

Security forces kill 5 terrorists, foil infiltration bid

Kupwara (J-K), Jun 16 (PTI):

Security forces killed five heavily armed foreign terrorists along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday and said it was the "biggest" infiltration bid to have been foiled since 2021, when India and Pakistan effected a ceasefire understanding.

The operation in the Jumagund area in the Keran sector was launched Thursday

night based on intelligence input gathered by the Jammu and Kashmir Police. Briefing the media here, the general officer commanding of the army's 28 Division, Major General Girish Kalia, said that based on the input, multiple ambushes were set up along the expected routes of infiltration.

"Simultaneously, the entire area, the LoC fence or the anti-infiltration obstacle system (AIOS), was kept under surveillance," he said. Around mid-



GOC 28 Div Maj Gen Girish Kalia during a press conference, in Kupwara, Friday.

night, the movement of terrorists was picked up by the alert troops who braved challenging terrain and weather conditions.

"The infiltrating terrorists were engaged with precise and accurate fire, and in the ensuing firefight, five unidentified terrorists were neutralised," Maj Gen Kalia said, adding there was no collateral damage. He said the terrorists were heavily armed and appeared to be very well trained. During a search of the site Friday morning, a large

amount of arms and ammunition, including five AK series rifles, 15 magazines and grenades, and equipment such as night vision devices and binoculars were recovered, he said.

Maj Gen Kalia said while there is a ceasefire understanding between India and Pakistan, the security forces have been getting a large number of intelligence inputs of likely infiltration from across the LoC in the recent past.

Fresh clashes between Rapid Action Force and riotous mob



Flames and smoke billows out after an old warehouse owned by a retired bureaucrat set ablaze amid violence in Manipur, at Palace Compound in Imphal East district, Friday.

Imphal, Jun 16 (PTI): A riotous mob clashed with Manipur's Rapid Action Force in Imphal Friday evening after it had torched a warehouse. Police used tear gas shells to disperse the mob as it was believed that it would target other properties. "The riot occurred near the Imphal palace grounds," officials said. Fire personnel and security forces rushed to the site and brought the warehouse fire under control and prevented it from spreading to the neigh-

bouring houses. The property belonged to a retired high-profile IAS officer from the tribal community. Earlier last night Union Minister of State for External Affairs R K Ranjan Singh's house in Imphal town was vandalised by a mob which also tried to burn it down, officials said. This development comes after the burning of two houses, and clashes between the Rapid Action Force of Manipur and a mob in the heart of Imphal town on Thursday afternoon.

'NCERT fully justified in carrying out rationalisation of its textbooks' contents'

New Delhi: UGC Chairman Jagadish Kumar on Friday slammed academicians objecting to the rationalisation of NCERT textbooks, saying there is no merit in their "hue and cry", and asserted that carrying out revisions in content is justified.

His remarks come a day after a group of academicians, who were part of the textbook development committees of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), wrote to the council demanding their names be dropped from books as their "collective effort is in jeopardy".

A couple of days ago also, a number of academicians and political scientists Yogendra Yadav and Suhas Palshikar had asked the NCERT to drop their names from textbooks over "several substantive revisions of the original texts".

Cyclone aftermath No power in hundreds of villages, roads, houses damaged



NDRF personnel clear trees uprooted following the landfall of Cyclone Biparjoy, in Gujarat.

Ahmedabad, Jun 16 (PTI): Cyclone Biparjoy has left a trail of destruction in Gujarat's Kutch and Saurashtra regions as some 1,000 villages are still without power with hundreds of electric poles getting damaged, while several coastal villages were flooded due to heavy rains and incoming seawater, officials said on Friday, a day after the storm made landfall. There was no loss of life in the state on account

Cyclone aftermath

of the cyclone which was the "biggest achievement," a senior official said. Cyclone Biparjoy ('biparjoy' means calamity in Bengali) made landfall along Saurashtra-Kutch coasts near Jakhau around 6:30 pm on Thursday as a 'very severe cyclonic storm', bringing incessant rains and wind speeds of as high as 140 kmph. The landfall was over by 2:30 am on Friday. "The biggest achievement

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SC defers pre-arrest bail plea hearing of husband of suspended Jharkhand IAS officer

New Delhi, Jun 16 (PTI): The Supreme Court on Friday deferred to June 23 the hearing of the anticipatory bail plea of Abhishek Jha, the husband of suspended Jharkhand cadre IAS officer Pooja Singhal, in a money laundering case related to the alleged MNREGA scam in the state.

Singhal, a 2000-batch IAS officer, is the main accused in the alleged scam involving embezzlement of public funds of Rs 18.07 crore when she was the deputy commissioner of Khunti district.

A vacation bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Ahsanuddin Amanullah, which refused to grant any interim protection to Jha, said the allegations against him serious and it would be appropriate if he surrenders and seeks regular bail. The counsel appearing for Jha said he is a businessman and is seeking anticipatory bail as his daughter is suffering from serious ailments. This court, the lawyer said, has twice granted interim bail to his wife for taking care of their daughter. "All this you should have thought before indulging in these activities. We are not inclined to grant you anticipatory bail in a case of this nature," the court told the counsel. The counsel said since the court is not inclined to grant anticipatory bail, it would be appropriate if a senior advocate is allowed to pursue the matter before another bench. Supreme Court benches usually don't hear arguments of senior lawyers during vacations in order to encourage juniors. The bench said, "Yes, we can post this matter next week. You can take your chances before the next vacation bench but we are not inclined to grant you any relief."

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Heat wave grips Chhattisgarh

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jun 16: Chhattisgarh is reeling under severe heat wave condition as the maximum temperature soared to 45 degree Celsius and 43 degree Celsius in Raipur and Rajnandgaon on Friday. Even minimum temperature has crossed 30 degree Celsius in many places of the state. The IMD, Raipur has issued orange alert of severe heat wave and warm night at isolated pockets over Central Chhattisgarh for the next two days. Orange alert has also been issued for thunderstorm accompanied with lightning and gust wind at isolated places over the state during the next two days.

According to IMD the conditions are becoming favourable for further advancement of Southwest Monsoon over some parts of south Peninsular and East India and adjoining areas during 18th-21st June. Scorching heat is prevailing in Raipur and several other parts of the state. Even at night, the minimum temperature is beyond 30 degrees. The night temperature in Raipur was recorded at 31.5 degrees. The minimum temperature in Rajnandgaon was 31 degree Celsius. Similarly, the night of the capital Raipur has also become hot with a temperature of 30.8 degrees. Janjgir and Mungeli recorded 29.9 degrees Celsius and Koriya recorded 29.4 degrees Celsius.

According to the information received from the Meteorological Department, heat wave conditions will continue in the state till June 19. There is no possibility of respite from the heat for the next three days, although conditions are favorable for the advance of monsoon. It is expected that by June 21, the monsoon will enter Chhattisgarh via Bastar and reach Raipur by June 24.



Three women wearing colorful saris walking outdoors in Raipur. The image shows three women in traditional Indian attire, including saris and shawls, walking on a paved area. They appear to be in a public space, possibly a market or a street, during the heat wave.

In the 6th Convocation of HNLU on June 18

Justice Aniruddha Bose- Judge of SC will preside over the convocation

Raipur, Jun 16: Hidayatullah National Law University (HNLU), a leading institution for legal education and research in the country, is pleased to announce the 6th convocation ceremony scheduled to take place on June 18, 2023. The Convocation shall take place at the Auditorium of IIT Nava Raipur. The Convocation will graduate a total of 152 students of B.A.LL.B. (Hons) out of which 124 students will receive degrees in person

and 28 students will receive degrees in absentia. Similarly, a total of 55 students will be graduating from the LL.M. programme out of which 30 students will receive the degree in person and 25 students will receive the degree in absentia. Debmita Mondal & Shhraddha Rajput, faculty at HNLU will be receiving the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

The Convocation will be presided over by Justice Aniruddha Bose, Judge, Supreme Court of India, and Visitor, HNLU. The Chancellor of HNLU and Chief Justice of the High Court of Chhattisgarh, Justice Ramesh Sinha, will declare the convocation open and confer the degrees on the graduating students and PhD Scholars. Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh

Baghel will be the Guest of Honour at the event. Justice MR Shah, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India, and former Executive Council member of HNLU will be the Chief Guest and deliver the Convocation address. The event will be graced by Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra, Judge, Supreme Court of India.

The event will have the participation of Justice Sanjay K Agrawal and Justice Sam Koshy, Judges of the High Court of Chhattisgarh. Mohammad Akbar, Minister of Law and Justice, Umesh Patel, Minister of Higher Education, and Premsai Singh Tekam, Minister of Tribal Affairs, Government of Chhattisgarh will grace the Convocation. The event will also have honorable presence Justice Goda

Raghuram, former Director of the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal.

The Convocation event will also have a galaxy of eminent academics, notably Prof. (Dr.) Ranbir Singh, Former Vice-Chancellor, NALSAR & NLU Delhi, Prof. (Dr.) R. Venkata Rao, Director of India International University of Legal Education & Research, Goa, Prof. (Dr.) Paramjit Jaswal, Vice-Chancellor, SRM University, Prof. (Dr.) Yajulu Medury, Vice-Chancellor, Mahindra University, Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Kumar Sinha, Director, ILI, Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, MNLU Nagpur, Prof. (Dr.) S. Shantkakumar, Director, Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Ram Kankani, Director, IIM Raipur and

Prof. Pradip Kumar Sinha, Director of IIIT Nava Raipur.

The event will witness the awarding of 36 Gold Medals to 13 UG and 3 PG students for their exceptional academic achievements. These medals include prestigious ones like the Chancellor's Gold Medal, The University's Gold Medal for the best outgoing student, Chhattisgarh State Bar Council Gold Medal, The Late Kamal Narayan Sharma Gold Medal, Late Smt. Shanti Devi Agrawal Memorial Gold Medal, Shri Vidyadhar Mishra Memorial Gold Medal, Dinesh Prasad Srivastava Memorial Gold Medal, Late Shri Hamidullah Khan Ex-MLA Kabirdham Gold Medal, Late K.P. Munshi Gold Medal, Syed Wakil Ahmed Rizvi Gold Medal, among others.

Shops of 20 Bus Agents sealed outside the Bus Stand

On complaints related to charging heavy fare and commission from passengers

Raipur, Jun 16: As per instructions by the SSP Prashant Agrawal, around 20 Bus Agents who have opened ticket counters of their shops at various places on the main road outside the Bus Stand and blocking the traffic, were sealed by a combined team of Municipal, Police and Transport department, in order to streamline the traffic and booking system at the city's inter-state Bus Stand.

It is notable here that from Bhatagaon Bus Stand upto Bhatagaon Chowk and upto Rawanbhata Chowk, there was general complaint that the bus agents used to forcefully stop the passengers in front of their office and were charging hefty fees in the name of bus



fare from the passengers. In most of the occasion they used to cut fake tickets and make the passenger sit in the bus.

In view of such complaints, meetings of Police and Municipal Administration and Transport department were held at different levels and likewise work plan was made to take action against illegal ticket agents in phased-manner. In view of complaints related to alleged misbehaviour with the passengers by the travel agents and hawkers inside the Bus Stand also, a separate Police Assistance Centre was opened inside it and

here a policeman was deployed round the clock. The control of all the CCTVs cameras inside the Bus Stand will remain with the Police department, so that the activities inside the Bus Stand can be monitored.

Meanwhile in order to identify anti-social elements and those not part of the ticketing agent or hawkers, an ID card will be issued for bus agents, bus operator, staff, parking staff and others. In other routes in city also booking offices have been opened in the city and here also buses are parked and action will be taken here as well.

One nabbed for molesting a girl and blackmailing her

Raipur, Jun 16: The Raipur Police has taken into arrest the persons molesting a girl taking her video and demanding cash of Rs 10000 and later Rs 1 lakh in the name of blackmailing her to make her video viral. The

accused Iftar Khan, R/o Budhpara, Purani Basti, Raipur had taken the girl to a private hotel in Moudhapara and outraged her modesty and got a video as well.

On charges of making the

video viral in the social media, the accused used to blackmail the girl and on demand, she paid Rs 10000 to him. But even after this Ifhtar continued to blackmail her and later demanding Rs 1 lakh in cash with

warning to make her video viral. On this the girl lodged a complaint against Ifhtar Khan in Moudhapara Thana and a case under section 376, 384 was filed against him. It was on instructions by the senior officers, the

police team under leadership of TI Moudhapara thana took Ifhtar Khan into arrest. He is R/o Baikarpur Than Mushtahari, District Muzaffarpur, (UP) and local address is Budhatalab, near Purani Basti, Raipur.

Woman nabbed for fooling people in the name of job in Forest deptt

Had taken Rs 4.50 lakh from three persons, promising them job for the post of Forest Guard

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jun 16: Shweta Dewangan, a female person demanding cash for post of forest guard, through social media has been taken into arrest by the police here on Friday. As per information in this regard, one Sadhelal Banjare had filed a complaint in Telibandha Thana he is posted as SDO in Forest Circle Raipur.

It is notable here that the Forest department has started implementation of



Physical Test for direct recruitment of Forest Guards in the state. According to Forest department as per the rules, this Physical Test is being carried out through a authorized neutral agency.

It was on June 15, there was rumour about fake sting operation through social media, saying that

Mangalam Services Room No. 506 Shubham Corporator Telibandha Raipur's Director is demanding Rs 1.50 lakh in advance for recruitment in the above post and Rs 5 lakh to bring the name in the recruitment list. In this case, 17 people have got the target and out of which talks with 13 have

been settled and this video was made viral by a woman.

In this case, the people applying for direct recruitment in Forest Department were in doubts about the truth behind it with all sorts of rumour. This was adding bad-name to the department and on this the woman

Shweta Dewangan was taken into arrest under section 420 of IPC. On interrogation, accused Shweta Dewangan informed that she provided private employment to unemployed and she is not having any contacts with any officer of the Forest department. For employment in the Forest department, she has taken Rs 4.50 lakh from

three persons and if the person gets the job, then she keeps the money and if he or she fails to get a job, then the amount is returned. This proves that the woman was targeting unemployed youth in the name of providing job to them.

The accused woman was nabbed and one laptop, computer, application forms related to Forest Guard, Forms and 1 mobile phone and one piece register having information about employment to persons in different departments and others were seized. Shweta Dewangan (24) is D/o Late Madanlal Dewangan and R/o Amlidih, New Rajendra Nagar Thana Raipur.

One nabbed in child pornography case



Raipur, Jun 16: On charges of child pornography case, the capital police nabbed one Bhavesh Patel as per instructions from Gol, Home Ministry, NCRB Delhi and from Police hq's Nava Raipur to nab this unknown accused and take action

against him. This case was forwarded to Cyber Cell to trace the accused and take action. As per instructions by senior officer, the accused was identified as Bhavesh Patel, R/o Rajendra Nagar, Raipur. The accused staying in the Civil Lines area had uploaded obscene videos of child pornography from his mobile phone on the social media. On this the Police located Bhavesh's residence and took him into arrest and seized his mobile phone. A case under section 67 B of IT Act was filed against him. The accused is Bhavesh Patel, S/o Gopi Patel, R/o Ekta Chowk, (25), Rajendra Nagar Raipur.

Policeman floats political party, to contest upcoming assembly polls

Raipur, Jun 16 (PTI): A Chhattisgarh policeman, who has led many protests of cops' families to press for their various demands, has floated a political party and plans to field its candidates in all 90 constituencies in the upcoming assembly elections in the state.

Constable Ujjawal Diwan, posted in Dhamtari district, said suspended, expelled and retired policemen have joined the outfit and several other cops would be a part of it after quitting their jobs.

After facing challenges in registering a new political party, Diwan and his associates decided to take over Azad Janata Party, an

already registered outfit. Diwan, who is the state president of AJP, said he has been fighting for the welfare of policemen and their families since 2018.

"Several cases were lodged against me and I even had to go to jail. Now I don't have faith in any political party. Therefore, we decided to establish our own party and contest polls. Our aim is to ensure justice to every victimised person in the state," he said.

The constable said he tendered his resignation in 2021 but the department is yet to accept it.

He can contest the election only after his resignation is accepted, he said.

