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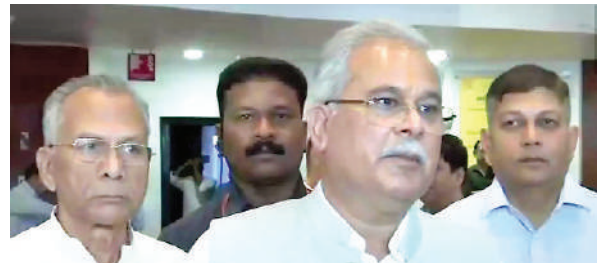
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What will happen to age-old traditions of tribals: CM

● **Comments on PM's statement over implementation of UCC**

Raipur, Jun 27: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel questioned as to why PM Narendra Modi only compares and thinks from point of view of Hindu-Muslims only. There are tribals in Chhattisgarh and they have their own age-old traditions and if at all the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is implemented, what will happen to their traditions?

CM Baghel was commenting upon the statements made by the PM on UCC to a section of media persons before leaving for Delhi on Tuesday evening. It is notable here that PM Modi giving statement on UCC has said that the Opposition is trying to use



it only for drawing political mileage. The parties in order to garner vote bank, are trying to create doubts in the minds of Muslim related to UCC, he added.

Speaking further CM said that whosoever has looted the amount of poor labourers and farmers in the Indira Priyadarshini Bank will face action. CM said that important thing here is that the money of affected people should be refunded. Wherever the money from the scam has been invested, it will be recovered and would be refunded to the bank account

holders or depositors. About delay in conducting inquiry, CM said that it is sad thing that the scam took place in 2006 and the NARCO test was done in 2007 and still no action was taken against the accused. CM Baghel in his Tweet has mentioned that as per the CD of NARCO test, the Manager Umesh Sinha has been heard saying that in this scam, ex-CM Raman Singh, ministers of his government Ramvihar Netam, Brijmohan Agrawal and Rajesh Munat and others have been given the money.

DARK CLOUDS



Dark clouds across the entire capital city and state signals good monsoon this year and city's lifeline witnessed rise in its water level, with water hyacinth being washed-away in rain-water.

Special placement camp for ITI passed youth today

Recruitment on about 280 posts by 14 employers

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jun 27: A special placement camp for ITI passed unemployed youth of Chhattisgarh will be organized on Wednesday, June 28, at Urla Industrial Complex. The placement camp will start from 11 am in this complex located on Birgaon Main Road. Eligible candidates will be selected for recruitment to 280 different posts by 14 industrial organizations of Urla region. Special priority will be given in recruitment to the beneficiaries receiving unemployment allowance from the Government of Chhattisgarh.

Posts of Welder, Field Supervisor, Night Guard, Civil Engineer, Tapper, Panel Operator, Hydra

Driver, Computer Operator, Fitter, Electrician, Accountant, Crane Operator, Manager, Helper, Mick Machine Welder, Clerk, Press Operator, Gardener, House Keeper, Security Guard, Rolling Mill Fitter, Motor Mechanic, Diesel Mechanic, Store & Sales Executive will be filled through this special placement camp.

Ashirwad Ispat Udyog, Radhe Hurkat Ispat, Earthen Ceramics, Bhilai Engineering Corporation Limited, Roger Technology Limited, Hari Om Metallica, Madhur Engineering Works, Narayani Rail Products Pvt Ltd, Shri Satya Fasteners Pvt Ltd, Sunil Steels, Mahamaya Steel Industries, RR Ispat, Heera Power and Steel Limited and Rajat Equipment Private Limited companies will recruit for the vacant posts.

Two fraudsters arrested for cheating excise and environment department officers

● **On the pretext of saving them from ED**

Raipur, Jun 17: The police have arrested two persons from Amravati, who allegedly cheated the officers of Excise and Environment Department on the pretext of saving them from ED. Police have arrested Ashwani Bhatia, resident of Kaushalya Vihar Amravati Maharashtra and Nishant Ingde, resident of Pathraul Talua Amravati Maharashtra. According to police Ashwani Bhatia used to talk to the officers by calling himself the Joint Director of the Central Command of the ED.

Both the persons hunted officers across the country by claiming to be officers of ED, EOW, Income Tax Department and ACB. They cheated four officers of Excise and Environment in Raipur



and one officer of Kharbone MP. They cheated two officers of Environment Conservation Board Raipur to the tune of Rs 10 lakh 60 thousand.

The officer posted in the Excise Department of Chhattisgarh lodged a report in Police Station Rakhi that on May 16, a call was received from an unknown number on the landline number of the office. The caller introduced himself to be talking from Enforcement Directorate (ED) New Delhi.

The unidentified caller sought information about deputy excise commissioner and recently retired deputy excise com-

missioner. Apart from seeking their mobile numbers the caller also asked for mobile numbers of SN Sahu and Ramesh Agrawal. On this the complainant gave all information to the unidentified caller. The complainant was intimidated by caller by wielding clout of ED. Similarly, on March 18, two officers posted in the Environment Conservation Board, Nava Raipur were intimidated by unidentified caller. The unidentified caller cheated both the officers of Rs 10 lakh 60 thousand.

Nishant Ingde used to find out mobile numbers of high officials posted in different states and districts of the country and the landline number of their offices through the internet. Subsequently Ashwani Bhatia used to call on all those numbers while claiming to be an officer of different investigation agency

IAS Maurya given charge of Commissioner Medical Education

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jun 27: In a significant administrative reshuffle, the senior Indian Administrative Services (IAS) Officer of 2010 batch Jai Prakash Maurya working as Special Secretary (Independent charge) Mineral Resources and additional charge of Director Health Services, has been given additional charge of Commissioner Medical Education.

After he assumes office, the 2007 batch IAS Officer Md Kaiser Abdul Haq would be relieved from the responsibility of Commissioner Medical Education which he is holding as additional charge.

Haq would be working as Secretary at the Chhattisgarh State Election Commission, stated an order issued from the General Administration Department by Secretary.

Few more changes in the posting of IAS Officers are on cards in next few days, sources said.

Hands-on training program inaugurated

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jun 27: National Institute of Technology Raipur's Department of Civil Engineering, in association with the Indian Geotechnical Society (IGS), Raipur Chapter inaugurated a two-week long hands-on training program titled "Testing of Geo-materials for Geotechnical and Transportation Engineering Applications". The aim of the training program is to provide hands-on training about conventional and state-of-art laboratory and field tests involved in various areas of Civil Engineering like Geotechnical Engineering and Highway Engineering.

KK Katara, Chief Engineer, Rural Connectivity Training & Research Centre (RCTRC), Naya Raipur & Alumnus, (Civil Engineering/1990) was



the Chief Guest of the ceremony. Dr NV Ramana Rao, Director, NIT Raipur presided over the ceremony as Chief Patron.

The inauguration of the session was done by a lamp-lighting ceremony by the dignitaries. Dr L Yadu, Associate Professor, Civil Engineering gave a brief introduction to the session and emphasized its objectives. Dr GD Ramtekkar enlightened

the subject of the training program, giving best wishes to the participants for their ambitions and the organizing committee for their successful arrangements for the same. Dr L Yadu explained the structure and workings of the Indian Geotechnical Society and introduced the director of NIT Raipur. Dr NV Ramana Rao stressed the vitality of the role played by a civil engineer in the

making of society, and how there is little room for errors for them. Katara discussed how this program is not just for learning, but would also provide invaluable exposure to jobs in the real world. He then shared his experience concerning the field jobs and the need for having strong basic practical knowledge related to the field in order to be successful.

Platinum award to NTPC for GeM procurement



NTPC CMD and RED WR-II receiving the award from the minister.

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jun 27: NTPC has been ranked No. 1 amongst all CPSUs and received "Platinum Award" as Top Organisation with response to GeM Procurement of staggering Rs 24,216 cr of gross merchandise value (GMV) in the financial year 2022-23. Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is an online platform for public procurement in India.

Gurdeep Singh, CMD NTPC and C Sivakumar,

RED (WR-II&USSC) received the award from Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry in a function held on June 26, 2023 at Vanijya Bhavan, New Delhi.

Upon receiving the award, Shri C Sivakumar appreciated the team USSC (Unified Shared Services Centre) for its outstanding performance and hoped this will further motivate the team to achieve even greater success in the days to come.

World Bank approves Rs 2460 cr for the improvement of the quality of school education

In Ch'garh

The Project will help in development and operation of 600 model schools

Science and commerce education to be promoted in higher secondary schools with quality infrastructure

Raipur, Jun 27: On the initiative of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the World Bank has sanctioned an amount of Rs 2460 cr to improve quality of edu-

cation and infrastructure in the schools of Chhattisgarh and to encourage science and commerce education at the higher secondary level. Nearly 40 lakh students coming from poor and weaker sections of the society will be benefited from this project.

It is noteworthy that Swami Atmanand English and Hindi medium Schools have been opened in the state to provide quality education to the students of underprivileged communities. In addition, many innovative initiatives are also being taken in the field of education. The Chhattisgarh

Accelerated Learning for a Knowledge Economy Operation (CHALK) project has been commenced with the aim to improve access to education across all grades, and to address the growing demand for science and commerce studies at the senior secondary level. Under this project, residential facilities for students and teachers will be provided for the schools in remote locations.

Now with the amount sanctioned by the World Bank, this project aimed at providing housing, increasing the enrollment rate of students in schools, improving the

quality education and promoting science and commerce education in secondary schools of the state, to increase the number of science and mathematics teachers, to strengthen the necessary infrastructure in laboratories, and to provide accommodation facilities to the students coming from remote areas to study will be implemented.

600 model schools to be developed and operated in the state. This World Bank project will help develop and operate about 600 model schools from class 1 to 12 and encourage science and commerce educa-

tion at the secondary level. Trained teachers, strong leadership and adequate infrastructure for learning management will be provided in the schools. The project will help in compensating the learning loss during COVID-19. Under the project, teachers will be provided training to make the classroom lessons fun-learning and engaging experience for the students. This project will enhance the employability of the youngsters and also create better employment opportunities in the fast growing manufacturing and service sectors in Chhattisgarh.

PRSU introduces Integrated M.Sc course at Basic Science Center

Raipur, Jun 27: Pt Ravishanker Shukla University has introduced a five-year Integrated Masters of Science (M.Sc) at the Basic Science Center. Admissions would be given on the basis of the Entrance Exam marks and would be given from June 30. According to the information received, Mathematics and Science stream students would be able to take admissions in the Integrated Course. 9 seats would be unreserved whereas 3 seats would be reserved for OBC, 6 for Scheduled Tribe and 2 seats for the Scheduled Caste as per the reservation. Mathematics and Science stream would have 20 seats each. Eligible applicants have to submit the required documents from June 30 to take admissions into the courses.

Bioportal endoscopic spine surgery successfully done at Suyash Hospital

Raipur, Jun 27: Chhattisgarh's first bioportal endoscopic spine surgery prolapsed cervical disc successfully performed by Dr. Rahul Ahluwalia, spine surgeon of Suyash Hospital, Raipur. Dr. Rahul Ahluwalia informed that this technique is the most advanced in spine surgery and through this technique it is possible to treat many diseases, such as cervical, thoracic and treatment of degenerative disease of lumbar spine is possible by insertion of 1 cm. Suyash Hospital continuously keeps on using



new technology for better treatment of patients. Endoscopic spine surgery camp is organ-

ised every month by Suyash Hospital, which has benefited many patients.

Medical officers, staff nurses were given special training for day-care chemotherapy

Raipur, Jun 27: Medical officers and staff nurses of 17 district hospitals of the state having facility of chemotherapy were given special training on Tuesday in day-care chemotherapy. Renowned Oncologist Dr. Dinesh Pendharkar of New Delhi and Nodal Officer of Madhya Pradesh State Cancer Chemotherapy, Dr. C.M. Tripathi imparted the training.

Director of National Health Mission, Bhoskar Vilas Sandipan felicitated Dr. Pendharkar and Dr. Tripathi in the training workshop for their cooperation in strengthening cancer services in the state. Cancer Care Guide was also released in the workshop. Dr. Netram Navratan, Deputy Director, NP-NCD, Mr. Anand Sahu, State



Program Manager, National Health Mission, Dr. Pradeep Tandon, Urban Health Program Manager and Dr. Sumi Jain, State Program Coordinator, NCD were also present in the workshop.

At present, facility of day-care chemotherapy is being provided in 17 district hospitals of the state. Free chemotherapy facility is available to cancer patients in district hospitals of Balod,

Bemetara, Bilaspur, Gariaband, Janjgir, Korba, Mungeli, Raipur and Dhamtari including remote districts of the state - Dantewada, Narayanpur, Bastar, Kanker, Balrampur, Jashpur, Surguja and Surajpur. Chemotherapy facility will be made available in all district hospitals of the state in a phased manner. Along with chemotherapy, cancer screening is also being done in the district hospitals.



BRIEF



Jashodaben, wife of PM Narendra Modi, at Jagannath Temple in Puri, Tuesday.

Mishap

Nashik: Three men were killed when a speeding state transport bus hit their two-wheeler in Maharashtra's Nashik district, police said on Tuesday. The accident occurred near Shirwade Vani Phata in Niphad taluka of the district around 11 pm on Monday, an official said. The victims were on their way home to Shirwade Vani village, when a state transport bus hit their two-wheeler, killing them on the spot, he said, adding that the trio were activists of the Shiv Sena (UBT).

Watery grave

Dehradun: Two teenage siblings drowned in a flooded river in Almora district following heavy rains, police said on Tuesday. The siblings, who hailed from Bak village, had gone to bathe in the river on Monday evening and were swept away. A State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) team was rushed to the spot in Dharanaula area of Almora district immediately after the incident was reported.

Attacked

Pune: A 19-year-old woman was allegedly attacked and injured by her friend in broad daylight in Maharashtra's Pune city on Tuesday, police said. The incident took place in Perugate area in Sadashiv Peth around 10 am, an official said. The victim and the accused had studied in the same college and she had recently stopped talking to him, he said.

Run over

Amethi: Two teenage girls died after being run over by a goods train near the district railway station, police here said on Tuesday. Priya (17) and her 14-year-old sister Jaya of Ramgarh village in the Sangrampur area died under mysterious circumstances after being hit by a goods train, they said. Railway Police said the bodies were sent for post-mortem and an investigation is underway.

Hospitalised

Kochi: People's Democratic Party (PDP) chairman Abdul Nasar Madani, who arrived in Kerala on June 26, has fallen ill following which he was admitted to a hospital here, party sources said. Madani, who is a prime accused in the 2008 Bengaluru serial bomb blasts case, reached the city on Monday night after the Supreme Court allowed him to enter his home state to visit his ailing father.

Weather
High 27 Low 24

MARKET
NIFTY 13,817.40
SENSEX 63,416.03

BULLION
GOLD 58,189
SILVER 69,212

Modi's big UCC push: How can nation run on dual laws?

Bhopal, Jun 27 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday made a strong pitch for the uniform civil code (UCC), saying the Constitution also mentions of having equal rights for all citizens.

Addressing a gathering of party workers here, Modi also said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has decided it would not adopt the path of appeasement and vote bank politics.

Modi said the opposition is using the issue of UCC to mislead and provoke the Muslim community.

"You tell me, in a home, how can there be one law for one member and another law for another member?" Modi said.

"Will that home be able to function? Then how will



PM Modi addresses BJP booth workers at a meeting under the 'Mera Booth, Sabse Majboot' campaign, in Bhopal, Tuesday.

the country be able to function with such a dual system? We have to remember that even in India's Constitution, there is a mention of equal rights for all," he said.

"These people (opposition) level allegations against us but the reality is that they chant

Musalman, Musalman. Had they really been (working) in the interests of Muslims, then Muslim families would not have been lagging in education and jobs," he said.

The policy of appeasement practised by some is "disastrous" for the country, Modi said during his

'Will take every scamster to task'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday came down heavily on Opposition leaders, asserting that he will not "spare anyone involved in corruption" while pledging "to take every scamster to task". "I will take every scamster to task," PM Modi said, without taking any names. His scathing remarks came days after an Opposition party meeting in Patna earlier this month pledged to take on the Bharatiya Janata Party in next year's elections. While addressing party booth workers in Madhya Pradesh where elections are due later this year, PM Modi said, "All the corrupt politicians joined their hands in Patna's meeting."

visit to Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, where the Assembly polls are due this year-end.

Atiq's sister moves SC

New Delhi, Jun 27 (PTI):

A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court by the sister of slain gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmad and Ashraf seeking constitution of a commission chaired by a retired apex court judge to inquire into their "custodial" and "extra judicial deaths".

'PM speech shows worry over Oppn unity'

Patna, July 27 (PTI):

A key aide of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech in Bhopal betrayed "worry" in the BJP camp following the "supreme success" of the opposition meeting here last week.

State minister and senior JD(U) leader Vijay Kumar Chaudhary also alleged that by touching upon the uniform civil code(UCC), Modi was aim-

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Vijay Kumar Chaudhary

ing at communal polarisation. "Earlier, people in the BJP used to say that opposition leaders will never agree to even sit together

because of mutual differences. The June 23 meeting in Patna refuted their claim. The way the PM spoke about opposition unity shows his worry and bears testimony to the supreme success of our opposition unity drive", said the JD(U) leader.

Nitish Kumar, JD(U)'s supreme leader, had snapped ties with the BJP last year, vowing to defeat the saffron party in next year's Lok Sabha polls by uniting all parties opposed to it.

CAG to audit reconstruction of Kejriwal's home

New Delhi, Jun 27 (PTI):

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India will conduct a special audit into alleged "irregularities and violations" in the "reconstruction" of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence, Raj Niwas officials said on Tuesday.

The Union home ministry has recommended the special CAG audit taking note of a May 24 letter by Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena which pointed out the "reconstruction" "gross and prima facie financial irregularities" in the "reconstruction" of the chief minister's official

residence, they claimed.

No immediate reaction was available from the CM's office or the ruling Aam Aadmi Party, which has locked horns with the BJP over the issue since it first came to light in April.

While the AAP claimed it was a dilapidated structure built in 1942 and needed repairs, the BJP has alleged irregularities and pressed for a probe.

In his May 24 letter to the MHA, Saxena said the "alleged irregularities" were highlighted by the media after which Delhi's chief secretary submitted a factual report on April 27 and then again on May 12. The reports detailed "de-

viations, violations from rules, regulations and guidelines" by the Public Works Department and the Delhi government "in the name of renovation of the Chief Minister's residence", he said.

According to the reports of the chief secretary, a full-fledged construction/re-construction of a new building was effected by the PWD in the name of renovation, the LG's letter said.

The report also flagged that the ownership of the property was not ascertained by the Public Works Department before commencing the construction, it said.

'Naxalites on back foot, 650 villages freed from their clutches in Cong rule'

Raipur, Jun 27:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday said 650 villages were freed from the clutches of Left-Wing extremism (LWE) and recruitment by Naxals has declined due to the Congress government's strategy of trust, development and security.

Baghel was speaking to reporters here after chairing a meeting of unified command at the New Circuit House to review the security situation and development works in Naxal-affected areas of the state. "The strategy of trust, development and se-



curity has started yielding successful results and brought down Naxalite activities to a great extent," Baghel said.

The CM said 75 new security camps have been set up in Naxal-hit areas of the state, which goes to polls this year-end. "Earlier, camps were es-

tablished only in buffer zones but now we have intruded into core areas of Naxalites and set up camps there. Twenty-three camps have been set up alone in Sukma (the worst Naxal-hit district in the state)," he said.

For the first time, he said, land titles were given to forest dwellers in Abhujmad in Bastar region, while schools that were shut in Naxal-hit areas for a long time were reopened.

Roads running up to 2,500 km were constructed and 34-36 new bridges, including two on the Indravati river, were built

apart from the launch of the Haat Bazaar' mobile clinic scheme, the CM said.

All these measures enhanced the income of the tribals, created employment opportunities and improved health and education infrastructure, he said. Asserting that Bastar is changing, Baghel said, earlier tribals and forest dwellers used to treat police and forest personnel as enemies but now they consider them as their mitra' (friends) and the shift has been possible due to the developmental work initiated in the Naxal-hit areas.

'India's road network now 2nd longest in world'

■ Grew 59% in 9 years

New Delhi, Jun 27 (PTI):

India's road network grew 59 per cent to become the second largest in the world as part of the development work carried out by the government in the last nine years, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Tuesday.

India's road network stood at 1,45,240 km today compared to 91,287 km in 2013-14, the Road, Transport and Highways Minister said. He was addressing a conference on '9 years achievements of government' in the national capital. In the last nine years, India made seven world records in the sector. India's



Nitin Gadkari

road network is the second largest in the world after the US, he said. The minister further informed that the revenues from tolls rose to Rs 4,1342 crore from Rs 4,770 crore in 2013-14. The government aims to increase the toll revenue to Rs 1,30,000 crore by 2020, Gadkari said. The usage of fastags has helped in reducing the waiting time at the toll plazas to 47 seconds.

Tomatoes disappear from kitchens

■ Prices touch Rs 120 per kg in Delhi

New Delhi, Jun 27 (PTI):

Vegetable vendors and wholesalers have blamed rains for disruption in tomato supply, leading to the price of the kitchen staple skyrocketing in retail markets of the national capital.

Local vendors are selling tomatoes in the price range of Rs 80 to Rs 120 per kg, depending on the quality and the localities. Anil Malhotra, a member of the Azadpur Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC), said tomato prices shoot up every monsoon but it was never this high. "Prices go up every year during monsoon but the cost of tomatoes never went up this high. There is a major dip in sup-



A woman purchases tomato from a vendor in New Delhi, Tuesday.

ply due to the rains. Around half of our stock, which we got from Himachal Pradesh, got damaged," Malhotra told PTI.

The national capital region gets tomato supply from neighbouring states such as Haryana and Punjab and the hill states.

Bhagwan, a grocer in south Delhi's Kailash Hills area, said tomato prices have shot up. "We are getting tomatoes from wholesale markets at a higher price and selling at Rs 100-120 per kg," he said.

A vegetable vendor in Lajpat Nagar said people are reluctant to buy tomatoes due to the sudden price rise. "The current market rate is Rs 80 per kg. We get the supply from mandis where the wholesale price is around Rs 60 per kg. The price has shot up in the past two to three days due to rainfall," he said.

"Tomatoes are getting damaged which, again, is causing the sudden price rise," the vendor added.

A vegetable vendor in the Dilshad Garden area said the supply of tomatoes got affected due to rains.

"Supply has been affected due to rains. We are selling tomatoes from Himachal Pradesh. People are bargaining hard. But we cannot lower the price since we ourselves have to buy at a higher price. We hope the situation gets better in the coming days," he said.

CELEBRATION TIME



Students celebrate during the convocation of Patliputra University, in Patna, Tuesday.

'Situation from Kashmir to Kerala makes it must to retain sedition law'

New Delhi, Jun 27 (PTI):

Amid a clamour from the colonial-era sedition law to be repealed, Law Commission chairman Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi said on Tuesday it is an important tool to safeguard the "safety and integrity of India" given the situation in many parts of the country, from Kashmir to Kerala and Punjab to the North-East.

Defending the panel's recommendation to retain the law, which is at present under abeyance following directions of the Supreme Court issued in May last year, he said enough safeguards have been proposed to prevent its misuse. In an exclusive interview, he told



Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi

PTI that special laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the National Security Act operate in different fields and do not cover the offence of sedition and therefore, the specific law on sedition needed to be there too. Justice Awasthi asserted that while considering the usage of the law on sedition the panel found that "the

present situation right from Kashmir to Kerala and Punjab to the North-East is such that the law on sedition is necessary to safeguard the unity and integrity of India". He also said that the sedition law being a colonial legacy was not a valid ground for its repeal and several countries, including the US, Canada, Australia and Germany, have their own such laws.

In its report submitted to the government last month, the 22nd Law Commission headed by Justice Awasthi supported retaining section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) with safeguards to prevent its misuse. The recommendation triggered a political uproar with several opposition parties al-

leging that it was an attempt to stifle dissent and voices against the ruling party ahead of the Lok Sabha elections next year. While the government said it will take an "informed and reasoned" decision on the Law Commission report after consulting all stakeholders and that the recommendations were "persuasive" but not binding, the Congress has alleged that the government wants to make the sedition law more "draconian". Referring to the "procedural safeguards" recommended by the commission, Awasthi told PTI that the preliminary inquiry will be held by a police officer of the rank of inspector or above.

Naxalite, wanted in 15 cases, killed in encounter

Sukma, Jun 27:

A hardcore Naxalite, wanted in more than a dozen incidents of Maoist violence, was killed in an encounter with security personnel in Sukma district on Tuesday, police said. Two to three other Naxalites also sustained injuries in the exchange of fire, he added.

A firearm, an improvised explosive device (IED) and materials used in making explosives were recovered from the encounter site, located about 350km from state capital Raipur, he said.

The gunfight took place in a forest near Bodgubli village when a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxalite operation,

a senior official said. Acting on specific inputs about presence of Naxalites Vetti Bhima, Mangdu, Kosi, Sodi Dula and other cadres belonging to the Konta area committee of Maoists in Errabor and Bheji police station areas, the joint squad of the District Reserve Guard (DRG), the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the district force launched the operation, he said.

After the exchange of fire stopped, the body of a Naxalite identified as Sodi Dula along with a muzzle loading gun, an IED, gelatine rod, cordex wire and electric detonators were recovered from the spot, the official said.

Court issues order for attachment, auction of assets worth Rs 127 cr

Till now 45,593 investors got refund of Rs 33.50 crore

■ Of chit fund companies
■ Review of law and order in all the districts of the state by Director General of Police

Raipur, Jun 27:

Director General of Police Mr. Ashok Juneja on Monday took a review meeting with the Inspector General of Police of all ranges and Superintendents of Police of all districts through video conferencing, in the meeting the priority points of the state government and action against drugs and drug abuse campaign has been reviewed. During this, action taken against drugs, especially ganja, injections, tablets, syrup etc. was reviewed in the state and instructions were



given to take stern action against it, along with social evils such as gambling, betting, and sale of illegal liquor. A comparative review of the action being taken against weapons was also done and keeping in view the assembly elections to be held in the coming days, instructions were given to take effective action in this direction. Director

General of Police Mr. Juneja also reviewed the speedy disposal of criminal cases registered against local tribals in Naxal-affected areas of the state and gave instructions for speedy disposal of the remaining cases through the court. He also reviewed the action taken against chit fund companies. In these cases, the final order for auction and

attachment of properties worth Rs 127 crore 48 lakh has been given by the Court, out of which property worth Rs 54.90 crore has been received in the account of the state government through auction, attachment and resignation. Out of this, an amount of Rs 33.50 crore has been distributed to 45,593 investors. Instructions were given to auction all the said properties as soon as possible and distribute the amount to the investors in coordination with the competent authority and the district collector, along with the state. Instructions were also given to do the process of attachment-auction of the properties of the companies located outside the district through the competent officer and the district collector at the earliest.

Disabled to get 10 percent discount on vehicle purchase

■ Order letter sent to automobiles dealers

Raipur, Jun 27:

Physically handicapped persons of Chhattisgarh will now get 10 percent Goods and Services Tax (GST) exemption on purchase of vehicles. They will have to pay only 18% GST. This facility will be available for the specially-abled while purchasing private and commercial vehicles, but due to lack of information, they were paying the full cost of the vehicle for the last three years. After receiving the complaint, the Transport Department has sent a copy of the order issued by the Central Government to all the automobile dealers, so that they can get the exemption amount as per the rules on the purchase



of the vehicle. At the same time, if the exemption is not given, they can complain to the GST and Transport Department. Officials of the Transport Department said that according to the notification issued by the Central Government, GST exemption will be given to persons with disabilities of 40 percent and above related to bone diseases. For this

disability certificate compulsorily has to be obtained from the government recognized institution. Along with this, an affidavit will also have to be given that the particular vehicle will be used for the disabled and will not sell it for the next five years after purchase. After five years, the vehicle will be exempted again for buying it again. As per rules,

the base price of the vehicle should not exceed Rs.8 lakh.

Officials informed that automobile dealers will give relaxation to the disabled as per the rules after getting the form of rules made in GST. Along with this, the information of the tax to be collected from them will be sent to the GST department, due to which the buyer as well as the seller will get the benefit. At the same time, the situation of any kind of dispute will not arise while depositing GST. Assistant Transport Commissioner Shailabh Sahu said that a copy of the GST exemption order given by the Central Government to the disabled has been sent to the automobile dealers. This will give relief to them while buying a vehicle as per the rules.

Yoga exercise program organized in medical college



Raipur, Jun 27: A yoga exercise program was organized at Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Medical College, Raipur on the occasion of International Yoga Day on June 21. Dr. Likheshwar Sahu (Yoga Medical Officer) attended the program as an expert and performed yoga exercises as per the predetermined protocol. A large number of students, faculty and staff participated in the program with enthusi-

asm and performed yoga. Dean Dr. Tripti Nagariya told the students about the importance of yoga in daily life and asked them to do it regularly so that both body and mind remain healthy. At the end of the program, Dean Dr. Nagariya honored Dr. Likheshwar Sahu by presenting him with a shawl and 'srfial'. Under the direction of Dr. Sumit Tripathi, Head of the Department of Physiology, the event was successfully completed with the help of Department of Physiology, Medical Education Unit and Sports Department of the college. During the program, Dr. Sumit Tripathi, Head of the Department of Physiology, Dr. Sudhir Rajpal, Sports Officer, all the professors and employees of the college were present.

Education Minister welcomes school students on first day

Kondagaon, Jun 27:

School Education Minister of Chhattisgarh Government Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam and State Handicrafts Board President Mr. Chandan Kashyap participated in the district level 'Shala Pravesh Utsav' organized at Kondagaon on the first day of the beginning of the new education session.

On this occasion, the Education Minister welcomed the children entering the school by applying tilak and giving them school uniforms and textbooks.

School Education Minister Tekam, while congratulating the district for very good results in class 10th and 12th examinations as compared to last year, said that quality education is being given a



lot of importance by the state government. Atmanand schools are being started in every district as excellent institutions of education. There was a time when people used to try to get admission in private schools, now people are trying to get admission in Swami Atmanand which shows the quality of education imparted here. He told that earlier the state started with only 02 Atmanand

institutions, but seeing their better results, now more than 700 Atmanand schools are being opened in the state. Dr. Tekam said that the 'School Jatan Yojana' has been started by the government for better management of the schools so that along with upgrading the basic facilities of the schools, a good environment can also be provided to the children. Along with this, works like kindergarten, recruitment

of more than 10,000 teachers, construction of international level school are also being done by the government. He also appreciated the innovative experiments done by the teachers for the children during the Corona period and encouraged 33 schools in the district for getting 100% results. On this occasion, State Handicrafts Board President and MLA Narayanpur Chandan

Kashyap encouraged the children entering the school and said that he himself has been a teacher. Sharing his experience as a teacher, said that the teacher is only there to show the way. The one who follows the path shown by the teachers definitely achieves success. Efforts are being made by the government to provide free excellent education to the children, as a result of which children in backward areas of the state are also getting education in English medium and are moving forward with everyone. In this programme, cycles were distributed to 26 girls by the Education Minister, along with discussing with the girls, congratulating them on getting the cycles, encouraged them to study and move forward.

Extension of last date for filling exam forms

Raipur, Jun 27: Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education's High School and Higher Secondary Supplementary Examination year 2023 exam form filling date has been extended. Students can now apply on the portal of the board through the concerned institution till 5:30 pm on June 27. Secretary of Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education, Professor V.K.Goyal said that the last date for filling the examination form of High School and Higher Secondary Supplementary Examination year 2023 was scheduled on June 14 with normal fee and June 20 with late fee. After the end of the last date, many students demanded an extension in the date of examination form, citing non-filing of the examination form due to various reasons. In the interest of the students, the board decided to increase the date of filling the supplementary examination form. Students can now apply on the portal of the board through the concerned institution till June 27, 5:30 pm.

SPORTS ROUND-UP

Volleyball team for Central Regional LIC event announced

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jun 27: Volleyball team of Raipur Division of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India was declared for the Central Regional Volleyball Tournament to be held soon. Providing the above information in a statement issued here, the Joint Secretary of LIC Sports & Recreation Committee Vijay Baiswade said that the team was formed on the basis of the selection trials held at Sapre School-based Volleyball Court on Sunday during which the Chief Selectors Rajesh Somvanshi, Janak Ram Yadav and Lalji Nishad



were present. He said that D Santosh Kumar from Jagdalpur Branch, Karan Sonkar from Raipur Divisional Office, Bhuraj Kahar from Kanker Branch and D Mallick from Jagdalpur Branch have been selected for the Raipur team which would

be participating in the Central Regional Selection Tournament. Raipur Division Insurance Employees Union Vice President TK Mishra, Sishir Gupta and Gajendra Patel were present during the concluding ceremony of the selection trials.

Sameer Khan unanimously elected Jt Secretary of HAI

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jun 27: General Secretary of Chhattisgarh Handball Association Sameer Khan has been unanimously elected Joint Secretary of the Handball Association of India (HAI) at the Annual General Body meeting held recently. Providing the above information in a statement issued here, the CHA Office Secretary Ram Pratap Gupta said that Digvijay Singh Chautala from Haryana has been elected as President whereas A Jagan Mohan Rao from Telangana would be General Secretary. Dr



Anandeshwar Pandey from UP has been appointed as Executive Director, Sandeep Kotia from Haryana as Chairman of Athlete Committee, Reena

Sarin as Women Sexual Harassment Committee Chairperson and G Suresh Pillai from Chhattisgarh would be Associate Vice President.

