



### BRIEF



Bollywood actor Sonelli Seygali and restaurateur Ashesh L Sajani pose for photos after their wedding ceremony, in Mumbai, Wednesday.

### Recovery

**■ Imphal:** As many as 57 arms, 318 ammunition and five bombs have been recovered in Manipur, taking the total number of recovered arms and ammunition to 868 and 11,518, respectively, security advisor to Manipur government Kuldiep Singh said on Wednesday. Curfew relaxation has been made for 12 hours in five valley districts and for 10 to eight hours in neighbouring hill districts.

### Speedy trial

**■ Mumbai:** Former media executive Indrani Mukerjee, the prime accused in the murder of her daughter Sheena Bora, on Wednesday moved a special court here seeking day-to-day trial in the case, contending that the slow pace of proceedings has affected her right to work. In her application, moved through advocate Ranjeet Sangle, she said that the inordinate delay in conducting the trial has deprived her of her fundamental right to work in the country of her nationality (England) and residence, as also the freedom to travel freely outside India.

### Run over

**■ Bhubaneswar:** At least four labourers were killed and three others critically injured in Odisha's Jaipur Road railway station after being run over by a goods train on Wednesday, an official said. The labourers had sheltered from heavy rain under the goods train when it started rolling.

### Committee

**■ Mumbai:** A one-member committee will conduct an inquiry into the rape and murder of an 18-year-old student inside her room at a government hostel in south Mumbai, the Maharashtra government said on Wednesday.

### Injured

**■ Mumbai:** A 23-year-old man escaped with minor injuries after a part of a crane broke at an under-construction site and fell on a few huts in Mumbai's Chembur on Wednesday, said an official. The incident occurred at the site of Deserva building in Om Ganesh Nagar, Vashi Naka, around 3.45 pm, said the official from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

**Weather**  
High 43 Low 28

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 18,726.40  
SENSEX 63,142.96

**BULLION**  
GOLD 59,720  
SILVER 72,210

## Wrestlers pause protest till Jun 15

### After 5-hour meet with minister

**New Delhi, Jun 07 (PTI):** The protesting wrestlers on Wednesday agreed to suspend their protest for a week after the government asked them to wait till police completes its probe into sexual harassment allegations against WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh by June 15.



Wrestler Sakshi Malik speaks with the media after a meeting, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

The wrestlers, after a nearly five-hour meeting with Sports Minister Anurag Thakur, said the government has also assured them that the police will withdraw the FIRs filed against them.

The wrestlers were booked for violation of law and order on May 28 when they marched towards the new Parliament building without permission to hold 'Mahila Samman Mahapachayat'.

The meeting was attended by Olympic medalists Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik, her husband Satyawart Kadiyan

and Jitender Kinha. Double world medallist Vinesh Phogat, a prominent face of the protest against WFI chief, skipped the meet.

"We were told that police investigation will be complete by June 15. Till then, we have been asked to wait and suspend the protest," Sakshi Malik told reporters after the meeting.

"The Delhi police will also withdraw the FIRs filed against the wrestlers

lodged on May 28," she added. Both Malik and Punia asserted that their agitation was not yet over and they have suspended their protest only till June 15 as requested by the government.

Later addressing a press conference, Thakur said the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) elections be held by June 30.

The crucial meeting was called by Thakur to break the deadlock.

## Chargesheet against WFI chief to be submitted by Jun 15

### Federation elections by Jun 30



Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur addresses media after a meeting with wrestlers.

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Wednesday said a chargesheet in the case into the allegations of sexual harassment against outgoing WFI chief Brijbhushan Sharan Singh will be filed by June 15. Addressing a press conference after a marathon meeting with the protesting wrestlers, Thakur also assured that the elections to the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) will be held by June 30. Noting that the government has accepted every demand of the wrestlers, he said WFI will also have an internal complaints committee, headed by a woman. Thakur said the wrestlers had also demanded the withdrawal of cases against various academies and sportspersons as well as not allowing Singh and his associates to participate in the election process. "All these issues were agreed by consensus," the sports minister said. Asked about the wrestlers' demand for Singh's arrest, Thakur said the investigation into the case will be completed and a chargesheet will be filed by June 15.

