finserv, Wipro, Asian Paints and Tata Consultancy Services were among the major gainers.

tled lower: European markets were trading mostly in the green. The US market had ended with gains on Monday. "The domestic benchmark's ascent towards record high was interrupted by selling pressure in heavyweight stocks, although small and mid-cap stocks outperformed.

Jio-bp launches new diesel that offers saving of Rs 1.1 lakh per truck annually

Mumbai, May 16:

Jio-bp announced the launch of its diesel with ACTIVE technology, set to elevate diesel standards for Indian consumers. The newly launched additivised diesel, available across the company's network will yield annual savings of up to Rs 1.1 lakh per vehicle to truckers owing to (upto) 4.3% improved fuel economy.

mercial vehicles, and with ongoing use it offers a variety of benefits to drivers and fleet owners. It helps restore and maintain the power of the engine with on going use while also reducing the risk of unscheduled vehicle maintenance.

Centre, state tax officers launch special drive to identify fake GST registration, curb evasion

New Delhi, May 16:

With GST evasion crossing over Rs 1 lakh crore in 2022-23, Centre and state tax officers have initiated a two-month long special drive to identify fake GST registration and nab offenders. The GST Policy Wing had earlier this month written to Principal Chief Commissioners of Central Tax highlighting that fake/ non-genuine registrations are being used to fraudulently pass on input tax credit to unscrupulous recipients by issuing invoices without any underlying supply of goods or services or both.

ple engage in dubious and complex transactions, causing revenue loss to the government," the Central Board of Indirect Taxes (CBIC) had said. Currently, there are 1.39 crore businesses registered under Goods and Services Tax (GST), which was implemented on July 1, 2017.

The government has been using robust data analytics and artificial intelligence to identify and track risky taxpayers; sharing data with other law enforcement agencies to detect tax evasion. Besides, mandatory Aadhaar-based authentication for new GST registrations as well as centralized suspension of registrations of businesses who default in timely filing of returns are also being used to curb fake

registration. Still, Goods and Services Tax (GST) evasion is on rise with about 14,000 cases detected in 2022-23, up from 12,574 in 2021-22 and 12,596 in 2020-21. The evasion detection doubled to over Rs 1.01 lakh crore in 2022-23, while the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) officers made a recovery of Rs 21,000 crore during the fiscal. During the 'Special All-India Drive' from May 16 to July 15, to detect suspicious/ fake GSTINs, tax officers would also conduct requisite verification and take further remedial action to weed out these fake billers from the GST ecosystem. The Special Drive would take place in close coordination between the State and Central tax administrations.

Telcos to Push DoT, TRAI for fair contribution from OTTs for 5G Infrastructure

Mumbai, May 16:

Over-the-Top (OTT) apps are the major drivers of internet data traffic for internet service providers across the globe. The streaming of video content by users on these OTT platforms significantly contributes to the data traffic handled by telcos, thereby imposing a heavier load on the digital infrastructure built by communication service providers.

In order to overcome this issue, India's leading telcos are preparing to once again urge the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to develop a mechanism that requires over-the-top (OTT) apps,

which generate significant internet data traffic, to contribute financially towards the development of the 5G digital network infrastructure in the country, according to an ET Report.

Telecom operators in the European Union (EU) have initiated a discussion regarding the fairness of burdening customers with the sole responsibility of financing continuous investments in the networks. They have proposed a fair share solution that aims to promote investments in digital infrastructure. The Fair Share solution seeks to enhance the sustainability of network investments and expedite their deployment and ensure that all parties are contributing their fair share.

## Adah Sharma on 'The Kerala Story' ban: 'Watch the movie and then comment'

As her film 'The Kerala Story' lands in controversy and is banned in several parts in the country, actress Adah Sharma, who plays a lead in the Sudipto Sen directorial, said that freedom of expression should be celebrated.



but in my opinion we should celebrate freedom of expression and watch the movie and then everyone has a choice to decide if they want to comment

positively or negatively about it." In the film, Adah plays the role of Fathima Ba, a Malayali Hindu nursing student, who goes missing from Kerala and is recruited to the ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) after being lured to convert to Islam.

She added: "We should also honour the censor board who passed the film and the supreme court. Those who want to ban the film, if they watch it they might realise the film speaks against terrorism and they might decide to increase the screenings and show the film to more young girls."

Cinema is a reflection of society; how does Adah feel politics mixing with it? "We live in a democratic country, thankfully. Where there is freedom of speech and expression. Unlike the place where the character I play was taken to in the film. I'm very grateful I love it here in India."

She pointed out to the "anti-terrorism" aspect of her film. "It is humanity vs terrorism. It's about being cheated in love.

About why you shouldn't rape someone. So any person from any place in the world supporting this film I think is a great thing!"

Adah has to say to those who don't believe that something like this happened and forced conversions are not real: "They should Google two words ISIS brides and get an account of girls worldwide who have gone through this. Terrorism is a global issue."

She added: "We haven't had people who have watched the film and said these things don't happen because our film even has testimonials of parents and victims. So maybe those who say terrorism doesn't exist can watch our film and they might change their mind."

'The Kerala Story' has been written and directed by Sudipto Sen and stars Adah Sharma, Yogita Bihani, Siddhi Idnani and Sonia Balani.

It got into controversy after the trailer of the film stated that 32,000 girls from the state went missing and later joined the terrorist group, ISIS.

## &TV characters will face difficulties



In &TV's Doo Sri Maa, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan and Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai's episodes this week, its characters will face difficulties. About &TV's Doo Sri Maa, Mother's Day track, Yashoda shares, "Asha (Aadvika Sharma) and Noopur (Anya Galvan) express their longing for Ashok (Mohit Dagga) while commemorating Mother's Day. Krishna (Aayudh Bhanushali) shares with Yashoda (Neha Joshi) that he is open to attending a government school. After securing admission, he re-

ceives books and a uniform. When Kamini (Priety Sahay) and Mahua (Manisha Arora) see Asha and Noopur returning from school, they ask him to bring Chole Bhature and Mithai for them. In order to earn money for the treats, he starts working as a laborer, and Yashoda eventually spots him."

and quarrel over trivial matters. Anita (Vidisha Srivastava) and Angoori (Shubhangi Atrre) challenge their husbands' loyalty and vow to reward them, but the husbands end up fighting with their wives and being kicked out of their homes. Saxena (Saand Verma) informs Tiwari and Vibhuti that their obsession with consuming spices and chillies is to blame for their behavior. Anita and Angoori also visit the food stall, consume the spicy food, and end up getting angry themselves."

## Rohit Bose Roy on the years after 'Swabhimaan': I didn't know what I was doing

Popular actor Rohit Bose Roy looked back at his journey of almost three decades. He minces no words when he says he has had "more lows" than highs.



The actor agrees that after the late 1990's acclaimed show 'Swabhimaan' by Mahesh Bhatt, he did not know what he was doing.

Talking about his journey in the industry, Rohit, who is prepping for the stunt-based reality show 'Khatron Ke Khiladi' Season 13, told IANS: "It feels like the first decade went in a flash when I was doing television because right after 'Swabhimaan',

everything I did didn't turn gold... I really didn't know what I was doing." Rohit said that he does not regret anything.

"Maybe I should have because then my filmography would have been even better but I don't regret anything. I have

more lows than ups but still I am here and I am also considered to be one of the formidable actors, which is for me everytime I talk about I failed to become a superstar most people say that 'you should be happy with the success you've got' and which is true."

The actor has made a mark in the industry without any backing.

"In hindsight, who lasts for 30 years without a godfather, without a single person from the industry and zero support."

However, he feels if he had been focussed in his craft a little more, he could've achieved more.

## Swedish singer Loreen wins Eurovision for the second time since 2012



Swedish contestant Loreen came first with her song 'Tattoo' at the Eurovision Song Contest 2023, beating out 25 other countries to garner 583 points, reports 'Variety'.

Loreen's win means the contest will likely be held in Sweden next year. Traditionally the winning country hosts the following year's contest. Sweden was followed by Finland's Kaarja with 526 points and Israel's Noa Kirel with 362 points, who took second and third place respectively, 'Variety' adds.

It is Loreen's second Eurovision win: she previously won the contest in 2012 with her song 'Euphoria'.

Eurovision, which is run by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), features musical acts from around Europe as well as a

number of countries outside it, including Israel and Australia, who participate by virtue of their membership of the EBU, 'Variety' notes.

This year's Eurovision took place in Liverpool, UK, on behalf of last year's winner Ukraine after it was deemed too dangerous to hold Eurovision in the country following the Russian invasion. Ukrainian entry Kalush Orchestra won last year's contest, followed by the UK's Sam Ryder, who came a close second.

Eurovision was hosted this year by rapper turned 'Britain's Got Talent' judge Alisha Dixon, 'Ted Lasso' star Hannah Waddingham, Ukrainian rock star Julia Sanina and the popular longtime Eurovision commentator, Graham Norton, according to 'Variety'.

## Jayati Bhatia joins the cast of 'Dil Diyaan Gallaan'

Veteran actor Jayati Bhatia is all set to join the cast of Sony SAB's Dil Diyaan Gallaan, a story about a family torn apart by misunderstood circumstances, hurt emotions, and inherent beliefs. The show has struck an emotional chord with the audience and showcases how unspoken words lead to differences between three generations.

Jayati Bhatia will portray the role of Tavleen, a strong and intimidating woman who has returned to seek revenge on the Brar family. She is Dilpreet's (Pankaj Berry) nemesis Khushwant's (Jaswant Menaria)'s mother. After twenty-seven years, Tavleen has finally found an opportunity to destroy every relationship in the Brar household as Riya (Hema Sood) has married her grandson Dollar (Reyaansh Chaddha).