Sanjeev Mishra, a suspended police constable who has been appointed as the state spokesperson of the party, said they applied for the registration of a new party but there were some objections over its name.

So they decided to take over AJP, he said, adding that they will field candidates in all 90 assembly constituencies in the upcoming assembly elections.

Mishra said he was suspended last year and he submitted his resignation though authorities have not yet accepted it.

Diwan said they will use crowdfunding to arrange for resources to run the party.

He said victimised police personnel like him, those who have been unilaterally expelled from service or have taken voluntary retirement have joined his party.

He claims to have the support of over 80,000 families of policemen and 4.5 lakh contractual employees working in state government departments.

The families of policemen from the lower ranks from different parts of the state have staged several protests in the last five years over their demands including higher salaries, weekly offs, government quarters for all jawans and response allowance.

MAIC becomes first choice for students and parents

Raipur, Jun 16: Maharaja Agrasen International College (MAIC), situated at Samta Colony, the heart of Raipur City is a prestigious educational institution, affiliated to Pt Ravishankar Shukla University. Today MAIC College has become the first choice for the students and parents for its academic and non academic activities and discipline.

The college mainly runs courses like BSC (Computer Science), BVOC (Interior Design), BCA, BBA, BCom, MCom, PGDCA, DBM and DLD. Process of counselling is being run in MAIC College for admission in various streams. Students can get information

according to their interest and career guidance by attending the counselling. A large number of MAIC College students are securing positions in university merit list every year,

said MAIC Chairman Rajesh Agrawal. College students are also actively participating in sports competitions of national level, he said. The college has been equipped with the state-of-the-art library and modern computer lab for the students, he said. College principal Dr MS Mishra said that free certification course is conducted keeping in mind the inclination of students in present scenario. In addition to this tally classes are conducted by popular tutorials, he said.

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Heart transplant and urologic robotic surgery begins at Ramkrishna Care Hospital

For the 1st time in Ch'garh

Raipur, Jun 16: Ramkrishna Care Hospital Raipur, which has established itself as the largest and reliable healthcare institute for state-of-the-art medical services and facilities has achieved one more success by introducing the facility of heart transplant and urologic robotic surgery.

Doctor A. Nagesh, Consultant CTVS & Heart Transplant Surgeon while discussing about the advance system of Cardiac

Surgery and Cadaveric Heart Transplant said that Heart Transplant is required when the heart stops functioning efficiently and potentially putting person's life in danger.

A heart transplant is usually recommended for a person with severe heart failure, when the heart is unable to pump enough blood around the body and survival is not possible without a heart transplant. The heart bypass machine will keep the blood circulating during the heart transplant. The damaged part is removed through the operation and



heart is connected to the main arteries. A heart transplant usually takes about six to eight hours. Even after this, a lot of caution is required. Advance treatment sys-

tems have definitely reduced the risks but have not eliminated them. For this, frequent follow-up appointments will be required at the transplant center.

Explaining Robotic Surgery and Urology Cancer Dr Vivek Venkataramani (Urology-Gold Medalist CMC Vellore) & Robotic Surgery (MIAMI USA) said that

Robotic Surgery or Robot-Assisted Surgery is a type of minimally invasive surgery that can be performed with entry into human body through small keyhole. In this type of surgery, arms are controlled by the surgeon sitting at a console at a distance. Uro-oncology is a subspecialty of urology that deals with cancer of the human urinary system, which includes the kidney, ureter, bladder, prostate, urethra, penis, testicles. The introduction of robotic surgery has revolutionized the treatment of prostate and kidney

cancer. Prostate cancer cases are now more commonly diagnosed due to increased awareness, regular health check-ups and availability of better health facilities.

Medical services of the prestigious Ramkrishna Care Hospital are being continuously expanded not only in Chhattisgarh but in the whole of central India for state-of-the-art facilities of world-class medicine and surgery. Dr Sandeep Dave, Medical and Managing Director of Ramkrishna Care Hospital, who is reputed as an experienced and

skilled surgeon for more than 35 years, is devotedly engaged in achieving the status of the best hospital with his hard work and efforts. Chhattisgarh's first robotic surgery machine has been installed at Ramkrishna Care Hospital. So far more than 100 state-of-the-art robotic surgeries have been performed at Ramkrishna Care Hospital. Successful treatment of patients with complex diseases related to heart, kidney, liver, brain is done in the hospital by expert doctors and skilled and experienced staff.

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'Farmers of Telangana praise farmer-friendly policies of Ch'garh'

500 farmers of Telangana met CM, presented him traditional 'Gongdi'

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 16: After observing and perusing the development model of Chhattisgarh, farmers of Telangana lauded the farmer-friendly policies and schemes being implemented in Chhattisgarh. 500 farmers from different districts of Telangana state visited Durg and Rajnandgaon districts, where they had a closer look at the ground implementation of various pro-farmer schemes.

After the tour, they shared their experiences with Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at his residence on Wednesday morning. Representatives of the farmer delegation from Telangana welcomed and felicitated the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh by adorning him with 'Gongdi' and pre-

senting him a model of a bullock cart.

The delegation of farmers from Telangana visited Amlidih Gauthan of Dongargaon development block in Rajnandgaon district and Pulgaon Gauthan of Durg district. They interacted with the farmers, labourers and cow herders of Chhattisgarh and took detailed information about the schemes.

Appreciating the sincere efforts of Chhattisgarh Government, representative of the Telangana farmer delegation Sharad Kumar said that Chhattisgarh Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel,



has made Mahatma Gandhi's vision of Gram Swaraj a reality. Farmers here are flourishing due to the positive steps taken by the government, which includes better price for paddy, procurement of cow dung, promoting organic farming etc.

In his address to the programme, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that our government is dedicat-

ed to bring joy and prosperity in the lives of farmers. He said that during the tenure of the previous government, only 12 lakh farmers used to sell paddy in primary cooperative societies, but today more than 23 lakh farmers are selling paddy in societies and money is getting deposited in their accounts immediately.

Chief Minister said that

so far more than 26 lakh farmers have been benefited from Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, MSP of Paddy in Chhattisgarh is the highest in the country, and input subsidy has been a game-changer in the field of agriculture.

Chief Minister said that we have written a letter to the Prime Minister seeking permission to produce ethanol from paddy. CM Baghel said that individual forest right certificates have been given to 5 lakh farmers through 'Van Adhikar Patta Yojana', similarly community forest rights have been given to tribals and eligible beneficiaries on more than 18 lakh hectares of land. This also includes ensur-

ing of forest resource rights. Chief Minister also gave detailed information about the loan waiver, the system of paddy procurement at support price, the Bijli Bill Half Yojana, the exemption of electricity to farmers on irrigation pumps up to 5 horse power, the scheme to give the status of agriculture to fisheries and lac cultivation.

On this occasion, Girish Dewangan, Chairman, Mineral Development Corporation, Vinod Verma, Advisor to Chief Minister, Nawaz Khan, Chairman, District Central Cooperative Bank Rajnandgaon, Rajendra Sahu, Chairman, District Central Cooperative Bank Durg, Tenmar Malanna, Leader of Telangana Farmers' Delegation were also present on the occasion.

Allons' students excel in NEET (U.G.), NDA exam



Central Chronicle News

Bemetara, June 16: Determination and hard work helps one to carve a way to achieve what one yearns for. The students of Allons Public School have slogged and proved it right by cracking NEET and NDA. Deepali Dewangan was a meritorious student and adorned herself with the appreciation in every class. Her vibrant approach excelled her in her studies. Her parents feel spellbound with her success in NEET. Anuvanshika Pandorya, Avinash Verma and Manmeet Singh Rajpal made their ways ahead by cracking NEET. Vishala Raut, an ambitious student who wants to serve her country from Class IX as a soldier leader cracked an examination of NDA. These students have proven the effort of their

teachers and parents worthy.

Dr. Satyajit Hota, Principal congratulated & blessed the successful students on their remarkable achievement in the NEET(U.G.) and NDA examinations and prayed for their success in the future endeavours. According to him, the self-dedication of the students and honing skills of their inspirational and passionate teachers help them to achieve their aims. Kamaljeet Arora, Chairman, Pushkal Arora, Director, Sunil Sharma, Director and teachers also blessed the students and prayed for their future endeavours. It's wholly the sacrifice of teachers & parents which made them to carve their successes. They wished to have similar heights to be achieved by the other students of the school as well.

BIS finds a firm illegally using ISI Mark

Carried out search and seizure operation at Chhotapara

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 16: A team of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) carried out search and seizure operation at M/s MS Purifier Private at Chhotapara, Raipur. During this search and seizure operation, the above firm was found to be illegally manufacturing, packing packaged drinking water under label of "Blue Sky Aqua" and illegally marking ISI Mark without license from Bureau of Indian Standards.

The production and selling of packaged drinking water without valid license from Bureau of Indian Standards is contravention of Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016.

During the search and seizure operation huge



quantity of 250 ml PET bottles of packaged drinking water, empty bottles and marking labels bearing illegal ISI marking were confiscated. The firm was misusing the BIS Standard mark and marking license number actual-

ly granted to other firm.

Bureau of Indian Standards regularly carries out such search and seizure operations to prosecute violators of Bureau of Indian Standards, 2016. BIS also carries out awareness campaigns for consumers so that consumers are apprised about their rights and means of checking the validity of BIS Standard marked products.

BIS has also brought out mobile application "BIS Care App" which can be used to check validity of ISI Marked products, Hallmarked jewellery, registration of Electronic products. It can also be used to lodge any complaint by consumer against misuse of BIS standard marks.

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Blood donation camp held in NMDC Apollo Hospital

On occasion of World Blood Donors Day

Central Chronicle News

Bacheli, June 16: As per instructions by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Steel GoI, on occasion of World Blood Donors Day on June 14, a blood donation camp was organised at local NMDC Apollo Hospital, Bacheli, by the NMDC administration.

In this camp, apart from the jawans of CISF unit Bacheli, the jawans of CRPF, Bacheli, and other people voluntarily donated blood in the Blood Bank of NMDC Apollo Hospital. First Neeraj Kumar,



Commandant CIFS Unit Bacheli and Gulshan Kumar, Asst. Commandant CISF unit Bacheli donated blood and motivated their jawans to donate blood.

To make this blood donation camp successful, GM NMDC Ltd. (Production) Sanjay Basu, Anil Kumar Prasad- Sr. Commandant

were present and extended their contribution.

On behalf of NMDC Apollo Hospital Dr MS Haq, Chief Medical Administrator and all the doctors of the hospital gave valuable contribution in this blood donation camp. Dr SM Haq Chief Medical Admn. informed that generally there is Anemia found in the tribals residing in Bacheli and nearby villages and they are purely dependent upon NMDC for meeting blood deficiency.

This blood donation camp will help in providing treatment to needy patients of the Hospital and it can save lives of many, during any emergency or accidental cases.

National President BRMCF (INTUC) meets Labour Minister



Netam accords warm welcome to Swaminath

Central Chronicle News

Simga, June 16: The National President Bharatiya Rashtriya Mazdoor Congress Federation (BRMCF) (INTUC) Swaminath arrived here in Raipur on Thursday on a three-day tour. At the airport, he was welcomed by

State President BRMCF (INTUC) Yogeshwaranand Netam along with around 200 party workers. Jaiswal held talks with the Labour Minister Shiv Kumar Daharia and discussed about their condition and safety. Dr Daharia assured that what all the works are necessary for the welfare and safety of labourers in the state, he would take immediate action.

Girl Empowerment Mission 2023 comes to an end

At NTPC Korba

Central Chronicle News

Korba, June 16: The four-weeklong Girl Empowerment Mission concluded with a colourful ceremony at NTPC Korba on June 15 at Ambedkar Bhawan, NTPC Korba Township. Sanjeev Kumar Jha, Collector, Korba graced the event as the Chief Guest in the august presence of Guest of Honour, B. Ramachandra Rao, Business Unit Head, NTPC Korba.

NTPC Korba conducted the Girl Empowerment Mission 2023 from May 16-June 15. Prabhakar Pandey, Commissioner of Municipal Corporation, Korba graced the occasion as the special guest. B. Ramachandra Rao, Business Unit Head, NTPC

Korba expressed his gratitude towards the Collector, Korba for sparing her valuable time to address the GEM participants. He expressed the strong commitment of all members of Team Korba towards the welfare of people residing in the vicinity of our project.

Lauding the humble efforts of NTPC Korba in shaping the young girls to pursue a brighter future, he encouraged the GEM girls to come forward and work hard to live the future they dream of with patience and hard work. He further urged the parents of the GEM girls to support them achieve their goals.

Speaking on the occasion,



Sanjeev Kumar Jha, Collector, Korba outlined the efforts of NTPC in the realm of CSR and encouraged continuing to work for the development of women, children, and other underprivileged sections of the society.

He highlighted how the programme not only strives to bring a positive change in the lives of the participating girls but also in their families and the society at large by developing traits of confidence and self-appreciation among the girls. He ac-

credited the trainers of the program as the "unsung heroes."

Furthermore, Sanjeev Kumar Jha remarked, "NTPC is a brand and a good brand is truly depicted by how happy its followers, employees and people attached to that brand are." He addressed the audience with the example of the Nobel laureate, Amartya Sen wherein, he quantified proving that investment in social capital helps in the growth of the country.

The closing ceremony re-

flected the monthlong programme wherein in the GEM girls displayed their takeaways through various performances including dance, song, yoga, self-defence, art & craft, etc. Through this initiative, NTPC Korba aims to bring awareness among young girls while creating a room for exploring their talent and creativity. Nevertheless, Maitri Mahila Samiti (MMS) provided care and comfort for the GEM girls throughout the four-week residential journey, ensuring motherly warmth and a boost to their confidence.

The event was also attended by Madhu S, GM (O&M), Anoop Kumar

Mishra, GM (Project Construction), Amber Kumar, GM (Ash Dyke Management), Prabhat Ram, AGM (HR), Dr Lokesh Mahindra, Chief Medical Officer, Principals of all the schools, members of Maitri Mahila Samiti (MMS), union and association and employees of NTPC Korba. The parents of the GEM girls were also present on the occasion.

The top 10 children were honoured with educational kits and 124 girls were honoured with certificates. The Girl Empowerment Mission 2023 of NTPC Korba contributed towards one-month residential summer workshops for about 124 girls of class V, in which interventions were made to make girls self-reliant and self-confident in all spheres of life.

Lt. Kripasindhu accorded grand welcome by villagers

On his becoming Helicopter Pilot in INA and his maiden visit to Gram Khichari near Baramkela

CCCI and villagers also felicitated him for such an achievement

Raigarh, June 16: On getting selected in Indian Navy (INA) and becoming a helicopter pilot, Lt. Kripasindhu Patel on his maiden arrival to his village Khirchi near Baramkela of Raigarh district, was accorded grand welcome by the villagers amidst slogans of patriotism and 'Bharat Mata Ki

Jai'. Prior to his reaching Khirchi village, President CCCI Baramkela Unit Ratan Sharma along with other office bearers of CCCI Mukesh Agrawal, Anil Goyal, Anil Hardware, Rameshwar Barik (Advocate), Babulal Patel, Mahavir Agrawal, Uttam Sharma, Sunil Agrawal, Sonu Agrawal, Naresh Nayak of Computers, journalist Shobhadas Manikpuri and villagers accorded grand welcome to Lt. Kripasindhu Patel on becoming Pilot in the Indian Navy, in a simple programme held at Telsih Office Baramkela.

Kripasindhu Patel is S/O Lecturer Tarapur HS School Bhojram Patel and Dhanmati Patel R/o Kotara Road, Savitri Nagar, Raigarh. Kripasindhu



initial education was at Saraswati Shishu Mandir Baramkela and the studies upto primary at Saraswati School Rajiv Nagar Raigarh. He got selected in the Sainik School (Reewa) MP and completed his education upto Class 12th there only. After this on getting selected

in UPSC's NDA exam, he joined as Trainee officer in the Indian Navy (INA) and underwent strict training at INA Institute at Ezhimala, Kerala for four years and B.Tech from JNU with which INA is associated with. During this he secured place among the top three and was felicitated at



the hands of Chief of the then Indian Army General Bipin Rawat with a bronze medal and passed-out as Sub-Lieutenant in 2019.