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## Two eight-year-old cousins, woman drown in river

**Mungeli, Jun 07 (PTI):** A woman and two cousins who were minors drowned while bathing in a river in Chhattisgarh's Mungeli district on Wednesday, police said.

As per preliminary information, one Akshay Kashyap and his cousin sister Aradhya Kashyap, both aged eight years, were bathing in the Maniyari river near Rabeli village when they slipped into deep waters, an official said.

On seeing them drowning, a female resident of the village, Shankuntala Kahyap (38), who was also bathing nearby, tried to save them, but all three met watery grave, he said.

Aradhya Kashyap's younger brother, who was also at the spot, rushed to the village and alerted family members about the incident. Local residents took all three to a nearby community health centre (CHC) where doctors declared them dead, he said.

## Tension in Kolhapur over social media post on Tipu Sultan

Kolhapur, Jun 07 (PTI):

Wielding lathis, police in Maharashtra's Kolhapur on Wednesday dispersed hundreds of protesters after they pelted stones during a demonstration against the alleged use of Tipu Sultan's image along with an objectionable audio message as social media "status" by a few locals, an official said.

In view of the protest, internet services have been suspended till Thursday in Kolhapur, a senior police official said. While personnel from the State Reserve Police Force (SRPF) have been deployed in the city in western Maharashtra, police have sought more cops from Satara,



Security personnel chase away people protesting against the alleged use of Tipu Sultan's image in objectionable social media posts, in Kolhapur district, Wednesday.

he said. Prohibitory orders have been issued till June 19 banning the assembly of five or more persons, he said.

As there was a possibility that a few groups of protesters may go to the neighbouring Sangli district, police are put on alert and prohibitory orders

may be issued. Maharashtra Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis wondered if there was any link between the statement of a leader from the Opposition camp about likely riots and the subsequent "glorification" of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb and Tipu Sultan.

## Forest officials seize tiger skin, body parts of other animals

■ Arrest six from Odisha

**Gariaband, Jun 07:** Forest officials from Gariaband district have arrested six persons on charges of poaching from adjoining Odisha and recovered tiger skin, four live peachicks and body parts of other wild animals from them, officials said on Wednesday.

Acting on inputs, the anti-poaching team of Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve along with Odisha forest officials on June 3 took action in villages under the neighbouring state's Khariar forest range bordering the reserve, they said.

According to Deputy Director Varun Jain of the tiger reserve, the officials



### What official says...

According to Deputy Director Varun Jain of the tiger reserve, the officials first raided the house of one Badan Manjhi (45) in Khudupani village on the inter-state border and recovered a big piece of tiger skin, four peachicks, bow-arrow and other materials used in poaching. Based on Badan's statement, five more persons Khageswar Manjhi (62), Vidyadhar Manjhi (37), Bada Manjhi (61), Sachin Manjhi (36) and Achyutanand Manjhi (23) were searched in nearby villages and body parts of leopard, bear and other animals and a muzzle-loading gun were seized from them.

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As per preliminary information, Badan came across the rotten carcass of a tiger in a jungle close to his village two months back. He and other locals then chopped it and distributed the pieces among them, he said.

## BEATING THE HEAT



Visitors at a water park on a hot summer day, in Agra, Wednesday.

## Cong spent Rs 130 cr on Gujarat, HP polls

**New Delhi:** The Congress spent over Rs 130 crore for contesting the Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh assembly polls held late last year, according to an expenditure report submitted by the party to the Election Commission. The BJP spent over Rs 49 crore for contesting the Himachal Pradesh elections, the saffron party said in its expenditure report submitted to the poll panel. The EC has not yet put in the public domain the BJP's election expenditure report for the Gujarat assembly elections. The BJP retained power in Gujarat, while the Congress wrested power from the BJP in Himachal Pradesh. According to the election expenditure reports filed by the two parties, money was largely spent on funding their respective candidates, advertisement and publicity, and travel of star campaigners.

## UNION CABINET DECISION

## Cabinet approves Rs 89,047 cr for 4G, 5G spectrum allocation to BSNL

**New Delhi, Jun 07 (PTI):** The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the third revival package for BSNL with a total outlay of Rs 89,047 crore.