Jayati Bhatia, who will be donning the character of Tavleen, said, "Tavleen is a woman who has come back after a long time to seek revenge from those who wronged her daughter. It is a challenging role and is very different from the roles I have played in the past, and I am looking forward to bringing Tavleen's character to life on the screen. The storyline is gripping, and I am sure the viewers will enjoy watching the drama unfold."



## 'Hollywood Indie Active' on DishTV and D2h platforms



In a continuous endeavour to provide unique and quality entertainment to its customers, India's leading DTH company - Dish TV India Ltd announced the launch of a new Value-Added Service (VAS) 'Hollywood Indie Active' on both its DishTV and D2h platforms. Acknowledging the growing popularity of subscribers viewing content in their own language, the company has joined hands with One

Take Media to showcase popular and finest Hollywood movies dubbed in 4 languages - Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and Marathi. Movies on this service can be watched without any ad-break on both DishTV and D2H platforms at a nominal price of Rs. 45+ Taxes per month. The Indian market has seen a spate of re-

leases in regional languages that have been huge box office hits. Leading Hollywood production houses have also been quick to catch on to this trend, releasing marquee titles in languages that the Indian customer can relate to. However, not all Hollywood movies are dubbed, neither are they dubbed in all regional languages, nor is there a single destination for one movie in various languages.

## Aastha Sharma, Rajveer Singh to star in 'Neerja...Ek Nayi Pehchaan'

Actors Aastha Sharma and Rajveer Singh have been roped in to play the grown-up roles of Neerja and Abeer respectively in the upcoming drama 'Neerja Ek Nayi Pehchaan'.



The family drama revolves around the story of a mother (played by Sneha Wagh) and her unyielding love for her daughter 'Neerja', despite living in Kolkata's infamous red-light district, Sonagacchi. The show also showcases the journey of a young man named Abeer who grew up in a privileged background. Set to be seen essaying the role of Neerja, Aastha said: "I'm ecstatic to be portray-

ing the character of Neerja, a young and innocent daughter who is blessed to have a loving and protective mother. Neerja's journey is one of hope, courage, and determination, and I feel fortunate to have been

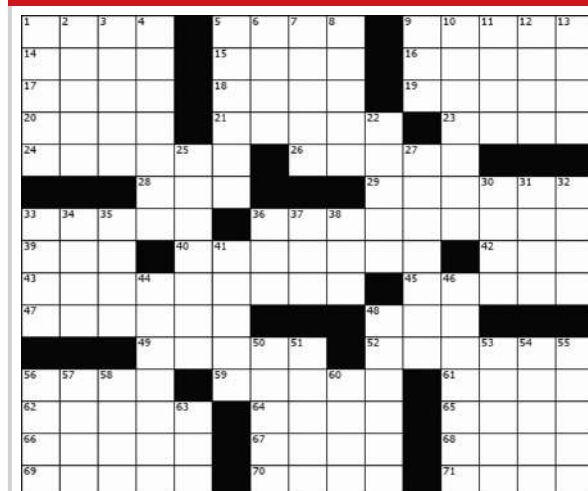
given the opportunity to bring her story to life." "The show is not just about a mother's love for her daughter, but also about the resilience of the human spirit. I hope the viewers will be able to connect with

Neerja's character and find inspiration in her story." Rajveer Singh, who will be seen essaying the role of Abeer said: "The character of Abeer that I will be portraying is from a privileged background, whereas Neerja comes from a less privileged one."

"It's fascinating to see how the show beautifully illustrates the impact individuals from different socio-economic backgrounds can have on each other. I'm excited to bring this tale of love and the triumph of the human spirit in the face of adversity to viewers and hope it inspires them as much as it has inspired me."

## CROSSWORD

647



### ACROSS

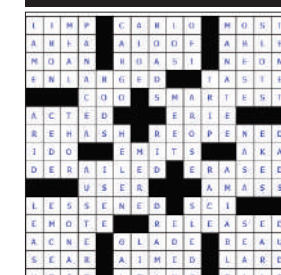
1. Fresh talk
5. Picnic intruders
9. Proclamation
14. Ballet skirt
15. Yard units
16. Spanish "mister"
17. On
18. Comedian Jay \_\_\_\_\_
19. Barbecue site
20. Excursion

### DOWN

1. Iowa or Ohio
2. Cars
3. Thicket
4. Ultimate
5. Blazing
6. Poetic contraction
7. Cares for
8. Backless seat
9. Psychic letters
10. Without expression
11. Involved with
12. Dime or penny
13. Jogging gait
22. Paper quantities
25. Serious
27. Magaz officials
30. Pace

45. Curses
47. Expire
48. "\_\_\_\_\_ Robinson"
49. "\_\_\_\_\_ of Two Cities" (2 wds.)
52. Landed manor
56. Fabric joint
59. Fictional book
61. Site
62. Loiters
64. Current fad
65. Retirees' accts.
66. Tenant's document
67. Border
68. Stood up
69. Start
70. Loch \_\_\_\_\_
71. Flock members

### SOLUTION 646





## 'Slight delay in onset of monsoon over Kerala'

● Arrival likely on Jun 4

New Delhi, May 16 (PTI):

A slight delay is expected in the onset of the southwest monsoon over Kerala and it is likely to arrive by June 4, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Tuesday.

Scientists, however, said the slight delay is unlikely to impact agriculture and total rainfall over the country.

The southwest monsoon normally sets in over Kerala on June 1, with a standard deviation of about 7 days.

"This year, the southwest monsoon onset over Kerala is likely to be slightly delayed. The monsoon onset over Kerala is likely to be on June 4 with a model error of 4 days,"



the Met office said in a statement.

The monsoon arrived in the southern state on May 29 last year, June 3 in 2021, June 1 in 2020, June 8 in 2019 and May 29 in 2018.

The advance of the southwest monsoon over the Indian mainland is marked by the onset over Kerala and is an important indicator characterising the transition from the

hot and dry season to the rainy season.

The IMD said its forecasts for the monsoon onset over Kerala have proved to be correct during the last 18 years except in 2015.

The predicted monsoon onset is within the standard deviation of 7 days. It is unlikely to impact agriculture and overall rainfall over the country, IMD

chief M Mohapatra told PTI.

"There is no one-to-one relationship between the onset date and the total rainfall over the country during the season. Also, the monsoon arriving early or in late in Kerala doesn't mean it will cover other parts of the country accordingly. The monsoon is characterised by largescale variabilities and global, regional and local features," he said.

M Rajeevan, former secretary of the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences, said it is unlikely that the delay is due to Cyclone Mocha. "Had the cyclone occurred around May 20-May 25, it would have really affected the monsoon. The cyclone is already over."

"It could be due to insufficient heating over the Indian subcontinent."

## ALL-WOMEN BUS SERVICE



Women bus driver and conductor at the flag-off ceremony of India's first all-women intercity bus from Kashmir Gate ISBT, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

## FLAGSHIP GOVT SCHEME

### AP CM hands over financial aid

● To 1.2 lakh fishermen families

Nizamapatnam (AP), May 16 (PTI):

The Andhra Pradesh government on Tuesday disbursed Rs 124 crore into the bank accounts of 1.2 lakh fishermen families under the 'YSR Matsyakara Bharosa' scheme as financial assistance during the breeding season between April 15 and June 14 when they refrain from venturing to sea. Every year during the marine fishing ban period, the coastal state restricts fishermen from going into the Bay of Bengal to fish for enabling the fishes to breed, lay eggs and multiply.

"We have started 'YSR Matsyakara Bharosa' with the noble idea of avoiding any trouble to fishermen who cannot go in to the sea during the

ban period. For the families of my fishermen brothers who reposed their faith on the sea," Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy said at a public meeting in Nizamapatnam town of Bapatla district after the latest instalment of the government scheme was distributed to the beneficiaries.

Besides the aid of Rs 10,000 per family under the programme that is into its fifth year now, the Chief Minister also formally credited Rs 108 crore into the bank accounts of over 23,000 fishermen from Konaseema district who lost their livelihood due to pipeline works taken up by public sector unit ONGC.

Till now, the government has deposited a total of Rs 538 crore under the 'YSR Matsyakara Bharosa' scheme to the families in five years.

## 'Farmers should be given financial aid before crop seasons'

● To prevent suicides

Aurangabad, May 16 (PTI):



Sunil Kendrekar

The Aurangabad divisional commissioner has suggested that in order to stop farmers in Marathwada from committing suicide, they should be provided a financial assistance of Rs 10,000 per acre before the commencement every crop season.

This conclusion has been made after the revenue department reached out to nearly five lakh families of farmers in the region as part of a survey conducted in December last year, Divisional Commissioner Sunil Kendrekar told reporters on Tuesday.

The Marathwada region, which comprises Aurangabad, Beed,

Hingoli, Jalna, Latur, Nanded, Osmanabad and Parbhani districts, reported 1,023 farmer suicides in 2022. As many as 10,431 farmers committed suicide in this region since 2001, as per figures provided by the divisional commissioner's office.

Kendrekar said the administration studied the socio-economic condition of farmers and their families in the eight districts of Marathwada.

"The survey was conducted to find the families where farmers were vulnerable to taking the extreme step due to various conditions. The farmer suicide rate in Marathwada is more (compared to other parts of Maharashtra)," he said.

"Less crop yield, no good returns on crops, climatic conditions, problems due to wild animals and costly farming inputs were some of the main reasons for farmer suicides in the region. We called four such families and had discussions with them," the official said.