On getting posted as an office in INS, Kripasindhu Patel got selected as a Helicopter Pilot in INS Base Arrakonam at the

Helicopter Training Institute Rajali, near Chennai in Tamil Nadu. Here he completed 100th Helicopter Conversion Course and Basic Helicopter Conversion course first-batch officer and in the pass-out parade under the presence of duo chief guests viz. ex-Naval Chief (retired) Admiral

Karamvir Singh and ex-Naval Command Officer Vice-Admiral Vishwajeet Das Gupta and got qualified as Helicopter Pilot. On this occasion along with other officers, mother and father of Kripasindhu were specially invited for the pass-out.

It is notable here that younger brother of Kripasindhu viz. Manish Patel, hailing from a small village of Gram Khichari, too became a captain while studying in Sainik School Ambikapur and won the best cadet award and passing from NDA got selected as Sub-Lt. in the Indian Navy and is serving the nation. On this big achievement of the son of the village, there is air of happiness and enthusiasm among all from Gram

Khichari and Baramkela and entire Raigarh and Sarangarh district and all are extending greetings to Kripasindhu Patel and his parents for bringing laurels to the village, district and the state.

After becoming Helicopter Pilot, Lt. Kripasindhu Patel was welcomed by parents, Gram Sarpanch Rukmani Manohar Patel and seniors of the village near Jagannath Mandir premises through a felicitation ceremony and motivational speech. On this occasion villagers accorded grand welcome to Kripasindhu and presented him with a memento and flower bouquet and they urged all the children of the village to take inspiration from Kripasindhu and his younger brother Manish Patel.

BRIEF



Giani Raghbir Singh who has been appointed as the new Jathedar of the Akal Takht by Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), at Golden Temple in Amritsar, Friday.

Acid burn

Bareilly (UP): The partially decomposed body of a 17-year-old boy with acid burns was found hanging from a tree here on Friday, police said. The body was found in Deorania police station area. The victim has been identified as Guddu, a resident of Mudiya Jagir village, Superintendent of Police Rajkumar Agarwal said. The family members of the deceased claimed that he was missing since Tuesday. According to the police, the body was decomposing and had acid burn marks on the face.

Constable mowed down

Kalaburagi: A police constable was allegedly mowed down by a tractor illegally transporting sand, when he tried to stop it, at a village in Jevargi taluk of the district, police said. The incident took place on Thursday night, and Police on Friday arrested the tractor driver. The deceased has been identified as Mayur Bheemu Chauhan (51), attached to Nelogi police station. Police officials had erected a check-post near Hullur village to curb illegal sand mining activities, and when Chauhan tried to check the tractor, its driver ran the vehicle over him and escaped, officials said.

Bus-truck collision

Narsinghpur: Two persons were killed and 10 others injured on Friday morning when their bus collided with a truck in Narsinghpur in Madhya Pradesh, a police official said. The accident took place when the bus was on its way to Indore from Satna, Suatala police station in charge Jyoti Dixit said. "The deceased have been identified as Sukhendra Vishwakarma (45) and Raju (25), who was working as a helper in the bus. The 10 injured persons have been hospitalised," the official added.

2 killed

Budaun (UP): Two people were killed in a head-on collision between their motorcycles here, police said on Friday. The incident took place at the Asafpur-Dabtori road under Faizganj Behra police station limits on Thursday night, they said. Circle Officer, Bisauli, Pawan Kumar said Shrawan Kumar (17), a resident of Asafpur, was going to a neighbouring village when his motorcycle collided with that of Girish Pal (28), a resident of Puruwa Khara village. While Kumar died on the spot, Pal succumbed to his injuries on the way to the hospital, he said.

Govt sets up panel to recommend reforms in arbitration law

New Delhi, Jun 16 (PTI)

Amid a push for making India a hub for international arbitration, the government has set up an expert panel led by former law secretary T K Vishwanathan to recommend reforms in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act with an aim to reduce the burden on courts.

Attorney General N Venkataramani is also part of the expert committee set up by the Department of Legal Affairs in the Union law ministry. Law ministry additional secretary Rajiv Mani, some senior advo-

cates, representatives of private law firms, and officials of the Legislative Department, Niti Aayog, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), railways and Central Public Works Department (CPWD) are its other members.

According to the terms of reference for the committee, it will evaluate and analyse the operation of the present arbitration ecosystem of the country, including the working of the Arbitration Act, highlighting its strengths and weaknesses and challenges vis-a-vis other important foreign jurisdictions. The panel has to

submit its report within 30 days, the office memorandum issued on Wednesday stated.

The committee has also been asked to recommend a framework of model arbitration system which is efficient, effective and economical and caters to the requirements of the users.

The panel will also devise strategy for developing a competitive environment in the arbitration services market for domestic and international parties that can subservise the interests of the users, particularly in building a regime of cost-effective arbitration. Under arbitration, the parties con-

cerned, instead of approaching courts, opt for private dispute resolution through arbitrators. The decision of arbitrators is binding.

The Department of Legal Affairs, the office memorandum said, is taking several steps to strengthen the dispute resolution environment in the country and promoting ease of doing business through reforms in laws from time to time.

As a part of continuous endeavour in this direction, the department is considering the need to further reform the working of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996.

R'than first state to give compensation for death of cows due to lumpy disease: CM

Jaipur, Jun 16 (PTI)

Rajasthan has become the first state in the country to give a compensation of Rs 40,000 to the cattle rearers for the death of each cow due to lumpy disease, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said here on Friday.

Due to various schemes introduced by the Congress-led state government, the whole country is talking about Rajasthan today, he claimed.

Talking to the media here after a programme, the minister said seven crore guarantee cards have been distributed in inflation relief camps across the state through which his government

has reached 1.60 crore households.

"Such a big campaign is going on. Everyone is talking about Rajasthan," he said.

Under the inflation relief camps or 'Mehngai Rahat Kendra', registration for 10 schemes is being done at these camps and the beneficiaries are given guarantee cards. The chief minister said Rajasthan is the first state in the country to give a compensation of Rs 40,000 for the death of cows due to the lumpy skin disease.

Earlier, Gehlot addressed a 'Kisan Mahotsav' and transferred (DBT) more than Rs 175 crore to the ac-

count of more than 41,000 farmers and animal herders whose cows have died of the viral disease. The compensation was announced in the state budget this year.

He said apart from agriculture, animal husbandry is also a major source of employment in the state and the government is giving full attention to the cattle rearers.

The chief minister said he did not impose a single new tax in his five budgets since 2018.

"We are able to bring these schemes only because of excellent financial management," he said.

Agriculture Minister Lalchand Kataria and others were also present in the programme.

Delhi HC seeks ED stand on bail plea by two accused in case against AAP leader Satyendar Jain

New Delhi, Jun 16 (PTI)

The Delhi High Court on Friday sought the stand of the Enforcement Directorate on pleas by Vaibhav Jain and Ankush Jain, co-accused in a money laundering case involving senior AAP leader Satyendar Jain, seeking default bail.

A vacation bench of Justice Vikas Mahajan issued notice on the bail applications and asked the investigating agency to file a status report on the probe. The case pertains to allegations against Satyendar Jain of having laundered money through four companies allegedly linked to him. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has claimed Vaibhav Jain and Ankush Jain were business associates of the former Delhi minister and abetted the commission of the offence.

Satyendar Jain was arrested on May 30 last year by the ED. The two accused in the present case had earlier moved the trial court claiming they deserved to be granted default bail as the charge sheet filed against them was incomplete. On May 24, the trial court rejected the pleas and said a charge sheet is complete if on the basis of it and the documents filed along with it, the court, after applying its mind, is in a position to take cognizance of the offence.

The ED had opposed their application on the ground that they were arrested on June 30, 2022 for the offence of money laundering and the prosecution complaint (ED's equivalent of charge sheet) was filed on July 27, 2022, well before the expiry of 60-day prescribed period.

J'khand beneficiaries to get fruit trees to grow income, protect environment

Ranchi, June 16 (PTI)

The Jharkhand government has decided to provide at least two fruit bearing trees to PDS card holders and beneficiaries of different schemes in the state in a bid to augment villagers' income and push its environment protection initiative, officials said on Friday.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren, who reviewed the progress of various government schemes on Friday at a meeting, asked the deputy commissioners of all districts to ensure that all the card holders and beneficiaries of different schemes are provided with at least two fruit bearing trees.

"This will not only increase the income of the villagers, but will also be a step towards environmental protection," he said.

Soren said that the government's Birsa Harit Gram Yojana too will be effective in making the villages green. The scheme, which is aimed at the financial uplift of the senior citizens and widows, is being implemented in 9,538 villages of the state, an official statement said.

Expressing concern over the migration of workers from rural areas in search of employment, Soren said that at least five schemes are to be implemented in every panchayat. "These schemes should be implemented on priority basis, so that the labourers can get employment in their villages," he said.

The government is running several schemes under MGNREGA for employment generation and are operational in 4,153 panchayats of the state.

BABY ELEPHANT CARING



A baby elephant, strayed from the herd, cared by the forest rangers, in Palakkad, Friday.

Bengal panchayat poll nomination process peaceful, asserts Mamata

Namkhana (WB), Jun 16 (PTI)

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday asserted that the panchayat poll nomination process in Bengal is peaceful, while slamming opposition parties for trying to make an issue out of "one or two stray" incidents.

Banerjee's comments came shortly after Governor C V Ananda Bose said that political violence in the state must come to an end, after visiting Bhangore, where supporters of two parties clashed a day before, leaving three dead.

The Governor had said he has already discussed the situation with Banerjee. "There is no other state other than Bengal where the panchayat poll nomination



process is so peaceful. The opposition parties - CPI(M), Congress, BJP and the ISF are trying to blame us over one or two incidents during the nomination exercise," the chief minister said. She was addressing the concluding session of the two-month-long Trinamool eh

Union Minister Shripad Naik reviews preparations for G20 meets on tourism

Panaji, Jun 16 (PTI)

Union Minister of state for Tourism Shripad Naik on Friday conducted a comprehensive review of the preparations for the fourth G20 Tourism Working Group meeting and Tourism Ministerial meeting in Goa.

The meeting is scheduled to be held from June 19-22.

The Union minister expressed satisfaction with the arrangements made for the important gatherings, a government spokesperson said.

Senior officials Venkatesan Dhattareyan, regional director of the western and central region at India Tourism Mumbai Office, and Sanjit Rodrigues, the G20 nodal officer for Goa govern-

ment, were present for the review. The Tourism Working Group meeting and Tourism Ministerial meeting will provide an excellent opportunity to showcase Goan traditions and cultures to the world, the official said.

During the review, Naik highlighted the significance of each delegate serving as an ambassador for their respective countries.

Tourism ministers from 13 nations will be in attendance, and they will have the chance to experience the rich tourism offerings and vibrant Goan culture. As part of the itinerary, a special excursion to the Old Goa church and Mangueshi Temple has been arranged for the G20 delegates, the spokesperson said.

Central Railway to set up 13 breastfeeding pods at stations in Mumbai division

Mumbai, Jun 16 (PTI)

The Central Railway on Friday said 13 state-of-the-art nursing pods will be set up at seven major railway stations in its Mumbai division to create a comfortable space for breastfeeding women during their travel.

The Central Railway in a release said the nursing pods will be set up at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT), Dadar, Thane, Kalyan, Panvel and Lonavala stations.

The nursing pods will have comfortable cushioned seating, a dedicated diaper changing sta-

tion, a fan for ventilation, a light, and a dustbin for the hygienic disposal of soiled diapers, it said.

Citing that the lack of amenities for expecting and breastfeeding mothers only exacerbates the challenges they face, the Central Railway said each nursing pod will offer a range of amenities designed to enhance the breastfeeding experience for mothers and their babies.

A licenced service provider will be responsible for maintaining the nursing pods, and advertisements will be displayed on the walls of the pods to make them "economically sustainable", the railway release stated.

A nursing pod each will be set up at CSMT, Kalyan and Panvel stations, while two each will be placed at Thane and Lonavala stations and three each at Dadar station and LTT, it stated.

The pods will be set up under the National Initiative for Feeding and Resting Infrastructure for Stations (NINFRIS) policy it said.

"This strategic distribution aims to cater to the needs of breastfeeding women across the Mumbai division, which witnesses approximately 35 lakh daily commuters, with around 20 percent being women," the release stated.

MOCK DRILL



Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel and Quick Action Team (QAT) special commandos during an Mock Drill exercise ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra 2023, at a camp in Udhampur district, Friday.

'India's role crucial in resolving Ukraine crisis'

Washington, Jun 16 (PTI):

India is much better suited than China to play a leading role in resolving the war in Ukraine because of New Delhi's old relationship with Moscow, a top Indian American Congressman has said.

Congressman Ami Bera said he would love to see the Indian government use its full diplomatic capacities to help end the conflict in Ukraine.

He said he was not sure if Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US

President Joe Biden will discuss the conflict in Ukraine in their meeting in the Oval Office next week. "I am not sure (talks on this issue) will happen, but I certainly think India can play a leading role in helping us resolve the Russia-Ukraine crisis. India obviously has an old relationship with Russia," Bera told PTI on Thursday.

"The Prime Minister can have conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin that we're not going to be able to have. I think it's in every-

one's interest to see some resolution to this conflict. So, you see (Chinese President) Xi Jinping trying to negotiate some sort of ceasefire or resolution. I actually think India is much better suited for this role, because of the relationship that they have with Vladimir Putin," Bera said.

Since the Ukraine conflict began in February last year, Modi spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin as well as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy a

number of times during which he insisted that the conflict should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy.

"We have said from the beginning, that dialogue and diplomacy is the only way. And to solve this situation, we will try as much as possible, whatever can be done from India," Modi said in his address at a G7 session in Hiroshima, Japan in May.

During the White House meeting next week, Bera said Biden and Modi will talk about economic part-

nerships.

"There'll be some conversations around trade relations. I think they'll talk about supply chains. India can be a critical supplier of raw ingredients. They certainly have a mature pharmaceutical sector, but also on the technology side," he said.

There will be a discussion around geopolitical security, Bera said, adding that it will involve what is happening on India's northern border with China and those border incursions.

REUNION OF FRIENDS



Bill Gates, left, meets with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing, Friday, June 16. Microsoft's co-founder Bill Gates has met with Chinese President Xi Jinping just days after a visit to Beijing by Tesla CEO Elon Musk. The state broadcaster CCTV showed Xi saying he was happy to see Gates, who he called an "old friend," after three years without meeting during the pandemic.

Modi to lead yoga session at UNHQ on June 21

United Nations, Jun 16 (PTI):

In a historic commemoration, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead a yoga session for the first time at UN Headquarters here on the 9th International Day of Yoga to be celebrated on June 21. The International Day of Yoga aims to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practising yoga. Recognising its universal appeal, in December 2014, the United Nations proclaimed June 21 as the International Day of Yoga.

"On the occasion of the 9th International Day of Yoga, the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations cordially invites you to join a Yoga session led by H. E. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi," an advisory for the event said.

Nine years after Prime Minister Modi had first

proposed from the UN General Assembly podium to mark International Yoga Day as an annual commemoration, the Indian leader will for the first time be at the UN Headquarters to lead the yoga session in a historic commemoration of the day.

The Yoga session will run from 8 am - 9 am on June 21 at the expansive North Lawn in the UN Headquarters, where a bust of Mahatma Gandhi, a gift from India to the UN, was installed in December last year during the country's Presidency of the UN Security Council.

The historic yoga session is expected to be attended by top UN officials, ambassadors, envoys, delegates from Member States as well as prominent members of the global and diaspora community. The advisory encourages guests and attendees to wear

Yoga-friendly attire for the special session and added that Yoga mats will be provided during the session.

"Welcome to take it home as a souvenir," it said.

"I am looking forward to participating in the 9th International Day of Yoga celebrations @UN with Prime Minister @NarendraModi at the UNHQ North Lawn next week," President of the United Nations General Assembly Csaba Korosi said in a tweet Thursday.

The tweet accompanies a photograph of Korosi with PM Modi.

The first International Day of Yoga was commemorated in 2015 and has since then been marked with several sessions and events highlighting the benefits and universal appeal of Yoga at the UN, Times Square and iconic locations across the world.