NIT Raipur organizes an 'Anti-Drug Rally'

■ To raise consciousness among citizens

Raipur, Jun 27: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur's Department of Sports and National Cadet Corps (NCC) organized an "Anti-Drug Rally", commemorating the celebration of the 35th International Day Against Drugs Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26th June 2023, to raise consciousness among the citizens. The rally was organized under the supervision of Dr. H. K. Narang, Faculty In-charge, Department of Sports, and Dr. Neeraj

Manhas, Faculty In-charge, NCC.

The rally witnessed illuminating slogans such as "Hum sabka ek hi nara, nasha mukt ho desh hamara" and "jisne nashe ko hath lagaya, maut ne usko gale lagaya" which effectively contributed to spreading awareness among the people. The rally covered the entire campus area and the event ended with the participants taking a pledge to stay away from intoxicating drugs and to make the country drug-free. The event concluded fruitfully with the people gaining cognizance concerning the usage of intoxicating drugs.

Seven children from NCP secure admission in JNV

■ NCP belonging to Adani Foundation

Tilda, Jun 27: Adani Foundation, operating under the Tilda development block in Raipur district, has selected seven children through the Navodaya Coaching program (NCP) for admission to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) for the academic year 2022-23 in Raipur. The results of the Navodaya Entrance Examination, announced on Wednesday, June 21, revealed the selection of Jyoti Varma, D/o Dwij Varma, from Raikheda, Aakanksha Sonwani, D/o Rajulal Sonwani from Chicholi, Jigyasa Varma, D/o Jagdish Varma from Sonatara, Deepika Sen, D/o Laxman Sen from Tarashiv, Tanya Sahu,



D/o Krishnakishor Sahu from Chhataud, Garima Varma, D/o Rupendra Varma, and Harsh Pal, S/o Nirmal Pal from Mura village.

Adani Power Limited has been operating Navodaya Coaching Centers (NCP) in four neighboring villages under its social responsibilities in Raipur for the past one decades. This initiative has expanded to a total of 12 villages, including Raikheda, Gaitara,



Khapri, Chicholi, Tarashiv, Gaurkheda, Konari, Chhataud, Khamharia, Bhatapara,



Sonatara, and Mura. These coaching centers provide exam preparation for over 100 deserving and

talented children from the project-affected area for admission to Central Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas.

The success of these children has brought joy to their parents, as well as pride to the village sarpanches. Jyoti Varma's success and selection in Navodaya Vidyalaya have filled her parents with immense happiness. Jyoti's father, Dwij Varma, mentioned that their financial situa-

tion was very weak, and they never thought it would be possible to educate their daughter in a good school. However, through the coaching center operated by Adani Foundation, this became possible, and they are extremely grateful for it. The sarpanches of all the gram panchayats expressed their happiness and congratulated Adani Foundation, teachers, and the parents of the children. Mr. Manish Varma, the sarpanch of Tarashiv gram panchayat, congratulated the parents of the selected children and expressed gratitude to the foundation's team, saying, "Development is only possible through education, and Adani Power is fulfilling its responsibilities commendably in the field of education."

Architect Swapnil Jaggi bags India's top 50 architects award



Raipur, Jun 27:

Architect Swapnil Jaggi from Raipur received India's top 50 architects under 40 award at Bengaluru. Architect Swapnil Jaggi was the only architect from

Central India to receive this award in 2023. This award is organised by iGen people's award by Architects and Interiors India Magazine. The event was organised on June 24, 2023 at Hotel Shangri Le, Bengaluru.

Janpad V-P applies 'tilak', offered sweets to children

On the first day of Shala Pravesh Utsav in Govt Primary School Bhatapara, Kopara

Fingeshwar, Jun 27:

It is notable here that under the state government's prestigious schemes, due emphasis is being paid towards the education and health of children. In this series, on the first day of re-opening of Schools in Govt Primary School, Bhatapara Kopara, the 'Shala Pravesh Utsav' was celebrated with great enthusiasm. The chief guest on this occasion was Janpad Panchayat Fingeshwar V-P Yogesh Sahu and also President Block Education Samiti Fingeshwar. He first garlanded the photo of Goddess Saraswati and lighted the traditional lamp.

On this occasion, Sahu welcomed all the students



by applying 'tilak' on their forehead and offering them sweets. Thereafter the guests distributed uniforms and text-books and copies to the students and on receiving which there was big smile on the faces of children.

Speaking on the occasion chief guest Sahu wished all the children

best in their studies and gave information about the free-of-cost uniform, Saraswati Cycle Yojana and mid-day meal and scholarship scheme for the talented poor students and also about the Swami Atamanand English Medium School (SAGEMS). He also urged the members of Shala

Vikas Samiti and parents of the children to extend all possible support to the children in imparting quality education.

Sankul co-ordinator Anil Sinha also wished all the best to newly admitted children and those joining in their next classes. In the end, head Master Tande Sir expressed gratitude towards all the guests and Samiti members and concluded the programme.

On this occasion President SVS Chummanlal Dhruv, members- Heeralal Sahu, Vandana Tarakh, Hemlal Sahu, Suraj Tarak, Kunjalal Yadav, Tarani Sahu, Meena Sahu, Chabila Sahu, Puran Sahu, and other noted citizens and teachers were present.

Action taken against 9 rice millers

Gaurella-Pendra-Marwahi, Jun 27: Action has been taken on 9 rice millers who were negligent in depositing custom milling rice in Food Corporation of India and Civil Supplies Corporation and 2.05 lakh quintals of paddy was seized, falling short to physical verification. District Food Officer Shweta Aggarwal said that physical verification was done in rice mills by a joint team of Tehsilidar, Cooperative Extension Officer, Food Inspectors and MARKFED officials. A total of 2 lakh 5 thousand 229.20 quintals of paddy was seized after matching the quantity of paddy found in physical verification with the online report and found less.

The Food Officer told that Messrs. J.P. Aggarwal Sons Cold Storage Pvt. Ltd. The quantity of paddy and rice was matched in physical verification at Ajni



Gorela's rice mill. According to the online report, 20041.20 quintals of paddy was seized as the stock of paddy and rice was not found. Similarly, 18650 quintals of paddy was seized in the rice mill of M/s JP Aggarwal Agrotech Anjani Gaurela, when the quantity of

paddy and rice was found to be less than compared with the online report M/s Garg Food Products 38892 quintals of paddy in the rice mill of Gorela, 33292 quintals of paddy in the rice mill of M/s Maa Narmada Agrotech Gorela, 74210 quintals of paddy in the rice mill of

M/s Maa Narmada Rice Products Gorela, Rice mill of M/s Shree Lakshmi Agro Industries Pendra In 11493 quintal paddy; 2965.60 quintal paddy in rice mill of M/s Daksh Foodries Pendra, 640 quintal paddy in rice mill of M/s Shivani Traders Pendra and M/s Buaji Firms Pvt. Ltd. 7044.80 quintal paddy was seized in Rice Mill of Pendra. The food officer told that the record of paddy and rice has not been maintained by the rice millers. Also, monthly returns have not been provided by the rice millers to the Food Department. On the violation of the provisions of Clause 4.6, 9 and 10 of the Chhattisgarh Custom Milling Rice Procurement Order 2016 against all the above concerned rice millers, a case was registered in the collector's court to confiscate the seized paddy and blacklist the millers.

'A school where there was neither admission nor Shala Pravesh Utsav'



Balod, Jun 27:

Students and parents of Primary school in village Devkot of Gurur block of Balod district, has seen no classes, admission and Shala pravesh Utsav, due to boycott by students and their parents. The reason is transfer of a teacher Mohan Sinha, a teacher of the school. Sinha has been transferred to and the transfer was targeted and the matter has been kept before the people's representa-

tives to the administration, but no conclusion has come yet due to which the parents and students took this step.

As per information, the school committee president Rakesh Sahu, vice-president Mrs. Tejeishwari secretary Gyaneshwar Patel, former sarpanch Kamlesh Sahu, former school committee president Krishna Sinha, Rajeev Mitran club president Aditya Banjare and all the parents reached the school and

did locked the school. Meanwhile commenting on the issue block education officer Lalit Chandrakar said that his duty is engaged in another place; and information has been received from the phone. The villagers told that we are constantly opposing the transfer of the teacher and this movement will continue till then the transfer is pulled back, as he used to give moral education to the children along with formal education.

Tap water scheme not reaching in about 100 houses

Berla, Jun 27:

About 80-100 houses of Gram Panchayat Kodwa of Berla block, which comes under Bemetara assembly constituency, are not getting drinking water from the tap water scheme for the last four months, due to the construction of drains laid under the tap water scheme.

It may be noted that since last 6 months, the work of construction of drains on both sides of the road on Kodava Saja main road is being done under the Public Works Department. In the construction of this drain, the pipeline laid for drinking water has been damaged at many places, due to which about 80-100 houses of Ward 1 and 2 living on both sides of the road are not getting water supply for the last four months.

Bemetara Assembly Constituency's veteran MLA Ashish Chhabra's area is ward number one and two of Gram



Panchayat Kodwa under Berla subdivision, which are located on Saja-Kodwa main road, in which taps have been installed in about 80 to 100 houses, but water is not reaching these houses. Pipeline facilities have been destroyed due to drain construction. Earlier, the pipeline was

constructed under the Nal Jal Yojana, after that the residents of the ward had demanded a drain near the regional MLA Ashish Chhabra's house. Keeping this problem in mind, MLA Ashish Chhabra gave approval for the construction of the drain. The work of drain construction is

What officer says:

Water cleaning was started after the construction of the pipeline, the pit was dug for the construction of the drain, due to which the pipeline has been damaged, the damaged pipeline will be repaired by the contractor.

Rajkumar Verma, Sarpanch Representative, Kodwa

Pipeline has been damaged due to digging of pit for drain construction, after completion of drain construction work; the damaged pipeline will be repaired properly.

Praveen Sharma, Contractor

going on, but now the residents of the ward are pleading at various places to repair the pipeline, but neither any officer is neither paying attention nor any leader is paying attention. On the other hand, the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme is of the PHE department, whose full responsibility is to make water available to the people and the gener-

al public, but even after four months of information about the damaged pipeline, no attention is being paid to its improvement and repair. At the same time, the Gram Panchayat is also not showing any seriousness in getting the improvement work done, has sat silent after talking to the concerned department once or twice.

Memorandum submitted to stop encroachment on govt land

Churikala, Jun 27:

After continuation of encroachment of government land in Nagar Panchayat Churikala in Ward No. 6 Manas Nagar by Vijay Sahu Kabadi and Nanak Panjwani, the issue has been raised by Block Congress Committee Rural Katghora President Gorelal Yadav, Heeralal Yadav, Rakesh Pratap Singh Sheshban Goswami and MP representative Jeevan Yadav. A memorandum has also been handed over to the Sub-Divisional Officer Katghora Revenue demanding action.

Occupation of government land in Nagar



Panchayat Churikala area has been going on for a long time, most of the government land has been captured and sold through brokers, and it is also being captured, due to this, many big plans of the government in the Nagar Panchayat area

were canceled due to non-availability of government land for construction of buildings or they were made elsewhere, due to which the people of the city area are being deprived of the benefits of the big plan. In Manas Nagar Ward

No. 6, Khasra No. 730/1 government land has been captured by Vijay Sahu Kabadi by leveling the land.

Even before this, a house has been built by occupying the government land near Vijay Sahu High School, for which complaints have been made by the residents and corporators.

Apart from this, a house is being constructed by Nanak Panjwani, brother of BJP leader and Nagar Panchayat vice-president, near the Kosa office, on the long wide government land, Khasra No. 735/1, on which no action has been taken by the Panchayat administration so far.

Children are our future: Gulab Kamro

MLA and Collector congratulate the beginning of the new education session

Manendragarh, Jun 27:

Vice President of Surguja Development Authority and Bharatpur-Sonhat MLA Mr. Gulab Kamro and MCB Collector Narendra Kumar Dugga participated in the school entrance ceremony here. On the occasion of school entrance festival in Belbahara, Bundeli and Swami Atmanand School Manendragarh, the MLA made the school children enter the school by applying tilak, garlanding them and feeding them sweets.

On this occasion, the MLA and Collector dis-



tributed cycles, uniforms and books to the school children. Congratulating the students, teachers, principals, public representa-

tives and parents on the start of the new education session and the school entrance festival, MLA Kamro said that these children are our fu-

ture and it is our responsibility to provide proper environment for education to these children so that they can study.

Addressing the session the Collector said that in the present times it is necessary to create an environment of education in the school. District Panchayat Member Smt. Usha Kariyam, SDM Dragarh Abhishek Kumar, District Education Officer Ajay Kumar Mishra, District Sports Officer Gopal Singh, public representatives and principals of schools, teachers, students and parents were present.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

NOTICE FOR APPOINTMENT OF REGULAR/RURAL RETAIL OUTLET (PETROL PUMP) DEALERSHIPS

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited proposes to appoint Retail Outlet dealers at various locations in the State of Chhattisgarh.

The detailed Advertisement and Brochure are available in the website www.petrolpumpdealerchayan.in Application for RO dealership along with on-line payment of Non-refundable application fee, as applicable, should be submitted on-line by date **27.09.2023**.

The facility for submission of on-line application will be withdrawn immediately after the cut-off date as mentioned above.

APPLICANTS, IN THEIR OWN INTEREST, SHOULD CAREFULLY GO THROUGH THE "BROCHURE" AND UNDERSTAND CONDITIONS OF SELECTION BEFORE SUBMITTING THEIR APPLICATION.

The Corporation reserves the right to cancel / withdraw / amend this advertisement or extend the due date at its sole discretion without assigning any reason.

In case of any discrepancy in advertisement published in English Newspapers vis a vis vernacular language dailies, the direction / information indicated in English paper would prevail.

Corrigendum, If any, will be published only in the website www.petrolpumpdealerchayan.in

For purchase of Brochure and any information with regard to the advertisement, candidates may contact the following address:-

Territory	Districts Covered	Address	Contact No.
Raipur	Balod, Bastar, Bijapur, Dantewada, Dhamtari, Durg, Gariaband, Kanker, Kondagaon, Mahasamund, Narayanpur, Raipur, Rajnandgaon, Sukma, Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai, Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh-Chouki	Territory Coordinator (Retail) Raipur, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Shaheed Veer Narayan Complex, First Floor, Nagar Ghadi Chowk, Civil Lines, Raipur - 492001, Chhattisgarh	9752582384 7489740047
Bilaspur	Bilaspur, Mungeli, Kabirdham, Bemetara, Korea, Raigarh, Korba, Balodabazar-Bhatapara, Surguja, Janjgir-Champa, Balrampur-Ramanujganj, Surajpur, Jashpur, Sakti, Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Sarangarh-Bilaigarh, Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur	Territory Coordinator (Retail) Bilaspur, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Old Chhattisgarh Housing Board Building, Kalpana Vihar, Nehru Nagar, Bilaspur - 495001, Chhattisgarh	9691353831 7752310600

Emerging Lives, Emerging Naya Bharat

Smugglers nabbed with huge cache of illicit liquor

Bhilai, Jun 27:

Durg Police nabbed two smugglers and recovered a huge cache of illicit liquor from their possession. They were smuggling the liquor produced in Madhya Pradesh to Balod area of Chhattisgarh. 30 crates of Goa Whiskey and Royal Stag worth Rs 2.04 lakh were recovered from them. Liquor was being smuggled in expensive vehicles fitted with black window glass.

Superintendent of Police (Durg) Shalabh Kumar Sinha had instructed his subordinates to find out the drug dealers and take effective action against them. In compliance of his order, A d d i t i o n a l Superintendent of Police (city) Sanjay Dhruv and City Superintendent of Police (Durg) Banker Vaibhav Ramanlal constituted a joint team of Durg Civil Team and Police Station Pulgaon for action. The team was continuously keeping an eye on the persons and suspects involved in the illegal trade



of drugs. The network of informers was also activated. Meanwhile, Police received a tip off regarding a white coloured car which was moving towards Balod via Chandkhuri Road. In view of the seriousness of the matter, Durg Police sought the cooperation of Balod Police and immediate action was taken against the suspects. Police team tried to intercept the suspicious vehicle but the driver did not stop. Police team chased the suspected white WagonR car

and managed to get it stopped. Spotting the police, the accused tried to run away but were caught by the cops. On searching the car, 25 crates of Goa English liquor and 05 crates of Royal Stage English liquor were found in the car trunk and middle seat.

A total of 1490 quarters (268.2 bulk liters) of English liquor worth Rs 204000, a white colour WagonR car number CG 04 PD 6063 worth Rs 700000 was seized from them.



After arresting the accused, action was taken under the Excise Act by Pulgaon Police Station.

The arrested accused are Savinder Singh alias Golu (26) son of Harvansh Singha resident of Dhamcha Bhavan, Housing Board, Bhilai and Gagan Singh Shergir (22) son of Late Gurmeeet Singh a resident of Shanti Nagar, Supela have been booked under the provisions mentioned in section 34(2) of Excise Act. Inspector Pradeep Sori (SHO,

Pulgaon), ASI Narendra Singh, Head Constable Santosh Mishra and Durg Civil Team members Javed Khan, Kishore Soni, Nasir Buksh, Gaur Singh, Kamlesh Yadav, Thomson Peter, Prashant Patankar, Bharthari Nishad and Balod Police cyber cell in-charge Inspector D i l e s h w a r Chandravanshi, Head Constable Bhuneshwar Markam, Constable Rahul Manhare and Yogesh Sinha played a vital role in arresting the accused.

Yoga is a precious gift of India's vedic tradition: Vijay Baghel

Bhilai, Jun 27:

Ninth International Yoga Day was celebrated under the joint aegis of International Naturopathy Organization Chhattisgarh unit and Surya Foundation at Indira Place in Civic Centre.

State Coordinator Manoj Thackeray informed that Yoga Day events were organised by Surya Foundation in all the states and union territories. In Chhattisgarh, yoga events were organised in all the districts. In Bhilai, the event was organised at Pioneer Monument in Civic Centre. The event was inaugurated by MP Vijay Baghel. Special guests were Umesh Chitlangia, Brahmakumari Asha Didi, social worker Dr Sangeeta Shah, BSF Assistant Commandant Manish Sinha, BJP General Secretary Yogendra Singh, Padmashree Ramchandra Barle and Gynaecologist Dr Mansi Gulati.

On this occasion, the common yoga protocol was practiced under the guidance of Mamta Sahu, director of Yog Sevak Sansthan. The gathering



practiced Pranayama, Hasta Padasana, Parvatasana, Tadasana, Paschimottanasana, Naukasana, Adhomukhi Swasana including Kapal Bhati, Bhastrika Pranayama, etc.

Durg MP Vijay Baghel said that yoga is not just an exercise; it is a symbol of unity of mind and body. It is an invaluable gift of India's most ancient tradition. He exchanged greetings on International Yoga Day.

Social worker Dr Sangeeta Shah, Brahmakumari Asha Didi, entrepreneur Umesh Chitlangia,

Acharya Kanha Ji Maharaj and other guests also addressed the gathering. Coordinator Manoj Thackeray said that the International

Naturopathy Organization will conduct free yoga camps every month in the districts of Chhattisgarh. Students from ICICI Academy performed Yogasanas collectively in their uniforms. The event was coordinated by Neeta Chaurasia. At the end of the programme, Dr Laxprad proposed the vote of thanks. Baluram Verma, BP Chowdhary, Prashant Kshirsagar, Rita Chaurasia, Kishore Kannoje, Sunil Chaurasia, S Swarnakar, Kiran Bhosle, Roopchand Bhosle, Prakash Ji, Ram Unnikrishnan, Ashok Jain, Rajnikant Pandey, Kamlesh Dubey, Bhagchand Jain, Sanjay Dani, Sandeep Waghmare and about 512 people performed mass yoga.

Six thieves and two junk dealers nabbed

Bhilai, Jun 27:

With the arrest of six ruffians and recovery of stolen pump sets and wires, police claimed to have busted a gang of notorious thieves which was involved in stealing solar pumps, wires etc from agricultural farms. Later, police nabbed two junk dealers also who purchased the stolen items. Police also seized a bike which was used by the thieves.

SP Shalabh Kumar Sinha informed that they were receiving complaints regarding theft of solar cable, motor pump from farms in Ranitarai area. Taking the matter into cognizance, the team of Ranitarai Police Station worked under the supervision of ASP (Rural) Anant Sahu and SDO P Devensh Singh Rathore. Night patrolling was intensified and police maintained vigil on the suspects.

On the intervening night of June 24 - 25, the patrolling team of Police Station Ranitarai was moving from village Teligundra towards vil-



lage Asoga. They spotted three youths moving on a bike. They were carrying some goods in a sack. On spotting the cops, they tried to flee but were soon caught by the cops. Police found that cables / wires were packed in a sack. They were brought to the police station for questioning. During interrogation, they confessed to committing thefts at the agricultural farms. They disclosed the names of other accomplices after which three other thieves and two junk dealers were also taken into custody. The accused conducted recce during the day and committed thefts in the late evening hours. They had stolen wires and pumps

from village Rengakathera, Kohi, Bhansuli, Chulghahan, Pahanda, Jamgaon and other areas. The stolen booty was sold to Lalit Sahu, a junker of Gidhpuri, and after burning the cable wire, he sold the copper to Laxmikant Dewangan of Patan. Both of them were also arrested for buying stolen goods.

The arrested accused are Rajesh alias Golu (28) son of Ratnu Dewar a resident of village Gidhpuri, district Balodabazar; Ratoon Dewar (22) son of Late Jhingaram Dewar a resident of Banstal, Dewar Mohalla, Dhamtari; Arjun Dewar (20) son of Lakshminarayan a resi-

dent of Ranitarai; Jwala Dewar (34) son of Munna Dewar a resident of Azad Chowk, Dewar Mohalla Patan; Ajay Dewar (28) son of Mukund Dewar a resident of Azad Chowk, Dewar Mohalla Patan; Kushal Kumar Kose (35) son of Netram Kose a resident of village Khorpa, Patan. The arrested scrap dealers are Lalit Sahu (34) son of Dumar Sahu a resident of village Kurud (Kuthela), police station Arang, district Raipur; and Laxmikant Dewangan (43) son of Late Santosh Dewangan a resident of Gandhi Chowk, Patan. They were booked under the provisions mentioned in Section 379, 411, 34 of IPC. They were produced before the court and have been sent to jail on judicial remand.

SI AINU Kumar Dewangan, Assistant Sub-Inspector Raman Sahu, Nakul Thakur, Constables Dhananjay, Akhilesh, Tilesh Sahu, Tukaram Nirmalkar, Tuleth Dhanakar and Suresh Thakur played a vital role in arresting the accused.

Annual Hematology Update concludes at JLN Hospital & Research Centre

Bhilai, Jun 27:

The 9th edition of the Annual Hematology Update, a state-level Continuing Medical Education (CME) event, took place on June 25, 2023 at the Conference Hall of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's JLN Hospital & Research Centre, Sector-9. As many as 100 delegates from various locations across Chhattisgarh, participated in the one-day educational meeting. Dr Ravindranath M, CMO I/c (M&HS) was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Dr Pramod Binayake, CMO (M&HS) was also present on this occasion along with various senior pathologists from around the state. Addressing the gathering Dr Ravindranath M, expressed his gratitude to the esteemed National Faculties for sharing their knowledge and experience with the participants. The valuable insights shared by the keynote speakers of this conference has helped to make it a resounding success, Dr Ravindranath said. Various renowned experts of Hematology addressed the participants as keynote speakers of the academic session. Dr Suman Kumar Pramanik, a Hematologist-Oncologist from Kolkata, delivered a lecture on

the treatment and latest updates in managing acute leukaemia, a particularly dangerous form of Hematologic Cancer. A special refresher course on Biostatistics & Research Methodologies



was also conducted by Dr Pramanik, which sparked active discussions among the DNB students and consultants, further enriching their educational experience.

Among other key-note speakers of the conference were Dr Nitin Dayal, a Hematopathologist from Max Hospital, New Delhi, who shared insights on recent developments in the classification of Myeloid Leukaemia. Dr Ankur Ahuja, a hemato-pathologist from AFMC Pune, delivered a presentation on recent advancements in the detection

shedding light on how it can aid in an early detection of Sepsis. One of the highlights of CME was the Chhattisgarh State Round of the National Hematology Quiz 2023, conducted by Dr Ankur Ahuja from AFMC Pune. The quiz witnessed participation of Postgraduate Doctors from Chhattisgarh's Medical Institutions including AIIMS Raipur, Pt JNM Medical College Raipur, Shri Shankara Medical College Durg, and JLN Hospital & Research Centre. Dr Gurmeet Singh, Chief Consultant (Pathology-JLNHRC) was Organizing Secretary of the 9th Annual Hematology Update. Dr Gurmeet thanked the esteemed National Faculties and expressed his delight at the conference's success. The 9th Annual Hematology Update proved to be an invaluable platform for medical professionals in Chhattisgarh to enhance their understanding of Hematology and stay abreast of the latest advancements in the field. The event facilitated knowledge exchange, networking, and collaboration among attendees, fostering a stronger medical community in the region.

BSP signs MoU with C3iHub for collaboration on Cyber Security



Bhilai, Jun 27: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant and Cybersecurity & Cybersecurity for Cyber-Physical Systems Innovation Hub (C3iHub) of IIT Kanpur for collaboration on Cyber Security and related technologies on June 27, 2023. The MoU signing ceremony was presided by Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP).

Addressing the gathering, Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) spoke on the importance of Cyber Security in Bhilai Steel Plant, where convergence of OT and IT networks are posing new challenges. He also emphasised on the need of collaboration and indigenous technology through institutions like IIT-Kanpur who are pioneers in the domain. The MoU was signed at Director I/c Conference Hall in presence of Senior Officials of

critical infrastructure like SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant. Asit Saha, CGM I/c (M&U), was the signatory on MoU on behalf of Bhilai Steel Plant, while Tanima Hazra, COO(C3iHub), signed the MoU on behalf of C3iHub.

C3iHub is a Research Centre in the field of critical infrastructure security, to address the issue of cybersecurity of cyber-physical systems in its entirety. C3iHub was established at IIT Kanpur in 2020, under the aegis of National Mission of Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical System promoted by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

Under the MoU with C3iHub, BSP aims to address cyber security issues, in phases. Involving in-depth study of BSP's IT and OT facilities, and recommendations with regard to systems, rolling out of recommendations and support on a continuous basis for an effective cyber secure environment. Ravi Shankar GM (INCOS) conducted the programme, while the Vote of Thanks was proposed by MP Singh, GM (INCOS).

Devotees dance to the performances of Swarganga at Gundicha Mandap Sector 10



Bhilai, Jun 27: Under the aegis of Shree Jagannath Samiti, Sector 4, a 9-day festival of Mahaprabhu Shree Jagannath Swami ji's 54th Rath Yatra is being celebrated. Preparations for Bahuda Rath Yatra have been completed at Gundicha Mandap, Sector 10. On June 28, 2023, at 2:30 pm, Bahuda Rath Yatra has been organized, which will leave Gundicha Mandap Sector-10 and reach Shri Jagannath Temple, Sector 4. MLA Devendra Yadav will perform Chhera Panhra while Mayor of Bhilai City Neeraj Pal will also present on the auspicious occasion.

Under the Rath Yatra Festival 2023, various cultural and spiritual programs are being organized daily in the grand pandal of Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath Swami ji sitting in Gundicha Mandap Sector 10. In this context, a musical

evening based on devotional music was organized by Swarganga Musical Group. The melodious bhajans of the singers forced the devotees present in the mandap to dance. The devotees danced with each song. There was applause with each performance. Along with this, under the leadership of Alok Sharma, 60 artists of Shri Parshuram Sanskrit Vidyapeetham, Arang and Shri Ram Bhakta Group, Arang, recited verses, Hanuman Chalisa, Shri Ram Bhajan, Shri Shiv Strot and Shri Jagannath Bhajan. Excellent performance enchanted the hearts of the devotees.

On this occasion, SEFI Chairman and President of BSP's Officers' Association Narendra Kumar Banchor, present as Chief guest and BSP's CGM MK Goyal were present as special guests.

Apart from this, the President of the committee Virendra Satpathy and General Secretary Satyawar Nayak were specially present. Trinath Sahu and Ranjan Mahapatra, office bearers of the Jagannath Committee made special contributions in successfully organizing this musical evening.

Chief guest Narendra Kumar Banchhor, CGM MK Goyal and President of the committee Virendra Satpathy and General Secretary Satyawar Nayak honoured the artists by giving them memento and citations. The chief guest, congratulated the artists for their excellent performance and wished them a bright future.

The singers who lent their voice to the music evening were honoured with mementoes and certificates. These artistes mesmerized the devotees by singing Hindi and Oriya Bhajans. Singer Nikita Sahu, who came from Berhampur, Odisha, capped the event by rendering Odia Bhajans.

The president of the committee presented the welcome speech and the vote of thanks was given by the general secretary.

Rath Yatra being celebrated with fervour at Nehru Nagar



Bhilai, Jun 27: A large number of devotees are reaching the Gundicha Temple located in Radha Krishna Mandir premises in Nehru Nagar to pay obeisance to Lord Jagannath, Mata Subhadra and Lord Balabhadra. The Rath Yatra of Lord Shri Jagannath Swami ji was taken out from Jagannath Temple located at Kosa nagar which

reached the Gundicha Mandap in Nehru Nagar. Bhajan - Kirtan is being organised on all days at the Gundicha Temple. Hundreds of devotees are visiting here to have darshan and worship Mahaprabhu. The prasad of Anna Prasad and Gajamung is being distributed here. The deities will return to their temple on June 28.

Obituary

Pt Mani Ji Dubey

Bhilai: Pundit of Sector 2 Hanuman Temple, Batuk Ji Maharaj (Pt Mani Ji Dubey) left for heavenly abode at the age of 89 years on June 26. Funeral procession will be taken out from his residence in Sector 2 on June 28 around 3:30 hrs and last rites of the mortal remains will be performed at Ramnagar Muktidham. He spent his entire life in serving the deities at Sector 2 Temple, which is operated by Sanatan Dharma Sabha Trust.





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A Unified Opposition

Vital Pillar of Democracy

In the countdown to the General Election, leaders from a multitude of political parties recently convened in Patna with a common objective: to unseat the BJP-led government at the Centre. This ambitious task, however, presents a formidable challenge. The BJP's resounding victories in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections have considerably weakened rival parties, notably the Congress, its primary adversary. While the Patna meeting aimed to transcend ideological and political differences, there is still much work to be done in uniting the Opposition. The discord between the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party over the Central ordinance on the Delhi government's powers serves as a glaring reminder of the obstacles that lie ahead. Such internal divisions send a disheartening signal to the public, undermining the collective strength required to form a formidable opposition force. For the opposition parties to resonate with the electorate, they must rise above individual aspirations and confront contentious issues head-on. A united front can only be achieved by fostering dialogue, finding common ground, and devising an effective electoral strategy. The path to unity is not without its challenges; reconciling the diverse needs of various states and accommodating the aspirations of each party is a complex endeavor. Predictably, Union Home Minister Amit Shah dismissed the Patna meeting as a superficial "photo session" and a "no show." However, politics has a way of forging unexpected alliances. A functional partnership for the greater good is essential. A robust opposition is the bedrock of a healthy democracy, preventing the slide into authoritarianism. It serves as a check on potential abuses of power and ensures the government remains accountable to its citizens. The presence of a strong opposition is crucial for the vibrancy of democratic discourse. It fosters healthy debates, offers constructive criticism, and subjects policies to rigorous scrutiny. Through alternative perspectives and diverse opinions, the opposition enriches governance by amplifying the voices of marginalized communities and championing their causes. Building a united front requires selflessness and a shared commitment to the welfare and progress of the nation. It necessitates setting aside personal ambitions and focusing on the larger objective of upholding democratic principles. Only by transcending differences can the opposition parties present a formidable challenge to the ruling party. As the General Election draws near, the urgency for a united front grows stronger. The opposition must recognize that power lies in unity and collective action. Genuine efforts to build trust, foster dialogue, and resolve differences must take precedence over individual interests. The fate of democracy rests on the ability of political leaders to rise above divisions and rally behind the common goal of preserving democratic values. In this crucial moment in our nation's democratic journey, it is imperative that the opposition parties set aside their differences, embrace compromise, and work towards a common agenda. The strength of a united opposition lies in its ability to offer a credible alternative, hold the ruling party accountable, and champion the rights and interests of the people. A robust opposition is not just a political necessity; it is a vital pillar of democracy. It is through a united opposition that the voice of the people resonates, and the true essence of democracy is upheld. Let us strive towards a unified front, ensuring that our democracy remains strong, vibrant, and inclusive.