He said the families get aid after they lose their member to suicide.

"To find such vulnerable farmer families, we decided to reach out to the cultivators through a survey comprising 104 questions.

## WHO advises against use of sugar substitutes

● For weight loss

New Delhi, May 16 (PTI):

The World Health Organization (WHO) has advised against the use of non-sugar sweeteners to control body weight or reduce the risk of non-communicable diseases.

The recommendation is based on the findings of a review of the available evidence which suggests that use of non-sugar sweeteners (NSS) does not provide any long-term benefit in reducing body fat in adults or children. The findings also suggest that there may be potential undesirable impact from long-term use of NSS, such as an increased risk of type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and mortality in adults, the WHO said.

"Replacing free sugars with NSS does not help with weight control in

the long term. People need to consider other ways to reduce free sugars intake, such as consuming food with naturally occurring sugars, like fruit, or unsweetened food and beverages," said Francesco Branca, WHO Director for Nutrition and Food Safety.

"NSS are not essential dietary factors and have no nutritional value. People should reduce the sweetness of the diet altogether, starting early in life, to improve their health," Branca said in a statement.

The recommendation applies to all people except individuals with pre-existing diabetes and includes all synthetic and naturally occurring or modified non-nutritive sweeteners that are not classified as sugars.

These sweeteners are found in manufactured foods and beverages, or sold on their own to be

added to foods and beverages by consumers. Common NSS include acesulfame K, aspartame, advantame, cyclamates, neotame, saccharin, sucralose, stevia and stevia derivatives.

The guideline does not apply to personal care and hygiene products containing NSS, such as toothpaste, skin cream, and medications, or to low-calorie sugars and sugar alcohols (polyols), which are sugars or sugar derivatives containing calories and are therefore not considered NSS, according to the WHO.

The WHO guideline on NSS is part of a suite of existing and forthcoming guidelines on healthy diets that aim to establish lifelong healthy eating habits, improve dietary quality and decrease the risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) worldwide.

## SC pulls up Chandrasekhar for seeking extension of time

● To meet lawyers in jail

New Delhi, May 16 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Tuesday rapped alleged con-

man Suresh Chandrasekhar for filing a plea seeking extension of time to meet and consult his lawyers in the Mandoli jail here. A bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and Bela M Trivedi said visitation is already being provided to Chandrasekhar as per prison rules. "You give the name of the lawyers, we will ask the jail authorities to allow your lawyers stay in the jail. What kind of statement you are making in this court? Do you want a privilege in jail?" the bench remarked. The counsel ap-

pearing for Chandrasekhar submitted that 28 cases are pending against his client in six cities and more than 10 lawyers have been engaged. According to jail rules, only 30 minutes twice a week is being given to meet lawyers, which is not sufficient, his lawyer said, adding his client's right is being contravened. The apex court then said in its order, "It is not in dispute that visitation is provided to the petitioner in compliance of jail rules. What is being prayed for is extraordinary relief which is not permissible." A prisoner is allowed two interviews (meetings) every week with his relations or friends for half-an-hour duration, according to jail rules.

## Basmati-rich farmlands in Jammu adopt ripper technology

● To get rid of stubble burning menace

**Chakrohi border (R S Pura), May 16 (PTI):** India's basmati-rich agriculture fields in Jammu and Kashmir's R S Pura border belt have adopted a new technology, wherein modified rippers are used to get rid of the menace of stubble burning.

The department of agriculture (DoA) has introduced modified rippers to control stubble and convert it into fodder. Ripper is an agricultural tool that is used to loosen or aerate the soil. "The use of rippers will not only end farm fire and pollution but also

create fodder for cattle," Manager, Seed Multiplication Farm Chakrohi, Rakesh Khanjuria told PTI.

Khajuria said that use of new technology not only prevents pollution, farm fires and destruction of minerals in soil and insects, but creates fodder for cattle of the region and employment for the local youth. Officials said that introduction of rippers to create fodder instead of pollution should be introduced not only in the entire J&K but also in Punjab and Haryana. "Delhi, Haryana and Punjab, where such incidents are increasingly taking place, should adopt

this (ripper) technology of stable chopping. It should be used in the entire J&K. This will control pollution and will give fillip to mushroom and dairy enterprises," he said. Farmers and harvesters are working against time to reap 13 varieties of wheat sowed on 850 acres in fertile agriculture land on two sides of border fencing on the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Chakrohi that was off limits till a year ago, due to Pakistani shelling.

Seventy per cent of harvesting has been done. The crops were sown after India and Pakistan agreed on a ceasefire in 2021.

## HC takes up PIL seeking ban on children

Kochi, May 16 (PTI):

A public interest litigation (PIL) has been moved in the Kerala High Court seeking to prevent participation of children in the 'Thee Chamundi Theyyam' — a ritualistic dance in north Malabar region of the state — alleging that they are thrown on to embers 101 times as part of the performance tradition.

A bench of Justices Anil K Narendran and Kauser Edappagath on Tuesday asked the petitioner NGO to implead the Malabar Devaswom Board and the trustees

of the temple under which this dance performance is conducted.

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### STRAWBERRY HARVESTING

**A women plucks strawberries during the harvesting of season's first fruit crop, in a field on the outskirts of Srinagar, Tuesday.**

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# Four arrested for stealing hydraulic jacks from flyover construction site

Bhilai, May 16:

Police have arrested four ruffians including a juvenile on charges of stealing hydraulic jacks from the construction site of a flyover at Dabrapara. The accused had stolen four nos high capacity hydraulic jacks, which were fixed beneath the slabs of the flyover. The accused had not just stolen the hydraulic jacks but had even put the under-construction structure at risk. The arrested accused are Dushyant Thakur (19), Rahul Sahu (19), Mohan Nirmalkar (30) and a juvenile, all residents of Dabrapara. Four nos hydraulic jacks and iron plates were recovered from them.



While addressing media persons at the crime scene, SP Dr Abhishek Pallava informed that the theft of hydraulic jacks could have delayed the construction work by about four months. Further, the theft of hydraulic jacks could have caused damage to the under-construction structure and had caused threat to the lives of people engaged in construction work.

He informed that police had received a complaint

from one Kirtan Dutt Tiwari, who looks after the security arrangements of the flyover construction site in Dabrapara in Old Bhilai.

He complained that on the intervening night of May 14, a large number of iron plates, chairs, bar rods, centring plates and four nos hydraulic jacks (each of 250 tonne capacity) were stolen from the site. The jacks were installed beneath the bridge to give support to the structure.

A joint team of Old Bhilai Police Station and ACCU led by Inspector Manish Sharma and Inspector Santosh Mishra swung into action and interrogated the locals and suspects. Meanwhile, the team came to know about four youths, whose activities were suspicious.

All the four suspects including Dushyant Thakur, Rahul Sahu, Mohan Nirmalkar and a juvenile were taken into custody. During sustained interrogation, they confessed to stealing the hydraulic jacks from the construction site. The stolen items have been recovered from them. Police have booked them under section 379 of IPC.

# Revenue officers asked to resolve the cases within time limit

Bhilai, May 16:

Additional Collector Padmini Bhoi Sahu reviewed the works of the officials of the Revenue Department in the Collectorate on Tuesday. In the review meeting, she sought information about all the undisputed cases related to land transfer, partition, demarcation, revenue collection, map, diversion etc and gave instructions to resolve them within the stipulated time frame. SDMs and Tehsildars of all development blocks were present in the meeting. She inquired about the pending cases in the High Court and the Rajiv Gandhi Landless Agricultural Laborers Justice Scheme. She asked to resolve the cases



related to demarcation received in Jandarshan within the time limit. Revenue officers were instructed to physically verify all the pending cases and dispose of them in priority order and monitor them.

On the demand of social organizations, the vacant land outside the city was identified on a large scale and instructions were given to give the

allot land to all the community heads. She instructed to resolve the cases of aabadi land allotment and tree felling at the earliest. Along with this, Deputy Electoral Officer Yogita Dewangan asked the officers to physically verify the polling booths and upload photos in view of the upcoming assembly elections. Along with this, the officers were asked to verify the

arrangement of the marked building. Instructions were given to prepare a list of polling station buildings and send them to the PWD, so that repair work could be completed within the time limit. She inquired about the arrangement of ramp for disabled voters in the polling stations, so that they do not face any inconvenience in reaching the polling station.

# Villagers approach Jandarshan with complaint of weak mobile network



141 applications received in Jandarshan

ousness of the matter, the concerned officer was instructed to take immediate action.

An old lady of Bhilai sought justice after being harassed by her son. She said that her son was making efforts to deprive her of her residential house. Her son often locks the house. Due to old age and weak economic conditions, she has no other option. The old lady requested that she should be given his residential house. The application was sent to SDM Durg for legal action.

A resident of Nandini Nagar Ahiwara made a complaint against encroachment on her house. She said that her husband is mentally retarded and the responsibility of the whole family is on her. The applicant said that her residence is built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna, but the way of door and window has been closed due to encroachment by the neighbour. Due to this encroachment, the applicant's family is facing difficulties in commuting. The application was forwarded to CMO Ahiwara for legal action. A total of 141 applications were received in Collector Jandarshan.

classes. He added that the residents are not getting significant information due to lack of internet services. His application was forwarded to the concerned authority for resolution of the problem.