Pak FM Dar blames geopolitics for stalled IMF loan

Islamabad, Jun 16 (PTI):

Pakistan's Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has blamed geopolitics for a stalled IMF loan package and said that global institutions wanted the cash-strapped country to default like Sri Lanka and then take part in the negotiations.

He said no reason had been given by the IMF for the "unnecessary delay" behind the ninth review, which has been pending since November.

Dar also reiterated that the country would meet its obligations with or without the IMF bailout package. "IMF or no IMF, Pakistan will not default," he was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper. He alleged that geopolitics was behind the stalled loan pro-



gramme as global institutions wanted Pakistan to default like Sri Lanka and then enter negotiations, it said.

Dar, however, said the negotiations with the Washington-based global lender were ongoing and the ninth review would be complete this month.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) signed a deal in 2019 to provide USD 6 billion to Pakistan on fulfilment of certain conditions.

US, Japan, Philippines strengthen security ties

Tokyo, Jun 16 (AP):

The national security advisers of the United States, Japan and the Philippines held their first joint talks on Friday and agreed to strengthen their defence cooperation, as Washington and its partners reinforce their alliances to adapt to growing tensions over North Korea, China and Ukraine, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said.

Sullivan said he and his Japanese and Philippine counterparts discussed the "turbulent regional security environment and how we can collectively work to enhance peace and stability" in areas including freedom of navigation and economic security. Sullivan, Takeo Akiba of Japan and

Eduardo Ano of the Philippines said in a joint statement that they emphasised the importance of enhancing three-way cooperation, building on alliances between Japan and the US and between the Philippines and the US to maintain peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, especially in the Taiwan Strait.

Sullivan said the "path-breaking" new trilateral framework is part of multiple alliances involving the United States in the Indo-Pacific region, including three-way cooperation with Japan and South Korea and the Quad security dialogue with Australia, India and Japan. "I would say different groupings may have different points of priority and emphasis, but actually what we are finding is, the

agenda is expanding because in a way the world is shrinking. And all of the problems everywhere are coming to touch every country in this area," Sullivan said.

Sullivan said US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is not expected to make a significant breakthrough during his visit on Sunday to China, while Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Washington later in the week "will mark a transformational moment in US-India relations."

The three security advisers discussed opportunities for joint naval exercises in Indo-Pacific waters and agreed to deepen military cooperation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, they said.

PREPARATIONS FOR PM MODI'S VISIT TO US



Indian-Americans practice for a cultural extravaganza organised to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his upcoming visit to the US.

Russia accuses Australia of 'Russophobic hysteria'

For blocking second embassy on security grounds

Canberra, Jun 16 (AP):

Russia accused Australia of "Russophobic hysteria" for cancelling the lease on the land where Moscow wanted to build its new embassy, which the Australian government judged to be a security risk because it was too close to Parliament House.

Parliament passed emergency legislation blocking the lease on

Thursday after Russia won a Federal Court appeal last month against local Canberra authorities' decision to do the same.

The Russian Embassy responded on Friday by posting on social media a Russian news agency TASS report of Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov's condemnation of Australia's actions.

"Australia, having cancelled the lease agreement for the site for the construction of the new Russian Embassy building, diligently continues to move forward in the main

stream of the authors of the Russophobic hysteria and tries to distinguish itself on this path," Peskov is quoted as saying.

"Another unfriendly display from Australia. We will take this into account and if there are issues on the agenda that require the principle of reciprocity, we will act accordingly," Peskov said.

The Russian Embassy is quoted as describing the lease termination as "another step by (Prime Minister) Anthony Albanese towards a deliberate and systematic destruction of relations with

Moscow."

The law ending the lease took effect late Thursday when it was rubber-stamped by Governor-General David Hurley, representing Australia's head of state, King Charles III.

Albanese explained the urgency as a need to prevent the site becoming a "formal diplomatic presence."

Lawmakers cited threats of espionage and political interference if Russia's second embassy was built in the Yarralumla diplomatic precinct so close to Parliament House.

'Opportunity for exponential growth in US-India trade'

Washington, Jun 16 (PTI):

The time is right for the US-India trade to grow exponentially as the business environment between the countries is improving and India's growth story is attracting a large number of American companies, according to the North America head of Tata Consultancy Services.

"I have not seen a better business-friendly climate from both governments and there is an increasing interest from US companies to deal with India, especially in areas of technology," Suresh

Muthuswami, chairman of North America TCS told PTI in an interview.

India-US bilateral trade has been on the rise since 2000, but from 2020 to 2022, it has grown from USD 120 billion to USD 191 billion.

"I think we're just scratching the surface. (There is) enormous interest from the US government. India is a growing economy and (there is) a lot of interest to do business with India. So, the time is right for trade between the two countries to grow exponentially. When it comes to

the United States technology has always led the way and it will, it will continue," Muthuswami said.

TCS which has been in the US for more than 50

years has been the growth and transformation partner for America's most valuable companies. TCS has more than 1,000 clients in the US.

Tornado ravages Perryton: 3 dead, dozens injured



Debris covers a residential area in Perryton, Texas, after a tornado struck the town.

Perryton (US), Jun 16 (AP):

A tornado ripped through the Texas Panhandle town of Perryton on Thursday, killing three people, injuring dozens more and causing widespread damage as another in a series of fierce storms carved its way through Southern states. The National Weather Service in Amarillo confirmed that a tornado hit the area Thursday afternoon. But there was no immediate word on its size or wind speeds, meteorologist Luigi Meccariello said.

Perryton Fire Chief Paul Dutcher told re-

porters that three people were killed in the storm.

He said at least one person was killed in a mobile home park that took a "direct hit" from a tornado. Dutcher said at least 30 trailers were damaged or destroyed. At 6 p.m., firefighters were rescuing people from the rubble.

First responders from surrounding areas and from Oklahoma descended on the town, which is home to more than 8,000 people and about 115 miles (185 kilometres) northeast of Amarillo, just south of the Oklahoma line.

Storm chaser Brian

Emfinger told Fox Weather that he watched the twister move through a mobile home park, mangling trailers and uprooting trees.

"I had seen the tornado do some pretty serious destruction to the industrial part of town," he said.

"Unfortunately, just west of there, there is just mobile home, after mobile home, after mobile home that is completely destroyed. There is significant damage." Nearly 50,000 customers were

without electricity in Texas and Oklahoma, according to the power-outage.us website.

Ochiltree General Hospital in Perryton on Facebook said "Walking/wounded please go to the clinic. All others to the hospital ER."

The hospital also said an American Red Cross shelter had been set up at the Ochiltree County Expo Center. "We got slammed" by patients, said Kelly Justice, the hospital's interim CEO.

कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम, भिलाई

E-Procurement Tender Notice
Main Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

क्र./च.नि./बा.मा./2023/272/151 भिलाई, दिनांक 15/06/2023

आयुक्त, नगर पालिक निगम, भिलाई को ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

| क्र. | कार्य का नाम | टण्डर सिस्टम नं. | अनु. नम्बर (रुपये में) | निविदा दाखल/बंद करने की तिथि |
|------|--|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | निगम के कार्यालय हेतु टॉनर, ऑफिस, प्रिंटर, कम्प्यूटर, अतिरिक्त, आग प्रवर्धक प्रदान करने के संबंध में (ए.ए. निविदा) | 138568 | 48,87,075.00 | 03-07/2023 जाय 3:30 बजे तक |

निविदा हेतु धरोहर राशि EDR के रूप में फॉर्मेशन अभियंता, नगर पालिक निगम, भिलाई के नाम से राफ्ट प्रथम चक्र रजिस्ट्रार के पास भेजना होगा, भिलाई नगर स्थित स्टेशन के पास कोमा नगर, 490020 में जाया को जमा करें। इसकी प्रतियां को निविदा को सामान्य करें, धरोहर राशि, निम्नलिखित निविदा विभागाध्यक्ष, निविदा प्रस्तावक व अन्य जानकारी <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> के 'दाखलनाम' की जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता

CAVEAT NOTICE

Be it known to the public at large/public in general/interested persons having locus that the Government of Chhattisgarh, Department of Forest and climate Change is lodging a Caveat before the Hon'ble High Court of Chhattisgarh in anticipation of filing of petition with interim relief challenging the advertisement dated 18.05.2023 for posts of Heavy Driver/Truck Driver/Tractor Driver and Light Driver for different Divisional Forest Offices of the State, published on 20.05.2023 in daily news paper "Dainik Bhaskar/Nav Bharat/Hari Bhoomi/Patrika."

The State of Chhattisgarh has also prayed for an opportunity of hearing at the time of granting of any ad-interim, ex-parte stay. Therefore be it known to all interested persons having locus to file a petition they serve an advance copy to the address given below-

1. "Office of the Advocate General, C.G. High Court Campus, Bodri, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh"
2. "Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Aranya Bhavan, Nawa Raipur Chhattisgarh"

G-02361/2

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, लोक निर्माण विभाग, रायपुर मण्डल क्रमांक 2 (छत्तीसगढ़)

ई-प्रोक्चरमेंट निविदा सूचना (पंचम आमंत्रण)

दिनांक 13.06.2023

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदा 'डी' श्रेणी एवं अधिक श्रेणी के उम्मीदवारों हेतु आमंत्रित की जाती है। ऑनलाइन निविदा प्रक्रिया शुरू करने की अंतिम तिथि 23.06.2023 है।

| एन.आई.डी. क्र./ निविदा क्र. | कार्य का नाम | कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख में) |
|------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | | |
| 3 | | |
| NIT NO. 41 Tender No. 138207 | सी.जी.आर.आई.डी.सी.एल. अंतर्गत गरियाबंद के अनुविभाग क्र. 02 डेबोम के अंतर्गत कान्दुल नगरी कार्डर मानुषापुर रकमपुर मार्ग में रोड कन्सीवर का कार्य। | ₹. 78.96 लाख |
| NIT NO. 43 Tender No. 136209 | सी.जी.आर.आई.डी.सी.एल. अंतर्गत जिला समगरी के विरुद्धी से कवचपुर मार्ग में 12.00 किमी. में एच.यू.एम. नगरी बरौन मार्ग में 64/4 से 87/6 से 72/6 से 81/4 = 11.40 किमी. का थ्रीडीकनल एवं मजबूतीकरण का कार्य में रोड कन्सीवर का कार्य। | ₹. 38.75 लाख |

उपरोक्त निविदा कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, निम्नलिखित निविदा विभाग दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्चरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> अथवा विभागाध्यक्ष वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है। (राशि ₹. 100.00 के मान ज्युडिशियल स्टाम्प पर निर्धारित प्रथम चक्र में राफ्ट-प्रथम चक्र एवं न्यूनतम राशि ₹. 10.00 के मान ज्युडिशियल स्टाम्प पर एकेडर-3 का राफ्ट प्रथम चक्र (बिक्रीपेसीटी उपलब्धता बाधित जानकारी एवं अन्य अनुबन्धित शिर्षक नकिलों पर लागू होगी।)

प्रथम चक्र प्राप्त होने पर निविदा मालदारों को नगर पालिक निगम के द्वारा क्र. ए.ए.ए. 21-5/डी/19/2012-निविदा नगर रायपुर दिनांक 15.10.2022 द्वारा संचालित प्रथम चक्र प्रक्रिया के अंतर्गत 01.01.2015 के पोस्टर क्र. आईएम नं. 84/8.5/8.6/8.7 एवं 8.13 में अनुबन्धित शिर्षक नकिलों पर लागू होगी।

निविदा में होने वाले समस्त संशोधन का प्रकाशन केवल उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर किया जायेगा। पृथक से समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा।

अधीक्षण अभियंता
लो.नि.वि. रायपुर मण्डल क्र. 2 (छ.ग.)

Geosible Chhattisgarh
आपकी धी धार, हमने बनाई राह

G-02361/2



CENTRAL Chronicle

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Justice Imperiled

Flaws and Doubts Surrounding Brij Bhushan's Case

The filing of a chargesheet against BJP MP and Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh by the Delhi Police has raised eyebrows and left many questioning the integrity of the investigation. Accused of sexual harassment, stalking, and criminal intimidation, Singh's case has taken a perplexing turn with a request to withdraw charges under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, made by a minor wrestler who initially accused him. This sudden change of heart demands a thorough investigation into the circumstances that led to the withdrawal and whether any external pressures were exerted. Last week, protesting wrestlers, including Olympic medalists Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, temporarily halted their demonstration after receiving assurances from the government that a chargesheet would be filed by June 15. While the promised deadline was met, the chargesheet itself contains significant gaps that hinder the immediate arrest of Brij Bhushan, a demand strongly voiced by the wrestlers throughout their protest. The police's recommendation to cancel the complaint filed by the minor wrestler and withdraw charges under POCSO Act is based on the assertion of 'no corroborative evidence.' However, it is crucial to scrutinize the circumstances surrounding the minor's retraction of her allegations, as she had previously provided two statements—one to the police and another to a magistrate under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure—accusing Brij Bhushan of sexual harassment and stalking. Subsequently, she recanted her accusations in a fresh statement before a magistrate. This sudden reversal raises suspicions about potential coercion or undue influence. Unraveling the truth behind this U-turn holds the key to the entire POCSO case. The Delhi Police's handling of the investigation has faced severe criticism, from the initial delay in registering the FIRs to the sluggish progress of the probe. Former Supreme Court judge Madan B Lokur recently voiced his concerns, suggesting that the apex court should have monitored the investigation against Brij Bhushan. He also highlighted the harsh treatment inflicted upon the protesting wrestlers, who were met with brutality when they attempted to march towards the new Parliament building during its inauguration on May 28. If the case against the MP fails to hold up in court, the hopes of the wrestlers, who have faced re-victimization, will be shattered. The current turn of events begs for a thorough and impartial investigation, addressing the inconsistencies in the chargesheet and scrutinizing the circumstances that led to the withdrawal of the complaint under POCSO Act. The credibility of the police's case hinges on these critical factors. Additionally, it is imperative for the judiciary to take note of this case to ensure justice is served. This incident not only questions the effectiveness and fairness of the investigation process but also raises concerns about the protection and well-being of victims in sensitive cases such as these. It is essential to establish a system that provides victims with a safe environment to voice their grievances without fear of coercion or retribution. The true course of justice must be pursued to ensure that no undue influence or pressures compromise the pursuit of truth. The athletes who rallied together in protest deserve a fair and unbiased inquiry into the allegations against Brij Bhushan. The lapses and inconsistencies in the current chargesheet must be rectified, and the investigation should proceed with utmost transparency and diligence. The trust of the public and the victims is at stake, and it is vital to restore faith in the justice system by thoroughly examining all aspects of the case. In a society that aspires to protect its vulnerable citizens, the investigation into cases of sexual harassment and abuse must be conducted meticulously, leaving no room for doubt or suspicion. The credibility of our legal system rests on the ability to deliver justice and uphold the rights of victims. Moreover, this incident underscores the urgent need for comprehensive judicial reforms. The establishment of a more robust monitoring system, such as the long-awaited implementation of the Lokpal, can help prevent cases from falling through the cracks and ensure accountability in high-profile investigations. These measures would not only strengthen the public's trust in the justice system but also serve as a deterrent to potential offenders.