China's Relentless Interference

Undermining Global Counter-Terrorism Efforts

China's consistent obstruction of joint proposals aimed at designating Pakistani radicals as global terrorists raises serious concerns about the effectiveness of the global counter-terrorism framework. In yet another incident, China blocked a joint proposal by the United States and India to designate Sajid Mir, a wanted individual in connection with the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, as a global terrorist. This marks the fifth instance in recent months where China has prevented the blacklisting of Pakistan-based terror suspects on the UN Security Council's 1267 list of terror entities. Sajid Mir, an LeT leader with a US bounty of \$5 million, has not only evaded accountability but has also been sentenced by a Pakistan court to over 15 years in a terror-financing case. These conflicting actions by Pakistan highlight the country's inconsistent approach towards counter-terrorism measures, as it strives to exit the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). India's response to China's obstruction is justified and necessitates a critical evaluation of the current global counter-terrorism architecture. By facilitating such hindrances, China sends a troubling message that extremists can act with impunity. The question of the efficacy of international cooperation and agreements aimed at combating terrorism must be addressed. If these initiatives face obstacles at the highest level, it becomes imperative to reexamine the existing process. China's obstruction not only hinders India's efforts to bring Sajid Mir to justice but also deprives the victims of the 26/11 attacks of the closure they deserve. Designating Mir as a global terrorist would have subjected him to severe consequences, including a rigorous trial, asset freezes, travel bans, and arms embargoes. By impeding this process, China undermines the pursuit of justice and allows terrorists to evade accountability. Unfortunately, China's actions are not isolated incidents. In recent times, China also obstructed Indo-US proposals for the terror listing of notorious Pakistani terrorists Shahid Mahmood, Abdul Rehman Makki, and Abdul Rauf Azhar. By prioritizing its geopolitical interests over principles, Beijing has once again come to the aid of Islamabad. This blatant support for Pakistan further fuels the existing hostilities between India and China, undermining regional stability. The international community cannot afford to turn a blind eye to China's petty tactics. The obstruction of efforts to designate global terrorists only perpetuates a climate of insecurity and endangers innocent lives. It is essential for countries committed to combating terrorism to stand united and address this recurring issue at the global stage. Furthermore, China's interference poses broader questions about its intentions and its commitment to international norms. By repeatedly shielding individuals with known terrorist links, China undermines its own credibility as a responsible global actor. Such actions not only tarnish China's reputation but also erode trust among nations. The United Nations and other international bodies must take a proactive approach in dealing with China's obstructionist behavior. Diplomatic efforts should be intensified to engage with China and highlight the detrimental consequences of its actions. Additionally, greater cooperation between like-minded countries is crucial in countering China's undue influence and ensuring the integrity of the global counter-terrorism framework.

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

WATERLOGGED ROAD



Commuters wade through the waterlogged Delhi-Gurugram Expressway service road following rainfall, in Gurugram, Tuesday, June 27.

Organised and coordinated response to Biporjoy is a pathbreaking achievement



ATUL KARWAL



The Very Severe Cyclonic Storm Biporjoy smashed into the coastline of Kutch in the evening of 15th June at 140 kmph and cut a swathe of destruction across Gujarat and Rajasthan. In the face of such fury of nature, the singular achievement of the disaster response apparatus was zero loss of life after landfall in Gujarat. This is a testimony of the growing competence of the nation in facing disasters of this magnitude, as a continuing progression of improvement after tragically losing 9,887 human lives in Odisha super cyclone in 1999 and bringing loss of human life down to 128 in the super cyclone Amphan in 2020.

The organised and coordinated response to Biporjoy is a path breaking achievement that needs to be analysed and replicated. After India suffered three major disasters in quick succession - Odisha super cyclone in 1999, Kutch earthquake in 2001 and Tsunami in 2004, a dedicated structure of National Disaster Management Authority, National Disaster Response Force and National Institute of Disaster Management was put in place. With the realisation that investing in mitigation,

risk reduction and response gives multi-fold returns in disaster situations, there has been increasing amount of attention paid to improving our capacity to handle such large scale disasters. This is also appropriate, keeping in view that India is the third most disaster prone country in the world. The Central Govt has specially reinforced the capacity of the National Disaster Response Force, which was raised in 2006 with eight battalions, and has now grown to sixteen battalions. The Prime Minister and Union Home Minister have given great emphasis on making India disaster resilient, especially in the last few years, by personally supervising disaster related preparedness and response. The Prime Minister has also given a vision of Disaster Risk Reduction by the 10 point program enunciated by him in the Asian Ministerial Conference in 2016 in Delhi and by the establishment of Centre for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure; more than 40 nations have already joined this initiative. This is one of the reasons - a no-gaps preparedness that contributed to the success in facing Biporjoy. The atypically slow progress of Biporjoy across

the Arabian Sea gave us ample time for this. With attention of the highest functionaries in the country and their constant encouragement and motivation, NDRF has become a unique example in the world, of a standalone, year-round, dedicated disaster response force that now has the competence of responding to all man-made and natural disasters effectively. This is also exemplified by our response to the tragic earthquake in Türkiye on Feb 6 this year, when India was one of the quickest to respond and the Indian contingent of 152 NDRF rescuers and 99 personnel of a Para Field hospital was one of the largest. Kudos to the Indian Air Force; their ace pilots and planes carried even our vehicles to Türkiye, allowing NDRF rescuers to get into action as soon as we landed, with little local support. Aside from the proactive deployment of NDRF teams, and the preparedness of other central agencies and defence forces, what was critical in ensuring the success in Biporjoy was the depth of planning by the State of Gujarat. This was maybe the single most important reason and included traditional as well as innovative measures. Vulnerable population was identified to the last man and 1,43,053 people were evacuated. Trees were pruned to prevent them from getting uprooted and 4,317 hoardings were dismantled to ensure these do not get ripped by high speed winds into flying fatal projectiles. 1,152 pregnant ladies with delivery period during the passage of the cyclone were pre-emptively shifted to hospitals and 707 children were born in a

safe environment during the cyclone. A very strict enforcement mechanism kept people inside their homes and away from risky behaviour. All this was made possible with the pre-emptive deployment of 18 NDRF and 12 SDRF teams, who worked round-the-clock alongside local administration for spreading awareness about do's and don'ts and convincing people for evacuation. These teams also acted during and post cyclone, for bringing the situation back to normal as soon as possible.

The benchmark set by such a well-oiled and coordinated response to a major disaster, by reducing casualties to zero has set inspirational standards. The key factors remain community awareness, as appreciated by the Prime Minister; in-depth planning for every anticipatable eventuality, and pre-emptive action. To replicate this success, states also need availability of a year-round, dedicated, well equipped and trained SDRF in adequate numbers. Such disasters are becoming more frequent because of climate change; 7,348 disasters were reported in the period 2000-2019, compared to 4,212 during the period 1980-1999. To prepare for these, NDRF has been working tirelessly for the capacity building of SDRFs and spreading awareness through its School Safety Programs and Community Awareness Programs. NDRF continually strives to improve its competence and takes pride in dedicating its services to the nation and to humanity at large.

(Writer is IPS, DG, NDRF. Views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Navigating the Complexities

The dominant presence of US Big Tech companies in India's digital landscape and the exploitation of the Indian market by American corporations have yielded immense profits. Furthermore, historical instances such as the US support for Pakistan during the 1971 war and its criticism of India over minority-related issues raise doubts about the transformative nature of PM Modi's recent visit. It is essential to recognize that the US acts solely in its national interest, making the partnership between these two nations inherently unequal. Past experiences suggest that the US has not been a reliable ally, leaving the future nature of this relationship uncertain.

Krishna Kumar Varier, Kannur

Micron's Investment

Micron Technology, a leading US chipmaker, has recently revealed plans to invest \$825 million in Gujarat, establishing a semiconductor assembly and test facility. This significant investment will serve as a catalyst in transforming India into a thriving semiconductor hub, expediting the testing of domestically manufactured silicon products. Moreover, it will create numerous employment opportunities within the semiconductor industry, fostering economic growth. This venture also strengthens the ties between the United States and India, despite occasional strains in their relationship, as they steadily progress towards becoming close partners. Additionally, this collaboration will reduce India's reliance on China for silicon products and potentially attract investments from other countries.

Shiv Kumar Mishra, Raipur

Combatting Rape

The alarming frequency of reported rape cases, as highlighted in the recent incident of 'Man arrested for raping teenager,' is a distressing reality in our country. It is crucial to take immediate and impactful action to ensure justice for the victims and effectively address crimes against women. Sexual violence remains a significant cause for concern, and even after 75 years of Independence, India continues to grapple with challenges in combating such heinous acts. The 2012 Delhi rape-murder case served as a wake-up call, prompting the government to implement stringent measures. However, lax law enforcement, inadequate investigations, and slow trials persist as major obstacles that must be urgently addressed.

Srikumar Nair, Kollam, Kerala

Properly Clean Dirty Tea Towels to Eliminate Bacteria

Primrose Freestone

Kitchens can harbour all sorts of germs and bacteria. These can arrive via humans, pets, uncooked food or even plants, meaning that a high proportion of foodborne infections are acquired directly within the home.

An important cleaning aid in most kitchens is the tea towel, also known as a dishcloth. Usually made of cotton or linen, they are used to dry wet hands and kitchen implements as well as wiping under surfaces so play an important role in kitchen hygiene.

But, because hands and uncooked fresh produce are often rich in a diverse variety of germs, tea towels are prone to picking up the bacteria they come into contact with.

Indeed, in a study that used tea towels to wipe down chopping boards that had been used to prepare raw chicken with salmonella (which can cause diarrhoea, fever and stomach cramps), 90% of the cloths became contaminated with salmonella, too.

Several studies have looked at the germs tea towels typically carry in domestic kitchens. One study sampled 100 used tea towels and found a marked presence of staphylococcus aureus Staphylococcus aureus, which

is often found on the skin but is also a pathogen that can cause a variety of issues such as abscesses, joint infections and even pneumonia.

Tea towels are good at picking up germs which is important as another study of 46 kitchens found a wide range of harmful bacterial species living on kitchen surfaces, which are often cleaned by tea towels.

Surfaces were found to have Enterobacter (which can cause respiratory tract infections, skin infections, urinary tract infections and heart, bone and eye infections), Klebsiella (which has been linked to serious infections of the lungs, bladder, brain and blood), and E. coli (which can cause upset stomachs and urinary tract infections).

Several kitchens also had Pseudomonas aeruginosa, which can cause lung infections. Bacillus subtilis, which can lead to eye infections and abscesses, was also found in more than half of the kitchens sampled. And all of the samples from the kitchens were found to have Staphylococcus and Micrococcus. In people with weak immune systems, Micrococcus has been linked to lung infections, such as pneumonia and septic arthritis along with eye and heart infections.

The levels and types of germs found

on these tea towels were influenced by how they were used, how often they were washed and how long they were dried for. Rinsing tea towels in hot water at 60 C was found to reduce levels of bacteria later spread by contaminated cloths, which is important as infection likelihood is often related to how many bacteria you ingest.

Clean your cloths

These studies suggest there is an infection risk from tea towels and that most kitchen cloths may be contaminated with high levels of bacteria. It's easy, then, for these germs to transfer on to food preparation surfaces, potentially causing serious food poisoning.

The infection risk of using tea towels is well-recognised by the medical profession. Indeed, in UK hospitals, fabric tea towels are not allowed. Instead, patient crockery, cutlery and food preparation work surfaces are cleaned and dried with disposable paper towels.

One of the reasons tea towels act as such good microbial reservoirs is that they are often damp as they are used to absorb moisture and mop up spills. Water enables germs to grow. And so a moist tea towel left in a warm kitchen provides an ideal environment for bacteria to multiply. This is particularly the

case if food traces are present, too. So what's the best way to sanitise your used tea towel? Tea towels that are hung up in the air tend to dry faster than cloths stored and squeezed into balls, which can affect levels of bacteria in the towels.

Laboratory experiments that involved covering tea towels in salmonella, found that the bacteria multiplied in all types of cloths that were crumpled. But levels of bacteria were reduced by 1,000 times if the tea towels were hung to dry for 24 hours at room temperature.

Reduce the germs

To avoid tea towels spreading germs around the kitchen, it's recommended that the cloths are washed regularly and when they get wet, are allowed to dry completely before being used again. Using disposable cloths or paper towels for heavily contaminated areas, such as those involving raw meat, could also help to stop the spread of bacteria.

In terms of tea towel hygiene, you should clean and thoroughly dry your kitchen towel at least once a day or after each use. The UK government recommends that tea towels should be sanitised by washing them in a washing machine with laundry detergent on

a hot wash cycle of 90 C. Laundry detergents contain hard water softeners, surfactants (which increase the wetting effect of water by reducing its surface tension), detergents, bleaches and digestive enzymes. Food stains on tea towels will probably be a mixture of proteins, fats and carbohydrates, which the enzymes degrade.

And the detergent helps to dissolve the stains, which are released into the washing water. Since proteins and fats are also involved in the attachment of bacteria to surfaces, laundry detergents will help to detach and so reduce bacteria levels in tea towels.

If you wash tea towels by hand, ensure any obvious food and dirt are removed by rinsing in hot water with detergent before disinfection. After washing, you can sanitise any microbes remaining using boiling water or a disinfectant such as bleach, diluted as per the manufacturer's instructions. Ironing tea towels on a hot setting will also effectively sanitise as the temperature is above 90 C. You should also store your laundered tea towels in a dry, clean area, away from any uncooked food and grubby hands.

(Writer is Senior Lecturer in Clinical Microbiology, University of Leicester. Views are personal)

BRIEF

Automated system



New Delhi: The government-promoted Open Network for Digital Commerce has a completely automated grievance redressal system and an online resolution mechanism is also being enabled, ONDC CEO T Koshi said on Tuesday. ONDC is an initiative of the commerce and industry ministry to create a facilitative model to help small retailers take advantage of digital commerce. It is not an application, platform, intermediary or software but a set of specifications designed to foster open, unbundled, and interoperable open networks.

Investment



New Delhi: BLS International Services is planning to invest Rs 2,000 crore over the next three years in the domestic and international markets, its Joint MD Shikhar Aggarwal has said. BLS International Services provides numerous tech-enabled services to governments and individuals in various geographies. "We have plans to invest over Rs 2,000 crore in domestic and global markets to increase our presence."

Import duty

Shimla: The Congress on Tuesday condemned the central government's decision to reduce import duty on Washington (American) apples from 70 per cent to 50 per cent and said it would harm the interest of farmers of Himachal Pradesh. In a statement issued here, All India Congress Committee (AICC) spokesperson Kuldeep Singh Rathore, who is also the sitting Congress MLA from Theog assembly seat (apple belt), said that the decision would cause harm to the apple industry of Himachal Pradesh.

CAD narrows to 0.2% of GDP in Q4 FY23 on lower trade deficit, higher services exports

Mumbai, Jun 27:

India's current account deficit narrowed to USD 1.3 billion or 0.2 per cent of GDP in the January-March quarter of FY23, mainly due to moderation in the trade deficit and a robust increase in services exports, RBI data showed on Tuesday. However, for the 2022-23 fiscal, the current account balance recorded a deficit of 2 per cent of GDP compared to 1.2 per cent in 2021-22. "India's current account deficit (CAD) decreased to USD 1.3 billion (0.2 per cent of GDP) in Q4:2022-23

from USD 16.8 billion (2.0 per cent of GDP) in Q3:2022-23, and USD 13.4 billion (1.6 per cent of GDP) a year ago [Q4:2021-22]," as per the RBI's 'Developments in India's Balance of Payments during the Fourth Quarter (January-March) of 2022-23'. The sequential decline in CAD in the fourth quarter of 2022-23 was mainly on account of a moderation in the trade deficit to USD 52.6 billion from USD 71.3 billion in the preceding quarter, coupled with robust services exports, it said. Net services receipts increased, on a sequential

and year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, on the back of a rise in net earnings from computer services. The central bank had been maintaining that the CAD, a key indicator of the country's balance of payments, would remain manageable.

Private transfer receipts in the January-March period, mainly representing remittances by Indians employed overseas, increased to USD 28.6 billion, up by 20.8 per cent year-on-year. In the financial account, the RBI said net foreign direct investment (FDI) at USD 6.4 billion

was higher than USD 2.0 billion in Q3 2022-23, although lower than a year ago (USD 13.8 billion). Net foreign portfolio investment (FPI) recorded an outflow of USD 1.7 billion during the corresponding period a year ago. Net external commercial borrowings (ECBs) to India recorded an inflow of USD 1.7 billion against an outflow of USD 2.5 billion during the third quarter of 2022-23 and an inflow of USD 3.3 billion in the final quarter of 2021-22.

Merger of HDFC with HDFC Bank effective from July 1: Deepak Parekh

Mumbai, Jun 27:

The merger of housing finance major HDFC with the country's largest private lender HDFC Bank will be effective from July 1, HDFC Chairman Deepak Parekh said on Tuesday. The boards of HDFC and the private bank will meet on June 30 post to clear and approve the merger. Parekh told reporters here. The merger of the corporation with HDFC Bank will be effective July 1, Parekh said.

HDFC vice-chairman and CEO Keki Mistry said that the stock delisting of the corporation will be effective from July 13. Termed as the biggest transaction in India's corporate history, HDFC Bank on April 4 last year agreed to take over the biggest domestic mortgage lender in



a deal valued at about USD 40 billion, creating a financial services titan. The proposed entity will have a combined asset base of around Rs 18 lakh crore. Once the deal is effective, HDFC Bank will be 100 per cent owned by public shareholders, and existing shareholders of HDFC will own 41 per cent of the bank. Every HDFC shareholder will get 42 shares of HDFC Bank for every 25 shares they hold.

Milk prices risen, but no supply shortage of dairy products; consumers need not worry: Rupala

New Delhi, Jun 27:

The government on Tuesday asserted that there is no shortage of milk and other dairy products in the country, although milk prices have risen in recent months. Animal Husbandry, Fishery and Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala, while briefing media on the Modi government's achievements in the last nine years, said the sector is likely to grow at 7 per cent in 2023-23 fiscal against over 6 per cent in 2022-23.

"I will definitely admit that there has been an increase in milk prices...Government is trying its best to address the problem by increasing milk production and availability," he said. Leading milk suppliers like Amul



and Mother Dairy have hiked prices of milk multiple times in the last one year, citing increasing procurement costs of milk from farmers. For instance, Mother Dairy has increased milk prices by Rs 10 per litre between March and December 2022. Stressing that there is no shortage of milk and milk products in the country, Rupala said that recently, there were reports of shortage, but that issue

INTERNATIONAL MSME DAY

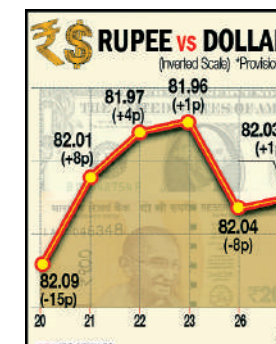


Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Narayan Rane presents the 'ZED Silver' certificate to an awardee at the 'Udyami Bharat' event on the occasion of International MSME Day, in New Delhi, Tuesday, June 27.

Rupee edges up 1 paise to 82.03 amid weak dollar, stocks rally

Mumbai, Jun 27:

The rupee edged up 1 paise to settle at 82.03 (provisional) against the US dollar in a listless trade on Tuesday amid a weak greenback in overseas markets and a rally in domestic equities. While concerns over interest rate hikes in the US and geopolitical worries capped gains in the local unit, a weak US currency in the global markets and a fall in crude oil prices supported the rupee, analysts said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened higher at 82.02 and later moved in a narrow band of 81.95 to 82.03 during the day. The local currency settled at the day's low level of 82.03 (provisional) against the US dollar, reflecting a gain of 1 paise over the last



close. The rupee had declined by 8 paise to close at 82.04 on Monday. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.10 per cent to 102.58. The greenback showed some weakness ahead of the release of US data that may have some bearing on the timing of further rate hikes by the Federal Reserve.

NMDC and CSIR-IMMT enter collaborative research agreement

Hyderabad, 27 June 2023:

India's mining major NMDC entered into a Collaborative Research Agreement with CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT) on Monday. The agreement was signed in the presence of Dilip Kumar Mohanty, Director (Production) and Vishwanath Suresh, Director (Commercial) along with senior officials at NMDC Head Office in Hyderabad.

The collaboration agreement is to study the 'Conveying Characteristics and Behavior of Iron Ore in Pneumatic Conveying System'. Aimed at understanding the behavior of iron ore fines/concentrate in pneumatic, that is air assisted, transport pipeline system. The research will establish the design parameters for inter/intra plant pipeline transportation of iron ore. The joint research program will utilize the vast knowledge and experience of CSIR-IMMT, Bhubaneswar



and NMDC towards making the Indian Mineral Industry self-reliant. Speaking on the occasion, Dilip Kumar Mohanty emphasized on the significance of collaboration between industry and research organizations to solve operational issues leading to value addition for the industry. He said, "NMDC is making investments to enhance the use of indigenous technology in mining. Our collaborations with leading research organizations of the country are stepping stones to

wards this vision." NMDC's in-house R&D Center is recognized as a Centre of Excellence in the field of mineral processing by UNIDO. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)-IMMT is a cutting-edge R&D organization known for its knowledge base in diverse science and technology fields. NMDC and CSIR-IMMT have contributed to breakthrough developments in the past and are gearing up to build a smart and sustainable future for mining.

Tata Play Binge becomes India's largest OTT aggregator

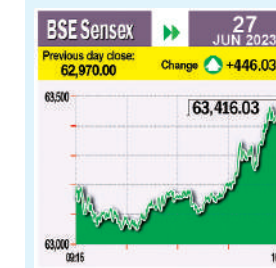
New Delhi, Jun 27:

Delivering on its promise of making access to OTT content and its discovery easy, Tata Play Binge, has now become the nation's biggest OTT aggregator platform with 27 apps. With Tata Play Binge, subscribers get entry into all their favourite content, across screens- mobile, desktop, tablet or TV, with one subscription, one search and one app! With no pre-requisite of needing a DTH subscription, Tata Play Binge offers unlimited access to 27 popular national, regional and international apps in 13 languages. These include Disney+Hotstar, ZEE5, SonyLIV, Jio Cinema, Hallmark, MX Player, Lionsgate Play, Aha, VROTT, Sun NXT,



ReelDrama, Voot Kids, Chaupal, Namma Flix, Planet Marathi, manorama MAX, Koode, Tarang Plus, Hungama Play, Eros Now, ShemaroomE, Curiosity Stream, EPIC ON, Travelxp, DocuBay, ShortsTV, along with Gaming. Enabling entertainment for the whole family, up to four viewers can simultaneously access the platform's extensive library using a single subscription.

Sensex jumps 446 points after declining for three sessions



Mumbai, Jun 27:

Benchmark equity indices ended higher on Tuesday helped by buying in banking and financial counters, mainly HDFC twins, amid a mixed trend in the global markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 446.03 points or 0.71 per cent to settle at 63,416.03 points. During the day, it advanced 497.54 points or 0.79 per cent to 63,467.54 points. NSE Nifty climbed 126.20 points or 0.68 per cent to end at 18,817.40 points. From the Sensex pack, State Bank of India, HDFC, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank, Tata Motors, NTPC and Bajaj Finserv were the laggards. In Asian markets, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the green while Seoul and Tokyo ended lower. Equity markets in Europe were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended in the negative terrain on Monday.

Himalaya Baby Care honors fathers worldwide with beautiful campaign

Mumbai, Jun 27:

Himalaya Baby Care, a well-known brand for baby care and well-being, launches a heart-warming campaign that aims to highlight the importance of nurturing and celebrating the precious fatherhood. The brand has released a thoughtful video titled "Autograph," which perfectly depicts the unbreakable bond between a father and his child. The film beautifully captures the essence of fatherhood, showcasing the unspoken love, sacrifices, and struggles that only a father truly knows. A tired and weary middle-class father returns from work, unintentionally ignoring his own father in his exhaustion. However, his young daughter surprises him by covering his eyes

and asking who her "hero" is. Assuming it to be a superhero or actor, the father is taken aback when she reveals that he is her hero and requests his autograph. This heartwarming gesture prompts the father to reflect on his own relationship with his father. He goes to his father's room, wishes him a Happy Father's Day, and asks for his autograph. Moved by this unexpected gesture, the old father gives his autograph, remarking that it is his first. The young father, touched by the moment, realizes the importance of cherishing these precious relationships. The video concludes with all three generations playing together, concluding with a message from Himalaya BabyCare wishing all fathers a Happy Father's Day.

Domestic electric two wheeler industry to keep growing at fast clip: TVS Motor

New Delhi, Jun 27:

Domestic electric two-wheeler industry will continue to grow at a robust pace with active policy support from central and state governments while also emerging as a major hub for exports, according to TVS Motor Company. The company on its part would expand its electric portfolio to cater to different sets of customers. It currently sells electric two-wheelers under the iQUBE brand. "The EV industry will continue to grow rapidly as the consumer interest is buttressed with active policy support from the Central and State Governments through PLI, FAME II and State-specific support policies," TVS Motor Company

stated in its Annual Report for 2022-23. Continued support will ensure a smooth lift-off for the industry volumes, it added. "Like in ICE (internal combustion engine) two-wheelers, India will emerge as a major hub for EV two-wheeler exports in addition to the large domestic market," TVS Motor noted. Interestingly, the government has reduced the subsidy provided under FAME-II (Faster Adoption of Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India) scheme applicable on electric two-wheelers registered on or after June 1, 2023. For electric two-wheelers, the demand incentive is now Rs 10,000 per kWh. Besides, the cap on incentives for elec-

tric two-wheelers is now capped at 15 per cent of the ex-factory price of vehicles from 40 per cent earlier. Outlining its efforts in the EV space, TVS Motor said the company will deliver the "power of choice" as it enhances its offerings to provide relevant options to new consumer cohorts. "In doing so, expand the portfolio to new variants within iQUBE and introduce new brands," it added. This portfolio expansion will also see the introduction of new innovative features and technology, TVS Motor said. The choice will be made available in new geographies within India, beyond the current 130 towns, and outside India as the company's EV exports kick in, it stated.

Variety of germs on floors in Indian homes, says Lizol study

Mumbai, Jun 27:

Lizol, India's leading disinfectant brand, and India's leading government research agency, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research's (CSIR) Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology' (IGIB) have jointly conducted a study to analyse the presence of germs and pathogens in Indian homes. The study found a variety of germs on floors in Indian homes. The research team studied the presence of germs in Indian households and found that floor areas across different rooms harbour illness-causing germs such as, Escherichia coli, Moraxella spp, Brevundimonas spp, Acinetobacter spp. The research also revealed that there are over 1000 types of bacteria and 200 types of viruses across surfaces in our homes. The germs identified have been responsible for dis-

eases such as diarrhoea and conditions like skin-infections, urinary tract infections, acne, eye and bloodstream infections. Mr. Saurabh Jain, Regional Marketing Director, Hygiene, Reckitt- South Asia said, "Lizol, a leading disinfectant brand with 130-year-old global heritage, champions the cause of protecting families and keeping them illness-free. This study commissioned in Indian homes is an attempt to build healthier homes by identifying germ-related threats that exist here." Dr. Rakesh Sharma, PhD, Chief Scientist at CSIR-IGIB, said, "The study conducted in partnership with Lizol has brought to light details of germs and pathogens found on floors in different parts of Indian homes. Further, the germs found in the study are known to be responsible for certain illnesses and hence highlighting the need to maintain clean and germ-free homes."

'Gargi manipulates situations and people to her advantage'

Sony SAB's highly awaited family saga, *Vanshaj*, immerses viewers in the luxurious and grand world of the Mahajan family. The show has an engrossing plot that skillfully intertwines elements of family drama, political intrigue, and the interpersonal dynamics of a wealthy business dynasty. Renowned actress Parinitaa Seth embodies the role of Gargi, the formidable wife of Dhanraj (played by Gireesh Sahdev), whose cunning and domineering nature ensure her desires are fulfilled.

Parinitaa Seth, in a candid conversation, revealed: **1. Can you explain Gargi's character and her motive in the show?**

Gargi is a complex character, known for her strategic thinking and meticulous planning. She possesses a keen intellect and a talent for manipulating situations and people to her advantage. Every action she takes is carefully calculated and aligned with her ultimate goal: securing her son's position. Gargi is not one to leave

things to chance. She carefully plots her actions, considering all possible outcomes and risks. Her motive revolves around protecting and advancing her son's interests, ensuring he attains the position and power. She sees her son's success as a reflection of her own capabilities and accomplishments.

2. What do you think is more important when it comes to handling a business empire? Inheritance or Capabilities?

Vanshaj, as a show, boldly challenges the age-old norms of succession and emphasizes the importance of capability in helming the Mahajan family's legacy business. In my opinion, when it comes to handling a business empire, capabilities are more important than inheritance. While inheriting a business can provide certain advantages, such as existing resources, networks, however, it does not guarantee success in the long run. The ability to effectively manage and grow a business requires a range of skills, knowledge,

and traits that go beyond mere ownership.

3. In your opinion, do you think a woman can lead a business? If so, have you ever encountered someone who has inspired you in real life?

Absolutely! We are currently witnessing an extraordinary shift where women are not only responsible for managing households but are also excelling in leadership positions within prominent conglomerates. In today's world, women are fearlessly embracing challenges and continuously showcasing their abilities, dismantling outdated societal expectations that previously hindered their progress. This century offers an empowering environment for women to rightfully claim their positions of authority, whether it be in business empires, politics, or even governing nations. Even with Vanshaj, we are bringing to light the timeless debate of inheritance versus capability.

Tune in to Sony SAB's *Vanshaj* every Monday to Saturday at 10 PM.

'Doosri Maa' celebrates a milestone of 200 Episodes!

It's time to celebrate as &TV's *Doosri Maa* hits a milestone of 200 episodes! The show, launched last year, tells the tale of a woman living in Uttar Pradesh with her husband, two daughters, and in-laws. Their happy, peaceful family life comes to a screeching halt when she and her husband unknowingly adopt his illegitimate child. This heart-warming family drama has quickly won the audience's hearts, becoming their favourite on TV! The star cast comprising Neha Joshi (Yashoda), Aayudh Bhanushali (Krishna), Mohit Dagga (Ashok), and Darshan Dave (Randheer Sharma), among others, gathered to celebrate this joyous moment and share their remarkable journey of 200 episodes.

Talking about 200 episodes completion, Neha Joshi, essaying Yashoda's role, shares, "I have had an amazing journey playing Yashoda in *Doosri Maa*. It's all thanks to my team and audience's love and support. Yashoda has become a household name, and the bond between her and Krishna (Aayudh Bhanushali) has set a new trend for a mother-son duo on TV. Big thanks to Imtiaz Ji and Amitabh Ji this show has taken me through a roller-coaster of emotions, and I



am thrilled we have come this far. This achievement motivates us to continue entertaining our viewers and reach even greater milestones! Let the celebration continue!" Aayudh Bhanushali essaying Krishna's role, adds, "This is such a special moment for all of us! I am so happy that we have reached 200 episodes. It has been a wonderful journey, and we have become like an extended family. Congratulations to everyone on the team for this incredible achievement!" Mohit Dagga essaying Ashok's role, comments, "Being part of the *Doosri Maa* team has been a delightful journey. I can hardly believe that we've already reached the remarkable milestone of 200 episodes! I'm incredibly proud of our entire team for putting in their best efforts to make the show successful. The most amazing part for me has been the overwhelming love and support we have received from our viewers. I congratulate our production team, our entire cast and crew and the channel, &TV for this milestone." Darshan Dave, who recently joined the show to essay Randheer Sharma's role, sums it up, "I am a recent addition to the show, and I am thrilled to be part of this incredible celebration. Congratulations to the team who put in their efforts day and night to make this show a grand success. Playing Randheer's character has been an enriching experience for me, and I never expected such an amazing response from the audience."

Amrapali Gupta returns to acting after lockdown with 'Meet'

Actress Amrapali Gupta, who essays the role of Shagun in the popular fiction show *'Meet'*, has shared that the show feels like a comeback to her after Covid-19. The show presents the story of Meet Hooda (Ashi Singh), who questions societal norms and gender roles. The show recently took a 16-year leap where Ashi Singh as Sumeet (Meet's daughter) and Syed Raza Ahmed as Shlok will be seen in lead roles. Amrapali's character has harboured deep affection for Manmeet (Shagun Pandey) over the years and wants to take revenge on Meet Hooda as Manmeet left her for Meet.

Talking about her return, the actress said: "I am happy to enter a show that has been a hit for years on television. It is not an easy task to fill someone else's shoes, but I think this is a part and parcel of the industry. In fact, I am actually making a comeback to acting after lockdown with *'Meet'*, and am really excited about it."

Yasmin Karachiwala shares lifestyle changes for people with type-2 diabetes



Diabetes has become a very common condition in today's households and we owe this to an unhealthy lifestyle including poor eating habits, lack of exercise and other factors. Reports indicate that one in six people with diabetes in the world is from India and this is alarming as the figure is only expected to grow by 2045 to become 134 million, as per the International Diabetes Federation. However, it is possible to control this if one can follow some simple things regularly along with the physician's instructions. Eat a handful of almonds - Eating a handful of almonds regularly may also have a positive impact on the blood sugar levels. Moreover, substituting unhealthy snacks with healthier options like almonds can benefit you to keep your weight in check. Almonds have low glycemic index and are a source of protein.

Lights, Camera, Pranks! Actors reveal on set pranksters!



On International Jokes Day, we honour those who bring joy and laughter into our lives. It is time to celebrate the people who make us laugh. To mark this special day, the &TV artists reveal the hilarious side of their co-stars, who possess an incredible sense of humour: These include Neha Joshi (Yashoda, *Doosri Maa*), Yogesh Tripathi (Daroga Happu Singh, *Happu Ki Ultan Paltan*), and Shubhangi Atre (Angoori Bhabi, *Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai*).