A denizen submitted an application regarding the water problem in Junwani Ward No 1. The applicant said that the drinking water supply in the ward is not proper. In Junwani, a major water crisis has arisen due to the breakdown of the hand pump in the scorching heat. He said that the villagers have to depend mainly on the six hand pumps located in the area for drinking water and other works. All the hand pumps are out of order, he said. Complaints have been made for this in the past as well, but no proper action has been taken. Employees are sent by the Corporation for repairing work, but due to lack of resources, even the repairing work is not completed. In view of the seri-

**Bhilai, May 16:** A large number of applications were received in the Jandarshan organized in the Collectorate. Continuous efforts are being made by the officials of the district administration to resolve the issues at the earliest. A resident of Khudmuda, Amleshwar in Patan block filed an application seeking installation of a mobile tower in Nagar Palika Parishad Amleshwar. He said that there is a problem of weak mobile signals in the area. Mobile tower is installed in the area but the strength and area coverage is very weak. Locals are facing problems related to the internet and call drops. The applicant further stated that due to the weak mobile network, the residents have to move to other places for making mobile calls and accessing the internet. Students who are preparing for exams are also facing difficulties to watch videos of online

# Denizens to face power cut during water supply timings



Bhilai, May 16:

Many people use tullu pumps to fetch water in different areas of the city. Due to the illegal use of tullu pumps to fetch more water from the pipelines, water is not reaching to the last end. People would not be able to use tullu pumps if the power supply is cut during the water supply timings. This will also ensure water supply till the last end. It needs to be mentioned here that the BMC had been appealing to the people for the last several weeks to stop using Tullu pumps. As the people did not respond in a positive manner, the BMC has sent a letter to the Electricity Department to ensure power cut for an hour

during the water supply timings. The Electricity Department has given its consent for a power cut in Bhilai Corporation area for one hour in the morning. Electricity supply will remain affected in Bhilai Corporation area from 06:30 hrs to 07:30 hrs from May 17. It needs to be mentioned here that at the time of water supply, water is drawn by most of the people with Tullu pumps from the distribution pipeline. This reduces water pressure in the pipelines and water does not reach to the end. Considering the problem, the electricity supply will remain affected in Bhilai Corporation area from 6:30 am to 7:30 am from May 17 to ensure uniform water supply to every house.

# 'Fight the Bite' successful, not a single dengue case detected

Bhilai, May 16:

On the National Dengue Day, rallies were taken out in all the zones of Bhilai Municipal Corporation. Under a special public awareness campaign, people were detailed about mosquito eradication and dengue control and efforts were made to connect people with this campaign.

On the instructions of Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena, Fight the Bite campaign is being run in the BMC limits. The civic body adopted special activities under mosquito eradication in Bhilai and was successful to great extent. Not a single case of dengue has been found in the last 3 months.

Giving information in this regard, District Malaria Officer CBS Banjare said that due to awareness and mosquito eradication activities, there have been no cases of malaria and filariasis apart from dengue. Under Fight the Bite, a special campaign was launched and people were involved in it. Various colonies of Bhilai participated enthusiastically. The winning colony has also been awarded citations and adjudged as first, second and third prize winners. On the in-



structions of Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas, a special team has been formed in Bhilai which works throughout the year for mosquito eradication and dengue control.

This team, under the leadership of Senior Sanitary Inspector KK Singh, has been carrying out dengue control and prevention activities in Bhilai Corporation area for the last one year. Survey of 7260 houses has been done by the special team from the month of March to May under mosquito eradication, 16554 coolers, tanks, containers etc have been checked. Under public awareness, efforts are being made to connect

people with the mosquito eradication campaign through pamphlets and interactions.

To prevent dengue, malaria and filariasis, mosquito nets should be used while sleeping, water should not be allowed to accumulate in vessels, Temifas should be used to kill mosquito larvae.

If symptoms of Vector Borne Disease appear, one should immediately get examined in the nearest hospital. The surrounding areas should be kept clean and water logging should not be allowed. Keeping all these things in mind, citizens can actively participate in the mosquito eradication campaign.

# BSP employees of Instrumentation & Automation zone felicitated



**Bhilai, May 16:** Employees of the Instrumentation and Automation zone of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant were awarded with the 'Pali Shiromani' and 'Karm Shiromani' Awards for displaying commendable work performance, in an Award Ceremony held on May 16, 2023. Sant Kumar Keshkar, GM I/c (Instrumentation) was the chief guest of the Award Ceremony.

(Instrumentation) for the month of March 2023. Present in the program were the General Managers of Instrumentation Zone, B Madhu Pillai, GK Kund, AM Danny, Rajneesh Jain, M Joy Joseph and MP Singh, GM (INCAS). Mementoes and Certificates were presented to the awardees, along with Letter of Appreciation to their respective Spouses. During the programme, the awardees were appreciated for their achievements and contributions at the workplace.

The programme was conducted by KL Soni from the Personnel Office, Power and Electricity Department, whereas Santosh Kathare proposed the Vote of Thanks.

# Women becoming self-reliant under Kaushal Vikas Yojna

Bhilai, May 16:

The Corporate Social Responsibility Department (CSR) of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has always been a step ahead in discharging its social responsibility as a part of the organization's commitment to society. Women Empowerment is one of the prime areas where BSP's CSR Department contributes actively. In collaboration with the Chhattisgarh Handicrafts Development Board the CSR Department runs several skill development projects under the Kaushal Vikas Yojna, especially for the women in the adjoining rural areas of the Plant.

In the year 2022-23 total 9 training camps have been organized so far by the department, with 4 training camps still in progress. A total of 243 have benefited from these training sessions. Around 25 women can get trained in each camp, selected on the basis of prior application. This training is provided for three months, during which each trainee woman also receives a monthly honorarium of Rs 3000.



inaugurated a Handloom Training in collaboration with Rajhara Mahila Bunkar Samiti at Kumudkatta and Kopedera villages of Mahamaya Mines, for financially empowering the women of the area. Five Handloom Machines were also inaugurated at Village Kopedera. Under this initiative, 43 village women underwent month-long training in handloom weaving. After completion of the training the Loom Machines will be installed at the homes of respective trainees, to ensure lifelong livelihood from handloom weaving. The raw materi-

als and weaving equipment used in the training were supplied by the Chhattisgarh Handicraft Development Board. Several training camps in various other vocational skills have also been initiated by the department, such as Godna Tattoo Art Training in village Nandauri, Dry flower Training in Khamhariya, Shishal Jute Training in Maroda Basti, Kasidekari Embroidery Training in Raipur Naka. Bamboo craft training has been conducted in Dulki village of Dulki Mines area and at present the Chhattisgarh Handicrafts Development

Board is conducting dry flower training in Bora, Jute craft in Pachpedi, and Godna Tattoo training is being provided in Chatauna, Hiri Mines, along with Handloom Training camps at villages Kumudkatta and Kopedera. Today the women engaged in these training are becoming financially self-reliant by becoming capable of making various domestic and decorative items useful in the Household. The training is supervised by Shivrajan Nair GM (CSR), Sushil Kamde, Sr Mgr (CSR), Rajni Rajak, Development

Assistant (CSR), Ashutosh Soni Assistant (CSR) and other members of the CSR team. The objective of the camps being organized by the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, in collaboration with the Chhattisgarh Handicrafts Development Board, is to empower and economically strengthen the women of rural areas so that they also can financially support their families, and thereby contribute to nation's development. Most of the women trainees belong to the Forest areas

and are Below the Poverty Line category. Today they are becoming self-reliant and generating employment for themselves by making various useful goods. These products made by the women receiving training under BSP's CSR initiative include tray made of bamboo, Mirror Frame, Brush holder, Cup Stand, flower vase, bamboo chair and round tea table, multipurpose items of daily rural life such as Tukni, Chariha, Supa, Parri-Parra, Jhaapi, Jhouhan, etc. The women are also capable of embroidery, Making beautiful designs with Zardozi, Gotapatti, Mirror, Phulkari, Chikankari, Katha-Stitch etc. They can also make shishal Jute bags, show-cases, tortoiseshell, Lord Krishna, hand purses, fancy sandals etc. The Gudna tattoo art practiced by the trainee women by embossing tattoo designs on colourful clothes is a popular art form in villages. Making different types of bouquets using waste, leaves, branches and easily available materials at home is a part of dry flower craft training.



# 'National Ramayan Festival' to be organized for the first time in Ch'garh

Ramayan competition to be held in Raigarh's Ram-Leela Ground from June 1-3

- Artists from all over the nation and the world will participate in the event
- Special program on themes centred on the Aranyakand

**Raipur, May 16:**  
In accordance with the special initiative of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel and on the lines of the National Tribal Festival, a three-day National Ramayan Festival is being organized in Raigarh from June 1 to June 3. Preparations are in full swing for this event organized by the Culture Department. Foreign artists, along with artists from various states of the country, are being invited to the program. These artists from India and all over the world will perform a unique presenta-

tion of Ramayan on the land of Chhattisgarh. Chhattisgarh shares a profound bond with Lord Shri Ram. It is believed that Lord Ram passed through the forests of Dandakaranya, which include parts of forests in Chhattisgarh. Keeping this aspect in mind, special programs with themes centred on the Aranya Kand will be held during the festival. According to the information obtained from the officials of the Culture Department, artists of Manas Mandali groups coming from various states of the nation will perform in the Ramayan Festival from 2 pm to 6 pm, whereas artists of Manas Mandali arriving from foreign countries will perform from 8 pm to 10 pm in the event. Kelo Aarti and group chanting of Hanuman Chalisa will also be performed during the program, along with "Deepdan" in large num-

bers. The officers of the Culture Department said it is the first time that the department is organizing the National Ramayan Festival on a grand scale in Raigarh's Ram Leela Ground. The Manas Mandali groups participating in the event will be awarded. The first, second, and third prizes have been decided as Rs. 5 lakh, Rs. 3 lakh, and Rs. 2 lakh respectively. This will be a unique initiative on the national level by the state government to preserve the culture of the state. It is noteworthy that the story of Ramayan has been written in many languages and performed in many countries. The Ram Leela Ground in Raigarh will now stage the beautiful presentation of Ramayan. There has been an unbroken tradition of Ram Leela in India. When the legend of Lord Ram is presented in the form of a

festival, a large number of people will be able to benefit from the story of Ramayan. The presentation of the story of Lord Ram in the form of a festival will educate people about the ideals of Lord Ram. The Ramcharitmanas by Tulsidas Ji is quite popular and widespread in Chhattisgarh. Through the Ramayan Festival, viewers will get a glimpse of the ideals of Lord Ram from the various versions of the Ramayan, ranging from Valmiki to Bhavabhuti. The Ramayan extends from the Tamil Ramayan of Kamban to the Bangla Ramayan of Krittivas. Additionally, many forms of the story are prevalent in South-East Asian countries as well. The Ramayan Festival will provide viewers with beautiful glimpses of the character and personality of Lord Ram.