Forging Alliances

India-US Relations Reach New Heights

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's imminent state visit to the United States is poised to be a defining moment in the nine-year tenure of his prime ministership. This visit holds exceptional significance on multiple fronts, heralding a new era of diplomatic relations between the two nations. As the world grapples with a host of challenges, the visit presents an opportune moment to strengthen the bond between India and the US, foster strategic cooperation, and pursue common goals. Over the years, the India-US relationship has witnessed remarkable growth, bolstered by shared democratic values, economic collaboration, and converging security concerns. Modi's visit offers a platform to further solidify this strategic partnership. The discussions are expected to encompass a wide range of areas, spanning defense collaboration, counterterrorism efforts, cybersecurity, climate change, and healthcare cooperation. However, economic collaboration stands as a critical pillar of the India-US relationship. Modi's visit is poised to focus on expanding trade and investment opportunities, capitalizing on India's economic reforms and initiatives such as 'Make in India,' 'Digital India,' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat.' These initiatives have created a conducive environment for US businesses, offering attractive prospects for bilateral economic engagement. The talks are anticipated to address trade barriers, market access, and bilateral investment, paving the way for a more robust economic partnership. Both India and the US boast vibrant technology sectors, brimming with potential for collaboration in cutting-edge domains. Modi's visit aims to leverage this potential by strengthening technology and innovation partnerships. Areas such as artificial intelligence, space exploration, clean energy, and digital governance are likely to take center stage in the discussions. By pooling their expertise and resources, both nations can drive technological advancements, spur innovation, and propel economic growth. As two major democratic nations, India and the US share a steadfast commitment to upholding democratic values, promoting human rights, and ensuring global stability. The Prime Minister's visit provides an invaluable opportunity for both countries to collaborate on addressing pressing global challenges, including climate change, COVID-19 recovery, and regional security issues. This state visit will serve as a platform for India to showcase its dedication to global leadership and multilateral engagements, reaffirming its role as a responsible stakeholder in the international arena. Furthermore, India's diaspora in the US serves as a significant bridge between the two nations. With their vibrant and influential presence, the Indian-American community plays a crucial role in furthering bilateral relations. Modi's interactions with the diaspora during the visit will not only demonstrate appreciation for their contributions but also highlight their role in strengthening people-to-people connections. This engagement with the diaspora will foster stronger ties and deepen mutual understanding, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie. In essence, the forthcoming state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the United States opens new avenues for enhancing strategic partnerships, expanding economic cooperation, and fostering technology and innovation collaborations. This visit marks a milestone in the India-US relationship and paves the way for a future of mutual prosperity. As both nations navigate the complex global landscape, this visit serves as a testament to their shared commitment to shaping a better world. By capitalizing on the opportunities presented during this visit, India and the US can forge alliances that will propel them forward and create a lasting impact on the global stage.

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

GR8 CRICKET BAT MANUFACTURING UNIT

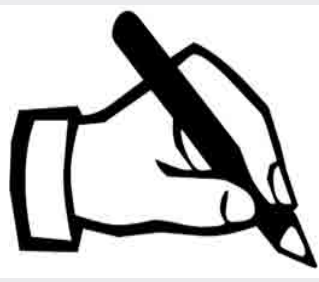


A labourer works in a GR8 cricket bat manufacturing unit, at Sangam in Ananatnag district of South Kashmir, Friday, June 16.

Affordable Healthcare For All



DR. NARESH TREHAN



Health is an essential pillar. Literally. If we project India's growth story over the next 25 years, this adage would help chart what the Government and private healthcare players must focus on for the world's most populous nation to also become the most prosperous one – ensuring timely access to quality, affordable healthcare to lower morbidity, mortality, and improve well-being of its 1.43 billion people. There is no contesting the link between an individual's good health, their ability to create wealth, and a country's economic prosperity. As India works to grow into a \$25-trillion economy, built on equitable development, it must adopt a multi-pronged approach to address the health challenges posed and deepened by changing demographics, lifestyle, mutating viruses, pandemics like COVID-19, and the climate crisis. It must also find ways to tackle India's traditional healthcare challenges such as inter-state and urban-rural disparities, below-average ratio of healthcare workers to patients, and gaps in hospital services between tier-I, II and III cities. In this context, universal access to affordable healthcare takes on a new level of significance for India. In this direction, India has made great strides in improving healthcare access and affordability with newer schemes under the National Health Policy, 2017. The Government has launched a range of initiatives aimed at taking healthcare to the last mile, with a particular focus on and fillip from digital health technology. For example, it setup more than 1.5 lakh Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres and created a network of over 9,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras servicing 700+ districts with quality generic medicines. But among the most significant initiatives taken towards ensuring universal coverage has been the Ayushman Bharat PM-Jan Arogya Yojana that covers close to 55 crore people, including India's poorest 40% by meeting hospital cost up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year. Supported by the private sector, this scheme can ensure that beneficiaries who needs advanced treatment can avail of it. While we may have seen the

back of the COVID-19 pandemic, its ghosts of added-healthcare-burden are likely to continue haunting us. Long Covid, increase in non-communicable diseases, treatment deferral and worsened symptoms of existing conditions because of Covid – all these factors will likely add to become a source of economic burden in the near future. This is particularly worrying as a large chunk of our population is still concentrated in villages where, despite the network of primary and secondary healthcare centres, increased medical colleges and seats, doctor-patient ratio remains a work in progress.

This is where digital innovation – in play much before the start of the pandemic – is helping. The Government's telemedicine app, eSanjeevani, has eliminated distance as a barrier to consult specialist doctors and bridged the urban-rural divide. In under three years of its launch, it has been able to help more than 10 crore people. The private sector too has taken several initiatives to bridge the last-mile gap and remove distance as an access barrier. In addition to telemedicine, which it is using to connect with patients even in the farthest corners and oversee their treatment, large-scale healthcare providers have even started remote critical care services (e-ICUs).

Government initiatives, such as the National Health Stack and the National Digital Health Mission, have created a robust foundation for the development of an integrated and seamless healthcare delivery system that greatly helps

tertiary care providers deliver effective, efficient, and personalised care. With the rising number of smartphone users and proactive adoption of the digital health system, affordable solutions are reducing disparities in healthcare access and quality, especially among underserved and marginalised communities. These tools are also enabling promotion of disease prevention and early detection, which can help reduce the long-term burden of disease and associated costs, and ultimately improve the overall well-being of the population.

Moreover, digital health solutions can facilitate the collection and analysis of large-scale data that can inform public health interventions and policies. This can enable public and private sector healthcare providers to develop evidence-based strategies for disease control, outbreak management, and health promotion. For example, it can support the tracking of disease incidence and prevalence, which can help identify emerging health threats and develop appropriate interventions.

Government programmes, ingenuity of the private healthcare sector and adoption of digital health solutions are together redefining 'universal affordable healthcare' to represent an integrated system that not only ensures access but actively evolves to further reduce treatment costs and play an active role in disease prevention.

(Writer is Chairman & Managing Director, Medanta Heart Institute, Gurugram)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shocking Seizure

In a shocking revelation, the Income-Tax (IT) Department has seized a "benami" commercial plot valued at Rs 400 crore in Noida, belonging to BSP chief Mayawati's brother Anand Kumar and his wife Vichiter Lata. The seven-acre plot, owned by Anand Kumar and Vichiter Lata, was attached by the Delhi-based Benami Prohibition Unit (BPU) through a provisional order. This development raises questions about the source of their wealth, as neither Mayawati nor her brother have any legitimate business or employment. It is a disgrace and betrayal to the Dalit community who trusted and respected Mayawati. The government should extend its efforts to uncover all benami properties and illegal wealth of politicians, including those from the ruling party. Strong measures are necessary to combat corruption and money laundering, such as implementing judicial reforms and establishing a Lokpal.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Manipur Meltdown

The recent outbreak of violence in Manipur, triggered by a court ruling, has shed light on the deep-rooted geographical divisions within the state. Ethnic tensions had been simmering beneath the surface for some time, fueled by a persistent sense of injustice, unaddressed grievances, and a perceived lack of equal treatment. When a group feels marginalized and excluded, it can lead to a dangerous sense of alienation, with violence as a possible consequence. The fault lines between the Kukis and Meiteis communities have become more pronounced, with mistrust, anger, and hatred intensifying. Urgent efforts are needed to bridge the divide and restore justice in Manipur.

Roshan Lal Goel, Ladwa

A Profound Connection

In life, there are moments of pure gold when we selflessly offer our presence, lend a compassionate ear, wipe away tears, and soothe the wounds of others. It is in these acts of kindness that we ignite hope and restore faith in humanity. By extending respect and support to the poor and needy, we establish relationships without any ulterior motives, fostering a deep affection that transcends boundaries. Let us embrace the power of unconditional love and compassion, for it is through these acts that we create meaningful connections and enrich both our own lives and the lives of those around us.

Md Ismayeel, Hyderabad.

SHEER CLASS PREJUDICE DOING THE TALKING

Kajal Chatterjee

The job of the selection committee of BCCI is to select the best possible set of players to form the national squad for the upcoming Test /ODI /T20-I series or tournament. Now whom to select in the first XI remains the responsibility of the team management consisting of the Captain, Vice-Captain, Head Coach. That India is faring poorly under the charge of the Rohit Sharma-Rahul Dravid duo (both of them being cricketers heavyweights); the fingers of accusation, so as to fix responsibility, are now being pointed towards the bunch of selectors, that too by exploiting their "lightweight" status with their collective Test-playing experience being "mere" 25 (Shiv Sunder Das alone playing 23, Subroto Banerjee and Salil Ankola playing 1 each with Sridharan Sharath playing none).

It gets very clear that had a "lightweight" been the Head Coach of the Indian team with say the Chief selector been "heavyweight", then surely blame of failure would have been heaped upon the former as he is in direct charge of the dressing room and selection of the first XI. Moreover, had

India won the Test championship final, would the very same "pundits" cared to thank the selection committee for it. Now that the team has lost, the "non-elite" selectors are being taken to task. Few years ago, the selection committee comprising of MSK Prasad, Sarandeep Singh, Jatin Paranjpe, Devang Gandhi and Gagan Khoda was more "lightweight" possessing a total experience of mere 13 Tests (2 of them have not even played a single Test!); so surely their "qualification" to adorn the posts of selectors were lesser than even the current one.

Now let's have a view of previous stalwarts in the selection committee. While Bishan Singh Bedi and Dilip Vengsarkars are cricketing legends in their own right, Kiran More and K.Srikanth had played a significant role as wicketkeeper and opener respectively in Test cricket for many years. But had they excelled themselves as Indian selectors? Certainly not. Rather their tenure was full of controversial decisions with bizarre selections and omissions. Sacking of Sourav Ganguly from Indian captainship immediately after his brilliant success in Zimbabwe as skipper and batsman in

2005, barbarically throwing out Sourav from the team by conspiring with Greg Chappell, forcing Sourav to announce retirement when the southpaw was playing in the best form of his life – all had happened during the tenure of More and Srikanth.

India's worst ODI World Cup performance had been "achieved" in 2007 (with a single win against Bermuda) when Vengsarkar was playing the role of Chief selector. Bias, prejudice and provincialism have all along made its barbaric presence felt during the selection process despite the presence of many "heavyweights" as selectors. So it gets proved that great or good cricketers do not necessarily translate into wise or neutral selectors.

While pointing out how Ed Smith and Trevor Hohns were heading the selection committees in England and Australia respectively despite Test experience of 1 to 7 matches, MSK Prasad once asked "When stature and international experience don't come into picture in those countries, how will it come in the way in our country". Indeed it comes in the way in our country just because we are supreme class-conscience with a staunch feu-

dal mindset! And this is the reason why an individual named Raj Singh Dungarpur as Chairman of the selection committee was hailed for so many years! The current bunch of selectors have at least donned a few international caps. But what was the credential of Dungarpur? He had hardly played a few Ranji Trophy matches for Rajasthan. Yet that supreme failure (as a cricketer) was not only allowed to call the shots in selection matters which also saw the termination of the international career of the great Mohinder Amarnath, Dungarpur was promoted to the status of one of the most overhyped personalities in BCCI history! Why didn't anybody question his credential? Is it because he possessed "blue blood" in his veins? Thus it again proves that class or lineage form the real yardstick of judging a person in this prejudiced Indian society which is indeed very unfortunate.

Instead of mocking and abusing the current selection brigade by citing their "lightweight" status, they should be judged by the decisions they make during the selection process. For emerging as a successful selector, his cricket-

ing record is absolutely irrelevant. An ideal selector or selection committee needs to rise above narrow regionalism, nepotism, bias, prejudice and favouritism. Selectors should select an Indian team in an absolutely neutral mindset. If the Shiv Sunder Dases, Subroto Banerjees deviate from the ideal neutral path that needs to be traversed by the selectors, we should surely condemn them. But blind criticism of the selection committee based on sheer class prejudice indeed reflects India in a very poor light.

If Wriddhiman Saha could have been publicly intimidated that he is not in the scheme of things for the future immediately after his superlative performance of 61 not out so as to save India from inevitable defeat against New Zealand in Kanpur Test in 2021 despite battling the unbearable pain of stiff neck (and thereafter permanently sacked from the team as well with Dravid playing the instrumental role behind such a scandal); then by which logic can Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid be allowed to retain their places as captain and Head Coach of the team respectively inspite of consistent failures and lacklustre performance.

BRIEF

Azure Power

New Delhi: Azure Power Global Limited (the "Company" or "Azure") (NYSE: AZRE), an independent sustainable energy solutions provider and renewable power producer in India, today announced two changes to its Board of Directors. Mr. Richard Payette, FCPA, GCB.D, will join the Board as an Independent non-executive Director on the Company's Board effective July 1, 2023. Mr. Payette is a business leader with over four decades of experience in management of global companies and accounting and audit matters.

Musashi India

Mumbai: Japanese auto parts maker Musashi on Friday announced its entry in the electric mobility space in India in collaboration with BNC Motors and said it will invest Rs 70 crore in the first phase of the business. Musashi India, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Musashi Seimitsu Industries, manufactures transmission components for IC engine-powered two and four wheelers. The company said it will use its platform of design and engineering capability to manufacture its new EV unit consisting of a motor, PCU, and gear box, it said.

Zicuro Technologies

Mumbai: Zicuro Technologies Pvt. Ltd., an emerging FinTech company providing back office software solutions for derivatives market participants, and Cosmos Group, a renowned turnkey project company, have entered into an MoU to facilitate the development and enhancement of capital market infrastructure in developing countries. The partnership between Zicuro Technologies and Cosmos Group brings together their respective expertise and resources to offer comprehensive solutions tailored to the unique needs of developing countries and emerging economies.

NLC India

New Delhi: State-owned NLC India Ltd on Friday announced the incorporation of a subsidiary company to undertake its existing renewable energy projects. NLC India Renewables Ltd (NIRL) was incorporated as a wholly-owned subsidiary on June 14, 2023, NLC India said in a statement. NIRL will take over the existing renewable energy projects and assets owned by its parent company, it said.

Indsil Hydro Power

New Delhi: Indsil Hydro Power and Manganese on Friday announced the sale of its 12 MW power plant at Raipur in Chhattisgarh for Rs 11.40 crore. "The company has entered into a transaction with a buyer for the sale of the 12 MW power plant of the company situated at Raipur, Chhattisgarh for an aggregate consideration of Rs 11.40 crore (exclusive of GST and applicable charges)," according to a BSE filing.

India set to meet \$2-trillion export target: Anupriya Patel

Three-day event kick starts in Mumbai, 400 International buyers from 51 countries join

Mumbai, June 16:

Describing the plastics industry as one of the fastest growing sectors, Union Minister of State for Commerce Smt Anupriya Patel today said India has emerged as a major hub for the world to source their requirements.

Inaugurating Plexconnect, India's first even export-focused plastics exposition organised by Plastics Exports Promotion Council (Plexconcil) in Mumbai, Patel expressed the confidence that the country would achieve the target of 2 billion-dollar exports as the nation turns into a 5 trillion-dollar economy.

She noted that India has today become the supplier of good quality raw material and the finished products while the new foreign trade policy allows exporters to expand their



global footprint. Shri Santosh Sarangi (IAS), Additional Secretary & Director General of Foreign Trade, who was guest of honour said India focuses on the concept of recycling and reusing to drive sustainable development and also become a major circular economy. The FTA negotiations, which are in progress with several countries, should help boost exports, he said. The expo witnessed 4,000 footfalls on day 1 itself with traders and exporters showing an excellent response. The State Pavilions included those from Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh.

Over 400 global buyers from 51 countries have been invited under the Department of Commerce MAI scheme to network and conduct business at a dedicated Reverse Buyer Seller Meet that will be held during the 3-day event. The buyers have been shortlisted from nearly 800 registrations received, and this vast interest is testimony to the world's increasing attention on India as an alternate sourcing hub. From India, leading plastics processors are participating at PLEXCONNECT 2023, and the event is expected to receive 10,000 footfalls over the three days, Plexconcil said.