Shubhangi Atre, aka Angoori Bhabi from *Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai*, shares, "When it comes to pranksters and humour, we are a lively bunch, including yours truly (laughs). But trying to outshine Aasif Ji (aka Vibhuti Narayan Mishra) in the humour department is like trying to catch a slippery fish with your bare hands—impossible! He is the reigning 'King of Comedy' on Indian television! Every week, he dives headfirst into these bizarre, hilarious characters that are mind-bogglingly difficult and extraordinarily funny. It is like he was born with a laughter-inducing superpower. He is a true artist and comedian extraordinaire with his hilarious voiceovers, outrageous get-ups, witty dialogues, and priceless expressions. And personally, Aasif Ji is a joke-cracking wizard, always keeping us in splits with his amazing sense of humour, creating a bubble of laughter and positive vibes on set."

Hungama presents latest Hindi Original 'Mauka Ya Dhokha'

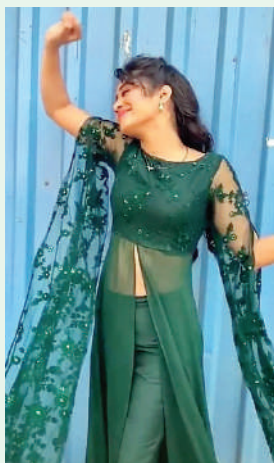


Hungama, India's leading digital entertainment platform, has launched its latest suspense-thriller *'Mauka Ya Dhokha'*. The series features a stellar cast, including the talented Himanshu Malhotra, Aabhaas Mehta, and Samiksha Batnagar, who deliver power-packed performances that bring the characters to life. *'Mauka Ya Dhokha'* is a gripping series that delves into the depths of desires, choices, and the consequences that follow. *'Mauka Ya Dhokha'* explores the story of Amit, an ordinary man whose life takes a dramatic turn when he discovers the dark consequences of his ill-fated wish, catapulting him into a world of conspiracy and plotting a chilling murder. As Amit tries to unravel the truth, he is joined by the enigmatic Shalini, who transitions from being the aggressor to a victim of a perfectly crafted plan. With the mysterious private eye, Satyajit, pulling the strings, Amit must navigate a dangerous cat-and-mouse game to secure his freedom and unravel the truth behind this web of deceit.

Shivangi Joshi: Ekta Kapoor's new show 'Barsaatein- Mausam Pyaar Ka' brings a unique twist

Actress Shivangi Joshi, known for her role in popular TV shows, is set to star in Ekta Kapoor's upcoming series *'Barsaatein- Mausam Pyaar Ka'*. She expressed admiration for the producer's innovative approach to this project, hoping that audiences will appreciate the difference.

At the Golden Glory Awards in Mumbai, Shivangi discussed her excitement for the new show. She stated, "Timing couldn't be better for the launch of *'Barsaatein - Mausam Pyaar Ka'*. It's a truly beautiful show. Ekta, the television queen who revolutionized the industry, is attempting something unique with this project. We aim to meet her expectations."



Vidyut Jammwal showcases balancing skills on a four-storey building's parapet



Vidyut, known for his daredevilry, courtesy his fitness, took to Instagram and shared a video of himself on Monday afternoon. In the clip, he is seen flaunting his well-chiseled body as he is shirtless and sporting bright blue shorts.

In the clip, he is seen running on top of a narrow railing of the parapet. "Balance in the body is the foundation for balance in life. — B.K.S. Iyengar."

#ITrainLikeVidyutJammwal," he captioned the clip. On the work front, Vidyut is currently busy shooting for his next *'Crakk - Jeetega toh Jiyega'*. The film is an adrenaline rushing extreme sports film, directed by Aditya Dutt. It is based on two brothers who are set to perform daring stunts mixed with extreme sports to win. It is written by Sarim Momin and Rehan Khan.

CROSSWORD

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- ACROSS**
- Prune the hedges
 - Gape
 - Longing
 - Olden times
 - Mamas' mates
 - Cairo's river
 - Legislature, in Canada
 - Speak indistinctly
 - Before, to poets
 - Certain poems
 - Furry swimmer
 - Recluse
 - Correct
 - Pipe parts
 - Enter illegally
 - Exist
 - Apprehend
 - Allow
 - Iraq's neighbor
 - Rear
 - Linger
 - Lion's home
 - Most tender
 - Satan's domain
- DOWN**
- Kind
 - Lion's cry
 - Not pertinent
 - Director Brooks
 - Digging tool
 - Less wild
 - Tarzan's pals
 - Moved swiftly
 - OH time zone
 - Foot arch
 - Tip
 - Hint for Holmes
 - German title
 - Charged atoms
 - Drive out
 - Harbinger
 - Ringlet
 - Put back to zero
 - Glide
 - Becomes weary
 - Endeavored
 - Car generator
 - Closes securely
 - Fashion
 - Scant
 - More unusual
 - Footwear
 - Watches
 - Whirlpools
 - Present!
 - Steeple
 - Speed
 - Brood
 - Rabbitlike animal
 - Way out
 - "A ___ is Born"
 - Songstress Turner
 - High cards
 - Exclamation of triumph
 - Opposite of pos.
 - ___ Beta Kappa

SOLUTION 685

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ICC MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP

Fast bowler Tongue replaces spinner Ali in England side



London, Jun 27 (AP):

Worcestershire fast bowler Josh Tongue was surprisingly recalled by England for the second Ashes test against Australia at Lord's after Moeen Ali injured his spinning finger.

The only change by England after losing the first test at Edgbaston by two wickets has set up an all-seam attack in the second match starting on Wednesday.

Tongue made his test debut this month against Ireland on a slow pitch at Lord's and took 5-66 in the second innings of a 10-

wicket win. He's been chosen ahead of Mark Wood, England's fastest bowler who hasn't played a test since December, Chris Foakes and Matthew Potts. Ali badly blistered his right index finger at Edgbaston because of a heavy workload after coming out of test retirement. Coach Brendon McCullum said he would play if fully fit and Ali appeared to prove it on Monday at training. But England will use Joe Root's part-time off-breaks beside a seam attack of James Anderson, Stuart Broad, Ollie Robinson and Tongue.

prevailed. Pakistan had earlier asked for their match against India to be shifted to either Chennai, Bengaluru or Kolkata, but the ICC and BCCI rejected their request.

There will be 10 teams at this year's World Cup. As hosts, India have qualified directly, as have Afghanistan, Australia, England, Bangladesh, New Zealand, Pakistan, and South Africa through the 2020-2023 ICC Cricket World Cup Super League.

Two other teams will make it to the World Cup through the World Cup Qualifiers, which is being currently played in Zimbabwe.

Apart from former champions Sri Lanka and the West Indies, the Qualifiers also feature Ireland, Nepal, the Netherlands, Oman, Scotland, the UAE, the USA, and hosts Zimbabwe.

At the World Cup in India, the 10 teams will play each other once in a round-robin league featuring 45 matches. These will be followed by the semifinals and the final.

INDIA'S ODI WORLD CUP 2023 SCHEDULE	
IND v AUS	08 OCT, 02:00 PM Chennai
IND v AFG	11 OCT, 02:00 PM Delhi
IND v PAK	15 OCT, 02:00 PM Ahmedabad
IND v BAN	19 OCT, 02:00 PM Pune
IND v NZ	22 OCT, 02:00 PM Dharamsala
IND v ENG	29 OCT, 02:00 PM Lucknow
IND v ZI	02 NOV, 02:00 PM Mumbai
IND v SA	05 NOV, 02:00 PM Kolkata
IND v WI	11 NOV, 02:00 PM Bengaluru

Ahmedabad to host India-Pak game

Mumbai and Kolkata get semifinals

Mumbai, Jun 27 (PTD):

The world's largest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad will play host to the big-ticket ODI World Cup group match between India and Pakistan on October 15 besides staging the grand finale on November 19, the ICC announced on Tuesday.

The tournament will begin on October 5 with a clash between defending champions England and runners-up New Zealand at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, which is the largest in the world with a seating capacity of 1,32,000 spectators - 32,000 more than the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

The two semifinals of the mega event will be played at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium and the Eden Gardens in Kolkata - both iconic venues with a rich legacy - on November 15 and 16 respectively, as per the schedule announced on



(L-R) Former Indian cricketer Virender Sehwag, Secretary of Board of Control for Cricket in India Jay Shah, former Sri Lankan cricketer Muttiah Muralitharan and ICC chief Geoff Allardice pose with ICC Men's Cricket World Cup trophy during the announcement of match schedule for the Cricket World Cup 2023, in Mumbai, Tuesday, June 27.

Tuesday. Ringing in the 100-day countdown to the ODI showpiece, the ICC said hosts India will begin their campaign with a mouth-watering clash against Australia on October 8 in Chennai.

With Guwahati among 12 venues picked to host

the matches including warm-up games, it's the first time the World Cup is entering the northeast India. There will be a total of 10 venues Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Dharamsala, Delhi, Chennai, Lucknow, Pune, Bengaluru, Mumbai and Kolkata - hosting the

matches in the tournament proper. Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram in addition to Hyderabad will host the warm-up games from September 29 to October 3.

Twelve hosting associations were called in Mumbai on Monday to dis-

cuss the details and finalise the venues before Tuesday's official announcement.

The Wankhede hosted the final of the 2011 World Cup, in which a Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led India beat Sri Lanka to end a 28-year-old title drought, while the Eden Gardens played host to the summit showdown between Australia and England in the 1987 edition, in which the former

Bumrah bowling seven overs a day at NCA nets

No timeline yet on comeback

Bengaluru, Jun 27 (PTD):

When is Jasprit Bumrah returning to the Indian team? Neither the injured pacer nor the ones working on him have a definitive answer to that.

But the good news is that Bumrah has bowled seven overs in a day at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) nets, a development that will bring smile to the Indian fans looking forward to the 2023 World Cup with optimism. The schedule for the mega event was



released in Mumbai on Tuesday. Bumrah had undergone surgery for a recurring back niggle in New

Zealand in March and since then he has been on the recovery path. Bumrah has last played for India during the home T20Is against Australia in September, 2022. So, will he be able to make a comeback during the T20I series against Ireland or in the Asia Cup?

"For an injury of this nature, it is not wise to set any timeline as constant monitoring is necessary. But it can be said that Bumrah is recovering well and he has bowled seven overs at NCA nets. It is a steady increase in his workload from the light workouts and bowling sessions of the initial period.

This World Cup is going to be very competitive: Rohit

Mumbai, Jun 27 (PTD):

India skipper Rohit Sharma is expecting the upcoming ODI World Cup in the country to be a highly-competitive affair since "the game has become faster".

Twenty-20 cricket, the slam bang version of the game, has impacted all formats, including the traditional five-day games where the batters are not averse to going for their strokes from the word go.

India will aim for their third title and the second at home when they begin their campaign against five-time champions Australia in Chennai on October 8.

India play all their nine league matches at different venues including, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi, Lucknow and Bengaluru.

"This World Cup is going to be very competitive as the game has become faster and teams are playing more positively than ever be-



fore," Rohit was quoted as saying in an ICC release. "All this augurs well for fans worldwide, promising them many thrilling moments. We look forward to preparing well and being at our best this October-November," he added.

After their duel with Australia, the hosts will move to Delhi for a clash against Afghanistan on October 11.

INDIA VS PAKISTAN

India's much-anticipated clash with arch-rival Pakistan is scheduled for October 15 at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. The two Asian neighbours now play against each other only at the ICC and ACC events as bilateral cricket ties are frozen due to diplomatic tension. The most recent match between the two nations was during the T20 World Cup in Australia, last year. India and Pakistan have faced each other seven times in ODI World Cup in 1992, 1996, 1999, 2003, 2011, 2015 and 2019. The only time they didn't clash in a 50-over World Cup was in 2007 when both the teams crashed out of the tournament in the opening round itself. India's other big-ticket fixtures include matches against New Zealand and England on October 22 and 29 in Dharamsala and Lucknow respectively.

FORMAT

The tournament retains the round-robin format of last time with all teams playing against each other for a total of 45 league matches. There are six day matches in the tournament, which will start at 10:30am IST. All other matches, including the knockouts, will be day-night fixtures starting at 2pm IST. The top four teams will qualify for the semifinals to be played in Mumbai on November 15 and in Kolkata on November 16. The semifinals and the final will have reserve days. If India qualify for the semifinals, they will play their last-four stage game in Mumbai.

Swiatek powers her way to 2nd round of Homburg Open

Bad Homburg, Jun 27 (AP):

Iga Swiatek overcame a slow start before powering her way into the second round of the Bad Homburg Open with a 5-7, 6-2, 6-0 win over grass-court specialist Tatjana Maria.

Swiatek, making her first competitive appearance since winning the French Open two weeks before, took time to get going in her first match on grass this season. Maria saved three of the four break points she faced and converted both of her opportunities to win the first set. But Swiatek answered the 2022 Wimbledon semi-finalist in the next and lost only two more games for



the rest of the match, wrapping up the win in 1 hour, 52 minutes.

It's Swiatek's eighth consecutive win and a tournament-leading 36th of the season.

"At the beginning it was tricky," Swiatek said. "But I'm pretty glad that I figured it out because I guess problem-solving on grass is the most important thing."

Getting dropped is not something new for me: Starc

London, Jun 27 (PTD):

Taking the Ashes opener snub in his stride, Australian pacer Mitchell Starc said he is used to being "dropped the most in this squad" but he promised to remain battle-ready if he is picked for the second Test.

Left-arm pacer Starc was not part of the first Test against England, which the visitors won by two wickets. "I'm used to it now coming to England. It's a squad mentality, much the same as last time," Starc told reporters about his non-selection for the opening Test at Edgbaston. "I have been around long enough, been



dropped enough. Probably been dropped the most in this squad so it is not something new for me. It probably won't be the last time either."

The second Test will begin at the Lord's on Thursday. "In terms of the team, I haven't got any indication either way (about selection for Lord's). Your guess is as good as mine until the selectors decide.

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PM Modi flags off 5 Vande Bharat trains



PM Modi flags off five Vande Bharat Express trains, at Rani Kamalapati Railway Station, in Bhopal, Tuesday.

Bhopal, Jun 27 (PTD):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday visited Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal and flagged off five Vande Bharat trains connecting important cities in different parts of the country. Modi reached Rani Kamalapati railway station in Bhopal from where he flagged off the five trains - two physically and three in virtual mode.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union ministers Narendra Singh Tomar and Jyotiraditya Scindia, among others, were present on the occasion. "These trains will improve connectivity in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, Bihar and

Jharkhand," Modi said in a tweet on Monday.

This is for the first time so many Vande Bharat trains have been launched in one day. Two of them are for Madhya Pradesh, where the Assembly polls are due by the year-end.

These semi high-speed trains are: Rani Kamalapati (Bhopal)-Jabalpur Vande Bharat Express, Khajuraho-Bhopal-Indore Vande Bharat Express, Madgaon (Goa)-Mumbai Vande Bharat Express, Dharwad-Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express, and Hatia-Patna Vande Bharat Express, as per an official statement.

Earlier, after arriving at the Bhopal airport in the morning, Modi was scheduled to reach the Rani Kamalapati railway station by helicopter, but because of bad weather he left for the venue by road, state BJP media in-charge Ashish Agrawal said.

CBI files charge sheet against Era Housing

● After COVID hiatus

New Delhi, Jun 27 (PTD):

A special court has given the go-ahead to start the trial in the Rs 331-crore loan fraud in IFCI against builder Era Housing and Developers and its directors after the CBI filed a charge sheet, officials said Tuesday. The CBI had filed the charge sheet against the company and its authorised representative Delhi-based industrialist Hem Singh Bharana besides 13 other entities including companies and individuals, they said.

Taking cognisance of the charge sheet filed by the CBI, the special court has summoned all the accused for August 14 for initiating the trial, they said.

The central probe agency has charged Bharana and the other accused under IPC sections related to criminal conspiracy, cheating and others. The agency has alleged that all the accused dishonestly induced IFCI Ltd. to disperse the term loan by submitting mis-

leading facts and wrong CA Certificates.

It alleged that as part of the conspiracy, they diverted the term loan funds for a purpose other than it was granted.

"Thereby, in pursuance of criminal conspiracy, they have cheated IFCI Ltd. and incurred wrongful gain to the tune of Rs. 331 Crores to themselves and wrongful loss to IFCI Ltd.," the agency alleged.

The IFCI had alleged that the company had started defaulting on loan payments since 2012 following which a number of notices were issued, they said. When the company went to sell mortgaged properties at Palwal to recover dues, they encountered third parties which claimed their ownership over the land.

The matter was handed over to the CBI in 2020 when the agency was already probing another alleged scam case of Rs 737 crore by Bharana in the UCO Bank in which former chairman and managing director of the bank Arun Kaul was also an accused.

RELIGIOUS GATHERING



Devotees offer prayers to Goddess Bipadtarini during 'Bipadtarini Puja', at Kalighat in Kolkata, Tuesday.

KAILASH MANSAROVAR YATRA SUSPENSION

U'khand authorities explore alternative ways

● To offer pilgrims glimpse of Mount Kailash

Pithoragarh, Jun 27 (PTD):

With the Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra suspended for several years, the Uttarakhand Tourism Department is exploring the possibility of offering pilgrims a glimpse of Mount Kailash, believed to be the abode of Lord Shiva, from the old Lipulekh peak here, officials said on Tuesday.

The peak is situated on the western side of the Lipulekh Pass, the gateway to Tibet.

Mansarovar Yatra through the Lipulekh Pass was last held in 2019.

It was suspended in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and has not resumed since.

"A team of tourism department officials, district authorities, adventure tourism experts and Border Roads Organisation officials recently visited the old Lipulekh peak, which offers a clear view of the majestic Mount Kailash, to find out how the spot can be developed as a religious tourism destination," Dharchula Sub-Divisional Magistrate Devesh Shashni, who was also part of the team, told

PTI. 'Kailash Darshan' from the old Lipulekh peak can be an alternative to the Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra, the officials said.

"Our team was asked to submit a report on the possibility of religious tourism in the Vyas Valley, for which we visited the old Lipulekh peak, Nabhidhang and Adi Kailash region," District Tourism Officer Kriti Chand said.

"A snow scooter can take pilgrims to the peak which is located at an altitude of 19,000 feet above the sea level and is 1,800 metres from the Lipulekh Pass," said the DTO. The BRO has construct-

ed a road up to the base of the peak.

Vyas Valley residents said previously too, the pilgrims who could not cross over to Mansarovar due to old age or health issues used to get 'darshan' of the sacred Mount Kailash from the old Lipulekh peak.

"One gets a lovely and thrilling view of Mount Kailash from the peak. The only challenges are gusty winds and four critical bends on the way to the peak," said Bhupal Singh Ronkali, a resident of Vyas Valley's Rongkong village who has visited the peak several times and shot a video of Mount Kailash from there.

'Discontent with gender assigned at birth prevalent among the younger'

New Delhi, Jun 27 (PTD):

Younger people are experiencing distress stemming from gender dysphoria, or a mismatch between their gender at birth and the one they identify with, according to new research in the US published in the journal General Psychiatry.

Further, the age of those experiencing such distress is still lower for those assigned female sex at birth than those assigned male, the research found.

The researchers from Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, US, drew on data from the TriNetX database, a web-based tool for research pop-

ulation cohort, from 49 healthcare organisations between April 30, 2017 and April 30, 2022, which held anonymised medical records of around 66 million people, 80 per cent of whom live in the US. The researchers focused on 42 million 4-65 year old participants,

NEW STUDY

66,078 of whom were diagnosed with gender dysphoria. Their average age was found to be 26 - 27 for those assigned female sex at birth and 30 for those assigned male sex. Further, they were more likely to have been assigned female sex at birth - 58 vs 55 per cent.

The estimated prevalence of gender dysphoria rose significantly between 2017 and 2021, while the average age of those diagnosed with it fell from 31 in 2017 to 26 in 2021, the researchers found.

However, they found the increasing trend of a gender dysphoria diagnosis among those assigned female sex at birth to be significantly more rapid than that of those assigned male sex at birth, before the age of 22.

While gender dysphoria was found to begin increasing among those assigned male sex at birth at 13 years of age and peak at 23 before gradually decreasing, these

ages were 11 and between 17 and 19, respectively, for those assigned female sex at birth.

The researchers suggested that the timing of puberty might explain the different patterns of gender dysphoria by sex, as girls generally enter this before boys, and it is during this time that young people tend to seek medical help for gender issues.

Social attitudes may also have a role, they add, with school-age masculine girls with gender dysphoria more likely to be accepted by their peers and feminine boys in the same situation more likely to face bullying and rejection.

Student threatens family with 'extreme step'

● Rescued by police in Kota

Kota (Rajasthan), Jun 27 (PTD):

A 17-year-old engineering aspirant who had threatened his parents on the phone that he would take an "extreme step" was rescued by a four-member police team in Rajasthan's Kota, officials said.

The police said the boy was under tremendous pressure and was also feeling homesick.

The teenager from Bihar is enrolled at a coaching centre in the city's Mahaveer Nagar area. On Sunday, the boy's father dialled the Childline number and said

that his son had called home and threatened that he would take an "extreme step". After Childline operators informed the police control room, personnel at Mahaveer Nagar police station swung into action and traced the boy to the Rangbadi area. He was rescued within 20 minutes.

Harveer Singh, an assistant sub-inspector who was part of the police team, said the teen has been living in Kota for the past three months and is preparing for the engineering entrance examination. Feeling homesick, he returned to his native place around four days ago. He was feeling tremendous pressure and was even speaking inco-

herently, the officer said. The boy was produced before the Child Welfare Committee, which ordered to send him to a shelter home for counselling until his family members reached Kota, Harveer Singh said.

The teen was handed over to his family members after counselling on Monday, said Yagya Singh Hada, the nodal officer for Childline.

Appreciating the team's efforts, Superintendent of Police (City) Sharad Choudhary felicitated the personnel. Harveer Singh, constables Sabir Hussain, Vikram and Rajesh, and Pratap Singh of the cyber cell were rewarded with a cash prize.

'Help us to help Manipur': Army to women activists blocking routes

Imphal, Jun 27 (PTD):

Women activists were deliberately blocking routes and interfering in Operations of Security Forces. Such unwarranted interference is detrimental to the timely response by Security Forces during critical situations to save lives and property.

"Indian Army appeals to all sections of population to support our endeavours in restoring peace. Help us to Help Manipur," it tweeted.

The stand-off in Itham went on throughout Saturday, and ended after a "mature decision" by the operational commander keeping in view the sensitivity of use of force against large irate mob led by women that forced the forces to let go of 12 militants holed up there.

"Women activists in #Manipur are deliberately blocking routes and interfering in Operations of Security Forces. Such unwarranted interference is detrimental to the timely response by Security Forces during critical situations to save lives and property."

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'Telangana yearning for change, looking towards Cong'

New Delhi, Jun 27 (PTD):

The people of Telangana are yearning for change and looking towards the Congress, party president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Tuesday after chairing a meeting of Telangana unit leaders to decide the strategy for the state polls due later this year.

The meeting, which was held at the AICC headquarters here, was also attended by former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi and general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal. Discussions were also



Mallikarjun Kharge

held on the Congress' strategy going forward, according to party leaders.

"People of Telangana are yearning for change. They are looking towards the Congress party," Kharge said in a tweet after the meeting.

The Congress is ready to take on any challenge, he

asserted. "Together, we will usher a brighter future for Telangana, based on shared democratic values and all-around social welfare," he said.

The Congress also shared on Twitter pictures of the meeting that was also attended by AICC Telangana in-charge Manikrao Thakare and Telangana PCC president A Revanath Reddy, among others.

Earlier, Venugopal said in a tweet, "Telangana is ready to defeat KCR's feudal govt and crush the unholy alliance between BRS and BJP."

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



Manipur CM N. Biren Singh during the launch of the Onetime financial assistance for clothing & personnel belonging to those living in relief camps, in Imphal East, Tuesday.

Kokilaben Hosp to introduce advanced 'Total Lab Automation'

Mumbai, Jun 27:

Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, one of India's leading super-specialty hospitals and the most accredited hospital in Western India, added another feather to its cap with the launch of Total Lab Automation technology locally powered by Roche Diagnostics. The new technology will improve patient care, with a special emphasis on preventive healthcare, at Mumbai's first private tertiary care hospital.

The Total Lab Automation combines data analytics and workflow integration with robotics to revolutionize traditional laboratory processes. The platform leverages use of advanced robotics, high-definition cameras, cus-

tomized algorithms, and machine learning which allows streamlining of processes, eliminating manual errors, resulting in faster and more reliable results. A multidisciplinary open automation approach with minimal human touch brings cutting-edge technology to patient care.

The Total Lab Automation integrates five major laboratory disciplines - Clinical Chemistry, Immunology, Toxicology, Infectious Serology, and Haematology & Coagulation - into one automated track, reducing turnaround time significantly by providing end-to-end solution. With centralized real-time monitoring, advanced algorithms, and proactive critical alerts, it also provides accurate and

prompt results, enabling the hospital to deliver a higher level of patient care. The design of the technology integrates all aspects of laboratory workflows into a seamless and user-friendly interface, improving staff safety and satisfaction.

"At Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, our commitment to providing quality care drives us to continuously strive for excellence and upgrade our technologies for best outcomes," said Dr. Santosh Shetty, CEO & Executive Director, Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital. "The launch of Total Lab Automation is a testament to this commitment."

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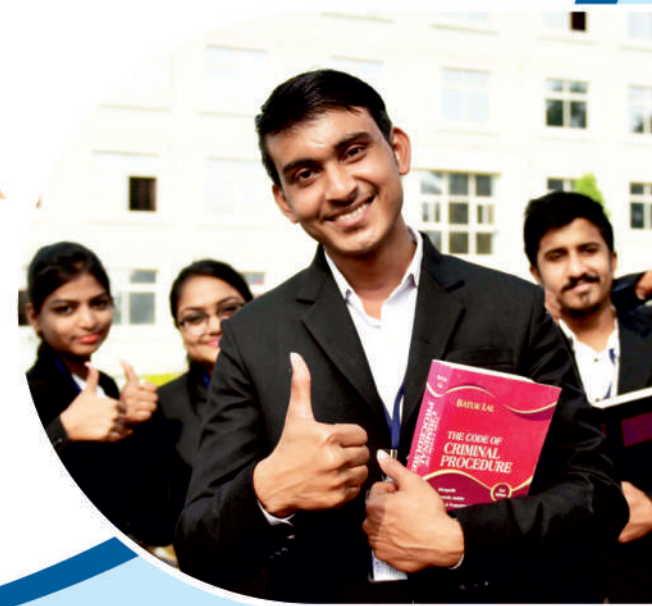
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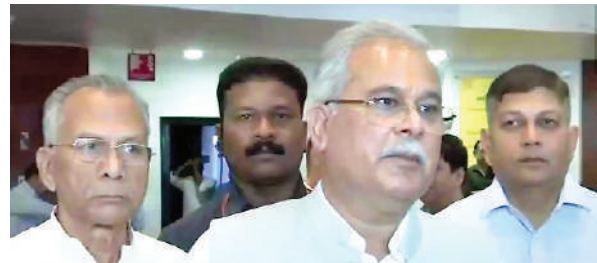
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What will happen to age-old traditions of tribals: CM

● **Comments on PM's statement over implementation of UCC**

Raipur, Jun 27: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel questioned as to why PM Narendra Modi only compares and thinks from point of view of Hindu-Muslims only. There are tribals in Chhattisgarh and they have their own age-old traditions and if at all the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is implemented, what will happen to their traditions?

CM Baghel was commenting upon the statements made by the PM on UCC to a section of media persons before leaving for Delhi on Tuesday evening. It is notable here that PM Modi giving statement on UCC has said that the Opposition is trying to use



it only for drawing political mileage. The parties in order to garner vote bank, are trying to create doubts in the minds of Muslim related to UCC, he added.

Speaking further CM said that whoever has looted the amount of poor labourers and farmers in the Indira Priyadarshini Bank will face action. CM said that important thing here is that the money of affected people should be refunded. Wherever the money from the scam has been invested, it will be recovered and would be refunded to the bank account

holders or depositors. About delay in conducting inquiry, CM said that it is sad thing that the scam took place in 2006 and the NARCO test was done in 2007 and still no action was taken against the accused. CM Baghel in his Tweet has mentioned that as per the CD of NARCO test, the Manager Umesh Sinha has been heard saying that in this scam, ex-CM Raman Singh, ministers of his government Ramvihar Netam, Brijmohan Agrawal and Rajesh Munat and others have been given the money.

DARK CLOUDS



Dark clouds across the entire capital city and state signals good monsoon this year and city's lifeline witnessed rise in its water level, with water hyacinth being washed-away in rain-water.

Special placement camp for ITI passed youth today

Recruitment on about 280 posts by 14 employers

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jun 27: A special placement camp for ITI passed unemployed youth of Chhattisgarh will be organized on Wednesday, June 28, at Urla Industrial Complex. The placement camp will start from 11 am in this complex located on Birgaon Main Road. Eligible candidates will be selected for recruitment to 280 different posts by 14 industrial organizations of Urla region. Special priority will be given in recruitment to the beneficiaries receiving unemployment allowance from the Government of Chhattisgarh.

Posts of Welder, Field Supervisor, Night Guard, Civil Engineer, Tapper, Panel Operator, Hydra

Driver, Computer Operator, Fitter, Electrician, Accountant, Crane Operator, Manager, Helper, Mick Machine Welder, Clerk, Press Operator, Gardener, House Keeper, Security Guard, Rolling Mill Fitter, Motor Mechanic, Diesel Mechanic, Store & Sales Executive will be filled through this special placement camp.

Ashirwad Ispat Udyog, Radhe Hurkat Ispat, Earthen Ceramics, Bhilai Engineering Corporation Limited, Roger Technology Limited, Hari Om Metalics, Madhur Engineering Works, Narayani Rail Products Pvt Ltd, Shri Satya Fasteners Pvt Ltd, Sunil Steels, Mahamaya Steel Industries, RR Ispat, Heera Power and Steel Limited and Rajat Equipment Private Limited companies will recruit for the vacant posts.

Two fraudsters arrested for cheating excise and environment department officers

● **On the pretext of saving them from ED**

Raipur, Jun 17: The police have arrested two persons from Amravati, who allegedly cheated the officers of Excise and Environment Department on the pretext of saving them from ED. Police have arrested Ashwani Bhatia, resident of Kaushalya Vihar Amravati Maharashtra and Nishant Ingde, resident of Pathraul Talua Amravati Maharashtra. According to police Ashwani Bhatia used to talk to the officers by calling himself the Joint Director of the Central Command of the ED.

Both the persons hunted officers across the country by claiming to be officers of ED, EOW, Income Tax Department and ACB. They cheated four officers of Excise and Environment in Raipur



and one officer of Khargone MP. They cheated two officers of Environment Conservation Board Raipur to the tune of Rs 10 lakh 60 thousand.

The officer posted in the Excise Department of Chhattisgarh lodged a report in Police Station Rakhi that on May 16, a call was received from an unknown number on the landline number of the office. The caller introduced himself to be talking from Enforcement Directorate (ED) New Delhi.

The unidentified caller sought information about deputy excise commissioner and recently retired deputy excise com-

missioner. Apart from seeking their mobile numbers the caller also asked for mobile numbers of SN Sahu and Ramesh Agrawal. On this the complainant gave all information to the unidentified caller. The complainant was intimidated by caller by wielding clout of ED. Similarly, on March 18, two officers posted in the Environment Conservation Board, Nava Raipur were intimidated by unidentified caller. The unidentified caller cheated both the officers of Rs 10 lakh 60 thousand.

Nishant Ingde used to find out mobile numbers of high officials posted in different states and districts of the country and the landline number of their offices through the internet. Subsequently Ashwani Bhatia used to call on all those numbers while claiming to be an officer of different investigation agency

IAS Maurya given charge of Commissioner Medical Education

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jun 27: In a significant administrative reshuffle, the senior Indian Administrative Services (IAS) Officer of 2010 batch Jai Prakash Maurya working as Special Secretary (Independent charge) Mineral Resources and additional charge of Director Health Services, has been given additional charge of Commissioner Medical Education.

After he assumes office, the 2007 batch IAS Officer Md Kaiser Abdul Haq would be relieved from the responsibility of Commissioner Medical Education which he is holding as additional charge.

Haq would be working as Secretary at the Chhattisgarh State Election Commission, stated an order issued from the General Administration Department by Secretary.

Few more changes in the posting of IAS Officers are on cards in next few days, sources said.

Hands-on training program inaugurated

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jun 27: National Institute of Technology Raipur's Department of Civil Engineering, in association with the Indian Geotechnical Society (IGS), Raipur Chapter inaugurated a two-week long hands-on training program titled "Testing of Geo-materials for Geotechnical and Transportation Engineering Applications". The aim of the training program is to provide hands-on training about conventional and state-of-art laboratory and field tests involved in various areas of Civil Engineering like Geotechnical Engineering and Highway Engineering.

KK Katare, Chief Engineer, Rural Connectivity Training & Research Centre (RCTRC), Naya Raipur & Alumnus, (Civil Engineering/1990) was



the Chief Guest of the ceremony. Dr NV Ramana Rao, Director, NIT Raipur presided over the ceremony as Chief Patron.