## Patwaris on indefinite strike for eight point demands



**Raipur, May 16:** Revenue related works were carried out in the entire state including Raipur from Monday, as the Revenue Patwari Sangh has gone on an indefinite strike for eight point demands. During this, more than 4000 Patwaris from across the state will go on pen down strike. During this, all Patwaris will protest at Tehsil level and subdivisonal level. Salary hike, promotion on the basis of seniority, resources and allowance, stationery etc. are mainly in-

**Revenue related works will be affected**  
cluded in their main demands. Due to this, revenue related work will badly affected in the entire state including Raipur. Revenue Patwari Sangh has been demonstrating continuously for the last few months. Earlier, on April 24, a one-day symbolic strike was organized by the Patwari Sangh. After which a warning was given to go on an indefinite strike from May 15. In such a situation, due

to not getting any positive response on the demands, the Patwaris have gone on strike. Chhattisgarh Revenue Patwari Union Provincial President Bhagwat Kashyap said that even in 2020, while giving a positive response to the demands, the government had assured to fulfill the demands, but till now the demands have not been fulfilled. We had also made a symbolic demonstration regarding this, yet the demands are not being considered. Now we will be on indefinite strike.

## It is our responsibility to provide basic facilities to public: Lakhma

**Raipur, May 16:** State Industries Minister Kawasi Lakhma performed Bhumi Pujan of BT renewal work at a cost of Rs. 47.45 lakh in Rajendra Nagar ward of Jagdalpur Municipal Corporation. Minister Kawasi Lakhma said that sufficient funds are being made available by the government for the development of Jagdalpur city. Many works have been approved for all-round development in the city, he added. The government has taken care of all sections. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel, the vision of 'Garhbo Nava Jagdalpur' is being realized. The city has so far received gifts of development

## Affected villagers urge for early start of Parsa Coal Block

Submit memo to CM Baghel and Health Minister TS Singh Deo

- For the land acquired for RSVUNL

**Raipur/ Surguja, May 16:**



The residents of Gram Panchayat Hariharpur, Janardanpur, Fatepur, Tara and Ghatbarra in a memorandum submitted to the Panchayat and Health department TS Singh Deo and in the name of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in capital city informed that their land has been acquired for the Parsa Coal Block and have obtained the compensation as well and they all are members of the affected families of Rajasthan State Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RSVUNL) Parsa Coal Block coming under Udaipur and Premnagar Tehsil of Surguja and Surajpur district. The affected villagers informed that at the time of rehabilitation and displacement, they have opted for employment in the Company. After obtaining the compensation amount, the muta-

tion of our land is now in the name of RSVUNL and now they do not have any rights on this land. In the last two years, neither we are able to take any crop on this land nor has got any employment in the Company and this is posing huge economic loss to all. The affected villagers said that with start of Parsa Coal Block, there will be expansion of employment, education, health, infrastructure and drinking water facility in the region. It is notable here that under the

rehabilitation and displacement of the land owners affected from Parsa Coal Block, there is provision for free of cost education, health facility and employment as well. For free of cost education, there is CBSE Board facility in English medium upto Class 10th and apart from this free of cost health facility and 24 hours ambulance facility too has been provided. The affected villagers in the memorandum clarified that some of the outside NGOs for their selfish interest are hid-

ing the actual truth and are trying to spread negative and rumours through social media among the local people here, so that the project gets delayed. Whereas the affected villagers said that they want Parsa Coal Block to be started soon, so that development of the region can take place. The villagers anticipated that if the Coal Block does not start, then at one place where they have lost their land, on the other would not even get employment, education and health facilities and it would deteriorate their family's economic condition and it poses threat to their livelihood as well, putting the future of their families in dark. Therefore the villagers have urged the MLA Surguja and Minister Of Panchayat TS Singh Deo to take initiatives for early start of Parsa Coal Block, so that they can get employment, health, education and other facilities soon.

## Consul General of France pays a courtesy visit to the CM

**Raipur, May 16:**



The Consul General of France in Mumbai, Mr. Jean-Marc Sere-Charlet, paid a courtesy visit to the Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel at his residential office today. The Chief Minister presented the Consul General with products of Chhattisgarh Herbals, "Rajkiya Gamchha", and a memento of Chhattisgarh's state animal, the Wild Buffalo, made of bell metal. The Chief Secretary Mr. Amitabh Jain was also present on the occasion.

work worth crores of rupees. The government is fulfilling what it had promised to the public. It is our responsibility to provide basic facilities to the people of the city, which we are discharging honestly. On this occasion, Parliamentary Secretary Mr. Rekhchand Jain, Mayor Mrs. Safira Sahu, Corporation President Mrs. Kavita Sahu, MIC members and ward corporators, departmental officers and dignitaries were present.

## 35th free regular yoga practice centers started

In Khantari Raipur

- Parliamentary Secretary Vikas Upadhyay and Chairman of Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission Gyanesh Sharma inaugurated



**Raipur, May 16:** The 35th free regular yoga practice center was inaugurated on Sunday at Veer Shivaji Ward, Shivaji Garden, Khantari, Raipur under the regular yoga practice program in the Municipal Corporation area of Chhattisgarh. Yoga Commission. The program concluded under the chief hospitality of Parliamentary Secretary Vikas Upadhyay and Chairman of Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission Gyanesh

Sharma. Free regular yoga practice will be conducted daily from 06 to 7.30 am by Yoga instructor Mrs. Jageshwari Sen in Shivaji Garden. In the program, 85-year-old local elderly woman Dhela Dai and

other elderly women were felicitated for practicing yoga regularly. Yoga Commission Chairman Mr. Gyanesh Sharma and Parliamentary Secretary Mr. Vikas Upadhyay appealed to the people to adopt

yoga in their daily life for a healthy lifestyle. During this, a large number of residents including local ward corporator Mrs. Godavari Gajju Sahu, Alderman Mr. Ravi Rao and Yoga Sadhaks were present.

## Awareness rally taken out on National Dengue Day

**Jagdalpur, May 16:**



On the occasion of National Dengue Day, an awareness rally was organized in Jagdalpur for the prevention of dengue. Collector Vijay Dayaram flagged off the rally at Danteshwari temple premises. The rally, led by the collector, reached back to the Danteshwari temple premises via Guru Nanak Chowk, Sanjay Bazar, Panama Chowk, Hata Ground, Gol Bazar Chowk, Sirhasar Chowk. Collector Vijay said on the occasion that the best way to prevent dengue is not to allow the larvae of mosquitoes that spread it to flourish. If dengue larvae do not flourish, then no one will be a victim of this disease. He said that after incessant rains for several

days, the sun is now shining, which is favorable for the spread of other pests including dengue. He said that through this rally people are being motivated to throw away stagnant water. Larvae of dengue mosquitoes thrive easily in coolers, pots and tyres, so it is necessary to throw them from time to time.

He also appealed to the people to maintain cleanliness at home and office. He said that fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, headache, pain behind the eyes, body pain, pain in joints and muscles, lethargy, fatigue, nausea, etc. are symptoms of dengue and should get such symptoms checked immediately. If your acquaintances

also see such symptoms, then advise them to get the tests done immediately. Municipal Corporation President Savita Sahu also addressed on the occasion and appreciated this awareness rally organized to stop the spread of dengue. On this occasion, District Panchayat CEO Prakash Sarve, Additional Collector Hareesh Mandavi, Joint Collector Aastha Rajput, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Nandkumar Choubey, Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. RK Chaturvedi, officials of various departments, employees of Health Department, Mitadin, Members of various social organizations including volunteers of Yuvodaya, Red Cross, Dalpat Bachao Abhiyan were present.