Sensex, Nifty hit all-time highs on firm global equities

Mumbai, Jun 16 (PTI):

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed at fresh lifetime highs on Friday following gains in banking, financial and capital goods stocks amid a firm trend in the global market. A strengthening rupee and foreign capital inflows further bolstered sentiment, traders said. The 30-share BSE index zoomed 466.95 points or 0.74 per cent to settle at a record closing high of 63,384.58. During the day, it rallied 602.73 points or 0.95 per cent to 63,520.36. The index scaled its earlier lifetime high of 63,284.19 on December 1 last year. The NSE Nifty climbed 137.90 points or 0.74 per cent to end at its



lifetime peak of 18,826. Its previous record peak was 18,812.50. On a weekly basis, the BSE benchmark jumped 758.95 points or 1.21 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 262.6 points or 1.41 per cent. "Markets surged strongly on Friday and inched closer to the record high, tracking firm global cues. After the firm start, the Nifty index hovered in

a narrow band in the first half. However, a sharp surge in the latter half helped the index to test 18,864.70 but it finally settled at 18,826 levels.

"Recovery in banking and financials combined with buying in FMCG, pharma and energy majors largely aided the rebound. Besides, the continued buying in midcap and

Aiming Rs 1 lakh cr turnover for Patanjali Group in next 5 years: Baba Ramdev

New Delhi, Jun 16 (PTI):

Patanjali Group is looking to clock a turnover of Rs 1 lakh crore in next five years as it expands reach to all sections of consumers with different offerings, its leader Baba Ramdev said on Friday.

Group firm Patanjali Foods (previously Ruchi Soya) will also play a significant part in achieving the milestone, having set a target of Rs 45,000-50,000 crore turnover in next five years.

As part of its portfolio premiumisation strategy, Patanjali Foods introduced a new range of offerings in nutraceuticals, health biscuits, Nutrela millet-based cereals, and dry fruits.

"It is our vision to take the turnover of Patanjali Group to Rs 1 lakh crore in next 5 years and that of Patanjali Foods, which is our listed company to up to Rs 50,000 crore," Ramdev said while ad-



Yoga guru Baba Ramdev with Patanjali Foods CEO Sanjeev Asthana (right) during a press conference for the launch of Patanjali Foods Limited's Nutrela Sports range and other premium products, in New Delhi, Friday, June 16.

ressing a press conference here. Patanjali has been focussing on self reliance in India, challenging the multinationals in the domestic market, he said adding, "Today we have overtaken all the MNCs except Unilever, which is still ahead of us." "Two decades back, when I had said we will make Patanjali's turnover

at Rs 10,000 crore, at that time many had thought that Baba was being overconfident. Then again when I said about Patanjali's aim of a turnover of Rs 20,000 crore and compete with the likes of Unilever, some had asked us to be within our limits. Today, I proudly say that the turnover of Patanjali

group has reached near Rs 45,000 crore level," he said. Ramdev said the group has been offering a variety of affordable products for the masses through Patanjali Ayurved and now it is trying to tap the "emerging upper-middle class" through the premium products offered by Patanjali Foods.

At global level also, he said Patanjali is moving towards becoming a leading company in the FMCG segment with its reach touching around 200 crore people in 200 countries.

"In India itself, we have reached 70 crore people and aim to reach more than 100 crore people. We are making various preparations for this. We have reached the masses and are looking to cater to the upper-middle class with our premium products like soya chunks, premium oil and other Nutrela products," he said.

KFC introduces affordable snacker range at INR 99, delighting fans

New Delhi, June 16:

In a delightful surprise for KFC fans, the fast-food chain has launched its all-new Snacker range at an incredibly low price of INR 99. Offering a selection of classic favorites, including the Chicken Longer, Veg Longer, Classic Chicken Roll, Regular Chicken Popcorn, and sides like Krushers, Choco Lava, Fries, and Pepsi, this deal is set to satisfy cravings while keeping wallets happy.

The Snacker range is designed to be the perfect snacking option, catering to various occasions such



as a light evening bite, a quick snack with friends, or a refreshing break between activities. At just INR 99, customers can enjoy the iconic taste of KFC without breaking the bank.

Customers can rest assured that KFC maintains its commitment to safety and hygiene. Adhering to their 5X Safety Promise, KFC ensures thorough sanitization, regular temperature screenings for team members and riders, and the implementation of social distancing and contactless service. Every effort is made to provide a safe and enjoyable dining experience.

Gold jumps Rs 510; silver rises by Rs 450



New Delhi, Jun 16 (PTI):

Gold price jumped Rs 510 to Rs 60,210 per 10 gram in the national capital on Friday amid strong cues in international markets, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had settled at Rs 59,700 per 10 gram.

Silver also climbed Rs 450 to Rs 73,050 per kg. "Gold advanced in the Asian trading hours

on Friday, with spot gold in the Delhi markets trading at Rs 60,210/10 gram, up Rs 510 per 10 gram," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In overseas markets, both gold and silver were trading higher at USD 1,962 per ounce and USD 23.95 per ounce, respectively.

The dollar index dropped to a fresh five-week low and settled lower by 0.81 per cent at 102.12 in the previous session on the back of weak US macro data and hawkish comments from the European Central Bank president that indicate another interest rate hike in July, Gandhi said.

Rupee spurts 31 paise to a month high against US dollar

Mumbai, Jun 16 (PTI):

The rupee rebounded by 34 paise to close at a month high against the US dollar on Friday amid domestic equity indices surging to record high levels and losses in crude oil prices.

FII inflows into local equities and the greenback trading near one-month low levels also bolstered the rupee sentiment, analysts said.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened higher at 81.97 and moved in a range of 82.02 to 81.86 in the day trade.

The unit settled at 81.94 against the US dollar, reflecting gains of 31 paise over the previous close.



On Thursday, the rupee settled lower at 82.25 against the dollar due to a strong greenback overseas and a negative trend in domestic equities. Crude oil prices

were trading lower on Friday with the benchmark Brent crude slipping 0.58 per cent to USD 75.23 per barrel.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was marginally up 0.08 per cent at 102.20.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 466.95 points to settle at a lifetime high of 63,384.58, while broader NSE Nifty climbed 137.90 points to close at a record 18,826.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Thursday as they purchased shares worth Rs 3,085.51 crore, according to exchange data.

GST Council to discuss measures to curb evasion

New Delhi, Jun 16 (PTI):

The GST Council on July 11 will discuss some more measures to tighten the noose on fake registration and fraudulent generation of input tax credit (ITC) as it looks to check tax evasion, a top official said on Friday. "We are thinking of some other measures and we will take them through the due process of the law committee and GST council," Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs Chairman Vivek Johri told reporters.

The 50th meeting of the GST Council is scheduled on July 11. The Council will also discuss the GoM report on online gaming, casinos and horse racing and will circulate it to the states soon. The GoM sub-

mitted its report to the Council in December last year, but the Council has not taken it up for discussion. Further, the Council will also decide on a convenor for the Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate rationalisation.

Former Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai was the convenor of the panel and now with the change of Government in Karnataka, the Council has to select a new convenor. The GST officers already have initiated a two-month special drive against fake registration.

During the drive, GST Network has identified 60,000 entities which could be having fake registration and for that central and state tax officers have initiated physical verification of the premises.

Bhutan-Siliguri-Bangladesh corridor boosts trade and connectivity

Kolkata, Jun 16 (PTI):

Businessmen from the region want to promote the development of a Bhutan-Siliguri-Bangladesh corridor to boost trade among the neighbouring nations.

At the recently concluded Bimstec business conclave here, businessmen present told PTI that improving road connectivity in North Bengal that links the three countries Bhutan, Bangladesh and Nepal - will not only improve trade volume, but will also help generate employment.

"The real place to invest is North Bengal. Siliguri's rail network can be used by all the countries to send consignments to Kolkata and beyond," said Aviral Jain, the chief of

Pristine Hindustan Infraprojects Projects Private Limited.

He said ICD Dabgram is the first rail-linked dry port in the North Bengal region strategically located to serve a huge catchment area of North Bengal, Sikkim, North Bihar, Northeast and also cater to the transit shipments for Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

"ICD Dabgram provides a new gateway to the landlocked countries of Bhutan and Nepal. It can also serve North Bangladesh for which ICD Dabgram will be the nearest rail-head and dry port much nearer to Dhaka or Chittagong," he added.

Rabiul Alam, the managing director of Shams Group of Companies in Bangladesh, said his coun-

try is geographically connected with the Northeastern states of India and river routes between the countries should be developed for better trade relations.

"As of now cargo ships go empty from Bangladesh and return loaded from India. There is a massive trade imbalance. We need to revive the river routes as it will benefit all," he added.

Gopal Waiba Lama, Managing Director of Sunrise Export, Bhutan, said the country depends totally on road transport which is not enough to handle the trade.

"We need waterways to be developed. We have two important rivers that can be used for ferrying goods to India and Bangladesh," he said.

GST officers unearth 461 fake entities in Rs 863 cr ITC fraud

New Delhi, Jun 16 (PTI):

The GST Intelligence officers have unearthed a racket involving 461 shell/fake entities, which had passed on fraudulent input tax credit of Rs 863 crore.

According to the Finance Ministry, the Gurugram Zonal Unit of the Directorate General of GST Intelligence busted the racket, which passed on fraudulent Input Tax Credit (ITC) through fake shell entities following a search operation.

"Huge number of forged/ morphed/ fake soft copies of documents like rent agreements, electricity bills, Aadhar card, driving license, PAN card, etc. were detected in the laptops resumed from this secret office, which were used to create and operate their fake entities.

Ramkrishna Forgings-Titagarh Rail consortium bags Rs 12,227 cr order from railways

New Delhi, Jun 16 (PTI):

A consortium of Ramkrishna Forgings Ltd and Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd has bagged an order worth about Rs 12,227 crore from the railways ministry to supply 15,40,000 forged wheels under the government's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

The contract spans over 20 years, with the delivery of 40,000 forged wheels in the first year, 60,000 in the second year, and 80,000 wheels annually thereafter, Ramkrishna Forgings said in a statement on Friday. "Ramkrishna Forgings Limited (RKFL) and Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL) consortium has

won a contract to supply 15,40,000 forged wheels under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative by Ministry of Railways," it said.

The wheels will be used for LHB coaches, WAG9 locomotives, Vande Bharat Express trains, and other platforms and the total contract value is Rs 12,226.5 crore, the company said.

The consortium will be establishing a facility to manufacture these forged wheels, with a total annual production target of 2,00,000 wheels when fully operational. The facility will address the demands of the domestic railway sector, private sector as well as the export markets.

India's forex kitty declines by USD 1.32 bn to USD 593.75 bn

Mumbai, Jun 16 (PTI):

India's forex reserves dropped by USD 1.318 billion to USD 593.749 billion for the week ended June 9, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday. The overall reserves had jumped by USD 5.93 billion to USD 595.067 billion for the previous reporting week. It can be noted that in October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments. For the week ended June 9, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by USD 1.128 billion to USD 525.073 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI on Friday.

Election related works reviewed through virtual meeting

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 16: A review meeting was organized on Friday through video conferencing for Electoral Registration Officers and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers and BLO Supervisors regarding second special summary revision of electoral rolls of eligibility date 01 November 2023 and upcoming assembly elections 2023.

This meeting was organized on the instructions of Collector and District Election Officer Pushpendra Kumar Meena. Arvind Kumar Ekka, Additional Collector and Bajrang Dubey, Deputy District Election Officer conducted the meeting.



Physical verification of all polling stations, facility of AMF in polling stations, rationalization of polling stations, door-to-door survey by BLO, registration of all 18+ citizens in voter list and voter awareness for young voters in special camp days were the topics of discussion.

Instructions were given to organise related activities and prepare an outline of voter awareness programs under the SVEEP action plan for the upcoming assembly elections 2023.

to organise related activities and prepare an outline of voter awareness programs under the SVEEP action plan for the upcoming assembly elections 2023.

Police takes action against gambling, betting and boozing in public places

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 16: Supela Police conducted a special campaign and took action against the people involved in illegal activities of gambling, betting, etc. Action was also taken against the people found consuming liquor in public places.

It needs to be mentioned here that on June 16, Superintendent of Police Shalabh Kumar Sinha gave instructions to conduct a campaign against the illegal gambling, betting and Excise Act.

Under the guidance of Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Dhruv and City Superintendent of Police (Bhilai Nagar) Nikhil Rakhecha, the Supela Police formed separate teams and conducted raids at various spots.



During the first raid, the accused Deepak Kumar Chandravanshi and Muktanand Salame were caught consuming liquor openly in a public place at Gada Chowk.

In the second raid, the accused Sunil Singh was caught red handed while accepting bets on Satta Patti. He was arrested from Laxmi Market area with betting records (Satta patti),

cash and mobile phone. In the third raid, the accused Uttam Soni, Vinay Kumar Gupta and Loknath Dalai were caught gambling on playing cards in Akashganga Supela. Cash and playing cards were seized from them.

Action was taken against the accused under Section 6 of the Gambling Prohibition Act 2022. The accused Sunil Singh was arrested and sent to the jail on

judicial remand.

Prohibitory action was taken against the accused Uttam Soni, Vinay Kumar Gupta, Loknath Dalai, Deepak Kumar and Muktanand Salame under sections 151, 107, 116(3) CrPC. They were produced before the SDM Court in Chhawani.

Station House Officer Supela Inspector Durgesh Kumar Sharma, Sub Inspector Kashinath Mandavi, ASI Rajnikant Dewan, Rajesh Singh, Head Constable Bharat Yadav, Amar Singh, Prakash Chand Tiwari, Lakhan Katlam, Santosh Sharma, Constables Junaid Siddiqui, Vishal Singh, Kapil Chaudhary, Surendra Giri, Ravi Sao, Surendra Patel, Shyamji Mishra and Surya Pratap Singh played a vital role in conducting the raids.

QR Code Vehicle Pass system would cause disputes: BMS

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 16: The recognized trade union Bhilai Ispat Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) expressed objection to making QR code mandatory for all employees going inside the plant on their vehicles from June 19. A delegation of the union met Chief General Manager (Safety) GP Singh and expressed their protest against the QR Code system.

The union leaders said that it will not allow implementation of this system under any circumstances. BMS officials met CGM GP Singh on this matter and said that there is no need to install QR code as it would create unnecessary disputes at the entry gates of

the Plant. Union delegation led by General Secretary Ravi Singh and Chinna Keshavlu informed the CGM Safety about the problems caused by the QR code and said that it will cause inconvenience to the employees, long queues will be formed, and there are chances of disputes between employees and CISF.

CGM GP Singh said that this year the number of accidents has reduced as compared to last year due to several measures and QR Code system is a new initiative in this direction. QR code is necessary to track those who drive at high speed. In absence of QR code, many times no record of the vehicles is found, due to which the driver involved in rash



driving remains untraced.

The union rejected the entire explanation and registered their strong objection. Deputy General Secretary Vashishtha Verma said that there is a need to make a shed at the gate so that the employees can be protected from sunlight in summer and rains during rainy days. Vice President Vinod Upadhyay demanded that disputes often arise at the gates when the validity of the gate pass is not clear. He

suggested that the CISF personnel be provided contact numbers of the personnel department so that the CISF can contact immediately and confirm the gate pass.

Deputy General Secretaries Praveen Madinkar and Ravi Chowdhary said that all the worn out roads inside the plant should be repaired. Deputy General Secretaries Sunny Ippan and Dharmendra Dhamu said that facilities should

be extended to the employees and they should not be harassed mentally and physically. Union leaders agreed in the meeting that all the employees must register their vehicle numbers from the point of view of security.

Vice President Sharda Gupta and Pradeep Pal said that at time of shift change, all the gates should be opened to prevent chaos and crowd. General Secretary Ravi Shankar Singh, Executive President Channa Keshavlu, Vice President Sharda Gupta, Vinod Upadhyay, Kailash Singh, Vashishtha Verma, Sunny Ippan, Praveen Madinkar, Pradeep Pal, Ravi Chowdhary and others were present.

Divisional Commissioner imposes fine of Rs 5000 for misleading the court

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 16: Divisional Commissioner Mahadev Kavre has imposed a fine of Rs 5000 on a person, who filed the revision petition by hiding the facts in the court case. He unnecessarily wasted the time of the court by producing misleading documents.