The inauguration of the session was done by a lamp-lighting ceremony by the dignitaries. Dr L Yadu, Associate Professor, Civil Engineering gave a brief introduction to the session and emphasized its objectives. Dr GD Ramtekkar enlightened

the subject of the training program, giving best wishes to the participants for their ambitions and the organizing committee for their successful arrangements for the same. Dr L Yadu explained the structure and workings of the Indian Geotechnical Society and introduced the director of NIT Raipur. Dr NV Ramana Rao stressed the vitality of the role played by a civil engineer in the

making of society, and how there is little room for errors for them. Katare discussed how this program is not just for learning, but would also provide invaluable exposure to jobs in the real world. He then shared his experience concerning the field jobs and the need for having strong basic practical knowledge related to the field in order to be successful.

Platinum award to NTPC for GeM procurement



NTPC CMD and RED WR-II receiving the award from the minister.

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jun 27: NTPC has been ranked No. 1 amongst all CPSUs and received "Platinum Award" as Top Organisation with response to GeM Procurement of staggering Rs 24,216 cr of gross merchandise value (GMV) in the financial year 2022-23. Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is an online platform for public procurement in India.

Gurdeep Singh, CMD NTPC and C Sivakumar,

RED (WR-II&USSC) received the award from Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry in a function held on June 26, 2023 at Vanijya Bhavan, New Delhi.

Upon receiving the award, Shri C Sivakumar appreciated the team USSC (Unified Shared Services Centre) for its outstanding performance and hoped this will further motivate the team to achieve even greater success in the days to come.

World Bank approves Rs 2460 cr for the improvement of the quality of school education

In Ch'garh

The Project will help in development and operation of 600 model schools

Science and commerce education to be promoted in higher secondary schools with quality infrastructure

Raipur, Jun 27: On the initiative of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the World Bank has sanctioned an amount of Rs 2460 cr to improve quality of edu-

cation and infrastructure in the schools of Chhattisgarh and to encourage science and commerce education at the higher secondary level. Nearly 40 lakh students coming from poor and weaker sections of the society will be benefited from this project.

It is noteworthy that Swami Atmanand English and Hindi medium Schools have been opened in the state to provide quality education to the students of underprivileged communities. In addition, many innovative initiatives are also being taken in the field of education. The Chhattisgarh

Accelerated Learning for a Knowledge Economy Operation (CHALK) project has been commenced with the aim to improve access to education across all grades, and to address the growing demand for science and commerce studies at the senior secondary level. Under this project, residential facilities for students and teachers will be provided for the schools in remote locations.

Now with the amount sanctioned by the World Bank, this project aimed at providing housing, increasing the enrollment rate of students in schools, improving the

quality education and promoting science and commerce education in secondary schools of the state, to increase the number of science and mathematics teachers, to strengthen the necessary infrastructure in laboratories, and to provide accommodation facilities to the students coming from remote areas to study will be implemented.

600 model schools to be developed and operated in the state

This World Bank project will help develop and operate about 600 model schools from class 1 to 12 and encourage science and commerce educa-

tion at the secondary level. Trained teachers, strong leadership and adequate infrastructure for learning management will be provided in the schools. The project will help in compensating the learning loss during COVID-19. Under the project, teachers will be provided training to make the classroom lessons fun-learning and engaging experience for the students. This project will enhance the employability of the youngsters and also create better employment opportunities in the fast growing manufacturing and service sectors in Chhattisgarh.

PRSU introduces Integrated M.Sc course at Basic Science Center

Raipur, Jun 27: Pt Ravishanker Shukla University has introduced a five-year Integrated Masters of Science (M.Sc) at the Basic Science Center. Admissions would be given on the basis of the Entrance Exam marks and would be given from June 30. According to the information received, Mathematics and Science stream students would be able to take admissions in the Integrated Course. 9 seats would be unreserved whereas 3 seats would be reserved for OBC, 6 for Scheduled Tribe and 2 seats for the Scheduled Caste as per the reservation. Mathematics and Science stream would have 20 seats each. Eligible applicants have to submit the required documents from June 30 to take admissions into the courses.

Bioportal endoscopic spine surgery successfully done at Suyash Hospital

Raipur, Jun 27: Chhattisgarh's first bioportal endoscopic spine surgery prolapsed cervical disc successfully performed by Dr. Rahul Ahluwalia, spine surgeon of Suyash Hospital, Raipur. Dr. Rahul Ahluwalia informed that this technique is the most advanced in spine surgery and through this technique it is possible to treat many diseases, such as cervical, thoracic and treatment of degenerative disease of lumbar spine is possible by insertion of 1 cm. Suyash Hospital continuously keeps on using



new technology for better treatment of patients. Endoscopic spine surgery camp is organ-

ised every month by Suyash Hospital, which has benefited many patients.

Medical officers, staff nurses were given special training for day-care chemotherapy

Raipur, Jun 27: Medical officers and staff nurses of 17 district hospitals of the state having facility of chemotherapy were given special training on Tuesday in day-care chemotherapy. Renowned Oncologist Dr. Dinesh Pendharkar of New Delhi and Nodal Officer of Madhya Pradesh State Cancer Chemotherapy, Dr. C.M. Tripathi imparted the training.

Director of National Health Mission, Bhoskar Vilas Sandipan felicitated Dr. Pendharkar and Dr. Tripathi in the training workshop for their cooperation in strengthening cancer services in the state. Cancer Care Guide was also released in the workshop. Dr. Netram Navratn, Deputy Director, NP-NCD, Mr. Anand Sahu, State



Program Manager, National Health Mission, Dr. Pradeep Tandon, Urban Health Program Manager and Dr. Sumi Jain, State Program Coordinator, NCD were also present in the workshop.

At present, facility of day-care chemotherapy is being provided in 17 district hospitals of the state. Free chemotherapy facility is available to cancer patients in district hospitals of Balod,

Bemetara, Bilaspur, Gariaband, Janjgir, Korba, Mungeli, Raipur and Dhamtari including remote districts of the state - Dantewada, Narayanpur, Bastar, Kanker, Balrampur, Jashpur, Surguja and Surajpur. Chemotherapy facility will be made available in all district hospitals of the state in a phased manner. Along with chemotherapy, cancer screening is also being done in the district hospitals.



BRIEF



Jashodaben, wife of PM Narendra Modi, at Jagannath Temple in Puri, Tuesday.

Mishap

Nashik: Three men were killed when a speeding state transport bus hit their two-wheeler in Maharashtra's Nashik district, police said on Tuesday. The accident occurred near Shirwade Vani Phata in Niphad taluka of the district around 11 pm on Monday, an official said. The victims were on their way home to Shirwade Vani village, when a state transport bus hit their two-wheeler, killing them on the spot, he said, adding that the trio were activists of the Shiv Sena (UBT).

Watery grave

Dehradun: Two teenage siblings drowned in a flooded river in Almora district following heavy rains, police said on Tuesday. The siblings, who hailed from Bak village, had gone to bathe in the river on Monday evening and were swept away. A State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) team was rushed to the spot in Dharanaula area of Almora district immediately after the incident was reported.

Attacked

Pune: A 19-year-old woman was allegedly attacked and injured by her friend in broad daylight in Maharashtra's Pune city on Tuesday, police said. The incident took place in Perugate area in Sadashiv Peth around 10 am, an official said. The victim and the accused had studied in the same college and she had recently stopped talking to him, he said.

Run over

Amethi: Two teenage girls died after being run over by a goods train near the district railway station, police here said on Tuesday. Priya (17) and her 14-year-old sister Jaya of Ramgarh village in the Sangrampur area died under mysterious circumstances after being hit by a goods train, they said. Railway Police said the bodies were sent for post-mortem and an investigation is underway.

Hospitalised

Kochi: People's Democratic Party (PDP) chairman Abdul Nasar Madani, who arrived in Kerala on June 26, has fallen ill following which he was admitted to a hospital here, party sources said. Madani, who is a prime accused in the 2008 Bengaluru serial bomb blasts case, reached the city on Monday night after the Supreme Court allowed him to enter his home state to visit his ailing father.

Weather
High 27 Low 24

MARKET
NIFTY 13,817.40
SENSEX 63,416.03

BULLION
GOLD 58,189
SILVER 69,212

Modi's big UCC push: How can nation run on dual laws?

Bhopal, Jun 27 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday made a strong pitch for the uniform civil code (UCC), saying the Constitution also mentions of having equal rights for all citizens.

Addressing a gathering of party workers here, Modi also said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has decided it would not adopt the path of appeasement and vote bank politics.

Modi said the opposition is using the issue of UCC to mislead and provoke the Muslim community.

"You tell me, in a home, how can there be one law for one member and another law for another member?" Modi said.

"Will that home be able to function? Then how will



PM Modi addresses BJP booth workers at a meeting under the 'Mera Booth, Sabse Majboot' campaign, in Bhopal, Tuesday.

the country be able to function with such a dual system? We have to remember that even in India's Constitution, there is a mention of equal rights for all," he said.

"These people (opposition) level allegations against us but the reality is that they chant

Musalman, Musalman. Had they really been (working) in the interests of Muslims, then Muslim families would not have been lagging in education and jobs," he said.

The policy of appeasement practised by some is "disastrous" for the country, Modi said during his

'Will take every scamster to task'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday came down heavily on Opposition leaders, asserting that he will not "spare anyone involved in corruption" while pledging "to take every scamster to task". "I will take every scamster to task," PM Modi said, without taking any names. His scathing remarks came days after an Opposition party meeting in Patna earlier this month pledged to take on the Bharatiya Janata Party in next year's elections. While addressing party booth workers in Madhya Pradesh where elections are due later this year, PM Modi said, "All the corrupt politicians joined their hands in Patna's meeting."

visit to Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, where the Assembly polls are due this year-end.

Atiq's sister moves SC

New Delhi, Jun 27 (PTI):

A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court by the sister of slain gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmad and Ashraf seeking constitution of a commission chaired by a retired apex court judge to inquire into their "custodial" and "extra judicial deaths".

'PM speech shows worry over Oppn unity'

Patna, July 27 (PTI):

A key aide of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech in Bhopal betrayed "worry" in the BJP camp following the "supreme success" of the opposition meeting here last week.

State minister and senior JD(U) leader Vijay Kumar Chaudhary also alleged that by touching upon the uniform civil code(UCC), Modi was aim-

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Vijay Kumar Chaudhary

ing at communal polarisation. "Earlier, people in the BJP used to say that opposition leaders will never agree to even sit together

because of mutual differences. The June 23 meeting in Patna refuted their claim. The way the PM spoke about opposition unity shows his worry and bears testimony to the supreme success of our opposition unity drive", said the JD(U) leader.

Nitish Kumar, JD(U)'s supreme leader, had snapped ties with the BJP last year, vowing to defeat the saffron party in next year's Lok Sabha polls by uniting all parties opposed to it.

CAG to audit reconstruction of Kejriwal's home

New Delhi, Jun 27 (PTI):

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India will conduct a special audit into alleged "irregularities and violations" in the "reconstruction" of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence, Raj Niwas officials said on Tuesday.

The Union home ministry has recommended the special CAG audit taking note of a May 24 letter by Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena which pointed out the "reconstruction" "gross and prima facie financial irregularities" in the "reconstruction" of the chief minister's official

residence, they claimed.

No immediate reaction was available from the CM's office or the ruling Aam Aadmi Party, which has locked horns with the BJP over the issue since it first came to light in April.

While the AAP claimed it was a dilapidated structure built in 1942 and needed repairs, the BJP has alleged irregularities and pressed for a probe.

In his May 24 letter to the MHA, Saxena said the "alleged irregularities" were highlighted by the media after which Delhi's chief secretary submitted a factual report on April 27 and then again on May 12. The reports detailed "de-

viations, violations from rules, regulations and guidelines" by the Public Works Department and the Delhi government "in the name of renovation of the Chief Minister's residence", he said.

According to the reports of the chief secretary, a full-fledged construction/re-construction of a new building was effected by the PWD in the name of renovation, the LG's letter said.

The report also flagged that the ownership of the property was not ascertained by the Public Works Department before commencing the construction, it said.

'Naxalites on back foot, 650 villages freed from their clutches in Cong rule'

Raipur, Jun 27:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday said 650 villages were freed from the clutches of Left-Wing extremism (LWE) and recruitment by Naxals has declined due to the Congress government's strategy of trust, development and security.

Baghel was speaking to reporters here after chairing a meeting of unified command at the New Circuit House to review the security situation and development works in Naxal-affected areas of the state. "The strategy of trust, development and se-



curity has started yielding successful results and brought down Naxalite activities to a great extent," Baghel said.

The CM said 75 new security camps have been set up in Naxal-hit areas of the state, which goes to polls this year-end. "Earlier, camps were es-

tablished only in buffer zones but now we have intruded into core areas of Naxalites and set up camps there. Twenty-three camps have been set up alone in Sukma (the worst Naxal-hit district in the state)," he said.

For the first time, he said, land titles were given to forest dwellers in Abhujmad in Bastar region, while schools that were shut in Naxal-hit areas for a long time were reopened.

Roads running up to 2,500 km were constructed and 34-36 new bridges, including two on the Indravati river, were built

apart from the launch of the Haat Bazaar' mobile clinic scheme, the CM said.

All these measures enhanced the income of the tribals, created employment opportunities and improved health and education infrastructure, he said. Asserting that Bastar is changing, Baghel said, earlier tribals and forest dwellers used to treat police and forest personnel as enemies but now they consider them as their mitra' (friends) and the shift has been possible due to the developmental work initiated in the Naxal-hit areas.

'India's road network now 2nd longest in world'

■ Grew 59% in 9 years

New Delhi, Jun 27 (PTI):

India's road network grew 59 per cent to become the second largest in the world as part of the development work carried out by the government in the last nine years, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Tuesday.

India's road network stood at 1,45,240 km today compared to 91,287 km in 2013-14, the Road, Transport and Highways Minister said. He was addressing a conference on '9 years achievements of government' in the national capital. In the last nine years, India made seven world records in the sector. India's



Nitin Gadkari

road network is the second largest in the world after the US, he said. The minister further informed that the revenues from tolls rose to Rs 4,1342 crore from Rs 4,770 crore in 2013-14. The government aims to increase the toll revenue to Rs 1,30,000 crore by 2020, Gadkari said. The usage of fastags has helped in reducing the waiting time at the toll plazas to 47 seconds.

Tomatoes disappear from kitchens

■ Prices touch Rs 120 per kg in Delhi

New Delhi, Jun 27 (PTI):

Vegetable vendors and wholesalers have blamed rains for disruption in tomato supply, leading to the price of the kitchen staple skyrocketing in retail markets of the national capital.

Local vendors are selling tomatoes in the price range of Rs 80 to Rs 120 per kg, depending on the quality and the localities. Anil Malhotra, a member of the Azadpur Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC), said tomato prices shoot up every monsoon but it was never this high. "Prices go up every year during monsoon but the cost of tomatoes never went up this high. There is a major dip in sup-



A woman purchases tomato from a vendor in New Delhi, Tuesday.

ply due to the rains. Around half of our stock, which we got from Himachal Pradesh, got damaged," Malhotra told PTI.

The national capital region gets tomato supply from neighbouring states such as Haryana and Punjab and the hill states.

Bhagwan, a grocer in south Delhi's Kailash Hills area, said tomato prices have shot up. "We are getting tomatoes from wholesale markets at a higher price and selling at Rs 100-120 per kg," he said.

A vegetable vendor in Lajpat Nagar said people are reluctant to buy tomatoes due to the sudden price rise. "The current market rate is Rs 80 per kg. We get the supply from mandis where the wholesale price is around Rs 60 per kg. The price has shot up in the past two to three days due to rainfall," he said.

"Tomatoes are getting damaged which, again, is causing the sudden price rise," the vendor added.

A vegetable vendor in the Dilshad Garden area said the supply of tomatoes got affected due to rains.

"Supply has been affected due to rains. We are selling tomatoes from Himachal Pradesh. People are bargaining hard. But we cannot lower the price since we ourselves have to buy at a higher price. We hope the situation gets better in the coming days," he said.

CELEBRATION TIME



Students celebrate during the convocation of Patliputra University, in Patna, Tuesday.

'Situation from Kashmir to Kerala makes it must to retain sedition law'

New Delhi, Jun 27 (PTI):

Amid a clamour from the colonial-era sedition law to be repealed, Law Commission chairman Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi said on Tuesday it is an important tool to safeguard the "safety and integrity of India" given the situation in many parts of the country, from Kashmir to Kerala and Punjab to the North-East.

Defending the panel's recommendation to retain the law, which is at present under abeyance following directions of the Supreme Court issued in May last year, he said enough safeguards have been proposed to prevent its misuse. In an exclusive interview, he told



Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi

PTI that special laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the National Security Act operate in different fields and do not cover the offence of sedition and therefore, the specific law on sedition needed to be there too. Justice Awasthi asserted that while considering the usage of the law on sedition the panel found that "the

present situation right from Kashmir to Kerala and Punjab to the North-East is such that the law on sedition is necessary to safeguard the unity and integrity of India". He also said that the sedition law being a colonial legacy was not a valid ground for its repeal and several countries, including the US, Canada, Australia and Germany, have their own such laws.

In its report submitted to the government last month, the 22nd Law Commission headed by Justice Awasthi supported retaining section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) with safeguards to prevent its misuse. The recommendation triggered a political uproar with several opposition parties al-

leging that it was an attempt to stifle dissent and voices against the ruling party ahead of the Lok Sabha elections next year.

While the government said it will take an "informed and reasoned" decision on the Law Commission report after consulting all stakeholders and that the recommendations were "persuasive" but not binding, the Congress has alleged that the government wants to make the sedition law more "draconian". Referring to the "procedural safeguards" recommended by the commission, Awasthi told PTI that the preliminary inquiry will be held by a police officer of the rank of inspector or above.

Court issues order for attachment, auction of assets worth Rs 127 cr

Till now 45,593 investors got refund of Rs 33.50 crore

■ Of chit fund companies
■ Review of law and order in all the districts of the state by Director General of Police

Raipur, Jun 27:

Director General of Police Mr. Ashok Juneja on Monday took a review meeting with the Inspector General of Police of all ranges and Superintendents of Police of all districts through video conferencing, in the meeting the priority points of the state government and action against drugs and drug abuse campaign has been reviewed. During this, action taken against drugs, especially ganja, injections, tablets, syrup etc. was reviewed in the state and instructions were



given to take stern action against it, along with social evils such as gambling, betting, and sale of illegal liquor. A comparative review of the action being taken against weapons was also done and keeping in view the assembly elections to be held in the coming days, instructions were given to take effective action in this direction. Director

General of Police Mr. Juneja also reviewed the speedy disposal of criminal cases registered against local tribals in Naxal-affected areas of the state and gave instructions for speedy disposal of the remaining cases through the court. He also reviewed the action taken against chit fund companies. In these cases, the final order for auction and

attachment of properties worth Rs 127 crore 48 lakh has been given by the Court, out of which property worth Rs 54.90 crore has been received in the account of the state government through auction, attachment and resignation. Out of this, an amount of Rs 33.50 crore has been distributed to 45,593 investors. Instructions were given to auction all the said properties as soon as possible and distribute the amount to the investors in coordination with the competent authority and the district collector, along with the state. Instructions were also given to do the process of attachment-auction of the properties of the companies located outside the district through the competent officer and the district collector at the earliest.

Disabled to get 10 percent discount on vehicle purchase

■ Order letter sent to automobiles dealers

Raipur, Jun 27:

Physically handicapped persons of Chhattisgarh will now get 10 percent Goods and Services Tax (GST) exemption on purchase of vehicles. They will have to pay only 18% GST. This facility will be available for the specially-abled while purchasing private and commercial vehicles, but due to lack of information, they were paying the full cost of the vehicle for the last three years. After receiving the complaint, the Transport Department has sent a copy of the order issued by the Central Government to all the automobile dealers, so that they can get the exemption amount as per the rules on the purchase



of the vehicle. At the same time, if the exemption is not given, they can complain to the GST and Transport Department. Officials of the Transport Department said that according to the notification issued by the Central Government, GST exemption will be given to persons with disabilities of 40 percent and above related to bone diseases. For this

disability certificate compulsorily has to be obtained from the government recognized institution. Along with this, an affidavit will also have to be given that the particular vehicle will be used for the disabled and will not sell it for the next five years after purchase. After five years, the vehicle will be exempted again for buying it again. As per rules,

the base price of the vehicle should not exceed Rs.8 lakh.

Officials informed that automobile dealers will give relaxation to the disabled as per the rules after getting the form of rules made in GST. Along with this, the information of the tax to be collected from them will be sent to the GST department, due to which the buyer as well as the seller will get the benefit. At the same time, the situation of any kind of dispute will not arise while depositing GST. Assistant Transport Commissioner Shailabh Sahu said that a copy of the GST exemption order given by the Central Government to the disabled has been sent to the automobile dealers. This will give relief to them while buying a vehicle as per the rules.

Yoga exercise program organized in medical college



Raipur, Jun 27: A yoga exercise program was organized at Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Medical College, Raipur on the occasion of International Yoga Day on June 21. Dr. Likheshwar Sahu (Yoga Medical Officer) attended the program as an expert and performed yoga exercises as per the predetermined protocol. A large number of students, faculty and staff participated in the program with enthusi-

asm and performed yoga. Dean Dr. Tripti Nagariya told the students about the importance of yoga in daily life and asked them to do it regularly so that both body and mind remain healthy. At the end of the program, Dean Dr. Nagariya honored Dr. Likheshwar Sahu by presenting him with a shawl and 'srfial'. Under the direction of Dr. Sumit Tripathi, Head of the Department of Physiology, the event was successfully completed with the help of Department of Physiology, Medical Education Unit and Sports Department of the college. During the program, Dr. Sumit Tripathi, Head of the Department of Physiology, Dr. Sudhir Rajpal, Sports Officer, all the professors and employees of the college were present.

Education Minister welcomes school students on first day

Kondagaon, Jun 27:

School Education Minister of Chhattisgarh Government Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam and State Handicrafts Board President Mr. Chandan Kashyap participated in the district level 'Shala Pravesh Utsav' organized at Kondagaon on the first day of the beginning of the new education session.

On this occasion, the Education Minister welcomed the children entering the school by applying tilak and giving them school uniforms and textbooks.

School Education Minister Tekam, while congratulating the district for very good results in class 10th and 12th examinations as compared to last year, said that quality education is being given a



lot of importance by the state government. Atmanand schools are being started in every district as excellent institutions of education. There was a time when people used to try to get admission in private schools, now people are trying to get admission in Swami Atmanand which shows the quality of education imparted here. He told that earlier the state started with only 02 Atmanand

institutions, but seeing their better results, now more than 700 Atmanand schools are being opened in the state. Dr. Tekam said that the 'School Jatan Yojana' has been started by the government for better management of the schools so that along with upgrading the basic facilities of the schools, a good environment can also be provided to the children. Along with this, works like kindergarten, recruitment

of more than 10,000 teachers, construction of international level school are also being done by the government. He also appreciated the innovative experiments done by the teachers for the children during the Corona period and encouraged 33 schools in the district for getting 100% results. On this occasion, State Handicrafts Board President and MLA Narayanpur Chandan

Kashyap encouraged the children entering the school and said that he himself has been a teacher. Sharing his experience as a teacher, said that the teacher is only there to show the way. The one who follows the path shown by the teachers definitely achieves success. Efforts are being made by the government to provide free excellent education to the children, as a result of which children in backward areas of the state are also getting education in English medium and are moving forward with everyone. In this programme, cycles were distributed to 26 girls by the Education Minister, along with discussing with the girls, congratulating them on getting the cycles, encouraged them to study and move forward.

Extension of last date for filling exam forms

Raipur, Jun 27: Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education's High School and Higher Secondary Supplementary Examination year 2023 exam form filling date has been extended. Students can now apply on the portal of the board through the concerned institution till 5:30 pm on June 27. Secretary of Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education, Professor V.K.Goyal said that the last date for filling the examination form of High School and Higher Secondary Supplementary Examination year 2023 was scheduled on June 14 with normal fee and June 20 with late fee. After the end of the last date, many students demanded an extension in the date of examination form, citing non-filling of the examination form due to various reasons. In the interest of the students, the board decided to increase the date of filling the supplementary examination form. Students can now apply on the portal of the board through the concerned institution till June 27, 5:30 pm.

SPORTS ROUND-UP

Volleyball team for Central Regional LIC event announced

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jun 27: Volleyball team of Raipur Division of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India was declared for the Central Regional Volleyball Tournament to be held soon. Providing the above information in a statement issued here, the Joint Secretary of LIC Sports & Recreation Committee Vijay Baiswade said that the team was formed on the basis of the selection trials held at Sapre School-based Volleyball Court on Sunday during which the Chief Selectors Rajesh Somvanshi, Janak Ram Yadav and Lalji Nishad



were present. He said that D Santosh Kumar from Jagdalpur Branch, Karan Sonkar from Raipur Divisional Office, Bhuraj Kahar from Kanker Branch and D Mallick from Jagdalpur Branch have been selected for the Raipur team which would

be participating in the Central Regional Selection Tournament. Raipur Division Insurance Employees Union Vice President TK Mishra, Sishir Gupta and Gajendra Patel were present during the concluding ceremony of the selection trials.

Sameer Khan unanimously elected Jt Secretary of HAI

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jun 27: General Secretary of Chhattisgarh Handball Association Sameer Khan has been unanimously elected Joint Secretary of the Handball Association of India (HAI) at the Annual General Body meeting held recently. Providing the above information in a statement issued here, the CHA Office Secretary Ram Pratap Gupta said that Digvijay Singh Chautala from Haryana has been elected as President whereas A Jagan Mohan Rao from Telangana would be General Secretary. Dr



Anandeshwar Pandey from UP has been appointed as Executive Director, Sandeep Kotia from Haryana as Chairman of Athlete Committee, Reena

Sarin as Women Sexual Harassment Committee Chairperson and G Suresh Pillai from Chhattisgarh would be Associate Vice President.

Seven children from NCP secure admission in JNV

■ NCP belonging to Adani Foundation

Tilda, Jun 27: Adani Foundation, operating under the Tilda development block in Raipur district, has selected seven children through the Navodaya Coaching program (NCP) for admission to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) for the academic year 2022-23 in Raipur. The results of the Navodaya Entrance Examination, announced on Wednesday, June 21, revealed the selection of Jyoti Varma, D/o Dwij Varma, from Raikheda, Aakanksha Sonwani, D/o Rajulal Sonwani from Chicholi, Jigyasa Varma, D/o Jagdish Varma from Sonatara, Deepika Sen, D/o Laxman Sen from Tarashiv, Tanya Sahu,



D/o Krishnakishor Sahu from Chhataud, Garima Varma, D/o Rupendra Varma, and Harsh Pal, S/o Nirmal Pal from Mura village.

Adani Power Limited has been operating Navodaya Coaching Centers (NCP) in four neighboring villages under its social responsibilities in Raipur for the past one decades. This initiative has expanded to a total of 12 villages, including Raikheda, Gaitara,



Khapri, Chicholi, Tarashiv, Gaurkheda, Konari, Chhataud, Khamharia, Bhatapara,

Sonatara, and Mura. These coaching centers provide exam preparation for over 100 deserving and

talented children from the project-affected area for admission to Central Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas.

The success of these children has brought joy to their parents, as well as pride to the village sarpanches. Jyoti Varma's success and selection in Navodaya Vidyalaya have filled her parents with immense happiness. Jyoti's father, Dwij Varma, mentioned that their financial situa-

tion was very weak, and they never thought it would be possible to educate their daughter in a good school. However, through the coaching center operated by Adani Foundation, this became possible, and they are extremely grateful for it. The sarpanches of all the gram panchayats expressed their happiness and congratulated Adani Foundation, teachers, and the parents of the children. Mr. Manish Varma, the sarpanch of Tarashiv gram panchayat, congratulated the parents of the selected children and expressed gratitude to the foundation's team, saying, "Development is only possible through education, and Adani Power is fulfilling its responsibilities commendably in the field of education."

Architect Swapnil Jaggi bags India's top 50 architects award



Raipur, Jun 27:

Architect Swapnil Jaggi from Raipur received India's top 50 architects under 40 award at Bengaluru. Architect Swapnil Jaggi was the only architect from

Central India to receive this award in 2023. This award is organised by iGen people's award by Architects and Interiors India Magazine. The event was organised on June 24, 2023 at Hotel Shangri Le, Bengaluru.

Janpad V-P applies 'tilak', offered sweets to children

On the first day of Shala Pravesh Utsav in Govt Primary School Bhatapara, Kopara

Fingeshwar, Jun 27:

It is notable here that under the state government's prestigious schemes, due emphasis is being paid towards the education and health of children. In this series, on the first day of re-opening of Schools in Govt Primary School, Bhatapara Kopara, the 'Shala Pravesh Utsav' was celebrated with great enthusiasm. The chief guest on this occasion was Janpad Panchayat Fingeshwar V-P Yogesh Sahu and also President Block Education Samiti Fingeshwar. He first garlanded the photo of Goddess Saraswati and lighted the traditional lamp.

On this occasion, Sahu welcomed all the students



by applying 'tilak' on their forehead and offering them sweets. Thereafter the guests distributed uniforms and text-books and copies to the students and on receiving which there was big smile on the faces of children.

Speaking on the occasion chief guest Sahu wished all the children

best in their studies and gave information about the free-of-cost uniform, Saraswati Cycle Yojana and mid-day meal and scholarship scheme for the talented poor students and also about the Swami Atamanand English Medium School (SAGEMS). He also urged the members of Shala

Vikas Samiti and parents of the children to extend all possible support to the children in imparting quality education.

Sankul co-ordinator Anil Sinha also wished all the best to newly admitted children and those joining in their next classes. In the end, head Master Tande Sir expressed gratitude towards all the guests and Samiti members and concluded the programme.

On this occasion President SVS Chummanlal Dhruv, members- Heeralal Sahu, Vandana Tarakh, Hemlal Sahu, Suraj Tarak, Kunjalal Yadav, Tarani Sahu, Meena Sahu, Chabila Sahu, Puran Sahu, and other noted citizens and teachers were present.

Action taken against 9 rice millers

Gaurella-Pendra-Marwahi, Jun 27: Action has been taken on 9 rice millers who were negligent in depositing custom milling rice in Food Corporation of India and Civil Supplies Corporation and 2.05 lakh quintals of paddy was seized, falling short to physical verification. District Food Officer Shweta Aggarwal said that physical verification was done in rice mills by a joint team of Tehsildar, Cooperative Extension Officer, Food Inspectors and MARKFED officials. A total of 2 lakh 5 thousand 229.20 quintals of paddy was seized after matching the quantity of paddy found in physical verification with the online report and found less.

The Food Officer told that Messrs. J.P. Aggarwal Sons Cold Storage Pvt. Ltd. The quantity of paddy and rice was matched in physical verification at Ajni



Gorela's rice mill. According to the online report, 20041.20 quintals of paddy was seized as the stock of paddy and rice was not found. Similarly, 18650 quintals of paddy was seized in the rice mill of M/s JP Aggarwal Agrotech Anjani Gaurela, when the quantity of

paddy and rice was found to be less than compared with the online report M/s Garg Food Products 38892 quintals of paddy in the rice mill of Gorela, 33292 quintals of paddy in the rice mill of M/s Maa Narmada Agrotech Gorela, 74210 quintals of paddy in the rice mill of

M/s Maa Narmada Rice Products Gorela, Rice mill of M/s Shree Lakshmi Agro Industries Pendra In 11493 quintal paddy; 2965.60 quintal paddy in rice mill of M/s Daksh Foodries Pendra, 640 quintal paddy in rice mill of M/s Shivani Traders Pendra and M/s Buaji Firms Pvt. Ltd. 7044.80 quintal paddy was seized in Rice Mill of Pendra. The food officer told that the record of paddy and rice has not been maintained by the rice millers. Also, monthly returns have not been provided by the rice millers to the Food Department. On the violation of the provisions of Clause 4.6, 9 and 10 of the Chhattisgarh Custom Milling Rice Procurement Order 2016 against all the above concerned rice millers, a case was registered in the collector's court to confiscate the seized paddy and blacklist the millers.

'A school where there was neither admission nor Shala Pravesh Utsav'



Balod, Jun 27:

Students and parents of Primary school in village Devkot of Gurur block of Balod district, has seen no classes, admission and Shala pravesh Utsav, due to boycott by students and their parents. The reason is transfer of a teacher Mohan Sinha, a teacher of the school. Sinha has been transferred to and the transfer was targeted and the matter has been kept before the people's representa-

tives to the administration, but no conclusion has come yet due to which the parents and students took this step.

As per information, the school committee president Rakesh Sahu, vice-president Mrs. Tejeishwari secretary Gyaneshwar Patel, former sarpanch Kamlesh Sahu, former school committee president Krishna Sinha, Rajeev Mitran club president Aditya Banjare and all the parents reached the school and

did locked the school. Meanwhile commenting on the issue block education officer Lalit Chandrakar said that his duty is engaged in another place; and information has been received from the phone. The villagers told that we are constantly opposing the transfer of the teacher and this movement will continue till then the transfer is pulled back, as he used to give moral education to the children along with formal education.

Tap water scheme not reaching in about 100 houses

Berla, Jun 27:

About 80-100 houses of Gram Panchayat Kodwa of Berla block, which comes under Bemetara assembly constituency, are not getting drinking water from the tap water scheme for the last four months, due to the construction of drains laid under the tap water scheme.