## Four theft accused nabbed

For stealing from 4 shops breaking shutters

**Jagdalpur, May 16:**

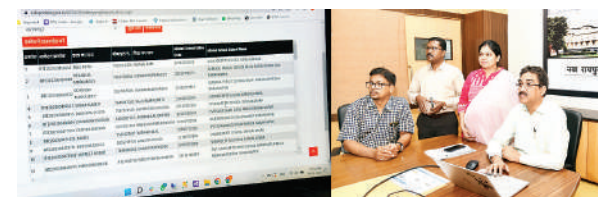
Police arrested four vicious thieves, who carried out the theft incident in four big shops of the city late on Sunday night in Thana Kotwali area of the district. Among the arrested thieves, Rashid, Mo. Salman, John Mohammad and Sukhdev Singh are all residents of Uttar Pradesh. Police arrested the thieves from Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh within 24 hours of the incident. It is notable that on late Sunday night, four vicious thieves targeted four shops located in the city, Laxmi Anna Bhandar, Aman Mobile,



ing the matter and started searching for the absconding accused. Meanwhile, the police also took the help of technical evidence to trace the accused. During the course of investigation, the police identified the accused with the help of footage from surveillance cameras installed at the crime scene and in the city. During the investigation, the police captured the accused with the help of the footage of the surveillance cameras installed at the scene and in the city. As soon as the investigation was done, a police team arrested all the four vicious thieves Mohd. Rashid, Mohd. Salman, John Mohd. and Sukhdev Singh who had

executed the incident in Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh. During interrogation, all the accused have accepted their crime. ASP Nivedita Paul said that all the accused used to roam around in autos and do reconnaissance of shops in the city, and used to live in autos only. Three valuable mobile phones along with cash of about Rs 12000 stolen by the thieves has also been recovered. The total estimated market value of the goods stolen is around Rs 2.60 lakh. Registering a case under Section 457, 380 in Police Station Kotwali, all the accused have been produced before the court and sent to jail.

## 552 students selected in the first phase under RTE



**Raipur, May 16:**

Under the Right to Free and Compulsory Child Education Act (RTE), like every year, for the academic session year 2023-24, the process of applying online in the first phase for admission in private schools of the state has been completed. Director Public Education Mr. Sunil Kumar Jain took out the lottery of the first phase on Monday by pressing the button. In the first phase, lotteries of Sukma, Dantewada and Kondagaon districts of Bastar division were drawn, in which a

total of 552 students were selected. In the first phase of the lottery, 74 students of Dantewada district, 82 students of Narayanpur district and 396 students of Kondagaon district were selected. The lotteries of the remaining districts will be completed by the scheduled date of May 25. It is noteworthy that under RTE, for the year 2023-24, online applications were invited through the RTE portal in private schools operating in the state. A time-table was issued regarding the admission proceedings in private schools.



## Online lottery for admission held in HGEEMS

Nawapara Rajim, May 16:

Online lottery for admission in the prestigious Harihar Government Excellent English Medium School (HGEEMS) today. Principal Sandhya Sharma, Tehsildar Vasumitra Diwan, Municipal President Dhanraj Madhyani, Assistant Block Education Officer Dhaneshwari Sahu, Councillor Ajay Sahu, Ravi Sahu, Councillor Representative Faguram Vijay Squirrel along with Devgan was taken out in the presence of school staff including parents. In which lottery was drawn for class first to twelfth. Institution Principal Sharma congratulated the selected students and asked them



to submit the documents. He also told that the students who have been selected for the admission Class first have to take two passport photos, hard copy of online application, photocopy of birth certificate, photocopy of parents' Aadhar card, photocopy of student's Aadhar card, income,

caste. And photocopy of original residence certificate, survey list of parents of selected students under BPL, photocopy of Antyodaya card, selected students of SC, ST category will have to submit caste certificate signed by Tehsildar. Apart from this, the photocopy of the mark sheet of the previous class for the students from class 2 to 12 who studied in English medium, the original copy of the transfer certificate of the previous school has to be submitted. Only after whose verification the admission will be considered complete. If the information in the online application is not found correct in the verification, then the admission will be treated as cancelled.

## Round Table India builds 3-classroom blocks

Bemetara, May 16:

Round Table India supports 'Freedom Through Education' by building a 3-classroom block at Government Primary and Middle School, Basin, Durg, with support from Procter & Gamble. While there are several Community Service Projects being implemented concurrently by Round Table India across the Country, 'Freedom Through Education' is the ongoing National Project whose primary aim is to provide physical infrastructure to schools aimed at supporting education of underprivileged children. Round Table India is involved in building Class Rooms, Toilets and providing other amenities like Drinking water facility, Library, Science lab, Playgrounds, etc to

At Govt Primary, Middle School, Basin, Durg



schools across the country that are catering to children from lesser privileged sections of the society. Since 1997 Round Table India has built over 7890 Classrooms in 3347 Projects impacting 8.67 million children across India with a total outlay of Rs 380 Crore and covered Area Built of almost 2.67 million sqft. Round Table India has built a new classroom block at Government Primary and Middle School, Basin, Durg through chapter 243 Bhilai Round Table on 14th May, 2023 with the help and support of Procter & Gamble. The new school block consists of 3 classrooms and under the FREEDOM THROUGH EDUCATION initiative by Round Table India. This 3 classroom block would benefit 90 lesser privileged children every year in the nearby areas of Basin, Durg.

## BJP demands prohibition of illegal liquor



Kharora, May 16:

The BJP has largely demanded of prohibition of illegal liquor and a large number of BJP workers along with the state convener of BJP Nasha Mukti Abhiyan, and a large number of women also participated in the protest against illegal liquor being sold in every village of Kharora tehsil. The protesters alleged that illegal liquor is being sold in the area

under the protection of Kharora police and in view of the demonstration; heavy police force was deployed at the police station. The party workers also alleged that under the patronage of the police station in-charge and Congress leaders, the illegal liquor business has flourished in the area, due to which the environment in the village is getting spoiled, while liquor is being sold indiscriminately in the village due to the bullying of the liquor sellers.

## Two-day cricket competition organized in Udanti Sanctuary



Mainpur, May 16:

A two-day cricket competition was organized under the joint auspices of Forest and Climate Change Department and Wildlife Trust of India at village Bamhijhola in Udanti Sanctuary of Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, to bring awareness to save wild animals. 16 cricket teams participated in this competition in which the final match was played between Amad Bamhijhola, the first winner was Bamhijhola's team

and the second was Amad's team. Varun Jain, Deputy Director of Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve and Dr. RP Mishra of WTI, New Delhi got introduced to the players and prizes were distributed by him. Addressing the organized program, Varun Jain, Deputy Director of Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, said that this sports competition has been organized to bring awareness in conservation and promotion of forests and wild animals, along with establishing friendly relations between the villagers and the forest department.

He appealed towards the conservation and promotion of forests and wildlife. Prominently present on this occasion, were Assistant Director Gopal Kashyap, Jagdish Pradas Darro, B.K Lakda, SDO Rajendra Sori, D.N.Soni, D.S.Sahu, Amarnish Thakur, B.L.Sori, C.B.Dhruv, BS Dewangan, Devdutt Taram, Baikunth Singh Thakur, Ashok Thakur, Roshan Mandavi, cricket lovers and sports persons.

## Sit-in demonstration for justice of deceased farmer

Dongargarh, May 16:

Under the leadership of Lal Bahadur Nagar BJP Mandal, a Sit-in demonstration for justice of deceased farmer late Anand Kanwar was done, and the party demanded a compensation of 50 lakh to the family and also the pardon the loan of farmers coming under the Medha Society. Anand Kanwar, had

Patel Former President Preetpal Belchandran State Backward Class President Bharat Verma State BJP General Secretary Komal Singh Rajput District General Secretary Ravindra Vaishnav Kisan Morcha District President Virendra Sahu Former MLA Kheduram Sahu Vice President Girwar Sahu Lal Bahadur City BJP President Bodhiram Sahu Kisan Morcha



committed suicide in a fake loan case in village Medha Society. The protesters demanding justice handed over a memorandum to the Tehsildar after staging a sit-in protest on the main road of Murmunda village. Former MP Madhusudan Yadav State Spokesperson Neelu Sharma District BJP President Ramesh

President Tameshwar Sahu Chandrika Dadhsena Jaipal Sinha demanded justice to the deceased and his family. On this occasion BJP Yuva Morcha President Moolchand Lodhi District Kisan Morcha Vice President Vijender Singh Thakur Ajay Tiwari Virendra Soni Jitendra Sinha and many others were present.

## Apathy is services of Head Post Office



Mungeli, May 16:

Services of the Head Post Office of the region is under scrutiny here due to the poor services and lack of employees. From deposit schemes, speed post booking, Gangajal Yojana, many works are proving to be a headache for the common citizens due to the shortage of employees and their working at a snail's pace. The post office, operated in a rented building instead of a government building, is deprived of many facilities. Here it may be known that in the past, there used to be two post offices in Mungeli since about 1975, but about 25 years ago the sub post office Daupara was closed. Presently the main post office which once operated in the center of the city is currently operating in a rented building at the corner of Shikshak Nagarm, where apart from servers, work is being affected due to lack of staff. Server related problems have increased since the core banking

service and because of this; people standing in queues have to face a lot of trouble. Similarly there is no ATM of the department anywhere in the city. Apart from this, the supply of Ganga water, which is becoming increasingly popular among the common people, has also been stopped for a long time. It may be known that the Ganga water of Haridwar and Gangotri was being made available at an economical rate by the Central Government through the post office, but due to the negligence and non-cooperative attitude of the officers, the residents of the area are not getting the benefit of both these schemes. When attention was drawn to regional MP Arun Sao, he said that this is a very important scheme of the Central Government and it has to be implemented smoothly. Mr. Dewangan, in-charge of the head post office, told that the scheme of LED bulbs has been stopped and Ganga Water is not coming from above itself, due to which it is not available and a demand letter has been sent. Common citizens have opined and demanded to establish another sub-post office in Karahi area, since Karahi is an independent Gram Panchayat, and it is attached to Mungeli and Collectorate, Superintendent of Police, District Court, Tehsil Office and others.