According to the information, during the pendency of the case, the person who filed the re-

vision petition transferred the land in question (located in Village Ameri, Tehsil Patan, District Durg) to another relative through a registered donation letter.

The above facts were hidden by the applicant on the submission of revision case number 103 Year 2021-22 in the Divisional Court. He did not make the donation recipient as a party in the case.

When the respondents came to know about it,

they filed an objection in the court and furnished the details. Taking immediate action, the Court found that the revision petitioner has unnecessarily wasted the time of the court and has tried to mislead the court by hiding the facts.

Divisional Commissioner Mahadev Kavre passed an order on the date of hearing on June 15, 2023, to punish the revision petitioner and the applicant with a fine of Rs 5000.

Free Medical camp organised at Village Doomardih

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 16: Bhilai Steel Plant, conducts several public welfare activities as part of its organizational social responsibility towards the community in and around its areas of operations. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department of the Plant organized a one-day free Health Camp, at Village Doomardih, on June 14, 2023.

The Medical Team from CSR department, comprising of Dr Isha Kujur, Pharmacist, VK Khare, Firoza Joseph for Blood-Sugar and BP examination, Kedarnath Yadav for registration, volunteered their services for the camp. Sita Sinha from the CSR department was also present during the Health Camp.

A total of 68 villagers



from village Doomardih, including 24 men, 36 women and 08 Children, availed free health services at the day long Health Camp and free medicines were distributed to them.

It is noteworthy that Health Camp is one of the prime initiatives, through which BSP's CSR Department has con-

tributed substantially towards Public Health & Medicine.

The CSR Department of Bhilai Steel Plant, conducts health camps on regular basis in the adjoining areas or mines, with the aim of ensuring adequate medical & Health facilities to the communities within which it works.

Dengue Prevention Campaign initiated in Bhilai Township

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 16: A massive campaign for prevention of Dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases like malaria, chikungunya etc. has been started in the Bhilai Township from June 13, 2023. Under the campaign survey, inspection and distribution of medicines, sprinkling of insecticides and fogging has been started on a massive scale to prevent mosquito-borne diseases.

7 teams from PHD Section of Town Services Department of the Plant surveyed 845 houses of the township in Sector-4 area, whereby various open containers including utensils, drums, tanks and coolers were inspected and mosquito-larvae were found at 43 places during the inspection. Along with the survey, places with stagnant water were cleaned and medicines were sprayed.



Temephos medicines are also being distributed by the department in the township. In view of the approaching monsoon and escalation in the possibility of mosquito-borne diseases, the Town



Services Department is set to increase the number of survey teams of the Dengue Prevention Campaign in the near future.

Durg Malaria Department, Government of Chhattisgarh has also provided 48 Breeding Checkers on payment-basis. The Breeding Checkers are visiting door-to-door, market and other public places and

inspecting mosquito larvae and spraying medicines, besides making people aware of prevention and precautionary measures of mosquito-borne diseases by distributing pamphlets etc. It is noteworthy that controlling the number of mosquitoes is always successful and effective only with public cooperation. Along with this, fogging operations have been started in the entire township by vehicle mounted thermal fogging machines.

The Public Health Department has made an appeal to the Bhilai citizens to take sincere measures for prevention of Dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases by emptying coolers and water tanks once per week, and check accumulation of water in empty utensils, old tyres etc and put oil on the stagnant water to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.

Summer Sports Training Camp-2023 concludes at Pant Stadium

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 16: Sports, Cultural & Civic Amenities (SCCA) Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's organized a 35 Days-long Summer Sports Training Camp for school-going children from May 10, 2023 to June 15, 2023. The Valedictory Ceremony of the camp was formally held on June 15, 2023 at Pant Stadium Football Ground, Sector-1. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) was the Chief Guest on this occasion.

Chief guest Dasgupta congratulated the children and motivated them for playing at National Level, while addressing guests, SCCA sports officials & trainers and participants. Anirban Dasgupta appreciated BSP's initiatives towards promoting Sports & Games and congratulated all the sportspersons, SCCA and BSP Management for their active cooperation in organising the Camp successfully and wished them for a bright future. Among senior officers present on the occasion as Special Guests were, S Mukhopadhyay, ED



(Projects) with Addl Charge of ED(P&A), AK Chakraborty, ED (MM), Dr Ashok Kumar Panda, ED (Finance), Samir Swarup, CGM I/c (Mines & Rowghat), Tapas Dasgupta, Acting ED (Works), Asit Saha, CGM I/c (M&U), RK Srivastava, CGM (Projects), DN Karan, CGM (F&A), Dr Ravindranath M, CMO I/c (M&HS), Anurag Upadhyay, CGM (Projects-Comm), Sandeep Mathur, CGM (Personnel), SK Soni, GM (Personnel-NW&M), MK Goyal, CGM (MWRM), Srikanth Ramaraju, GM (Director I/c Secretariat), along with NK Banchor, Chairman, (SEFI) &

President (OA), and Parvinder Singh, General Secretary (OA). Sai Ram Jakhar, DGM (SCCA) was also present on the occasion along with the officials of SCCA Department, Sports Trainers, camp-participants and sports enthusiasts. Addressing the gathering, S Mukhopadhyay, wished the participants for a bright future and said that it is evident from the joy and enthusiasm of the children during the 35-day-long training camp, that the camp has been a true delight to the children and they have enjoyed their performances and learned the tenets of sportsmanship instead

of mobile screen engagement. I hope the training experience received here helps in future. Your joyful memories of the Sports Training Camp-2023 is our real achievement, said Mukhopadhyay. Sandeep Mathur, CGM (Personnel) delivered the welcome address, wherein he briefed about the Summer Sports Training Camp-2023 in detail and said that sports are essential for adequate physical and mental development of children, and it also inculcates punctuality and discipline in child's personality besides giving a positive direction to their ener-

gy. The respective sports trainers were also felicitated during the Valedictory Ceremony and certificates, T-Shirts of SAIL-BSP were given away to the participants of Summer Sports Training Camp-2023. Various sports performances were also displayed by Players during the Valedictory Ceremony.

It is noteworthy that month-long sports training was provided by 120 expert coaches and trainers, at the Summer Camp 2023 for 24 sports and games categories, at 41 sports complexes, school halls and playgrounds. As many as 2,580 children from BSP and Non-BSP Schools of the township took part in the camp successfully, including 728 girls, which in itself is an example of women empowerment. Bhilai Steel Plant is the only organization that provides such training facilities. During the training nutritious food like jaggery, roasted-gram etc. were also provided to the participants and Sports material was also made available to the trainees. The programme was conducted by Supriyo Sen.

Three arrested for multi-million fraud

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, June 16: Bhilai Nagar police arrested three accused who cheated Rs 01 crore 60 lakh in a franchisee fraud of a luxury bath accessories company. The accused were arrested from Delhi by a joint team of Police Station Bhilai Nagar and ACCU. CSP Nikhil Rakhecha (IPS) informed that on the instructions of Superintendent of Police Shalabh Kumar Sinha, Police Station Bhilai Nagar led by Inspector Rajesh Sahu conducted investigations and nabbed the fraudsters.

The victim is Jagpreet Singh (45) son of HS Luthra a resident of Kadambari Nagar Durg. He filed an FIR on May 26, 2023 regarding the fraud which occurred between March 01, 2018 to



May 26, 2023. He complained that owners of Colston Bath & Spa Pvt Limited Company New Delhi (Amit Ahuja, Anil Ahuja, Babita Divya alias Babita Kapila and Amit Negi) cheated the victim of Rs 16082310 by violating the conditions of the license agreement that he signed for dealership of bath tubs and sanitary goods.

An FIR was lodged under section 420, 34 of IPC.

During investigation, the joint team of Police Station Bhilai Nagar and ACCU verified the address of the accused. A police team moved to Delhi and arrested the accused Anil Kumar Ahuja, Amit Ahuja and Amit Negi. They were produced before the Court. SI Mukesh Sori, ACCU team members Anup Sharma, Mohd Shamim, Rajesh Singh and Amit Verma played a vital role in arresting the accused.

England 124-3 at lunch in Ashes opener against Australia

Birmingham, Jun 16 (AP):

England refrained from all-out "Bazball" attack and settled for a mix of easy singles and 12 fours but no sixes to go to lunch on 124-3 against an uncharacteristically cautious Australia in the first Ashes Test on Friday.

Both teams will eat with some confidence at Edgbaston, though Australia gained a psychological edge when England opener Zak Crawley (61) was dismissed by seamer Scott Boland off the last ball before lunch. Joe Root (20 not out) was at the crease.

Australia set mostly defensive fields and has so far restrained the England attack ahead of a critical afternoon session after losing the toss on an excellent wicket to bat on in hot and sunny conditions. Australia captain



Australia's Josh Hazlewood, centre, celebrates with team mates after taking the wicket of England's Ben Duckett.

Pat Cummins said he would have also batted first.

Crawley reached 50 in 56 balls including a morale-boosting four confidently driven through extra cover against the first ball of the series

bowled by Cummins. Crawley shared a 70-run partnership with Ollie Pope (31) for the second wicket, before the England vice captain was out leg before wicket against spinner Nathan Lyon as Australia success-

fully appealed the umpire's decision. That brought in Root, England's highest-ranked batter at No. 6, at 92-2 and Lyon's price of success saw him removed for Josh Hazlewood, who has often troubled Root in previous Tests.

England brought up its century with another boundary from Crawley against Cummins.

England has won 12 of its last 17 tests with its attacking and carefree "Bazball" approach under Stokes and coach Brendon ("Baz") McCullum.

Australia went for Hazlewood at the expense of pacer Mitchell Starc and the 32-year-old seamer repaid the vote of confidence by claiming the first wicket of the series with England on 22. Ben Duckett went for 12 to Hazlewood, caught low behind by Alex Carey.

Rohit, Bharat, Krrish storm into quarters

Gangtok, Jun 16 (PTI): Asian junior champions Rohit Chamoli, Bharat Joon and Krrish Pal lived up to the expectations and stormed into the quarterfinals of the sixth Youth Men's National Boxing Championships here on Friday.

Representing Chandigarh, Rohit (54kg) showcased his talent in a commanding victory against John Lapung of Arunachal Pradesh, winning by a unanimous 5-0 decision. He will next face Umesh Kumar of Delhi. Krrish, the reigning Asian junior boxing champion, continued his winning streak as he triumphed over Mohammad Junad of Telangana in the 48kg round of 16 bout. Krrish, who is representing Chandigarh, demonstrated his superiority in the ring right from the word go, eventually forcing the referee to stop the contest (RSC) in the first round. He will take on Vishesh from Haryana in the quarterfinals. Bharat (92kg) from Haryana showcased his skill and power in a one-sided bout against Uttar Pradesh's Rishab Pandey with a RSC win.

Prannoy, Satwik-Chirag enter semifinals; Srikanth bows out

Jakarta, Jun 16 (PTI):

India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty shocked top seed Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto to sail into the men's doubles semifinals before HS Prannoy entered the last-four stage of men's singles competition at the Indonesia Open here on Friday. Prannoy registered a win over Kodai Naraoka of Japan.

However, world championship silver medallist Kidambi Srikanth bowed out of the men's singles competition after going down fighting to China's Li Shi Feng in the quarterfinals. The first Indian to take the court, Srikanth lost 14-21 21-14 12-21 in one hour and nine minutes against world No. 10 Feng.

The win enabled Feng to restore parity as far as his head-to-head record against Srikanth is concerned, which stands at 1-



India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, right, and Chirag Shetty play against Indonesia's Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto.

1 now. The seventh seeded duo of Satwik and Chirag then displayed a flawless game to outwit Indonesia's Alfian and Ardianto 21-13 21-13 in 41 minutes.

Satwik and Chirag will play the winner of the quarterfinal between Koreans Min Hyuk Kang and Seung Jae Seo and Indonesia's Leo Rolly

Carnando and Daniel Marthin. In the final Indian match of the day, seventh seed Prannoy prevailed over Naraoka, seeded third, 21-18 21-6 to book his semifinal berth.

Prannoy will take on the winner of the match between top seed Viktor Axelsen of Denmark and Chinese Taipei's Tien Chen Chou.

Najmul, Mominul hit centuries as Bangladesh close in on victory

Mirpur, Jun 16 (AP):

Najmul Hossain and Mominul Haque both hit a century as Bangladesh closed in on a victory in the one-off Test against Afghanistan after setting up an improbable 662-run target for the opponent on Friday.

Najmul followed his 146 from the first innings with 124, making him the second Bangladesh batter to hit a century in both innings of a Test. Mominul, the first Bangladeshi to achieve the feat, brought up his first century since April 2021 with an unbeaten 121 as Bangladesh declared its second innings on 425-4. Afghanistan batted 11 overs to score 45-2 before bad light brought a premature end to the Day 3.

Afghanistan trails by 617 runs with two days left and would need to rewrite the record books to get an unlikely victory.

To make matter worse, its captain Hashmatullah Shahidi had to retire after being hit in



Bangladesh's Mominul Haque celebrates after scoring a century.

the head by a bouncer from fast bowler Taskin Ahmed. Afghanistan's bowling attack struggled to create any chances, while the Bangladesh batters got enough loose deliveries to punish with ease after resuming Day 3 at 134-1. Opener Zakir Hasan scored 71

off 95 deliveries before perishing while going for a third run, ending a 173-run second-wicket partnership.

After playing in limited-overs style, Najmul completed his fourth test century off 115 balls, nudging occasional bowler Hashmatullah Shahidi behind square for a single.

Left-arm wrist spinner Zahir Khan momentarily intervened in Bangladesh's run-fest, taking two wickets in three balls. After hitting 15 boundaries in his 151-ball knock, Shanto fell, clipping one to short midwicket. Veteran Mushfiqur Rahim miscued a reverse sweep, after hitting a six on the previous delivery.

Mominul and Liton Das then denied Afghanistan any success, with the former guiding a short delivery of pacer Yamin Ahmadzai over the keeper for a boundary to reach his 12th century.

Liton, who was not out on 66 on his captaincy debut, picked up his 16th half-century, also hitting a boundary through fine leg against Zahir.

India, Lebanon play out goalless draw

Bhubaneswar, Jun 16 (PTI):

India missed the chances that came their way to settle for a goalless draw with Lebanon in the Intercontinental Cup football tournament here on Thursday.

Continuing with his policy to make wholesale changes to his starting XI, head coach Igor Stimac benched a number of seniors including striker Sunil Chhetri and goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu.

Defensive linchpin Sandesh Jhingam wore the captain's armband in Chhetri's absence.

The result, however, did not matter as both teams had already sealed their places in the final of the four-nation tournament. Mongolia and Vanuatu were the two other teams taking part in the event.

Introduced in the 82nd minute, Chhetri received a perfect delivery from Anirudh Thapa but the India captain could not find the back of the net.



Lebanese goalkeeper after a good ball inside the box.

The two missed chances from India meant the teams went into the half-time break goalless.

It pretty much continued in the same way in the second half, which also saw the floodlights going off for a couple of minutes, as both teams failed to failed to find the target.

Hoping to break the deadlock, both India and Lebanon rang in a few changes, but to no avail as the score remained unchanged till the final whistle.

India had kicked off their campaign with a 2-0 win over Mongolia last Friday before beating Vanuatu 1-0 three days later on Monday.

Lebanon too had started with a victory, beating Vanuatu 3-1 before playing out a goalless draw against Mongolia on Monday.

India eye winning start in AFC U-17 Asian Cup

Pathum Thani (Thailand), Jun 16 (PTI):

A year and a half of hard work will be put to test as India eye a winning start against Vietnam in their AFC U-17 Asian Cup opener here on Saturday.

India head coach Bibiano Fernandes, having helped the team reach the semi-finals in the 2018 edition of the tournament, stressed on the importance of inculcating a winning culture in the boys.

"Of course, improvement in the players is key, but winning is always important. We want to develop and cultivate top players, and we cannot do that if we are not winning," said Fernandes.

"Winning matches and qualifying for the FIFA U-17 World Cup is most important. If we don't play the World Cup at this age, we can't develop as a footballing nation. Development is on our mind, but we also focus on winning."