It may be noted that since last 6 months, the work of construction of drains on both sides of the road on Kodava Saja main road is being done under the Public Works Department. In the construction of this drain, the pipeline laid for drinking water has been damaged at many places, due to which about 80-100 houses of Ward 1 and 2 living on both sides of the road are not getting water supply for the last four months.

Bemetara Assembly Constituency's veteran MLA Ashish Chhabra's area is ward number one and two of Gram



Panchayat Kodwa under Berla subdivision, which are located on Saja-Kodwa main road, in which taps have been installed in about 80 to 100 houses, but water is not reaching these houses. Pipeline facilities have been destroyed due to drain construction. Earlier, the pipeline was

constructed under the Nal Jal Yojana, after that the residents of the ward had demanded a drain near the regional MLA Ashish Chhabra's house. Keeping this problem in mind, MLA Ashish Chhabra gave approval for the construction of the drain. The work of drain construction is

What officer says:

Water cleaning was started after the construction of the pipeline, the pit was dug for the construction of the drain, due to which the pipeline has been damaged, the damaged pipeline will be repaired by the contractor.

Rajkumar Verma, Sarpanch Representative, Kodwa

Pipeline has been damaged due to digging of pit for drain construction, after completion of drain construction work; the damaged pipeline will be repaired properly.

Praveen Sharma, Contractor

going on, but now the residents of the ward are pleading at various places to repair the pipeline, but neither any officer is neither paying attention nor any leader is paying attention. On the other hand, the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme is of the PHE department, whose full responsibility is to make water available to the people and the gener-

al public, but even after four months of information about the damaged pipeline, no attention is being paid to its improvement and repair. At the same time, the Gram Panchayat is also not showing any seriousness in getting the improvement work done, has sat silent after talking to the concerned department once or twice.

Memorandum submitted to stop encroachment on govt land

Churikala, Jun 27:

After continuation of encroachment of government land in Nagar Panchayat Churikala in Ward No. 6 Manas Nagar by Vijay Sahu Kabadi and Nanak Panjwani, the issue has been raised by Block Congress Committee Rural Katghora President Gorelal Yadav, Heeralal Yadav, Rakesh Pratap Singh Sheshban Goswami and MP representative Jeevan Yadav. A memorandum has also been handed over to the Sub-Divisional Officer Katghora Revenue demanding action.

Occupation of government land in Nagar



Panchayat Churikala area has been going on for a long time, most of the government land has been captured and sold through brokers, and it is also being captured, due to this, many big plans of the government in the Nagar Panchayat area

were canceled due to non-availability of government land for construction of buildings or they were made elsewhere, due to which the people of the city area are being deprived of the benefits of the big plan. In Manas Nagar Ward

No. 6, Khasra No. 730/1 government land has been captured by Vijay Sahu Kabadi by leveling the land.

Even before this, a house has been built by occupying the government land near Vijay Sahu High School, for which complaints have been made by the residents and corporators.

Apart from this, a house is being constructed by Nanak Panjwani, brother of BJP leader and Nagar Panchayat vice-president, near the Kosa office, on the long wide government land, Khasra No. 735/1, on which no action has been taken by the Panchayat administration so far.

Children are our future: Gulab Kamro

MLA and Collector congratulate the beginning of the new education session

Manendragarh, Jun 27:

Vice President of Surguja Development Authority and Bharatpur-Sonhat MLA Mr. Gulab Kamro and MCB Collector Narendra Kumar Dugga participated in the school entrance ceremony here. On the occasion of school entrance festival in Belbahara, Bundeli and Swami Atmanand School Manendragarh, the MLA made the school children enter the school by applying tilak, garlanding them and feeding them sweets.

On this occasion, the MLA and Collector dis-



tributed cycles, uniforms and books to the school children. Congratulating the students, teachers, principals, public representa-

tives and parents on the start of the new education session and the school entrance festival, MLA Kamro said that these children are our fu-

ture and it is our responsibility to provide proper environment for education to these children so that they can study.

Addressing the session the Collector said that in the present times it is necessary to create an environment of education in the school. District Panchayat Member Smt. Usha Kariyam, SDM Dragarh Abhishek Kumar, District Education Officer Ajay Kumar Mishra, District Sports Officer Gopal Singh, public representatives and principals of schools, teachers, students and parents were present.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

NOTICE FOR APPOINTMENT OF REGULAR/RURAL RETAIL OUTLET (PETROL PUMP) DEALERSHIPS

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited proposes to appoint Retail Outlet dealers at various locations in the State of Chhattisgarh.

The detailed Advertisement and Brochure are available in the website www.petrolpumpdealerchayan.in Application for RO dealership along with on-line payment of Non-refundable application fee, as applicable, should be submitted on-line by date **27.09.2023**.

The facility for submission of on-line application will be withdrawn immediately after the cut-off date as mentioned above.

APPLICANTS, IN THEIR OWN INTEREST, SHOULD CAREFULLY GO THROUGH THE "BROCHURE" AND UNDERSTAND CONDITIONS OF SELECTION BEFORE SUBMITTING THEIR APPLICATION.

The Corporation reserves the right to cancel / withdraw / amend this advertisement or extend the due date at its sole discretion without assigning any reason.

In case of any discrepancy in advertisement published in English Newspapers vis a vis vernacular language dailies, the direction / information indicated in English paper would prevail.

Corrigendum, If any, will be published only in the website www.petrolpumpdealerchayan.in

For purchase of Brochure and any information with regard to the advertisement, candidates may contact the following address:-

Territory	Districts Covered	Address	Contact No.
Raipur	Balod, Bastar, Bijapur, Dantewada, Dhamtari, Durg, Gariaband, Kanker, Kondagaon, Mahasamund, Narayanpur, Raipur, Rajnandgaon, Sukma, Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai, Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh-Chouki	Territory Coordinator (Retail) Raipur, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Shaheed Veer Narayan Complex, First Floor, Nagar Ghadi Chowk, Civil Lines, Raipur - 492001, Chhattisgarh	9752582384 7489740047
Bilaspur	Bilaspur, Mungeli, Kabirdham, Bemetara, Korea, Raigarh, Korba, Balodabazar-Bhatapara, Surguja, Janjgir-Champa, Balrampur-Ramanujganj, Surajpur, Jashpur, Sakti, Gaurella-Pendra-Marwahi, Sarangarh-Bilaigarh, Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur	Territory Coordinator (Retail) Bilaspur, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Old Chhattisgarh Housing Board Building, Kalpana Vihar, Nehru Nagar, Bilaspur - 495001, Chhattisgarh	9691353831 7752310600

Emergising Lives, Emergising Naya Bharat

Smugglers nabbed with huge cache of illicit liquor

Bhilai, Jun 27:

Durg Police nabbed two smugglers and recovered a huge cache of illicit liquor from their possession. They were smuggling the liquor produced in Madhya Pradesh to Balod area of Chhattisgarh. 30 crates of Goa Whiskey and Royal Stag worth Rs 2.04 lakh were recovered from them. Liquor was being smuggled in expensive vehicles fitted with black window glass.

Superintendent of Police (Durg) Shalabh Kumar Sinha had instructed his subordinates to find out the drug dealers and take effective action against them. In compliance of his order, A d d i t i o n a l Superintendent of Police (city) Sanjay Dhruv and City Superintendent of Police (Durg) Banker Vaibhav Ramanlal constituted a joint team of Durg Civil Team and Police Station Pulgaon for action. The team was continuously keeping an eye on the persons and suspects involved in the illegal trade



of drugs. The network of informers was also activated. Meanwhile, Police received a tip off regarding a white coloured car which was moving towards Balod via Chandkhuri Road. In view of the seriousness of the matter, Durg Police sought the cooperation of Balod Police and immediate action was taken against the suspects. Police team tried to intercept the suspicious vehicle but the driver did not stop. Police team chased the suspected white WagonR car

and managed to get it stopped. Spotting the police, the accused tried to run away but were caught by the cops. On searching the car, 25 crates of Goa English liquor and 05 crates of Royal Stage English liquor were found in the car trunk and middle seat.

A total of 1490 quarters (268.2 bulk liters) of English liquor worth Rs 204000, a white colour WagonR car number CG 04 PD 6063 worth Rs 700000 was seized from them.



After arresting the accused, action was taken under the Excise Act by Pulgaon Police Station.

The arrested accused are Savinder Singh alias Golu (26) son of Harvansh Singha resident of Dhamcha Bhavan, Housing Board, Bhilai and Gagan Singh Shergir (22) son of Late Gurmeeet Singh a resident of Shanti Nagar, Supela have been booked under the provisions mentioned in section 34(2) of Excise Act. Inspector Pradeep Sori (SHO,

Pulgaon), ASI Narendra Singh, Head Constable Santosh Mishra and Durg Civil Team members Javed Khan, Kishore Soni, Nasir Buksh, Gaur Singh, Kamlesh Yadav, Thomson Peter, Prashant Patankar, Bharthari Nishad and Balod Police cyber cell in-charge Inspector D i l e s h w a r Chandravanshi, Head Constable Bhuneshwar Markam, Constable Rahul Manhare and Yogesh Sinha played a vital role in arresting the accused.

Yoga is a precious gift of India's vedic tradition: Vijay Baghel

Bhilai, Jun 27:

Ninth International Yoga Day was celebrated under the joint aegis of International Naturopathy Organization Chhattisgarh unit and Surya Foundation at Indira Place in Civic Centre.

State Coordinator Manoj Thackeray informed that Yoga Day events were organised by Surya Foundation in all the states and union territories. In Chhattisgarh, yoga events were organised in all the districts. In Bhilai, the event was organised at Pioneer Monument in Civic Centre. The event was inaugurated by MP Vijay Baghel. Special guests were Umesh Chitlangia, Brahmakumari Asha Didi, social worker Dr Sangeeta Shah, BSF Assistant Commandant Manish Sinha, BJP General Secretary Yogendra Singh, Padmashree Ramchandra Barle and Gynaecologist Dr Mansi Gulati.

On this occasion, the common yoga protocol was practiced under the guidance of Mamta Sahu, director of Yog Sevak Sansthan. The gathering



practiced Pranayama, Hasta Padasana, Parvatasana, Tadasana, Paschimottanasana, Naukasana, Adhomukhi Swasana including Kapal Bhati, Bhastrika Pranayama, etc.

Durg MP Vijay Baghel said that yoga is not just an exercise; it is a symbol of unity of mind and body. It is an invaluable gift of India's most ancient tradition. He exchanged greetings on International Yoga Day.

Social worker Dr Sangeeta Shah, Brahmakumari Asha Didi, entrepreneur Umesh Chitlangia,

Acharya Kanha Ji Maharaj and other guests also addressed the gathering. Coordinator Manoj Thackeray said that the International

Naturopathy Organization will conduct free yoga camps every month in the districts of Chhattisgarh. Students from ICICI Academy performed Yogasanas collectively in their uniforms. The event was coordinated by Neeta Chaurasia. At the end of the programme, Dr Laxprad proposed the vote of thanks. Baluram Verma, BP Chowdhary, Prashant Kshirsagar, Rita Chaurasia, Kishore Kannoje, Sunil Chaurasia, S Swarnakar, Kiran Bhosle, Roopchand Bhosle, Prakash Ji, Ram Unnikrishnan, Ashok Jain, Rajnikant Pandey, Kamlesh Dubey, Bhagchand Jain, Sanjay Dani, Sandeep Waghmare and about 512 people performed mass yoga.

Six thieves and two junk dealers nabbed

Bhilai, Jun 27:

With the arrest of six ruffians and recovery of stolen pump sets and wires, police claimed to have busted a gang of notorious thieves which was involved in stealing solar pumps, wires etc from agricultural farms. Later, police nabbed two junk dealers also who purchased the stolen items. Police also seized a bike which was used by the thieves.

SP Shalabh Kumar Sinha informed that they were receiving complaints regarding theft of solar cable, motor pump from farms in Ranitarai area. Taking the matter into cognizance, the team of Ranitarai Police Station worked under the supervision of ASP (Rural) Anant Sahu and SDO Devensh Singh Rathore. Night patrolling was intensified and police maintained vigil on the suspects.

On the intervening night of June 24 - 25, the patrolling team of Police Station Ranitarai was moving from village Teligundra towards vil-



lage Asoga. They spotted three youths moving on a bike. They were carrying some goods in a sack. On spotting the cops, they tried to flee but were soon caught by the cops. Police found that cables / wires were packed in a sack. They were brought to the police station for questioning. During interrogation, they confessed to committing thefts at the agricultural farms. They disclosed the names of other accomplices after which three other thieves and two junk dealers were also taken into custody. The accused conducted recce during the day and committed thefts in the late evening hours. They had stolen wires and pumps

from village Rengakathera, Kohi, Bhansuli, Chulghahan, Pahanda, Jamgaon and other areas. The stolen booty was sold to Lalit Sahu, a junker of Gidhpuri, and after burning the cable wire, he sold the copper to Laxmikant Dewangan of Patan. Both of them were also arrested for buying stolen goods.

The arrested accused are Rajesh alias Golu (28) son of Ratnu Dewar a resident of village Gidhpuri, district Balodabazar; Ratoon Dewar (22) son of Late Jhingaram Dewar a resident of Banstal, Dewar Mohalla, Dhamtari; Arjun Dewar (20) son of Lakshminarayan a resi-

dent of Ranitarai; Jwala Dewar (34) son of Munna Dewar a resident of Azad Chowk, Dewar Mohalla Patan; Ajay Dewar (28) son of Mukund Dewar a resident of Azad Chowk, Dewar Mohalla Patan; Kushal Kumar Kose (35) son of Netram Kose a resident of village Khorpa, Patan. The arrested scrap dealers are Lalit Sahu (34) son of Dumar Sahu a resident of village Kurud (Kuthela), police station Arang, district Raipur; and Laxmikant Dewangan (43) son of Late Santosh Dewangan a resident of Gandhi Chowk, Patan. They were booked under the provisions mentioned in Section 379, 411, 34 of IPC. They were produced before the court and have been sent to jail on judicial remand.

SI AINU Kumar Dewangan, Assistant Sub-Inspector Raman Sahu, Nakul Thakur, Constables Dhananjay, Akhilesh, Tilesh Sahu, Tukaram Nirmalkar, Tuleth Dhanakar and Suresh Thakur played a vital role in arresting the accused.

Annual Hematology Update concludes at JLN Hospital & Research Centre

Bhilai, Jun 27:

The 9th edition of the Annual Hematology Update, a state-level Continuing Medical Education (CME) event, took place on June 25, 2023 at the Conference Hall of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's JLN Hospital & Research Centre, Sector-9. As many as 100 delegates from various locations across Chhattisgarh, participated in the one-day educational meeting. Dr Ravindranath M, CMO I/c (M&HS) was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Dr Pramod Binayake, CMO (M&HS) was also present on this occasion along with various senior pathologists from around the state. Addressing the gathering Dr Ravindranath M, expressed his gratitude to the esteemed National Faculties for sharing their knowledge and experience with the participants. The valuable insights shared by the keynote speakers of this conference has helped to make it a resounding success, Dr Ravindranath said. Various renowned experts of Hematology addressed the participants as keynote speakers of the academic session. Dr Suman Kumar Pramanik, a Hematologist-Oncologist from Kolkata, delivered a lecture on

the treatment and latest updates in managing acute leukaemia, a particularly dangerous form of Hematologic Cancer. A special refresher course on Biostatistics & Research Methodologies



was also conducted by Dr Pramanik, which sparked active discussions among the DNB students and consultants, further enriching their educational experience.

Among other key-note speakers of the conference were Dr Nitin Dayal, a Hematopathologist from Max Hospital, New Delhi, who shared insights on recent developments in the classification of Myeloid Leukaemia. Dr Ankur Ahuja, a hemato-pathologist from AFMC Pune, delivered a presentation on recent advancements in the detection



of Chronic Lymphoproliferative Disorders, a rare and serious type of slowly advancing Hematologic Cancer. Dr Manas Sule, a senior Molecular pathologist from Raipur, delivered a talk highlighting recent advances in molecular pathology, emphasizing the importance of Novel Blood Tests for an early and rapid detection of blood-stream infections. Dr Mahua Dasgupta Kapoor from Haystack Analytics discussed the latest developments in diagnosis of blood stream infective organisms using a small pocket-sized Sequencing apparatus,

shedding light on how it can aid in an early detection of Sepsis. One of the highlights of CME was the Chhattisgarh State Round of the National Hematology Quiz 2023, conducted by Dr Ankur Ahuja from AFMC Pune. The quiz witnessed participation of Postgraduate Doctors from Chhattisgarh's Medical Institutions including AIIMS Raipur, Pt JNM Medical College Raipur, Shri Shankara Medical College Durg, and JLN Hospital & Research Centre. Dr Gurmeet Singh, Chief Consultant (Pathology-JLNHRCC) was Organizing Secretary of the 9th Annual Hematology Update. Dr Gurmeet thanked the esteemed National Faculties and expressed his delight at the conference's success. The 9th Annual Hematology Update proved to be an invaluable platform for medical professionals in Chhattisgarh to enhance their understanding of Hematology and stay abreast of the latest advancements in the field. The event facilitated knowledge exchange, networking, and collaboration among attendees, fostering a stronger medical community in the region.

BSP signs MoU with C3iHub for collaboration on Cyber Security



Bhilai, Jun 27: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant and Cybersecurity & Cybersecurity for Cyber-Physical Systems Innovation Hub (C3iHub) of IIT Kanpur for collaboration on Cyber Security and related technologies on June 27, 2023. The MoU signing ceremony was presided by Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP).

Addressing the gathering, Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) spoke on the importance of Cyber Security in Bhilai Steel Plant, where convergence of OT and IT networks are posing new challenges. He also emphasised on the need of collaboration and indigenous technology through institutions like IIT-Kanpur who are pioneers in the domain. The MoU was signed at Director I/c Conference Hall in presence of Senior Officials of

the Plant Management, including Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects) with addl. Charge of ED (P&A), AK Chakraborty, ED (MM), Dr AK Panda ED (F&A), Samir Swarup CGM I/c (Mines), Tapas Dasgupta, CGM I/c (Iron), PK Sarkar, CGM I/c (M&U), and Dr Ravindranath M, CMO I/c (M&HS). Other Senior Officers from INCOS, C&IT, Telecom, MM, Projects and other departments were also present on this occasion.

The C3iHub Team was led by Prof Manindra Agrawal, Program Director and professor (CSE) at the IIT, Kanpur, Dr Tanima Hazra COO-C3iHub and Rohit Negi, Sr VP-R&D-C3iHub. During his address Prof Agrawal highlighted the research work being carried out in IIT-Kanpur and elucidated the steps of deployment of cyber security practices for

critical infrastructure like SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant. Asit Saha, CGM I/c (M&U), was the signatory on MoU on behalf of Bhilai Steel Plant, while Tanima Hazra, COO(C3iHub), signed the MoU on behalf of C3iHub.

C3iHub is a Research Centre in the field of critical infrastructure security, to address the issue of cybersecurity of cyber-physical systems in its entirety. C3iHub was established at IIT Kanpur in 2020, under the aegis of National Mission of Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical System promoted by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

Under the MoU with C3iHub, BSP aims to address cyber security issues, in phases. Involving in-depth study of BSP's IT and OT facilities, and recommendations with regard to systems, rolling out of recommendations and support on a continuous basis for an effective cyber secure environment.

Ravi Shankar GM (INCOS) conducted the programme, while the Vote of Thanks was proposed by MP Singh, GM (INCOS).

Devotees dance to the performances of Swarganga at Gundicha Mandap Sector 10



Bhilai, Jun 27: Under the aegis of Shree Jagannath Samiti, Sector 4, a 9-day festival of Mahaprabhu Shree Jagannath Swami ji's 54th Rath Yatra is being celebrated. Preparations for Bahuda Rath Yatra have been completed at Gundicha Mandap, Sector 10. On June 28, 2023, at 2:30 pm, Bahuda Rath Yatra has been organized, which will leave Gundicha Mandap Sector-10 and reach Shri Jagannath Temple, Sector 4. MLA Devendra Yadav will perform Chhera Panhra while Mayor of Bhilai City Neeraj Pal will also present on the auspicious occasion.

Under the Rath Yatra Festival 2023, various cultural and spiritual programs are being organized daily in the grand pandal of Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath Swami ji sitting in Gundicha Mandap Sector 10. In this context, a musical

evening based on devotional music was organized by Swarganga Musical Group. The melodious bhajans of the singers forced the devotees present in the mandap to dance. The devotees danced with each song. There was applause with each performance. Along with this, under the leadership of Alok Sharma, 60 artists of Shri Parshuram Sanskrit Vidyapeetham, Arang and Shri Ram Bhakta Group, Arang, recited verses, Hanuman Chalisa, Shri Ram Bhajan, Shri Shiv Strot and Shri Jagannath Bhajan. Excellent performance enchanted the hearts of the devotees.

On this occasion, SEFI Chairman and President of BSP's Officers' Association Narendra Kumar Banchor, present as Chief guest and BSP's CGM MK Goyal were present as special guests.

Apart from this, the President of the committee Virendra Satpathy and General Secretary Satyawar Nayak were specially present. Trinath Sahu and Ranjan Mahapatra, office bearers of the Jagannath Committee made special contributions in successfully organizing this musical evening.

Chief guest Narendra Kumar Banchhor, CGM MK Goyal and President of the committee Virendra Satpathy and General Secretary Satyawar Nayak honoured the artists by giving them memento and citations. The chief guest, congratulated the artists for their excellent performance and wished them a bright future.

The singers who lent their voice to the music evening were honoured with mementoes and certificates. These artistes mesmerized the devotees by singing Hindi and Oriya Bhajans. Singer Nikita Sahu, who came from Berhampur, Odisha, capped the event by rendering Odia Bhajans.

The president of the committee presented the welcome speech and the vote of thanks was given by the general secretary.

Rath Yatra being celebrated with fervour at Nehru Nagar



Bhilai, Jun 27: A large number of devotees are reaching the Gundicha Temple located in Radha Krishna Mandir premises in Nehru Nagar to pay obeisance to Lord Jagannath, Mata Subhadra and Lord Balabhadra. The Rath Yatra of Lord Shri Jagannath Swami ji was taken out from Jagannath Temple located at Kosa nagar which

reached the Gundicha Mandap in Nehru Nagar. Bhajan - Kirtan is being organised on all days at the Gundicha Temple. Hundreds of devotees are visiting here to have darshan and worship Mahaprabhu. The prasad of Anna Prasad and Gajamung is being distributed here. The deities will return to their temple on June 28.

Obituary

Pt Mani Ji Dubey

Bhilai: Pundit of Sector 2 Hanuman Temple, Batuk Ji Maharaj (Pt Mani Ji Dubey) left for heavenly abode at the age of 89 years on June 26. Funeral procession will be taken out from his residence in Sector 2 on June 28 around 3:30 hrs and last rites of the mortal remains will be performed at Ramnagar Muktidham. He spent his entire life in serving the deities at Sector 2 Temple, which is operated by Sanatan Dharma Sabha Trust.



New Delhi Hall at SCO Secretariat in Beijing depicts 'mini India': EAM Jaishankar

Beijing, Jun 27 (PTI):

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday inaugurated an exquisitely designed 'New Delhi Hall' at the SCO Secretariat here, which he said depicts a "mini-India" and will foster a better understanding of the country's culture.

The virtual inauguration of the hall by Jaishankar came ahead of next month's Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit to be held for the first time under India's Presidency.

The Secretariat of the eight-member SCO grouping comprising China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan is located in the high-end diplomatic area in Beijing.

While the six founding members China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan have their halls highlighting their cultures and unique features, India is the first to add its own 'New Delhi



Hall' which is officially opened ahead of the July 4 SCO summit to be held in virtual format.

Pakistan may have to await its turn to set up its hall. In his video address, Jaishankar said: "I am delighted to inaugurate the New Delhi Hall at the SCO Secretariat today amidst the august presence of the SCO Secretary General and other distinguished colleagues".

"I am particularly pleased to note that this is being done under the first-ever SCO presidency which will conclude soon with the SCO Summit,"

and virtual formats, he said.

"I hope that the New Delhi Hall will be a useful addition to the SCO Secretariat that will augment Indian colours/flavour to the multi-cultural and multi-national character of the SCO Secretariat. The Hall will be a testament to India's commitment to fostering the essence of V a s u d h a i v a Kutumbakam' which means The World is One Family", he said.

The hall will be useful in conducting the activities and meetings of the Secretariat which are increasing year after year, he said.

"I am happy to note that the hall will also be used for screening Indian movies through the exclusive cinemaSCOpe' series, holding Yoga sessions, organising Indian dance and music masterclasses for the SCO countries' embassies in Beijing, and mounting monthly exhibitions on different themes," Jaishankar said.

US slams trolling of scribe who questioned PM

Washington, Jun 27:

The White House has condemned as "totally unacceptable" the harassment of a US journalist on social media for asking Prime Minister Narendra Modi a question at his joint press conference in Washington with President Joe Biden.

Last week, The Wall Street Journal reporter Sabrina Siddiqui asked Prime Minister Modi about the rights of minorities in India and what steps his government was willing to take to improve them and also uphold free speech.

A day after the joint press conference, the reporter faced online abuse for questioning the prime minister, with some alleging that her question was "motivated" and calling her a "Pakistani Islamist".

"We're aware of the reports of that harassment.

It's unacceptable. And we absolutely condemn any harassment of journalists anywhere under any circumstances. That's completely unacceptable. And it's antithetical to the very principles of democracy that were on display last week during the state visit," National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communications John Kirby told reporters on Monday in response to a question.

In response to Siddiqui's question, Prime Minister Modi had strongly defended India's record on democracy and his government's performance and human rights, saying that the basic foundation stone of his government has been 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas', which means together for everyone's growth, with everyone's

trust. "India is a democracy. And as President Biden said democracy is in the DNA of both India and America. Democracy is in our spirit. Democracy flows in our veins. We live democracy. Our forefathers moulded it in words, which we call the Constitution," he said.

"Our government runs on the fundamental principles of this Constitution. We have proved that democracy can deliver. When I say deliver it means there is no place for discrimination on the grounds of caste, creed, gender, religion," Modi said.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said, "At the White House, under this administration, we are committed to the freedom of the press, which is why we had the press conference last week."

"We certainly condemn any efforts of intimidation or harassment of a journalist or any journalist that is just trying to do their job. And so, I just want to be very clear about that," she said.

In response to a question on whether Prime Minister Modi and President Biden had discussions on issues such as press freedom and human rights, Jean-Pierre said President Biden will "never shy away" from having those conversations with a world leader or a head of state when it comes to human rights.

"He has done that throughout the past two years and through his career as a vice president and certainly as a senator: I'm not going to get into private conversations, but I think we have made ourselves very clear here on our view. And I'll just leave it there," she said.

More than 1,000 killed after Taliban takeover of Afghanistan: UN

Islamabad, Jun 27 (AP):

The United Nations said Tuesday it has documented a significant level of civilians killed and wounded in attacks in Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover despite a stark reduction in casualties compared to previous years of war and insurgency.

According to a new report by the U.N. mission in Afghanistan, or UNAMA, since the takeover in mid-August 2021 and until the end of May, there were 3,774 civilian casualties, including 1,095 people killed in violence in the country.

That compares with 8,820 civilian casualties including 3,035 killed in just 2020, according to an earlier U.N. report.

The Taliban seized the country in August 2021 while U.S. and NATO troops were in the final weeks of their withdrawal from Afghanistan after two decades of war.

According to the U.N. report, three-quarters of the attacks since the Taliban seized power were with improvised explosive devices in "populated areas, including places of worship, schools and markets," the report said. Among those killed were 92 women and 287 children.

The statement said that the majority of the IED attacks were carried out by the region's affiliate of

the Islamic State group known as the Islamic State in Khorasan Province.

However, the U.N. report said a "significant number" of the deaths resulted from attacks that were never claimed or that the U.N. mission could not attribute to any group. It did not provide the number for those fatalities.

The U.N. report also expressed concern about "the lethality of suicide attacks" since the Taliban takeover, with fewer attacks causing more civilian casualties.

It noted that the attacks were carried out amid a nationwide financial and economic crisis. With the sharp drop in donor funding since the takeover, victims are struggling to get access to "medical, financial and psychosocial support" under the current Taliban-led government, the report said. The U.N. agency demanded an immediate halt to attacks and said it holds the Taliban government responsible for the safety of Afghans.

The Taliban said their administration took over when Afghanistan was "on the verge of collapse" and that they "managed to rescue the country and government from a crisis" by making sound decisions and through proper management.

Indian-origin expert heads UN Outer Space Affairs

United Nations, Jun 27 (PTI):

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Indian-origin satellite industry expert Aarti Holla-Maini as Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) in Vienna. Holla-Maini of the United Kingdom will succeed Simonetta Di Pippo of Italy.

UNOOSA works to promote international cooperation in the peaceful use

and exploration of space and in the utilisation of space science and technology for sustainable economic and social development.

Holla-Maini brings to this position over 25 years of professional experience in the space sector including in managerial and advocacy functions. Most recently, she has held the role of Executive Vice-President Sustainability, Policy & Impact at NorthStar Earth & Space.



HAJJ SEASON CONGESTION



People walk at a giant bus station outside the Grand mosque in the Muslim holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Mecca is Islam's most sacred city and a focal point for the faith's followers. But it's also a place where around 2 million people live, work, and do everyday activities like laundry, grocery shopping, homework, putting the trash out, and paying the bills. Traffic, the population, and prices balloon during the peak Ramadan and Hajj seasons.

Russia drops charges against Prigozhin and others who took part in brief rebellion



Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a meeting with the heads of Russian law enforcement agencies at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia.

Moscow, Jun 27 (AP):

Russian authorities said Tuesday they have closed a criminal investigation into the armed rebellion led by mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin, with no charges against him or any of the other participants. The Federal Security Service, or FSB, said its investigation found that those involved in the mutiny "ceased activities directed at committing the crime," so the case would not be pursued.

The announcement was the latest twist in a series of stunning events in recent days that have brought the gravest threat so far to President Vladimir Putin's grip on power amid the 16-month-old war in Ukraine.

Over the weekend, the Kremlin pledged not to prosecute Prigozhin and his fighters after he stopped the revolt on Saturday, even though Putin had branded them as traitors. The charge of mounting an armed mutiny carries a punish-

ment of up to 20 years in prison. Prigozhin escaping prosecution poses a stark contrast to how the Kremlin has treated those staging anti-government protests in Russia.

Many opposition figures in Russia have received long prison terms and are serving time in penal colonies notorious for harsh conditions. The whereabouts of Prigozhin remained a mystery Tuesday. The Kremlin has said he would be exiled to neighboring Belarus, but neither he nor the Belarusian authorities have confirmed that.

An independent Belarusian military monitoring project Belaruski Hajun said a business jet that Prigozhin reportedly uses landed near Minsk on Tuesday morning.

The media team for Prigozhin, the 62-year-old head of the Wagner private military contractor, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Belarus' authoritarian

President Alexander Lukashenko, a close Putin ally who brokered a deal with Prigozhin to stop the uprising, didn't immediately address Prigozhin's fate in a speech Tuesday.

Lukashenko, who has ruled Belarus with an iron hand for 29 years, relentlessly stifling dissent and relying on Russian subsidies and political support, portrayed the uprising as a clash between Prigozhin and Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu.

Their long-simmering personal feud has at times boiled over, and Prigozhin has said the revolt aimed to unseat Shoigu, not Putin. Lukashenko framed the insurrection by Wagner as a significant threat, saying he placed Belarus' armed forces on a combat footing as the mutiny unfolded.

Like Putin, he couched the Ukraine war in terms

of an existential threat to Russia, saying: "If Russia collapses, we all will perish under the debris."

In a nationally televised address Monday night, Putin once again belittled organizers of the rebellion as traitors who played into the hands of Ukraine's government and its allies.

South East Central Railway

Tender Notice for Miscellaneous Works

Sr.No. (1) E-TENDER No: 139-ST-TENDER-2023 Dated: 22.06.2023
Work: "Provision of battery health monitoring system between BSP-IB and USL-APR section of Bilaspur Division."

Tender Value : ₹ 67,26,280/- (Rupees Sixty Seven Lakhs Twenty Six Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Only), EMD : ₹ 1,34,500/- (Rupees One Lakhs Thirty Four Thousand Five Hundred Only), Submission of Tender Upto: 15.00 hrs. on 24.07.2023. The complete information of above e-tender notice is available over website <http://www.iirps.gov.in>. Bids other than e-bids shall not be accepted against above tender.