## Railways to get uniform signages at stations

310 stations in SECR to get uniform signages



Bilaspur, May 16:

Signages at railway stations across India will be standardised on the basis of colour, font and the use of pictograms for the ease of passengers, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said on Monday as he released a booklet containing details of the project. The Indian Railways, which is redeveloping 1,275 stations across India under the 'Amrit Bharat Stations Scheme', will seek to have uniform signages across stations to make it convenient for passengers. Railway Board Chairman and CEO Anil Kumar Lahoti and railway board members were present in the programme. GM Zonal Railways were also connected to this programme through video conferencing. SECR GM Alok Kumar also got connected through video conferencing. "As you all know, under the leadership of the prime minister, the Indian Railways has been working tirelessly to enhance passenger experience at

## Amrit Bharat Station Scheme

The terminals of three stations-Rani Kamlapati, Gandhinagar Capital and Sir M Visvesvaraya has been started as per Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. A total of 1275 stations from different locations has been selected for this purpose. Work has been started in 88 stations and for 1187 stations tender and project work is in progress. In SECR, apart from redevelopment of Raipur, Bilaspur and Durg station, 46 other stations under SECR are to be developed in this scheme. railway stations. It was felt to issue standard guidelines on signages at stations that will be consistent and adequate. "Today, I am delighted to release the booklet on Standard Signages at Stations on Indian Railways. The Indian Railways will adopt modern, standard signages, which are 'divyangjan' (differently-abled) friendly," Vaishnav said. The Railways network has the largest number of stations in the world. It is important that every passenger should have easy access to facilities by having standard signage, he said. The booklet on Standard Signages at Stations on

Indian Railways prioritises simple language, clear font, easy-to-see colours and intuitive pictograms. It is made keeping in mind the requirements of all passengers, including the elderly, women, children and 'divyangjan', etc, a ministry statement said. It said the colours of signages, type and size of fonts have been standardised. The concept of grouping of signages has been introduced for faster wayfinding. New tertiary boards displaying station names with tricolour backgrounds have been introduced. Emphasis has been laid on providing intuitive wayfinding and availability of signages on key deci-

## NAME CHANGE NOTICE

It is informed to the general public that my old name Fatema Mohammad Ali Bohari (FATEMA MOHAMMED ALI BOHARI) father Mohammad Ali changed his old name to new name FATEMA VANAK Husband Mr. YUSUF VANAK Residence- Ward no. 24 Tayyabi Manzil, in front of G B Hospital, Juni Line Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh). Therefore, now in future in all government, semi-government and other documents, my name FATEMA VANAK Husband Mr. YUSUF VANAK should be known and recognized swearer Fatema Vanak Husband Mr. Yusuf Vanak Opposite G B Hospital Juni Line Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh)

FORM A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT (Under Regulation 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)	
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CREDITORS OF ECOMAISTER BEADS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED	
RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1. Name of corporate debtor	Ecomaster Beads India Private Limited
2. Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	02-04-2013
3. Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	ROC-Chhattisgarh
4. Corporate Identity No. / Limited Liability Identification No. of corporate debtor	U26991CT2013PT0000776
5. Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	B-3, Vindavan Colony, Bhagwanpur Dhimrapur Bypass Road, RAIGARH - 496001.
6. Insolvency commencement date in respect of corporate debtor	Order pronounced on: 15-05-2023
7. Estimated date of closure of insolvency resolution process	11-11-2023
8. Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as interim resolution professional	Prasad Kamalakar Dharap IBBI/IPA-001/IP-PO0702/2017-18/11228
9. Address and e-mail of the interim resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Add: 47 "Prasad", New Ramdaspath, Nagpur, Maharashtra - 440 010 Email ID: dharap05@rediffmail.com
10. Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the interim resolution professional	Add: 47 "Prasad", New Ramdaspath, Nagpur, Maharashtra - 440 010 Email ID: crp.ecomaister@gmail.com
11. Last date for submission of claims	29-05-2023
12. Classes of creditors, if any, under clause (b) of sub-section (6A) of section 21, ascertained by the interim resolution professional	Nil
13. Names of Insolvency Professionals identified to act as Authorised Representative of creditors in a class (Three names for each class)	Not applicable
14. (a) Relevant Forms and (b) Details of authorised representatives are available at:	Web link: https://ibbi.gov.in/ Physical Address: Plot No. 47, Prasad, New Ramdaspath, Nagpur - 440 010
Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal has ordered the commencement of a corporate insolvency resolution process of the Ecomaster Beads India Private Limited 15-05-2023.	
The creditors of Ecomaster Beads India Private Limited, are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 29-05-2023 to the interim resolution professional at the address mentioned against entry No. 10.	
The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means.	
A financial creditor belonging to a class, as listed against the entry No. 12, shall indicate its choice of authorised representative from among the three insolvency professionals listed against entry No.13 to act as authorised representative of the class [Nil] in Form CA.	
Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.	
Sd/-	
Name and Signature of Interim Resolution Professional	Prasad Dharap
Date and Place	:17-05-2023 at Nagpur







## CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 11 No. 47

### Electoral Prelude

**Decisive Assembly Polls and Their Significance for the 2024 LS Elections**

As the echoes of the Karnataka Assembly Elections fade away, the political landscape of India braces itself for an intense year ahead. The triumph of the Indian National Congress, securing an absolute majority with over 136 seats, has set the stage for a year filled with anticipation and political fervor. With at least five more state assembly elections on the horizon, the democratic carnival of India is far from over in 2023. The northeastern states of Nagaland, Tripura, and Meghalaya kickstarted the electoral spree this year. However, these legislative assembly elections hold a greater significance than ever before, as they serve as determinants for the impending 2024 Lok Sabha Elections. The fate of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's BJP government at the center hangs in the balance, making these state assembly elections critical precursors to the upcoming General Elections. Since assuming office in 2014, Prime Minister Modi has been the driving force behind India's governance. However, the winds of change blow strong in the face of democracy, and the upcoming state assembly elections are poised to test the ruling government's popularity and strength. The latter part of 2023 promises a series of assembly polls, with terms of legislative assemblies in Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh expiring on different dates in December. Rajasthan and Telangana will follow suit in January 2024, marking a crucial period of electoral fervor. In addition, it is not implausible to expect simultaneous polls in these five states, as the logistical challenges of conducting elections in quick succession may favor such a decision. Furthermore, the assembly elections in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be overlooked, with reports suggesting a possible schedule once the winter conditions subside. Looking ahead, the terms of the legislative assemblies in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, and Odisha will conclude on different dates in June of the following year. Given that Lok Sabha polls typically take place in April-May, the likelihood of simultaneous assembly elections in these three states alongside the parliamentary exercise cannot be ignored. The year 2023 is poised to be a pivotal moment in Indian politics, where power dynamics will be redefined and electoral strategies meticulously planned. The assembly elections taking place across the nation will serve as a battleground for political parties to test their mettle and gauge public sentiment. The outcome of these polls will undoubtedly shape the trajectory of the nation, leading up to the decisive 2024 Lok Sabha Elections. The forthcoming assembly polls provide a platform for political parties to showcase their strategies and articulate their vision for the future. It is essential for voters to critically analyze the performance of the incumbent governments, assess the promises made by the opposition, and weigh the potential impact of their choices on their respective states and the nation as a whole. Moreover, the significance of these state assembly elections extends beyond regional boundaries. The outcomes will shape the political landscape and influence the course of action at the national level. A strong showing by the ruling party in these assembly elections would solidify their position and potentially boost their campaign momentum for the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections. On the other hand, a resurgence of the opposition parties could indicate a shift in public sentiment and serve as a harbinger of change. In this era of social media and instant communication, it is crucial to foster healthy political discourse. While political parties engage in competitive rhetoric and mud-slinging, it is up to the people, as responsible citizens, to rise above the noise and focus on the issues that truly matter. It is important to hold elected representatives accountable, demand transparency, and insist on policies that address the pressing challenges faced by our nation. The assembly polls scheduled for the year 2023 will undoubtedly set the stage for an intense political year, paving the way for the high-stakes 2024 Lok Sabha Elections. The outcomes of these elections will shape the future of our nation, impacting policies, governance, and the aspirations of millions.

### Addressing the Global Concern of 'Forever Chemicals'

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

Forever chemicals are highly persistent and toxic substances that do not easily break down in the environment or our bodies. They are known as per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and can last for thousands of years. PFAS are found in everyday products like non-stick pans, food packaging, cosmetics, and firefighting foam. These chemicals seep into the environment, contaminating water bodies, animals, and even our drinking water. PFAS have been linked to serious health issues, including cancer, immune system damage, hormone disruption, and developmental delays. To minimize exposure, it is recommended to avoid using non-stick cookware and products containing PFAS, choose alternative materials, and opt for natural and biodegradable cleaning products. Purchasing food packaged in glass, metal, or paper containers instead of plastic can also reduce the risk of PFAS contamination. Water filtration systems designed to remove these chemicals are useful in areas with concerns of PFAS contamination. The presence of forever chemicals is a global issue, affecting not only humans but also wildlife. Traces of these chemicals have been found in wildlife worldwide, including endangered species. The risk extends to polar bears in the Arctic, tigers, monkeys, pandas, dolphins, and fish across the world's oceans. Addressing forever chemicals requires stricter regulations, monitoring systems, and proper disposal methods. In March 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established Maximum Contaminant Level goals for PFAS in drinking water. However, more comprehensive measures are needed to protect public health and the environment. In India, PFAS contamination is also a concern, and regulatory agencies like the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) play a crucial role in monitoring and regulating the use of forever chemicals. Stricter regulations, proper disposal methods, and awareness campaigns are necessary to mitigate the risks posed by these chemicals. Scientists have made progress in developing filtration systems and methods to degrade forever chemicals. A breakthrough method using common reagents and low temperatures has been discovered to degrade PFAS. This research provides hope for effectively eliminating these pollutants from water sources. However, the challenge of disposing of PFAS after filtration remains, as current methods require harsh treatments. Recent studies have also revealed that toilet paper contains PFAS, further highlighting the pervasiveness of these chemicals in everyday items. This raises concerns about water pollution and the need for effective monitoring and control measures. Overall, forever chemicals pose significant risks to human health and the environment. It is crucial to take precautionary measures, promote safer alternatives, and advocate for stricter regulations to address this global issue.