Manju Rani wins women's 35km race walk

But fails to breach Asiad qualifying mark

Bhubaneswar, Jun 16 (PTI): National record holder Manju Rani of Punjab won gold in the women's 35km race walk event at the National Inter-State Athletics Championship but failed to breach the Asian Games qualifying mark here on Friday.

The 24-year-old Rani clocked 3 hours 21 minutes and 31 seconds under hot and humid conditions to win the event but fell well short of the Asian Games qualifying mark of 2:58.30. She had clocked the national record time of 2:57:54 in the Indian Race Walking Championships in Ranchi in February.

Haryana's Juned Khan won the men's 35km race walk event, clocking



3:00:37.00 which was also well short of the Asian Games qualifying time of 2:35.00. National record holder Ram Baboo, who had won the title in the

went past the Asian Games qualifying time of 52.96 seconds in the semifinals. Anjali Devi of Haryana, who returned to action after a three-year lay off, led the pack of women going into the final with a 52.03s run in the semifinal heats. She was followed by Vithya Ramraj (52.43) of Tamil Nadu, Himanshi Malik (52.46) of Haryana and Aishwarya Mishra (52.73) of Maharashtra. In the men's 400m event, Kerala's Muhammed Ajmal (45.51) broke the meet record while state-mate and national record holder Muhammed Anas clocked the second best time in the semifinal heats with 45.63 to move into the final.

Pulisic scores twice as US beats Mexico 3-0



Las Vegas, Jun 16 (AP): Christian Pulisic scored late in the first half and early in the second, Ricardo Pepi added a late goal and the United States beat Mexico 3-0 to reach the CONCACAF Nations League final against Canada. Pulisic made his first start for club or country since April 15, put the

U.S. ahead in the 37th minute and doubled the lead in the 46th. He has 25 goals in 59 international appearances, including four goals against Mexico. Pepi scored in the 79th, five minutes after entering on Thursday night. The U.S. and Mexico each finished with nine players after Weston McKennie, Sergi Dest, C sar Montes and Gerardo Artega received red cards in a testy second half that included play being stopped in the 90th minute by Salvadoran referee Iv n Barton because of homophobic chants. After the chants resumed, Barton ended the match in the eighth minute of 12 scheduled minutes of stoppage time.

Spain tour will be good exposure ahead of Asian Games: Savita



New Delhi, Jun 16 (PTI):

The upcoming tour of Spain will not only help "pinpoint the areas that demand immediate attention" but will also give the junior players a chance to prove themselves and make it to the Asian Games squad, feels

Indian women's hockey team skipper Savita.

India will have an opportunity to put their skills and team combinations to the test when they travel to Spain to compete in the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation International Tournament, scheduled to take place from July 25 to 30.

"It will be a crucial tournament for us as it will enable us to pinpoint the areas that demand immediate attention and require collective effort to improve as a team," Savita was quoted as saying in a Hockey India press release.

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Unruly behaviour, disruptions lower dignity of assemblies, Parliament: LS speaker

Mumbai, Jun 16 (PTI)

Voicing concern over disruptions in assemblies and Parliament, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said on Friday that it was important to find solutions to problems through dialogue and discussion to uphold people's trust in democratic institutions.

Inaugurating the first National Legislators' Conference here, Birla said the declining number of sittings of assemblies and Parliament, in-

creasing indiscipline among members and lowering the dignity of the House have always been matters of concern for the presiding officers.

"There can be differences of opinion as legislators belong to different political parties, but not discussing laws, issues and policies does not augur well for democracy," Birla said at the conference attended by presiding officers and legislators from across the country.

Birla said legislators

should maintain high standards of discipline and decency as indecent and unruly behaviours tarnish their image.

"Uproar, sloganeering and adjournment of the House in a planned manner are not appropriate for the democratic system. There is also a growing tendency to tear parliamentary papers," Birla said. He said it was the collective responsibility of the legislators to uphold the dignity of the House, which is revered as temple of democracy.

"When we are elected as legislators, we are no longer limited to the party we belong to. We are representatives of the entire electorate," Birla said.

Birla said legislators should set high standards of integrity in public life and instil credibility and trust among people by their conduct and actions.

Former Lok Sabha speakers Shivraj Patil, Meira Kumar and Sumitra Mahajan were also present at the confer-

ence and shared concerns voiced by Birla.

In his address to the conference, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis stressed on the need to increase the number of sittings of the state assemblies to make them more accountable to the people. Nearly 2,000 legislators from across the country are attending the three-day conference organised by MIT-School of Governance, a private education institution in Maharashtra.

PROTESTORS DETAINED



An activist of the Sadou Assam Jyoti Kendra Siksha Karmi Santha being detained during a protest in front of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan office, in Guwahati, Friday.

Theft during train journey not deficiency in service by Railways: SC

New Delhi, Jun 16 (PTI)

Theft during a train journey is not a deficiency in service by the Railways and the public transporter cannot be held responsible if the passenger is not able to protect his own belongings, the Supreme Court has ruled.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Ahsanuddin Amanullah made the observation while setting aside an order of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) which had directed the Railways to pay Rs 1 lakh to a businessman. The businessman had raised a claim before the District Consumer Forum stating he lost Rs 1 lakh cash he was carrying

in a belt tied around his waist while travelling by a train, and sought reimbursement from the transport behemoth for his loss.

"We fail to understand as to how the theft could be said to be in any way a deficiency in service by the Railways. If the passenger is not able to protect his own belongings, the Railways cannot be held responsible," the bench said.

The top court was hearing an appeal filed by the Railways against the order of the NCDRC which had directed it to pay Rs 1 lakh to Surender Bhola.

Bhola was travelling to New Delhi by Kashi Vishwanath Express on April 27, 2005 and was occupying a reserved berth.

Cong leader Partap Bajwa demands tabling of report in Punjab Assembly on last year's 'Operation Lotus'

Chandigarh, Jun 16 (PTI)

Senior Congress leader Partap Singh Bajwa on Friday wrote to the Punjab Assembly speaker seeking tabling of an action taken report on 'Operation Lotus', an alleged bid by the BJP to topple the state government last year, in the upcoming session of the House.

A two-day special session of the Punjab Assembly is scheduled to be held on June 19 and 20.

Last year, the AAP dispensation had moved a confidence motion in the assembly after alleging that at least 10 of its MLAs were approached by the BJP with an offer of Rs 25 crore each in a bid to topple Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann-led government as part of its 'Operation Lotus'.

The motion was passed in the assembly on October 3 last year with the Congress and the BJP abstaining from voting.

In his missive to Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan, Bajwa said, "I am writing to you today to bring your attention to a matter of utmost importance, namely the motion of confidence and subsequent discussions that took place during the special session of the House."

The leader of opposition said the confidence motion, which was initiated by Mann and seconded by Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, was tabled in the House on September 27 last year.

"The chief minister spoke passionately for 36 minutes, followed by a speech from Shri Aman Arora, the Information

and Public Relations Minister, which lasted for 13 minutes," said Bajwa.

"Consequently, a substantial amount of time, totalling three hours and 11 minutes, was dedicated to addressing alleged poaching attempts by the ruling party at the Centre," he said.

"It is regrettable to note that the substantial investment of public funds in these proceedings cannot be overlooked. The grandstanding of the Aam Aadmi Party to convey its respect for the electoral verdict of the people of Punjab has incurred significant expenses.

"The pursuit of justice and the conveyance of a strong message necessitated the allocation of substantial resources towards these efforts," said Bajwa.

The Congress leader

pointed out that ahead of the session, a delegation of AAP MLAs led by Cheema had even met the state police chief. Following this, an FIR was lodged in the matter.

"Given the interest of the people of Punjab in this matter, it is imperative that the outcome of the criminal proceedings initiated by the government be shared with them. Thus, I kindly request to call for the progress made in these proceedings and provide an action taken report on the episode known as 'Operation Lotus,'" said Bajwa.

"By furnishing an action taken report, we can demonstrate our commitment to upholding the values of justice and providing the people with the information they seek," the Qadian MLA said.

All doors of BJP closed for Uddhav Thackeray, says Maha BJP chief

Nagpur, Jun 16 (PTI)

Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule on Friday said his party's doors were shut for Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray, and hinted that there was no possibility of reconciliation with him.

He was speaking to reporters at the Nagpur airport. "All doors of the BJP are closed for Uddhav Thackeray. We are neither discussing anything with him nor will we do so in future," Bawankule said in response to a query.

The Bharatiya Janata Party and undivided Shiv Sena fought the 2019 Maharashtra Assembly elections together but parted ways following the poll results after differences over sharing the chief minister's post. The Sena then teamed up with the Nationalist Congress Party

(NCP) and the Congress to form the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government.

The three-party MVA government, however, collapsed in June last year after Eknath Shinde and 39 other MLAs of the Sena rebelled against Thackeray and joined hands with the BJP to form a government. While Shinde became the chief minister, senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnis was appointed as his deputy.

When asked about Telangana Chief Minister and Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) president K Chandrasekhar Rao's allegation made in Nagpur on Thursday that Maharashtra witnesses most suicides by farmers, Bawankule said that the BJP will soon release a video about the flaws in the 'Telangana model' and what KCR was saying and doing.

Youth fails to put ideas into action due to lack of platforms: DU VC

New Delhi, Jun 16 (PTI)

Delhi University vice-chancellor Yogesh Singh on Friday said many youths fail to put their ideas into action due to the lack of availability of the right platform.

Addressing an event here, Singh talked about the University of Delhi's (DU) initiative to promote entrepreneurship culture in the varsity. He was addressing the orientation program organised for the nodal officers of the Udhmodya Foundation established at the university.

Udhmodya Foundation is a platform for entrepreneurship-minded stu-

dents, where all the required facilities and assistance will be available to them under one umbrella, the VC said. "It is a Section-8 company established to promote entrepreneurship culture in the university and help the students," he said, adding that under the initiative, students can set up their startups. "Many youths have ideas, but due to lack of the right platform, they are not able to implement them. In such a situation, youth cannot start their own enterprises even if they want to," Singh said.

"This would be a different experiment," he said, underlining that such com-

panies are working in many varsities around the world. Highlighting the importance of innovation and entrepreneurship in a fast-paced world, the vice-chancellor underlined the importance of companies like Udhmodya Foundation in the country's economy. The VC called upon the Entrepreneurship Nodal Officers to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in their respective departments and colleges.

He called upon the nodal officers to actively engage with students, faculty and alumni to identify and nurture entrepreneurial talent and collaborate towards the common goal of creat-

ing a thriving startup ecosystem at the University of Delhi.

To make India a developed nation by 2047, there is a need to further strengthen the country's economy and such companies will play an important role in this, Singh said. "Our job is to teach and help students. If for some reason they fail, then instead of laughing at them, they should be encouraged. We are here to help you (students). There are more than 100 unicorns in the country today. You understand their success stories and challenges and work to take this chain forward," he said.

Cong can't be complacent, assume what worked in state will work nationally: Tharoor

Valladolid (Spain), Jun 16 (PTI)

It is important for the Congress not to be complacent after defeating the BJP in Karnataka since voters can change their behaviour between state and national elections, says Congress MP Shashi Tharoor.

He cited the Congress' poor performance in the 2019 general election after victories in assembly elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh the previous year to buttress his point.

The party, the author-politician said, cannot assume that "because it worked in one state, it can work nationally".

"In 2018, we had victories in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. And yet, when the Lok Sabha elections came around in the same states, the BJP trounced us... and even in Karnataka, they left us with just one seat in the Lok Sabha," Tharoor told PTI on the sidelines of the recent Valladolid edition of the Jaipur Literature Festival.

"So if the voters can change their behaviour in a matter of months, between state elections and national elections, it's important for us to not be complacent." The Congress won 135 seats out of 224 in the Karnataka assembly elections, leaving BJP with 66

seats in the elections held in May this year.

According to the Thiruvananthapuram MP, having a "strong and effective local leadership" and emphasising on local issues helped the Congress win in Karnataka. "The (Congress) president Kharge is himself from Karnataka, Gandhi siblings came and campaigned, but the lead was taken very much on the ground by local leaders. The emphasis on local issues, local preoccupations, economic issues, infrastructure issues in Bangalore all of these. The things that matter to voters is what the Congress focussed on,"

the 67-year-old said.

On the other hand, the BJP's campaign was "very much top-down and centre-driven".

"At the local level, they were much more disempowered and so people know Mr Modi and Mr Shah are not going to come and live in Karnataka and run the government. Whatever they had to say was discounted by the voters, whereas when you think in terms of who is going to actually be in charge in Karnataka and you look at what BJP was offering the previous four and a half years, people thought this isn't enough for us, we need a change," he added.

Man wanted in double murder case nabbed after being on run for 30 years

Mumbai, Jun 16 (PTI): The Mumbai police have arrested a 49-year-old man wanted in connection with a double murder that was committed 30 years ago in Pune district, an official said on Friday. The accused, who had been on the run since the killings in 1993, was apprehended from Tagore Nagar area of Vikhroli (east) by the crime branch, the official said. In October, 1993, the accused, who was 19 at the time, had allegedly entered a bungalow in Lonavala along with two of his aides to commit theft, he said.

DEMOLITION DRIVE



Residents with their belongings during a demolition drive at a slum cluster in Vasant Vihar, in New Delhi, Friday.

Oppn parties need to forge unity based on common minimum programme against BJP: Pawar

Jalgaon, Jun 16 (PTI)

Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar on Friday said he would persuade all opposition parties to forge unity based on a common minimum programme to provide an alternative to the Narendra Modi government at the Centre.

Talking to reporters here, the opposition stalwart said the Bharatiya Janata Party had been rejected in a majority of the states where it was ruling, adding that the saffron party had toppled elected governments to grab power. "If the people have rejected the BJP at the state level, their (citizens) view will not be any different at the national level," the NCP chief asserted.

Informing that he would put forth his view in the meeting of opposition parties to be held in Patna in

Bihar on June 23, Pawar said, "All non-BJP parties need to sit together and think about forging opposition unity on the basis of a common minimum programme."

"The BJP made big assurances, raised expectations of people but did nothing. It is time to provide an alternative," the former Union minister said. Queried on the Bharat Rashtira Samithi led by Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao speaking about making inroads into Maharashtra, Pawar said the Congress-NCP alliance had faced reverses in the 2019 polls due to the presence of Prakash Ambedkar's Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA).

"Even though all parties have the right to expand their base in any state, it remains to be seen if the BRS is a B team (of the BJP)," he said.

Seat reserved for Lord Hanuman in theatres screening 'Adipurush'

New Delhi, Jun 16 (PTI)

A seat bedecked with flowers and a picture of Lord Hanuman, another wrapped in saffron with a garland framing a photograph of the god and the words "Jai Shri Ram" in Hindi. That is how it was in many theatres across the country as crowds streamed in to watch "Adipurush", a retelling of the Ramayana.

Some were seen offering prayers, others pausing for a moment and there were, of course, those clicking mandatory selfies of the unusual sight before they settled down to watch the film. There were also incense sticks and coconuts seen in videos from some cinema halls.

A video showed a fan dressed as Hanuman greeting movie-goers outside a theatre. Another purportedly showed a man in Hyderabad being beaten up for sitting on the seat reserved for the Hindu god.

T'gana Guv seeks report on 'suicide' of girl student at RGUKT

Hyderabad, Jun 16 (PTI)

Expressing anguish over the alleged suicide of a girl student at the Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT) in Nirmal district of Telangana, Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan on Friday sought a detailed report on the incident.

The Governor asked the Vice-Chancellor of the institute to intervene to address the issues faced by students that led to such extreme steps, a Raj Bhavan press communique said.

"She (Governor) ordered a detailed report in 48 hours, including the measures that are being taken by the university administration to prevent such unfortunate incidents in the future," it said. The Governor appealed to the students not to resort to extreme steps

and to gear up to confront the challenges of pursuing higher education with a brave heart, it said.

A girl student of RGUKT, popularly known as IIIT Basar, died after 'accidentally falling' from a building, police said on Thursday.

The incident came two days after a girl student died by suicide in the same institution.

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डॉ. पूजा, भारत में मायावती प्रदान

कालड़ा बर्न एवं

प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर

पारंपरिक चिकित्सा, प्रत्यक्षीय, कलर्स और डी.एस. रायपुर

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