Sr. Divl. Sig. & Tele. Engineer
CPR/10/131 S.E.C.Railway, Bilaspur
South East Central Railway @seccrail

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KERALA
(Established under the Central Universities Act, 2009)
Tejaswini Hills, Periyar P.O, KASARAGOD-671320
No. CUK/APPT/NT/IAIO/2017 Dated 8th June, 2023

EMPLOYMENT RE-NOTIFICATION (NON TEACHING)
Online applications are invited from the eligible Indian nationals for filling up the post of Internal Audit Officer on deputation basis.
The notification containing full particulars such as Number of Posts, Notification No., Category, Essential Qualifications, Experience, Pay, details of submission of Online Application etc are available at the University website: www.cukerala.ac.in. The last date for receipt of Online application is 15th July, 2023.
CBC 21353/12/0013/2324 REGISTRAR

छत्तीसगढ़ उच्च न्यायालय, बिलासपुर सूचना

माननीय छत्तीसगढ़ उच्च न्यायालय, बिलासपुर में लिफ्ट मैन के पद की भर्ती हेतु विज्ञापन क्रमांक-01/2021, दिनांक-03/07/2021 के माध्यम से आवेदन-पत्र मंगाने गये थे।

लिफ्ट मैन के पद हेतु दिनांक 07/05/2023 को आयोजित प्रथम चरण की लिखित परीक्षा में उत्तीर्ण कुल 33 अभ्यर्थियों का द्वितीय चरण की प्रायोगिक परीक्षा दिनांक 03/07/2023 को "छ.ग. उच्च न्यायालय, बोदरी, बिलासपुर" में प्रातः 11.00 बजे से आयोजित किया जाना निर्धारित है तथा अभ्यर्थियों को छ.ग. उच्च न्यायालय, बिलासपुर के गेट क्रमांक 03 पर उपस्थित होना होगा।

उक्त अभ्यर्थियों की सूची छत्तीसगढ़ उच्च न्यायालय, बिलासपुर की वेबसाइट में अपलोड कर दी गई है। अभ्यर्थी प्रायोगिक परीक्षा के दिन परीक्षा प्रारंभ होने से एक घंटा पूर्व (प्रातः 10.00 बजे) प्रायोगिक परीक्षा में अनिवार्य रूप से उपस्थित होंगे।

आवेदक अपना प्रवेश पत्र उच्च न्यायालय की वेबसाइट <https://highcourt.cg.gov.in> से डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं, जो उच्च न्यायालय की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध करा दिया जायेगा, जो अभ्यर्थी के प्रायोगिक परीक्षा के लिये अधिकृत प्रवेश पत्र होगा। किसी भी आवेदक को अन्य किसी माध्यम से प्रवेश पत्र जारी नहीं किया जायेगा। निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय को प्रायोगिक परीक्षा में उपस्थित नहीं होने पर अभ्यर्थियों का प्रायोगिक परीक्षा किसी अन्य तिथि/समय पर नहीं लिया जायेगा तथा उनका प्रायोगिक परीक्षा हेतु दावा/अधिकार समाप्त हो जायेगा।

प्रायोगिक परीक्षा में अभ्यर्थी प्रवेश पत्र तथा अपनी पहचान के संबंध में अपना पहचान पत्र जैसे वोटर आई.डी. कार्ड/आधार कार्ड/ड्राइविंग लाइसेंस/बैंक पास बुक (फोटो युक्त)/पैन कार्ड/स्मार्ट कार्ड में से किसी एक की मूल प्रति एवं उसकी एक छायाप्रति के साथ उपस्थित हो। प्रायोगिक परीक्षा स्थल में प्रवेश पत्र एवं पहचान पत्र की छायाप्रति (अपना रोल नम्बर अंकित कर) में स्वयं का हस्ताक्षर (स्वप्रमाणित) कर अधिकृत अधिकारी/कर्मचारी को अनिवार्य रूप से सौंपे।

विस्तृत जानकारी छत्तीसगढ़ उच्च न्यायालय बिलासपुर की वेबसाइट <https://highcourt.cg.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

(अरविंद कुमार वर्मा)
रजिस्ट्रार जनरल

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, (E&M) DIVISION PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. DEPTT. AMBIKAPUR (C.G.)

No. 795/2023-2024/TS/E.E&M/Dn./P.H.E.D./Ambikapur Date 22/06/2023

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER (2nd Call)

Sealed tender are invited on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh for supply of following Materials from manufacturers or their authorized dealers or registered with their out breed dealers.

S. No.	NIT No.	Brief Description of Materials	Qty.	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Bid Submission Date
01.	2	Supply of 6th dia (142 mm) valve less / Digger type or equivalent Hammer suitable for 150 mm dia tubewell drilling by 275 PSI capacity hydraulically operated rigs.	14 Nos	798000-00 (GST Extra)	7980-00	22/06/2023 to 05/07/2023

Note :- 01. cost of Tender- 750-00
02. Terms of tender and details of material can be seen in the office during office hours.
03. Conditional tender will not be accepted.

Executive Engineer (E&M) PHED Division Ambikapur (C.G.)

G-02698/2

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, CIRCLE NO-1 RAIPUR (C.G.)

Tender Notice (1st Call)

Online tenders are invited from Contractors, Registered in appropriate class in Unified Registration System [e-Registration] for the following works :-

NIT No./ System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable amount of contract
1	2	3
101/138227	CONSTRUCTION OF BADMINTON HALL AT GOVT. SCIENCE COLLEGE RAIPUR (C.G.)	Rs. 54.99 Lakh

Last date of tender Download Date up to 10.07.2023 Time 17:30 PM

Note :- All eligible/interested contractors are mandated to get enrolled on the e Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Superintending Engineer P.W.D. Raipur Circle No-1 Raipur (C.G.)

G-02710/2

G-02731/1



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 11 No. 88

A Unified Opposition

Vital Pillar of Democracy

In the countdown to the General Election, leaders from a multitude of political parties recently convened in Patna with a common objective: to unseat the BJP-led government at the Centre. This ambitious task, however, presents a formidable challenge. The BJP's resounding victories in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections have considerably weakened rival parties, notably the Congress, its primary adversary. While the Patna meeting aimed to transcend ideological and political differences, there is still much work to be done in uniting the Opposition. The discord between the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party over the Central ordinance on the Delhi government's powers serves as a glaring reminder of the obstacles that lie ahead. Such internal divisions send a disheartening signal to the public, undermining the collective strength required to form a formidable opposition force. For the opposition parties to resonate with the electorate, they must rise above individual aspirations and confront contentious issues head-on. A united front can only be achieved by fostering dialogue, finding common ground, and devising an effective electoral strategy. The path to unity is not without its challenges; reconciling the diverse needs of various states and accommodating the aspirations of each party is a complex endeavor. Predictably, Union Home Minister Amit Shah dismissed the Patna meeting as a superficial "photo session" and a "no show." However, politics has a way of forging unexpected alliances. A functional partnership for the greater good is essential. A robust opposition is the bedrock of a healthy democracy, preventing the slide into authoritarianism. It serves as a check on potential abuses of power and ensures the government remains accountable to its citizens. The presence of a strong opposition is crucial for the vibrancy of democratic discourse. It fosters healthy debates, offers constructive criticism, and subjects policies to rigorous scrutiny. Through alternative perspectives and diverse opinions, the opposition enriches governance by amplifying the voices of marginalized communities and championing their causes. Building a united front requires selflessness and a shared commitment to the welfare and progress of the nation. It necessitates setting aside personal ambitions and focusing on the larger objective of upholding democratic principles. Only by transcending differences can the opposition parties present a formidable challenge to the ruling party. As the General Election draws near, the urgency for a united front grows stronger. The opposition must recognize that power lies in unity and collective action. Genuine efforts to build trust, foster dialogue, and resolve differences must take precedence over individual interests. The fate of democracy rests on the ability of political leaders to rise above divisions and rally behind the common goal of preserving democratic values. In this crucial moment in our nation's democratic journey, it is imperative that the opposition parties set aside their differences, embrace compromise, and work towards a common agenda. The strength of a united opposition lies in its ability to offer a credible alternative, hold the ruling party accountable, and champion the rights and interests of the people. A robust opposition is not just a political necessity; it is a vital pillar of democracy. It is through a united opposition that the voice of the people resonates, and the true essence of democracy is upheld. Let us strive towards a united front, ensuring that our democracy remains strong, vibrant, and inclusive.

China's Relentless Interference

Undermining Global Counter-Terrorism Efforts

China's consistent obstruction of joint proposals aimed at designating Pakistani radicals as global terrorists raises serious concerns about the effectiveness of the global counter-terrorism framework. In yet another incident, China blocked a joint proposal by the United States and India to designate Sajid Mir, a wanted individual in connection with the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, as a global terrorist. This marks the fifth instance in recent months where China has prevented the blacklisting of Pakistan-based terror suspects on the UN Security Council's 1267 list of terror entities. Sajid Mir, an LeT leader with a US bounty of \$5 million, has not only evaded accountability but has also been sentenced by a Pakistan court to over 15 years in a terror-financing case. These conflicting actions by Pakistan highlight the country's inconsistent approach towards counter-terrorism measures, as it strives to exit the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). India's response to China's obstruction is justified and necessitates a critical evaluation of the current global counter-terrorism architecture. By facilitating such hindrances, China sends a troubling message that extremists can act with impunity. The question of the efficacy of international cooperation and agreements aimed at combating terrorism must be addressed. If these initiatives face obstacles at the highest level, it becomes imperative to reexamine the existing process. China's obstruction not only hinders India's efforts to bring Sajid Mir to justice but also deprives the victims of the 26/11 attacks of the closure they deserve. Designating Mir as a global terrorist would have subjected him to severe consequences, including a rigorous trial, asset freezes, travel bans, and arms embargoes. By impeding this process, China undermines the pursuit of justice and allows terrorists to evade accountability. Unfortunately, China's actions are not isolated incidents. In recent times, China also obstructed Indo-US proposals for the terror listing of notorious Pakistani terrorists Shahid Mahmood, Abdul Rehman Makki, and Abdul Rauf Azhar. By prioritizing its geopolitical interests over principles, Beijing has once again come to the aid of Islamabad. This blatant support for Pakistan further fuels the existing hostilities between India and China, undermining regional stability. The international community cannot afford to turn a blind eye to China's petty tactics. The obstruction of efforts to designate global terrorists only perpetuates a climate of insecurity and endangers innocent lives. It is essential for countries committed to combating terrorism to stand united and address this recurring issue at the global stage. Furthermore, China's interference poses broader questions about its intentions and its commitment to international norms. By repeatedly shielding individuals with known terrorist links, China undermines its own credibility as a responsible global actor. Such actions not only tarnish China's reputation but also erode trust among nations. The United Nations and other international bodies must take a proactive approach in dealing with China's obstructionist behavior. Diplomatic efforts should be intensified to engage with China and highlight the detrimental consequences of its actions. Additionally, greater cooperation between like-minded countries is crucial in countering China's undue influence and ensuring the integrity of the global counter-terrorism framework.

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

WATERLOGGED ROAD



Commuters waded through the waterlogged Delhi-Gurugram Expressway service road following rainfall, in Gurugram, Tuesday, June 27.

Organised and coordinated response to Biporjoy is a pathbreaking achievement



ATUL KARWAL



The Very Severe Cyclonic Storm Biporjoy smashed into the coastline of Kutchch in the evening of 15th June at 140 kmph and cut a swathe of destruction across Gujarat and Rajasthan. In the face of such fury of nature, the singular achievement of the disaster response apparatus was zero loss of life after landfall in Gujarat. This is a testimony of the growing competence of the nation in facing disasters of this magnitude, as a continuing progression of improvement after tragically losing 9,887 human lives in Odisha super cyclone in 1999 and bringing loss of human life down to 128 in the super cyclone Amphan in 2020.

The organised and coordinated response to Biporjoy is a path breaking achievement that needs to be analysed and replicated. After India suffered three major disasters in quick succession - Odisha super cyclone in 1999, Kutch earthquake in 2001 and Tsunami in 2004, a dedicated structure of National Disaster Management Authority, National Disaster Response Force and National Institute of Disaster Management was put in place. With the realisation that investing in mitigation,

risk reduction and response gives multi-fold returns in disaster situations, there has been increasing amount of attention paid to improving our capacity to handle such large scale disasters. This is also appropriate, keeping in view that India is the third most disaster prone country in the world. The Central Govt has specially reinforced the capacity of the National Disaster Response Force, which was raised in 2006 with eight battalions, and has now grown to sixteen battalions. The Prime Minister and Union Home Minister have given great emphasis on making India disaster resilient, especially in the last few years, by personally supervising disaster related preparedness and response. The Prime Minister has also given a vision of Disaster Risk Reduction by the 10 point program enunciated by him in the Asian Ministerial Conference in 2016 in Delhi and by the establishment of Centre for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure; more than 40 nations have already joined this initiative. This is one of the reasons - a no-gaps preparedness that contributed to the success in facing Biporjoy. The atypically slow progress of Biporjoy across

the Arabian Sea gave us ample time for this. With attention of the highest functionaries in the country and their constant encouragement and motivation, NDRF has become a unique example in the world, of a standalone, year-round, dedicated disaster response force that now has the competence of responding to all man-made and natural disasters effectively. This is also exemplified by our response to the tragic earthquake in Türkiye on Feb 6 this year, when India was one of the quickest to respond and the Indian contingent of 152 NDRF rescuers and 99 personnel of a Para Field hospital was one of the largest. Kudos to the Indian Air Force; their ace pilots and planes carried even our vehicles to Türkiye, allowing NDRF rescuers to get into action as soon as we landed, with little local support. Aside from the proactive deployment of NDRF teams, and the preparedness of other central agencies and defence forces, what was critical in ensuring the success in Biporjoy was the depth of planning by the State of Gujarat. This was maybe the single most important reason and included traditional as well as innovative measures. Vulnerable population was identified to the last man and 1,43,053 people were evacuated. Trees were pruned to prevent them from getting uprooted and 4,317 hoardings were dismantled to ensure these do not get ripped by high speed winds into flying fatal projectiles. 1,152 pregnant ladies with delivery period during the passage of the cyclone were pre-emptively shifted to hospitals and 707 children were born in a

safe environment during the cyclone. A very strict enforcement mechanism kept people inside their homes and away from risky behaviour. All this was made possible with the pre-emptive deployment of 18 NDRF and 12 SDRF teams, who worked round-the-clock alongside local administration for spreading awareness about do's and don'ts and convincing people for evacuation. These teams also acted during and post cyclone, for bringing the situation back to normal as soon as possible.

The benchmark set by such a well-oiled and coordinated response to a major disaster, by reducing casualties to zero has set inspirational standards. The key factors remain community awareness, as appreciated by the Prime Minister; in-depth planning for every anticipatable eventuality, and pre-emptive action. To replicate this success, states also need availability of a year-round, dedicated, well equipped and trained SDRF in adequate numbers. Such disasters are becoming more frequent because of climate change; 7,348 disasters were reported in the period 2000-2019, compared to 4,212 during the period 1980-1999. To prepare for these, NDRF has been working tirelessly for the capacity building of SDRFs and spreading awareness through its School Safety Programs and Community Awareness Programs. NDRF continually strives to improve its competence and takes pride in dedicating its services to the nation and to humanity at large.

(Writer is IPS, DG, NDRF. Views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Navigating the Complexities

The dominant presence of US Big Tech companies in India's digital landscape and the exploitation of the Indian market by American corporations have yielded immense profits. Furthermore, historical instances such as the US support for Pakistan during the 1971 war and its criticism of India over minority-related issues raise doubts about the transformative nature of PM Modi's recent visit. It is essential to recognize that the US acts solely in its national interest, making the partnership between these two nations inherently unequal. Past experiences suggest that the US has not been a reliable ally, leaving the future nature of this relationship uncertain.

Krishna Kumar Varier, Kannur

Micron's Investment

Micron Technology, a leading US chipmaker, has recently revealed plans to invest \$825 million in Gujarat, establishing a semiconductor assembly and test facility. This significant investment will serve as a catalyst in transforming India into a thriving semiconductor hub, expediting the testing of domestically manufactured silicon products. Moreover, it will create numerous employment opportunities within the semiconductor industry, fostering economic growth. This venture also strengthens the ties between the United States and India, despite occasional strains in their relationship, as they steadily progress towards becoming close partners. Additionally, this collaboration will reduce India's reliance on China for silicon products and potentially attract investments from other countries.

Shiv Kumar Mishra, Raipur

Combating Rape

The alarming frequency of reported rape cases, as highlighted in the recent incident of 'Man arrested for raping teenager,' is a distressing reality in our country. It is crucial to take immediate and impactful action to ensure justice for the victims and effectively address crimes against women. Sexual violence remains a significant cause for concern, and even after 75 years of Independence, India continues to grapple with challenges in combating such heinous acts. The 2012 Delhi rape-murder case served as a wake-up call, prompting the government to implement stringent measures. However, lax law enforcement, inadequate investigations, and slow trials persist as major obstacles that must be urgently addressed.

Srikumar Nair, Kollam, Kerala

Properly Clean Dirty Tea Towels to Eliminate Bacteria

Primrose Freestone

Kitchens can harbour all sorts of germs and bacteria. These can arrive via humans, pets, uncooked food or even plants, meaning that a high proportion of foodborne infections are acquired directly within the home.

An important cleaning aid in most kitchens is the tea towel, also known as a dishcloth. Usually made of cotton or linen, they are used to dry wet hands and kitchen implements as well as wiping under surfaces so play an important role in kitchen hygiene.

But, because hands and uncooked fresh produce are often rich in a diverse variety of germs, tea towels are prone to picking up the bacteria they come into contact with.

Indeed, in a study that used tea towels to wipe down chopping boards that had been used to prepare raw chicken with salmonella (which can cause diarrhoea, fever and stomach cramps), 90% of the cloths became contaminated with salmonella, too.

Several studies have looked at the germs tea towels typically carry in domestic kitchens. One study sampled 100 used tea towels and found a marked presence of staphylococcus aureus Staphylococcus aureus, which

is often found on the skin but is also a pathogen that can cause a variety of issues such as abscesses, joint infections and even pneumonia.

Tea towels are good at picking up germs which is important as another study of 46 kitchens found a wide range of harmful bacterial species living on kitchen surfaces, which are often cleaned by tea towels.

Surfaces were found to have Enterobacter (which can cause respiratory tract infections, skin infections, urinary tract infections and heart, bone and eye infections), Klebsiella (which has been linked to serious infections of the lungs, bladder, brain and blood), and E. coli (which can cause upset stomachs and urinary tract infections).

Several kitchens also had Pseudomonas aeruginosa, which can cause lung infections. Bacillus subtilis, which can lead to eye infections and abscesses, was also found in more than half of the kitchens sampled. And all of the samples from the kitchens were found to have Staphylococcus and Micrococcus. In people with weak immune systems, Micrococcus has been linked to lung infections, such as pneumonia and septic arthritis along with eye and heart infections.

The levels and types of germs found

on these tea towels were influenced by how they were used, how often they were washed and how long they were dried for. Rinsing tea towels in hot water at 60 C was found to reduce levels of bacteria later spread by contaminated cloths, which is important as infection likelihood is often related to how many bacteria you ingest.

Clean your cloths

These studies suggest there is an infection risk from tea towels and that most kitchen cloths may be contaminated with high levels of bacteria. It's easy, then, for these germs to transfer on to food preparation surfaces, potentially causing serious food poisoning.

The infection risk of using tea towels is well-recognised by the medical profession. Indeed, in UK hospitals, fabric tea towels are not allowed. Instead, patient crockery, cutlery and food preparation work surfaces are cleaned and dried with disposable paper towels.

One of the reasons tea towels act as such good microbial reservoirs is that they are often damp as they are used to absorb moisture and mop up spills. Water enables germs to grow. And so a moist tea towel left in a warm kitchen provides an ideal environment for bacteria to multiply. This is particularly the

case if food traces are present, too. So what's the best way to sanitise your used tea towel? Tea towels that are hung up in the air tend to dry faster than cloths stored and squeezed into balls, which can affect levels of bacteria in the towels.

Laboratory experiments that involved covering tea towels in salmonella, found that the bacteria multiplied in all types of cloths that were crumpled. But levels of bacteria were reduced by 1,000 times if the tea towels were hung to dry for 24 hours at room temperature.

Reduce the germs

To avoid tea towels spreading germs around the kitchen, it's recommended that the cloths are washed regularly and when they get wet, are allowed to dry completely before being used again. Using disposable cloths or paper towels for heavily contaminated areas, such as those involving raw meat, could also help to stop the spread of bacteria.

In terms of tea towel hygiene, you should clean and thoroughly dry your kitchen towel at least once a day or after each use. The UK government recommends that tea towels should be sanitised by washing them in a washing machine with laundry detergent on

a hot wash cycle of 90 C. Laundry detergents contain hard water softeners, surfactants (which increase the wetting effect of water by reducing its surface tension), detergents, bleaches and digestive enzymes. Food stains on tea towels will probably be a mixture of proteins, fats and carbohydrates, which the enzymes degrade.

And the detergent helps to dissolve the stains, which are released into the washing water. Since proteins and fats are also involved in the attachment of bacteria to surfaces, laundry detergents will help to detach and so reduce bacteria levels in tea towels.

If you wash tea towels by hand, ensure any obvious food and dirt are removed by rinsing in hot water with detergent before disinfection. After washing, you can sanitise any microbes remaining using boiling water or a disinfectant such as bleach, diluted as per the manufacturer's instructions. Ironing tea towels on a hot setting will also effectively sanitise as the temperature is above 90 C. You should also store your laundered tea towels in a dry, clean area, away from any uncooked food and grubby hands.

(Writer is Senior Lecturer in Clinical Microbiology, University of Leicester. Views are personal)

BRIEF

Automated system



New Delhi: The government-promoted Open Network for Digital Commerce has a completely automated grievance redressal system and an online resolution mechanism is also being enabled, ONDC CEO T Koshiy said on Tuesday. ONDC is an initiative of the commerce and industry ministry to create a facilitative model to help small retailers take advantage of digital commerce. It is not an application, platform, intermediary or software but a set of specifications designed to foster open, unbundled, and interoperable open networks.

Investment



New Delhi: BLS International Services is planning to invest Rs 2,000 crore over the next three years in the domestic and international markets, its Joint MD Shikhar Aggarwal has said. BLS International Services provides numerous tech-enabled services to governments and individuals in various geographies. "We have plans to invest over Rs 2,000 crore in domestic and global markets to increase our presence."

Import duty

Shimla: The Congress on Tuesday condemned the central government's decision to reduce import duty on Washington (American) apples from 70 per cent to 50 per cent and said it would harm the interest of farmers of Himachal Pradesh. In a statement issued here, All India Congress Committee (AICC) spokesperson Kuldeep Singh Rathore, who is also the sitting Congress MLA from Theog assembly seat (apple belt), said that the decision would cause harm to the apple industry of Himachal Pradesh.

CAD narrows to 0.2% of GDP in Q4 FY23 on lower trade deficit, higher services exports

Mumbai, Jun 27:

India's current account deficit narrowed to USD 1.3 billion or 0.2 per cent of GDP in the January-March quarter of FY23, mainly due to moderation in the trade deficit and a robust increase in services exports, RBI data showed on Tuesday. However, for the 2022-23 fiscal, the current account balance recorded a deficit of 2 per cent of GDP compared to 1.2 per cent in 2021-22. "India's current account deficit (CAD) decreased to USD 1.3 billion (0.2 per cent of GDP) in Q4:2022-23

from USD 16.8 billion (2.0 per cent of GDP) in Q3:2022-23, and USD 13.4 billion (1.6 per cent of GDP) a year ago [Q4:2021-22]," as per the RBI's 'Developments in India's Balance of Payments during the Fourth Quarter (January-March) of 2022-23'. The sequential decline in CAD in the fourth quarter of 2022-23 was mainly on account of a moderation in the trade deficit to USD 52.6 billion from USD 71.3 billion in the preceding quarter, coupled with robust services exports, it said. Net services receipts increased, on a sequential

and year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, on the back of a rise in net earnings from computer services. The central bank had been maintaining that the CAD, a key indicator of the country's balance of payments, would remain manageable.

Private transfer receipts in the January-March period, mainly representing remittances by Indians employed overseas, increased to USD 28.6 billion, up by 20.8 per cent year-on-year. In the financial account, the RBI said net foreign direct investment (FDI) at USD 6.4 billion

was higher than USD 2.0 billion in Q3 2022-23, although lower than a year ago (USD 13.8 billion). Net foreign portfolio investment (FPI) recorded an outflow of USD 1.7 billion during the corresponding period a year ago. Net external commercial borrowings (ECBs) to India recorded an inflow of USD 1.7 billion against an outflow of USD 2.5 billion during the third quarter of 2022-23 and an inflow of USD 3.3 billion in the final quarter of 2021-22.

Merger of HDFC with HDFC Bank effective from July 1: Deepak Parekh

Mumbai, Jun 27:

The merger of housing finance major HDFC with the country's largest private lender HDFC Bank will be effective from July 1, HDFC Chairman Deepak Parekh said on Tuesday. The boards of HDFC and the private bank will meet on June 30 post to clear and approve the merger. Parekh told reporters here. The merger of the corporation with HDFC Bank will be effective July 1, Parekh said.

HDFC vice-chairman and CEO Keki Mistry said that the stock delisting of the corporation will be effective from July 13. Termed as the biggest transaction in India's corporate history, HDFC Bank on April 4 last year agreed to take over the biggest domestic mortgage lender in



a deal valued at about USD 40 billion, creating a financial services titan. The proposed entity will have a combined asset base of around Rs 18 lakh crore. Once the deal is effective, HDFC Bank will be 100 per cent owned by public shareholders, and existing shareholders of HDFC will own 41 per cent of the bank. Every HDFC shareholder will get 42 shares of HDFC Bank for every 25 shares they hold.

Milk prices risen, but no supply shortage of dairy products; consumers need not worry: Rupala

New Delhi, Jun 27:

The government on Tuesday asserted that there is no shortage of milk and other dairy products in the country, although milk prices have risen in recent months. Animal Husbandry, Fishery and Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala, while briefing media on the Modi government's achievements in the last nine years, said the sector is likely to grow at 7 per cent in 2023-23 fiscal against over 6 per cent in 2022-23.

"I will definitely admit that there has been an increase in milk prices...Government is trying its best to address the problem by increasing milk production and availability," he said. Leading milk suppliers like Amul



and Mother Dairy have hiked prices of milk multiple times in the last one year, citing increasing procurement costs of milk from farmers. For instance, Mother Dairy has increased milk prices by Rs 10 per litre between March and December 2022. Stressing that there is no shortage of milk and milk products in the country, Rupala said that recently, there were reports of shortage, but that issue

INTERNATIONAL MSME DAY

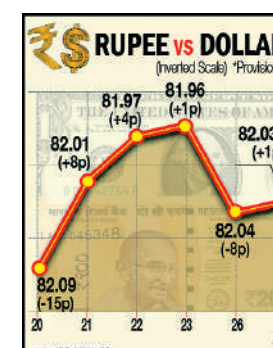


Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Narayan Rane presents the 'ZED Silver' certificate to an awardee at the 'Udyami Bharat' event on the occasion of International MSME Day, in New Delhi, Tuesday, June 27.

Rupee edges up 1 paise to 82.03 amid weak dollar, stocks rally

Mumbai, Jun 27:

The rupee edged up 1 paise to settle at 82.03 (provisional) against the US dollar in a listless trade on Tuesday amid a weak greenback in overseas markets and a rally in domestic equities. While concerns over interest rate hikes in the US and geopolitical worries capped gains in the local unit, a weak US currency in the global markets and a fall in crude oil prices supported the rupee, analysts said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened higher at 82.02 and later moved in a narrow band of 81.95 to 82.03 during the day. The local currency settled at the day's low level of 82.03 (provisional) against the US dollar, reflecting a gain of 1 paise over the last



close. The rupee had declined by 8 paise to close at 82.04 on Monday. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.10 per cent to 102.58. The greenback showed some weakness ahead of the release of US data that may have some bearing on the timing of further rate hikes by the Federal Reserve.

NMDC and CSIR-IMMT enter collaborative research agreement

Hyderabad, 27 June 2023:

India's mining major NMDC entered into a Collaborative Research Agreement with CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT) on Monday. The agreement was signed in the presence of Dilip Kumar Mohanty, Director (Production) and Vishwanath Suresh, Director (Commercial) along with senior officials at NMDC Head Office in Hyderabad.

The collaboration agreement is to study the 'Conveying Characteristics and Behavior of Iron Ore in Pneumatic Conveying System'. Aimed at understanding the behavior of iron ore fines/concentrate in pneumatic, that is air assisted, transport pipeline system. The research will establish the design parameters for inter/intra plant pipeline transportation of iron ore. The joint research program will utilize the vast knowledge and experience of CSIR-IMMT, Bhubaneswar



and NMDC towards making the Indian Mineral Industry self-reliant. Speaking on the occasion, Dilip Kumar Mohanty emphasized on the significance of collaboration between industry and research organizations to solve operational issues leading to value addition for the industry. He said, "NMDC is making investments to enhance the use of indigenous technology in mining. Our collaborations with leading research organizations of the country are stepping stones to

wards this vision." NMDC's in-house R&D Center is recognized as a Centre of Excellence in the field of mineral processing by UNIDO. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)-IMMT is a cutting-edge R&D organization known for its knowledge base in diverse science and technology fields. NMDC and CSIR-IMMT have contributed to breakthrough developments in the past and are gearing up to build a smart and sustainable future for mining.

Tata Play Binge becomes India's largest OTT aggregator

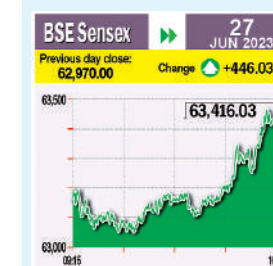
New Delhi, Jun 27:

Delivering on its promise of making access to OTT content and its discovery easy, Tata Play Binge, has now become the nation's biggest OTT aggregator platform with 27 apps. With Tata Play Binge, subscribers get entry into all their favourite content, across screens- mobile, desktop, tablet or TV, with one subscription, one search and one app! With no pre-requisite of needing a DTH subscription, Tata Play Binge offers unlimited access to 27 popular national, regional and international apps in 13 languages. These include Disney+Hotstar, ZEE5, SonyLIV, Jio Cinema, Hallmark, MX Player, Lionsgate Play, Aha, VROTT, Sun NXT,



ReelDrama, Voot Kids, Chaupal, Namma Flix, Planet Marathi, manorama MAX, Koode, Tarang Plus, Hungama Play, Eros Now, ShemaroomE, Curiosity Stream, EPIC ON, Travelxp, DocuBay, ShortsTV, along with Gaming. Enabling entertainment for the whole family, up to four viewers can simultaneously access the platform's extensive library using a single subscription.

Sensex jumps 446 points after declining for three sessions



Mumbai, Jun 27:

Benchmark equity indices ended higher on Tuesday helped by buying in banking and financial counters, mainly HDFC twins, amid a mixed trend in the global markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 446.03 points or 0.71 per cent to settle at 63,416.03 points. During the day, it advanced 497.54 points or 0.79 per cent to 63,467.54 points. NSE Nifty climbed 126.20 points or 0.68 per cent to end at 18,817.40 points. From the Sensex pack, State Bank of India, HDFC, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank, Tata Motors, NTPC and Bajaj Finserv were the laggards. In Asian markets, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the green while Seoul and Tokyo ended lower. Equity markets in Europe were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended in the negative terrain on Monday.

The merger of housing finance major HDFC with the country's largest private lender HDFC Bank will be effective from July 1, HDFC Chairman Deepak Parekh said on Tuesday. Maruti, ITC and Hindustan Unilever were the laggards. In Asian markets, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the green while Seoul and Tokyo ended lower. Equity markets in Europe were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended in the negative terrain on Monday.

Himalaya Baby Care honors fathers worldwide with beautiful campaign

Mumbai, Jun 27:

Himalaya Baby Care, a well-known brand for baby care and well-being, launches a heart-warming campaign that aims to highlight the importance of nurturing and celebrating the precious fatherhood. The brand has released a thoughtful video titled "Autograph," which perfectly depicts the unbreakable bond between a father and his child. The film beautifully captures the essence of fatherhood, showcasing the unspoken love, sacrifices, and struggles that only a father truly knows. A tired and weary middle-class father returns from work, unintentionally ignoring his own father in his exhaustion. However, his young daughter surprises him by covering his eyes

and asking who her "hero" is. Assuming it to be a superhero or actor, the father is taken aback when she reveals that he is her hero and requests his autograph. This heartwarming gesture prompts the father to reflect on his own relationship with his father. He goes to his father's room, wishes him a Happy Father's Day, and asks for his autograph. Moved by this unexpected gesture, the old father gives his autograph, remarking that it is his first. The young father, touched by the moment, realizes the importance of cherishing these precious relationships. The video concludes with all three generations playing together, concluding with a message from Himalaya BabyCare wishing all fathers a Happy Father's Day.

Domestic electric two wheeler industry to keep growing at fast clip: TVS Motor

New Delhi, Jun 27:

Domestic electric two-wheeler industry will continue to grow at a robust pace with active policy support from central and state governments while also emerging as a major hub for exports, according to TVS Motor Company. The company on its part would expand its electric portfolio to cater to different sets of customers. It currently sells electric two-wheelers under the iQUBE brand. "The EV industry will continue to grow rapidly as the consumer interest is buttressed with active policy support from the Central and State Governments through PLI, FAME II and State-specific support policies," TVS Motor Company

stated in its Annual Report for 2022-23. Continued support will ensure a smooth lift-off for the industry volumes, it added. "Like in ICE (internal combustion engine) two-wheelers, India will emerge as a major hub for EV two-wheeler exports in addition to the large domestic market," TVS Motor noted. Interestingly, the government has reduced the subsidy provided under FAME-II (Faster Adoption of Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India) scheme applicable on electric two-wheelers registered on or after June 1, 2023. For electric two-wheelers, the demand incentive is now Rs 10,000 per kWh. Besides, the cap on incentives for elec-

tric two-wheelers is now capped at 15 per cent of the ex-factory price of vehicles from 40 per cent earlier. Outlining its efforts in the EV space, TVS Motor said the company will deliver the "power of choice" as it enhances its offerings to provide relevant options to new consumer cohorts. "In doing so, expand the portfolio to new variants within iQUBE and introduce new brands," it added. This portfolio expansion will also see the introduction of new innovative features and technology, TVS Motor said. The choice will be made available in new geographies within India, beyond the current 130 towns, and outside India as the company's EV exports kick in, it stated.