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### CELEBRATION TIME



Students celebrate after the declaration of the Haryana Board of School Education (HBSE) class 10th exam results, at a school in Gurugram, Tuesday.

### Religion-based mobilization in politics fueling communalism

**DR SATYAVAN SAURABH****When did Gita say this, and where did Quran say it?  
In the name of religion, the earth bleeds**

Communalism is based on the assumption that Indian society is divided into religious communities whose interests are not only different but also in conflict with each other. It is an aggressive political ideology linked to religion. However, communalism is about politics, not religion. Although sectarians are intimately involved with religion, there is no necessary relationship between individual faith and sectarianism. One of the distinguishing features of communalism is its claim that religious identity is above all else. There is not only one factor responsible for the persistence of communalism in India. Historically, the British used the divide-and-rule policy to undermine nationalist aspirations by creating a rift between Hindus and Muslims. This resulted in communal tension between the two groups and it is believed that the Hindu-Muslim split took place during the continuation of British rule in India. The partition of India was the result of this policy. The gap of socio-economic inequality that remained after independence widened and the internal tension and tension between the majority community and the minority necessity of life also gives rise to communal hatred. Widespread

poverty and unemployment create a sense of hopelessness among the people. The unemployed youth of both communities can be easily trapped by the religious fundamentalists and used by them for communal riots. Fundamentalism and communalism have some ideological elements in common. Both attack the concept of separation of religion from politics and the state. Both are opposed to the concept of common truth in all religions. It is against the concept of religious harmony and tolerance. The criminalization of politics has made electoral politics in India more costly and competitive. Political parties are not hesitating to use any means, fair or foul, to win elections. They even create communal tension and try to take political advantage of it. Therefore, the communication of politics as a process is supporting the growth of communalism in India. The role of media in spreading communal ideologies, behavior, and reactions of different communities has been very powerful. In almost every major communal riot, media-backed rumors play a role. For example, The Muzaffarnagar riots of 2013 are a prime example of how social media can play an active role during communal tension. External actors including non-state actors

Communalism was and is still one of the major challenges to democracy in our country. Communalism can take various forms such as majoritarian dominance, religious prejudice and conservatism, and political mobilization along religious lines. Communal thinking often leads to the search for political dominance in one's religious community. The framers of our constitution were aware of this challenge and therefore chose the secular state model. Apart from this, there is a need to counter communal prejudices and propaganda in everyday life and to counter religion-based mobilization in the field of politics.

have a hand in making the problem of communalism worse. They aim to create an atmosphere of instability and gain the sympathy of the minority community. To overcome the problem of communalism, there is an important need for value-based education in the country today. Emphasis should be on imparting values like compassion, secularism, peace, non-violence, and humanism through education and inculcating scientific temper in society. Reforms in the criminal justice system are the need of the hour; The criminal justice system has often been criticized, especially as it stems from communal violence. Measures should be taken to reform police procedures and practices and special investigation and prosecution agencies should be set up to deliver timely justice. Removing ideological bias is beneficial at such times and news channels play a huge role in influencing the thoughts and mindset of people, so when they are biased towards one community or religion, it affects the people watching those news channels. Prejudices can develop in the approach. Therefore, the media should focus on presenting a balanced view to the audience. Steps should be taken to understand different cultures by arranging festivals, celebrations, and social gatherings to facilitate social and cultural amalgamation. Stopping ghettos and geographical segregation based on religion, promoting inter-religious marriages, etc. should be taken. In creating communal aware-

ness in civil society, NGOs can tie up with the government to create communal awareness, build strong community relations and inculcate the values of communal harmony. By telecasting the heritage of the past, efforts should be made to remind the countrymen of those glorious moments of history in which Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs were together to protect the interests of the nation. Also, people should be made aware of how India's diversity has served as a source of unity for the country. The principle of the Uniform Civil Code is laid down in Article 44 of the Constitution. Without the UCC, it is observed that each community has separate and conflicting interests. Implementing this can help reduce religious differences. Communalism was and is still one of the major challenges to democracy in our country. Communalism can take various forms such as majoritarian dominance, religious prejudice and conservatism, and political mobilization along religious lines. Communal thinking often leads to the pursuit of political dominance of one's religious community. Our constitution makers were aware of this challenge and therefore chose the secular state model. Apart from this, there is a need to counter communal prejudices and propaganda in everyday life and to counter religion-based mobilization in the field of politics. (Dr. Satyavan Saurabh, Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, All India Radio and TV panelist. Views are personal.)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Governor's Role: Ornamental or Operational?

The recent rulings by the Supreme Court regarding the role of governors in states and lieutenant governors in Union Territories have significant implications for the future. During the Constituent Assembly discussions, the post of governor was conceived as a means to ensure the diligent implementation of the Constitution. However, the court's scathing remarks against former Maharashtra Governor Koshiari shed light on the need for clarity in defining the governor's responsibilities. The court rightly emphasized that neither the Constitution nor the law empowers the governor to interfere in political disputes within or between parties. The discretion exercised by Governor Koshiari in demanding a floor test from Chief Minister Thackeray was deemed unlawful. It is crucial that governors comprehend the constitutional limits of their power, acting strictly within the framework provided. The Supreme Court's observations on the governor's extraordinary power to act without the Council of Ministers' advice underscore the significance of preserving parliamentary democracy. Discretion to call for a floor test must be exercised judiciously and supported by objective evidence, not merely by requests. The governor's role should not extend beyond constitutional boundaries, and they should refrain from meddling in intra-party or inter-party conflicts.

Yash Pal Raihan, Jalandhar

#### Monumental Task For Congress

Following its easy victory in Karnataka, the Congress now faces the monumental task of selecting a candidate for CM. The two obvious candidates are DK Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah, but there is also the possibility that party President and seasoned politician Mallikarjun Kharge will run. Even though party observers will compile each newly elected legislator's personal opinion, the final decision will be made by the high command for sure. Another chance is that Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar to take turns holding the chair for two and half years. If both refuse to agree on the rotating CM-proposal, Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge, who has failed to win the position of Chief Minister at least four times before, could be elected as CM.

Dr. Vijaykumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

## Safeguarding Medical Staff: Ensuring Optimal Care in a Secure Environment

### Rising Instances of Violence

Regrettably, cases of verbal and physical abuse, as well as outright assaults, against caregivers have been on the rise. Medical professionals, who tirelessly work to save lives, find themselves at the receiving end of aggression from attendants of patients who perceive negligence or dissatisfaction with the treatment provided. Shockingly, a report by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) reveals that 75% of doctors have experienced abuse or assault at some point in their careers. In Kerala alone, there were 137 reported attacks on doctors in the year 2022. These distressing statistics demand immediate attention and effective measures to address this alarming trend.

### The Need for Prompt Action

The tragic incident involving the brutal assault on house surgeon Vandana Das in a Kerala hospital has not only highlighted the dangers faced by medical personnel in the line of duty but has also brought attention to the alarming lack of security measures in place to protect them. The failure to ensure the safety of Dr. Das, despite clear indications of the patient's potential for violence, is a distressing reflection of the existing vulnerabilities faced by healthcare professionals. This incident serves as a wake-up call, reminding us of the urgent need to prioritize the security of medical staff to create an environment where they can deliver the best possible care.

Recognizing the gravity of the situation, the Kerala High Court had issued directives in December, emphasizing the need for swift action. It mandated that a First Information Report (FIR) be registered within one hour of any attack on medical personnel. In March of this year, the court further stressed that the state government must publicly declare through the media that strict actions will be taken against those responsible for such acts of violence. However, the recent tragedy involving Dr. Das has prompted the court to call for enhanced

protection not only for doctors but also for medical interns, house surgeons, and postgraduate students. The court has also criticized the police for their failure to anticipate and prevent the attack on Dr. Das.

### Addressing the Lack of Deterrents

The Kerala unit of the IMA has rightly drawn attention to the lack of adequate deterrents in place. Despite the existence of a 2012 legislation that prohibits violence against healthcare staff, with offenses punishable by imprisonment of up to three years, very few convictions

have been made so far. The state government, which has faced criticism for allowing the situation to deteriorate, must take decisive action to strengthen the law and ensure its effective implementation. Expedited efforts are needed to create a safe and stress-free environment in hospitals, not only for the well-being of medical professionals but also for the benefit of patients who deserve the best possible care.

### Conclusion

The security and well-being of medical staff are essential to ensure the delivery

of optimal healthcare services. It is imperative that governments, healthcare institutions, and society as a whole recognize the urgent need to address the growing incidents of violence against medical personnel. Strict implementation of existing laws, prompt registration of FIRs, and swift conviction of offenders are crucial steps towards creating a safe environment for doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers.

Additionally, enhanced security measures, including the presence of trained personnel and effective surveillance systems, should be implemented to deter potential acts of violence. Only by safeguarding our medical staff can we create an environment that fosters excellence in healthcare and ensures that patients receive the best possible care.