Variety of germs on floors in Indian homes, says Lizol study

Mumbai, Jun 27:

Lizol, India's leading disinfectant brand, and India's leading government research agency, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research's (CSIR) Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology' (IGIB) have jointly conducted a study to analyse the presence of germs and pathogens in Indian homes. The study found a variety of germs on floors in Indian homes. The research team studied the presence of germs in Indian households and found that floor areas across different rooms harbour illness-causing germs such as, Escherichia coli, Moraxella spp, Brevundimonas spp, Acinetobacter spp. The research also revealed that there are over 1000 types of bacteria and 200 types of viruses across surfaces in our homes. The germs identified have been responsible for dis-

eases such as diarrhoea and conditions like skin-infections, urinary tract infections, acne, eye and bloodstream infections. Mr. Saurabh Jain, Regional Marketing Director, Hygiene, Reckitt- South Asia said, "Lizol, a leading disinfectant brand with 130-year-old global heritage, champions the cause of protecting families and keeping them illness-free. This study commissioned in Indian homes is an attempt to build healthier homes by identifying germ-related threats that exist here." Dr. Rakesh Sharma, PhD, Chief Scientist at CSIR-IGIB, said, "The study conducted in partnership with Lizol has brought to light details of germs and pathogens found on floors in different parts of Indian homes. Further, the germs found in the study are known to be responsible for certain illnesses and hence highlighting the need to maintain clean and germ-free homes."

'Gargi manipulates situations and people to her advantage'

Sony SAB's highly awaited family saga, *Vanshaj*, immerses viewers in the luxurious and grand world of the Mahajan family. The show has an engrossing plot that skillfully intertwines elements of family drama, political intrigue, and the interpersonal dynamics of a wealthy business dynasty. Renowned actress Parinitaa Seth embodies the role of Gargi, the formidable wife of Dhanraj (played by Gireesh Sahdev), whose cunning and domineering nature ensure her desires are fulfilled.

Parinitaa Seth, in a candid conversation, revealed: **1. Can you explain Gargi's character and her motive in the show?**

Gargi is a complex character, known for her strategic thinking and meticulous planning. She possesses a keen intellect and a talent for manipulating situations and people to her advantage. Every action she takes is carefully calculated and aligned with her ultimate goal: securing her son's position. Gargi is not one to leave

things to chance. She carefully plots her actions, considering all possible outcomes and risks. Her motive revolves around protecting and advancing her son's interests, ensuring he attains the position and power. She sees her son's success as a reflection of her own capabilities and accomplishments.

2. What do you think is more important when it comes to handling a business empire? Inheritance or Capabilities?

Vanshaj, as a show, boldly challenges the age-old norms of succession and emphasizes the importance of capability in helming the Mahajan family's legacy business. In my opinion, when it comes to handling a business empire, capabilities are more important than inheritance. While inheriting a business can provide certain advantages, such as existing resources, networks, however, it does not guarantee success in the long run. The ability to effectively manage and grow a business requires a range of skills, knowledge,

and traits that go beyond mere ownership.

3. In your opinion, do you think a woman can lead a business? If so, have you ever encountered someone who has inspired you in real life?

Absolutely! We are currently witnessing an extraordinary shift where women are not only responsible for managing households but are also excelling in leadership positions within prominent conglomerates. In today's world, women are fearlessly embracing challenges and continuously showcasing their abilities, dismantling outdated societal expectations that previously hindered their progress. This century offers an empowering environment for women to rightfully claim their positions of authority, whether it be in business empires, politics, or even governing nations. Even with Vanshaj, we are bringing to light the timeless debate of inheritance versus capability.

Tune in to Sony SAB's *Vanshaj* every Monday to Saturday at 10 PM.

'Doosri Maa' celebrates a milestone of 200 Episodes!

It's time to celebrate as &TV's *Doosri Maa* hits a milestone of 200 episodes! The show, launched last year, tells the tale of a woman living in Uttar Pradesh with her husband, two daughters, and in-laws. Their happy, peaceful family life comes to a screeching halt when she and her husband unknowingly adopt his illegitimate child. This heart-warming family drama has quickly won the audience's hearts, becoming their favourite on TV! The star cast comprising Neha Joshi (Yashoda), Aayudh Bhanushali (Krishna), Mohit Dagga (Ashok), and Darshan Dave (Randheer Sharma), among others, gathered to celebrate this joyous moment and share their remarkable journey of 200 episodes.

Talking about 200 episodes completion, Neha Joshi, essaying Yashoda's role, shares, "I have had an amazing journey playing Yashoda in *Doosri Maa*. It's all thanks to my team and audience's love and support. Yashoda has become a household name, and the bond between her and Krishna (Aayudh Bhanushali) has set a new trend for a mother-son duo on TV. Big thanks to Imtiaz Ji and Amitabh Ji this show has taken me through a roller-coaster of emotions, and I



am thrilled we have come this far. This achievement motivates us to continue entertaining our viewers and reach even greater milestones! Let the celebration continue!" Aayudh Bhanushali essaying Krishna's role, adds, "This is such a special moment for all of us! I am so happy that we have reached 200 episodes. It has been a wonderful journey, and we have become like an extended family. Congratulations to everyone on the team for this incredible achievement!" Mohit Dagga essaying Ashok's role, comments, "Being part of the *Doosri Maa* team has been a delightful journey. I can hardly believe that we've already reached the remarkable milestone of 200 episodes! I'm incredibly proud of our entire team for putting in their best efforts to make the show successful. The most amazing part for me has been the overwhelming love and support we have received from our viewers. I congratulate our production team, our entire cast and crew and the channel, &TV for this milestone." Darshan Dave, who recently joined the show to essay Randheer Sharma's role, sums it up, "I am a recent addition to the show, and I am thrilled to be part of this incredible celebration. Congratulations to the team who put in their efforts day and night to make this show a grand success. Playing Randheer's character has been an enriching experience for me, and I never expected such an amazing response from the audience."

Amrapali Gupta returns to acting after lockdown with 'Meet'

Actress Amrapali Gupta, who essays the role of Shagun in the popular fiction show *'Meet'*, has shared that the show feels like a comeback to her after Covid-19. The show presents the story of Meet Hooda (Ashi Singh), who questions societal norms and gender roles. The show recently took a 16-year leap where Ashi Singh as Sumeet (Meet's daughter) and Syed Raza Ahmed as Shlok will be seen in lead roles. Amrapali's character has harboured deep affection for Manmeet (Shagun Pandey) over the years and wants to take revenge on Meet Hooda as Manmeet left her for Meet.

Talking about her return, the actress said: "I am happy to enter a show that has been a hit for years on television. It is not an easy task to fill someone else's shoes, but I think this is a part and parcel of the industry. In fact, I am actually making a comeback to acting after lockdown with *'Meet'*, and am really excited about it."

Yasmin Karachiwala shares lifestyle changes for people with type-2 diabetes



Diabetes has become a very common condition in today's households and we owe this to an unhealthy lifestyle including poor eating habits, lack of exercise and other factors. Reports indicate that one in six people with diabetes in the world is from India and this is alarming as the figure is only expected to grow by 2045 to become 134 million, as per the International Diabetes Federation. However, it is possible to control this if one can follow some simple things regularly along with the physician's instructions. Eat a handful of almonds - Eating a handful of almonds regularly may also have a positive impact on the blood sugar levels. Moreover, substituting unhealthy snacks with healthier options like almonds can benefit you to keep your weight in check. Almonds have low glycemic index and are a source of protein.

Lights, Camera, Pranks! Actors reveal on set pranksters!



On International Jokes Day, we honour those who bring joy and laughter into our lives. It is time to celebrate the people who make us laugh. To mark this special day, the &TV artists reveal the hilarious side of their co-stars, who possess an incredible sense of humour: These include Neha Joshi (Yashoda, *Doosri Maa*), Yogesh Tripathi (Daroga Happu Singh, *Happu Ki Ultan Paltan*), and Shubhangi Atre (Angoori Bhabi, *Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai*).

Shubhangi Atre, aka Angoori Bhabi from *Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai*, shares, "When it comes to pranksters and humour, we are a lively bunch, including yours truly (laughs). But trying to outshine Aasif Ji (aka Vibhuti Narayan Mishra) in the humour department is like trying to catch a slippery fish with your bare hands—impossible! He is the reigning 'King of Comedy' on Indian television! Every week, he dives headfirst into these bizarre, hilarious characters that are mind-bogglingly difficult and extraordinarily funny. It is like he was born with a laughter-inducing superpower. He is a true artist and comedian extraordinaire with his hilarious voiceovers, outrageous get-ups, witty dialogues, and priceless expressions. And personally, Aasif Ji is a joke-cracking wizard, always keeping us in splits with his amazing sense of humour, creating a bubble of laughter and positive vibes on set."

Hungama presents latest Hindi Original 'Mauka Ya Dhokha'

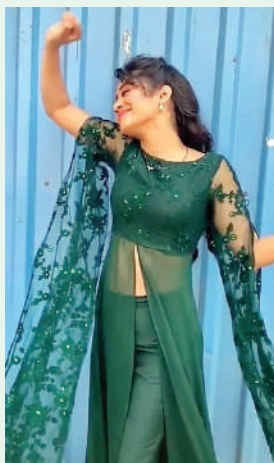


Hungama, India's leading digital entertainment platform, has launched its latest suspense-thriller *'Mauka Ya Dhokha'*. The series features a stellar cast, including the talented Himanshu Malhotra, Aabhaas Mehta, and Samiksha Batnagar, who deliver power-packed performances that bring the characters to life. *'Mauka Ya Dhokha'* is a gripping series that delves into the depths of desires, choices, and the consequences that follow. *'Mauka Ya Dhokha'* explores the story of Amit, an ordinary man whose life takes a dramatic turn when he discovers the dark consequences of his ill-fated wish, catapulting him into a world of conspiracy and plotting a chilling murder. As Amit tries to unravel the truth, he is joined by the enigmatic Shalini, who transitions from being the aggressor to a victim of a perfectly crafted plan. With the mysterious private eye, Satyajit, pulling the strings, Amit must navigate a dangerous cat-and-mouse game to secure his freedom and unravel the truth behind this web of deceit.

Shivangi Joshi: Ekta Kapoor's new show 'Barsaatein- Mausam Pyaar Ka' brings a unique twist

Actress Shivangi Joshi, known for her role in popular TV shows, is set to star in Ekta Kapoor's upcoming series *'Barsaatein- Mausam Pyaar Ka'*. She expressed admiration for the producer's innovative approach to this project, hoping that audiences will appreciate the difference.

At the Golden Glory Awards in Mumbai, Shivangi discussed her excitement for the new show. She stated, "Timing couldn't be better for the launch of *'Barsaatein - Mausam Pyaar Ka'*. It's a truly beautiful show. Ekta, the television queen who revolutionized the industry, is attempting something unique with this project. We aim to meet her expectations."



Vidyut Jammwal showcases balancing skills on a four-storey building's parapet



Vidyut, known for his daredevilry, courtesy his fitness, took to Instagram and shared a video of himself on Monday afternoon. In the clip, he is seen flaunting his well-chiseled body as he is shirtless and sporting bright blue shorts.

In the clip, he is seen running on top of a narrow railing of the parapet. "Balance in the body is the foundation for balance in life. — B.K.S. Iyengar."

#ITrainLikeVidyutJammwal," he captioned the clip. On the work front, Vidyut is currently busy shooting for his next *'Crakk - Jeetega toh Jiyega'*. The film is an adrenaline rushing extreme sports film, directed by Aditya Dutt. It is based on two brothers who are set to perform daring stunts mixed with extreme sports to win. It is written by Sarim Momin and Rehan Khan.

CROSSWORD

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
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- ACROSS**
- Prune the hedges
 - Gape
 - Longing
 - Olden times
 - Mamas' mates
 - Cairo's river
 - Legislature, in Canada
 - Speak indistinctly
 - Before, to poets
 - Certain poems
 - Furry swimmer
 - Recluse
 - Correct
 - Pipe parts
 - Enter illegally
 - Exist
 - Apprehend
 - Allow
 - Iraq's neighbor
 - Rear
 - Linger
 - Lion's home
 - Most tender
 - Satan's domain

686

DOWN

- Kind
- Lion's cry
- Not pertinent
- Director Brooks
- Digging tool
- Less wild
- Tarzan's pals
- Moved swiftly
- OH time zone
- Foot arch
- Tip
- Hint for Holmes
- German title
- Charged atoms
- Drive out
- Harbinger
- Ringlet
- Put back to zero
- Glide
- Becomes weary
- Endeavored
- Car generator
- Closes securely
- Fashion
- Scout
- More unusual
- Footwear
- Watches
- Whirlpools
- Present!
- Steeple
- Speed
- Broad
- Rabbitlike animal
- Way out
- "A ___ is Born"
- Songstress Turner
- High cards
- Exclamation of triumph
- Opposite of pos.
- ___ Beta Kappa

SOLUTION 685

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ICC MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP

Ahmedabad to host India-Pak game

Mumbai and Kolkata get semifinals

Mumbai, Jun 27 (PTD):

The world's largest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad will play host to the big-ticket ODI World Cup group match between India and Pakistan on October 15 besides staging the grand finale on November 19, the ICC announced on Tuesday.

The tournament will begin on October 5 with a clash between defending champions England and runners-up New Zealand at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, which is the largest in the world with a seating capacity of 1,32,000 spectators - 32,000 more than the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

The two semifinals of the mega event will be played at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium and the Eden Gardens in Kolkata - both iconic venues with a rich legacy - on November 15 and 16 respectively, as per the schedule announced on



(L-R) Former Indian cricketer Virender Sehwag, Secretary of Board of Control for Cricket in India Jay Shah, former Sri Lankan cricketer Muttiah Muralitharan and ICC chief Geoff Allardice pose with ICC Men's Cricket World Cup trophy during the announcement of match schedule for the Cricket World Cup 2023, in Mumbai, Tuesday, June 27.

Tuesday. Ringing in the 100-day countdown to the ODI showpiece, the ICC said hosts India will begin their campaign with a mouth-watering clash against Australia on October 8 in Chennai.

With Guwahati among 12 venues picked to host

the matches including warm-up games, it's the first time the World Cup is entering the northeast India. There will be a total of 10 venues Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Dharamsala, Delhi, Chennai, Lucknow, Pune, Bengaluru, Mumbai and Kolkata - hosting the

matches in the tournament proper. Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram in addition to Hyderabad will host the warm-up games from September 29 to October 3.

Twelve hosting associations were called in Mumbai on Monday to dis-

INDIA'S ODI WORLD CUP 2023 SCHEDULE	
IND v AUS	08 OCT, 02:00 PM Chennai
IND v AFG	11 OCT, 02:00 PM Delhi
IND v PAK	15 OCT, 02:00 PM Ahmedabad
IND v BAN	19 OCT, 02:00 PM Pune
IND v NZ	22 OCT, 02:00 PM Dharamsala
IND v ENG	29 OCT, 02:00 PM Lucknow
IND v ZI	02 NOV, 02:00 PM Mumbai
IND v SA	05 NOV, 02:00 PM Kolkata
IND v WI	11 NOV, 02:00 PM Bengaluru

prevailed.

Pakistan had earlier asked for their match against India to be shifted to either Chennai, Bengaluru or Kolkata, but the ICC and BCCI rejected their request.

There will be 10 teams at this year's World Cup. As hosts, India have qualified directly, as have Afghanistan, Australia, England, Bangladesh, New Zealand, Pakistan, and South Africa through the 2020-2023 ICC Cricket World Cup Super League.

Two other teams will make it to the World Cup through the World Cup Qualifiers, which is being currently played in Zimbabwe.

Apart from former champions Sri Lanka and the West Indies, the Qualifiers also feature Ireland, Nepal, the Netherlands, Oman, Scotland, the UAE, the USA, and hosts Zimbabwe.

At the World Cup in India, the 10 teams will play each other once in a round-robin league featuring 45 matches. These will be followed by the semifinals and the final.

Fast bowler Tongue replaces spinner Ali in England side



London, Jun 27 (AP):

Worcestershire fast bowler Josh Tongue was surprisingly recalled by England for the second Ashes test against Australia at Lord's after Moeen Ali injured his spinning finger.

The only change by England after losing the first test at Edgbaston by two wickets has set up an all-seam attack in the second match starting on Wednesday.

Tongue made his test debut this month against Ireland on a slow pitch at Lord's and took 5-66 in the second innings of a 10-

wicket win. He's been chosen ahead of Mark Wood, England's fastest bowler who hasn't played a test since December, Chris Foakes and Matthew Potts.

Ali badly blistered his right index finger at Edgbaston because of a heavy workload after coming out of test retirement. Coach Brendon McCullum said he would play if fully fit and Ali appeared to prove it on Monday at training.

But England will use Joe Root's part-time off-breaks beside a seam attack of James Anderson, Stuart Broad, Ollie Robinson and Tongue.

Bumrah bowling seven overs a day at NCA nets

No timeline yet on comeback

Bengaluru, Jun 27 (PTD):

When is Jasprit Bumrah returning to the Indian team? Neither the injured pacer nor the ones working on him have a definitive answer to that.

But the good news is that Bumrah has bowled seven overs in a day at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) nets, a development that will bring smile to the Indian fans looking forward to the 2023 World Cup with optimism. The schedule for the mega event was



released in Mumbai on Tuesday. Bumrah had undergone surgery for a recurring back niggle in New

Zealand in March and since then he has been on the recovery path. Bumrah has last played for India during the home T20Is against Australia in September, 2022. So, will he be able to make a comeback during the T20I series against Ireland or in the Asia Cup?

"For an injury of this nature, it is not wise to set any timeline as constant monitoring is necessary. But it can be said that Bumrah is recovering well and he has bowled seven overs at NCA nets. It is a steady increase in his workload from the light workouts and bowling sessions of the initial period.

This World Cup is going to be very competitive: Rohit

Mumbai, Jun 27 (PTD):

India skipper Rohit Sharma is expecting the upcoming ODI World Cup in the country to be a highly-competitive affair since "the game has become faster".

Twenty-20 cricket, the slam bang version of the game, has impacted all formats, including the traditional five-day games where the batters are not averse to going for their strokes from the word go.

India will aim for their third title and the second at home when they begin their campaign against five-time champions Australia in Chennai on October 8.

India play all their nine league matches at different venues including, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi, Lucknow and Bengaluru.

"This World Cup is going to be very competitive as the game has become faster and teams are playing more positively than ever be-



fore," Rohit was quoted as saying in an ICC release. "All this augurs well for fans worldwide, promising them many thrilling moments. We look forward to preparing well and being at our best this October-November," he added.

After their duel with Australia, the hosts will move to Delhi for a clash against Afghanistan on October 11.

INDIA VS PAKISTAN

India's much-anticipated clash with arch-rival Pakistan is scheduled for October 15 at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. The two Asian neighbours now play against each other only at the ICC and ACC events as bilateral cricket ties are frozen due to diplomatic tension. The most recent match between the two nations was during the T20 World Cup in Australia, last year. India and Pakistan have faced each other seven times in ODI World Cup in 1992, 1996, 1999, 2003, 2011, 2015 and 2019. The only time they didn't clash in a 50-over World Cup was in 2007 when both the teams crashed out of the tournament in the opening round itself. India's other big-ticket fixtures include matches against New Zealand and England on October 22 and 29 in Dharamsala and Lucknow respectively.

FORMAT

The tournament retains the round-robin format of last time with all teams playing against each other for a total of 45 league matches. There are six day matches in the tournament, which will start at 10:30am IST. All other matches, including the knockouts, will be day-night fixtures starting at 2pm IST. The top four teams will qualify for the semifinals to be played in Mumbai on November 15 and in Kolkata on November 16. The semifinals and the final will have reserve days. If India qualify for the semifinals, they will play their last-four stage game in Mumbai.

Swiatek powers her way to 2nd round of Homburg Open

Bad Homburg, Jun 27 (AP):

Iga Swiatek overcame a slow start before powering her way into the second round of the Bad Homburg Open with a 5-7, 6-2, 6-0 win over grass-court specialist Tatjana Maria.

Swiatek, making her first competitive appearance since winning the French Open two weeks before, took time to get going in her first match on grass this season. Maria saved three of the four break points she faced and converted both of her opportunities to win the first set. But Swiatek answered the 2022 Wimbledon semi-finalist in the next and lost only two more games for



the rest of the match, wrapping up the win in 1 hour, 52 minutes.

It's Swiatek's eighth consecutive win and a tournament-leading 36th of the season.

"At the beginning it was tricky," Swiatek said. "But I'm pretty glad that I figured it out because I guess problem-solving on grass is the most important thing."

Getting dropped is not something new for me: Starc

London, Jun 27 (PTD):

Taking the Ashes opener snub in his stride, Australian pacer Mitchell Starc said he is used to being "dropped the most in this squad" but he promised to remain battle-ready if he is picked for the second Test.

Left-arm pacer Starc was not part of the first Test against England, which the visitors won by two wickets. "I'm used to it now coming to England. It's a squad mentality, much the same as last time," Starc told reporters about his non-selection for the opening Test at Edgbaston. "I have been around long enough, been



dropped enough. Probably been dropped the most in this squad so it is not something new for me. It probably won't be the last time either."

The second Test will begin at the Lord's on Thursday.

"In terms of the team, I haven't got any indication either way (about selection for Lord's). Your guess is as good as mine until the selectors decide.

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PM Modi flags off 5 Vande Bharat trains



PM Modi flags off five Vande Bharat Express trains, at Rani Kamalapati Railway Station, in Bhopal, Tuesday.

Bhopal, Jun 27 (PTD):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday visited Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal and flagged off five Vande Bharat trains connecting important cities in different parts of the country. Modi reached Rani Kamalapati railway station in Bhopal from where he flagged off the five trains - two physically and three in virtual mode.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union ministers Narendra Singh Tomar and Jyotiraditya Scindia, among others, were present on the occasion. "These trains will improve connectivity in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, Bihar and

Jharkhand," Modi said in a tweet on Monday.

This is for the first time so many Vande Bharat trains have been launched in one day. Two of them are for Madhya Pradesh, where the Assembly polls are due by the year-end.

These semi high-speed trains are: Rani Kamalapati (Bhopal)-Jabalpur Vande Bharat Express, Khajuraho-Bhopal-Indore Vande Bharat Express, Madgaon (Goa)-Mumbai Vande Bharat Express, Dharwad-Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express, and Hatia-Patna Vande Bharat Express, as per an official statement.

Earlier, after arriving at the Bhopal airport in the morning, Modi was scheduled to reach the Rani Kamalapati railway station by helicopter, but because of bad weather he left for the venue by road, state BJP media in-charge Ashish Agrawal said.

CBI files charge sheet against Era Housing

● After COVID hiatus

New Delhi, Jun 27 (PTD):

A special court has given the go-ahead to start the trial in the Rs 331-crore loan fraud in IFCI against builder Era Housing and Developers and its directors after the CBI filed a charge sheet, officials said Tuesday. The CBI had filed the charge sheet against the company and its authorised representative Delhi-based industrialist Hem Singh Bharana besides 13 other entities including companies and individuals, they said.

Taking cognisance of the charge sheet filed by the CBI, the special court has summoned all the accused for August 14 for initiating the trial, they said.

The central probe agency has charged Bharana and the other accused under IPC sections related to criminal conspiracy, cheating and others. The agency has alleged that all the accused dishonestly induced IFCI Ltd. to disperse the term loan by submitting mis-

leading facts and wrong CA Certificates.

It alleged that as part of the conspiracy, they diverted the term loan funds for a purpose other than it was granted.

"Thereby, in pursuance of criminal conspiracy, they have cheated IFCI Ltd. and incurred wrongful gain to the tune of Rs. 331 Crores to themselves and wrongful loss to IFCI Ltd.," the agency alleged.

The IFCI had alleged that the company had started defaulting on loan payments since 2012 following which a number of notices were issued, they said. When the company went to sell mortgaged properties at Palwal to recover dues, they encountered third parties which claimed their ownership over the land.

The matter was handed over to the CBI in 2020 when the agency was already probing another alleged scam case of Rs 737 crore by Bharana in the UCO Bank in which former chairman and managing director of the bank Arun Kaul was also an accused.

RELIGIOUS GATHERING



Devotees offer prayers to Goddess Bipadtarini during 'Bipadtarini Puja', at Kalighat in Kolkata, Tuesday.

KAILASH MANSAROVAR YATRA SUSPENSION

U'khand authorities explore alternative ways

● To offer pilgrims glimpse of Mount Kailash

Pithoragarh, Jun 27 (PTD):

With the Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra suspended for several years, the Uttarakhand Tourism Department is exploring the possibility of offering pilgrims a glimpse of Mount Kailash, believed to be the abode of Lord Shiva, from the old Lipulekh peak here, officials said on Tuesday.

The peak is situated on the western side of the Lipulekh Pass, the gateway to Tibet.

The Kailash

Mansarovar Yatra through the Lipulekh Pass was last held in 2019. It was suspended in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and has not resumed since.

"A team of tourism department officials, district authorities, adventure tourism experts and Border Roads Organisation officials recently visited the old Lipulekh peak, which offers a clear view of the majestic Mount Kailash, to find out how the spot can be developed as a religious tourism destination," Dharchula Sub-Divisional Magistrate Devesh Shashni, who was also part of the team, told

PTI. 'Kailash Darshan' from the old Lipulekh peak can be an alternative to the Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra, the officials said.

"Our team was asked to submit a report on the possibility of religious tourism in the Vyas Valley, for which we visited the old Lipulekh peak, Nabhidhang and Adi Kailash region," District Tourism Officer Kriti Chand said.

"A snow scooter can take pilgrims to the peak which is located at an altitude of 19,000 feet above the sea level and is 1,800 metres from the Lipulekh Pass," said the DTO.

The BRO has construct-

ed a road up to the base of the peak.

Vyas Valley residents said previously too, the pilgrims who could not cross over to Mansarovar due to old age or health issues used to get 'darshan' of the sacred Mount Kailash from the old Lipulekh peak.

"One gets a lovely and thrilling view of Mount Kailash from the peak. The only challenges are gusty winds and four critical bends on the way to the peak," said Bhupal Singh Ronkali, a resident of Vyas Valley's Rongkong village who has visited the peak several times and shot a video of Mount Kailash from there.

'Discontent with gender assigned at birth prevalent among the younger'

New Delhi, Jun 27 (PTD):

Younger people are experiencing distress stemming from gender dysphoria, or a mismatch between their gender at birth and the one they identify with, according to new research in the US published in the journal General Psychiatry.

Further, the age of those experiencing such distress is still lower for those assigned female sex at birth than those assigned male, the research found.

The researchers from Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, US, drew on data from the TriNetX database, a web-based tool for research pop-

ulation cohort, from 49 healthcare organisations between April 30, 2017 and April 30, 2022, which held anonymised medical records of around 66 million people, 80 per cent of whom live in the US. The researchers focused on 42 million 4-65 year old participants,

NEW STUDY

66,078 of whom were diagnosed with gender dysphoria. Their average age was found to be 26-27 for those assigned female sex at birth and 30 for those assigned male sex. Further, they were more likely to have been assigned female sex at birth - 58 vs 55 per cent.

The estimated prevalence of gender dysphoria rose significantly between 2017 and 2021, while the average age of those diagnosed with it fell from 31 in 2017 to 26 in 2021, the researchers found.

However, they found the increasing trend of a gender dysphoria diagnosis among those assigned female sex at birth to be significantly more rapid than that of those assigned male sex at birth, before the age of 22.

While gender dysphoria was found to begin increasing among those assigned male sex at birth at 13 years of age and peak at 23 before gradually decreasing, these

ages were 11 and between 17 and 19, respectively, for those assigned female sex at birth.

The researchers suggested that the timing of puberty might explain the different patterns of gender dysphoria by sex, as girls generally enter this before boys, and it is during this time that young people tend to seek medical help for gender issues.

Social attitudes may also have a role, they add, with school-age masculine girls with gender dysphoria more likely to be accepted by their peers and feminine boys in the same situation more likely to face bullying and rejection.

Student threatens family with 'extreme step'

● Rescued by police in Kota

Kota (Rajasthan), Jun 27 (PTD):

A 17-year-old engineering aspirant who had threatened his parents on the phone that he would take an "extreme step" was rescued by a four-member police team in Rajasthan's Kota, officials said.

The police said the boy was under tremendous pressure and was also feeling homesick.

The teenager from Bihar is enrolled in a coaching centre in the city's Mahaveer Nagar area. On Sunday, the boy's father dialled the Childline number and said

that his son had called home and threatened that he would take an "extreme step". After Childline operators informed the police control room, personnel at Mahaveer Nagar police station swung into action and traced the boy to the Rangbadi area. He was rescued within 20 minutes.

Harveer Singh, an assistant sub-inspector who was part of the police team, said the teen has been living in Kota for the past three months and is preparing for the engineering entrance examination. Feeling homesick, he returned to his native place around four days ago. He was feeling tremendous pressure and was even speaking inco-

herently, the officer said.

The boy was produced before the Child Welfare Committee, which ordered to send him to a shelter home for counselling until his family members reached Kota, Harveer Singh said.

The teen was handed over to his family members after counselling on Monday, said Yagya Singh Hada, the nodal officer for Childline.

Appreciating the team's efforts, Superintendent of Police (City) Sharad Choudhary felicitated the personnel. Harveer Singh, constables Sabir Hussain, Vikram and Rajesh, and Pratap Singh of the cyber cell were rewarded with a cash prize.

'Help us to help Manipur': Army to women activists blocking routes

Imphal, Jun 27 (PTD):

Women activists were deliberately blocking routes and interfering in Operations of Security Forces. Such unwarranted interference is detrimental to the timely response by Security Forces during critical situations to save lives and property.

"Indian Army appeals to all sections of population to support our endeavours in restoring peace. Help us to Help Manipur," it tweeted.

The stand-off in Itham went on throughout Saturday, and ended after a "mature decision" by the operational commander keeping in view the sensitivity of use of force against large irate mob led by women that forced the forces to let go of 12 militants holed up there.

"Women activists in #Manipur are deliberately blocking routes and interfering in Operations of Security Forces. Such unwarranted interference is detrimental to the timely response by Security Forces during critical situations to save lives and property."

"Indian Army appeals to all sections of population to support our endeavours in restoring peace. Help us to Help Manipur," it tweeted.

'Telangana yearning for change, looking towards Cong'

New Delhi, Jun 27 (PTD):

The people of Telangana are yearning for change and looking towards the Congress, party president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Tuesday after chairing a meeting of Telangana unit leaders to decide the strategy for the state polls due later this year.

The meeting, which was held at the AICC headquarters here, was also attended by former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi and general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal. Discussions were also



Mallikarjun Kharge

held on the Congress' strategy going forward, according to party leaders.

"People of Telangana are yearning for change. They are looking towards the Congress party," Kharge said in a tweet after the meeting.

The Congress is ready to take on any challenge, he

asserted. "Together, we will usher a brighter future for Telangana, based on shared democratic values and all-around social welfare," he said.

The Congress also shared on Twitter pictures of the meeting that was also attended by AICC Telangana in-charge Manikrao Thakare and Telangana PCC president A Revanath Reddy, among others.

Earlier, Venugopal said in a tweet, "Telangana is ready to defeat KCR's feudal govt and crush the unholy alliance between BRS and BJP."

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



Manipur CM N. Biren Singh during the launch of the Onetime financial assistance for clothing & personnel belonging to those living in relief camps, in Imphal East, Tuesday.

Kokilaben Hosp to introduce advanced 'Total Lab Automation'

Mumbai, Jun 27:

Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, one of India's leading super-specialty hospitals and the most accredited hospital in Western India, added another feather to its cap with the launch of Total Lab Automation technology powered by Roche Diagnostics. The new technology will improve patient care, with a special emphasis on preventive healthcare, at Mumbai's first private tertiary care hospital.

The Total Lab Automation combines data analytics and workflow integration with robotics to revolutionize traditional laboratory processes. The platform leverages use of advanced robotics, high-definition cameras, cus-

tomized algorithms, and machine learning which allows streamlining of processes, eliminating manual errors, resulting in faster and more reliable results. A multidisciplinary open automation approach with minimal human touch brings cutting-edge technology to patient care.

The Total Lab Automation integrates five major laboratory disciplines - Clinical Chemistry, Immunology, Toxicology, Infectious Serology, and Haematology & Coagulation - into one automated track, reducing turnaround time significantly by providing end-to-end solution. With centralized real-time monitoring, advanced algorithms, and proactive critical alerts, it also provides accurate and

prompt results, enabling the hospital to deliver a higher level of patient care. The design of the technology integrates all aspects of laboratory workflows into a seamless and user-friendly interface, improving staff safety and satisfaction.

"At Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, our commitment to providing quality care drives us to continuously strive for excellence and upgrade our technologies for best outcomes," said Dr. Santosh Shetty, CEO & Executive Director, Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital. "The launch of Total Lab Automation is a testament to this commitment."

With the launch of Total Lab Automation,

Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital has set a new standard in laboratory medicine, furthering its motto of "Every Life Matters" by providing a preventive and enhanced approach to healthcare.

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