The package includes allotment of 4G and 5G spectrum for BSNL through equity infusion, an official statement said.

Also, the authorized capital of BSNL will be increased from Rs 1,50,000 crore to Rs 2,10,000 crore.

The package comprises allotment of premium wireless frequencies 700 MHz band spectrum worth Rs 46,338.6 crore; 70 MHz of frequencies in 3300 MHz band worth Rs 26,184.2 crore; frequencies in 26



Union Minister Piyush Goyal speaks during a media briefing on Cabinet Decisions.

GHz band worth Rs 6,564.93 crore; in 2500 MHz band worth Rs 9,428.2 crore and Rs 531.89 crore for miscellaneous items.

The spectrum allocation will enable BSNL to roll out pan-India 4G and 5G services, 4G coverage in

**Kharif crops' MSP sees up to 10.35% hike; paddy MSP is Rs 2,183/quintal**  
In a bonanza for farmers, the government on Wednesday announced an increase of Rs 143 in the minimum support price (MSP) of paddy to Rs 2,183 per quintal for this year, the second steepest increase in the last decade. The highest increase in the paddy MSP in the last 10 years was by Rs 200 per quintal in 2018-19.

rural and uncovered villages under various connectivity projects, provide Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) services for high-speed internet and provide services/spectrum for Captive Non-Public Network (CNP)."

## BBC TO IT DEPT

## 'May have underreported India income'

**New Delhi, Jun 07 (PTI):**

British broadcaster BBC has communicated to the income-tax department that some of its past income, for its operations in India, could have gone unreported during the statutory filing of returns and hence it would like to amend it, official sources said on Wednesday.

The development comes in the backdrop of the tax department conducting a three-day long survey in February at the offices of the organisation in Delhi as part of an alleged tax evasion investigation against them.

I-T sources, however, said that the purported BBC communication has "no legal value" till it pays the due taxes.

They also refused to quantify the possible amount of tax evaded or avoided by the company, saying their investigation was still on.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the administrative authority of the tax department, said they do not comment on individual cases.

The company responded to PTI's queries in this context saying it continues to cooperate with the tax authorities.

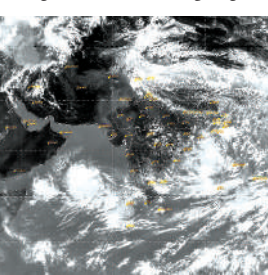
## Cyclone Biparjoy may be a killjoy for monsoon onset

**New Delhi, Jun 07 (PTI):**

Cyclone 'Biparjoy', the first storm brewing in the Arabian Sea this year, rapidly intensified into a severe cyclonic storm with meteorologists predicting a "mild" monsoon onset over Kerala and "weak" progress beyond southern peninsula under its influence.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday morning said conditions are favourable for monsoon onset over Kerala within two days.

Meteorologists, however, said the cyclone has been impacting the intensity of the monsoon and the onset over Kerala would be "mild".



Satellite image taken between 01:00 pm to 01:26 pm IST shows the location of Cyclone Biparjoy in the Arabian Sea, on Wednesday.

The Met office said the severe cyclonic storm is likely to move nearly northwards and intensify into a very severe cyclonic storm. It would then move north-northwestwards during the subsequent three days.

However, the IMD has not yet predicted any major impact on countries adjoining the Arabian Sea, including India, Oman, Iran and Pakistan.

Meteorologists say the tentative track of the system will be in the northward direction but storms at times defy the predicted track and the intensity.

Forecasting agencies said the storm has been undergoing "rapid intensification", escalating from just a cyclonic circulation to a severe cyclonic storm in just 48 hours, defying earlier predictions.

Atmospheric conditions and cloud mass indicate that the system is likely to sustain the strength of a very severe cyclone till June 12.

## Mukhtar Ansari's aide shot dead

**On Lucknow court premises**

**Lucknow, Jun 07 (PTI):** Gangster-politician Mukhtar Ansari's alleged aide Sanjeev Maheshwari Jeeva was shot dead on Lucknow court premises on Wednesday, police said.

Two persons were injured in the shooting by a man who, eyewitnesses said, was dressed like a lawyer.

"Sanjeev Maheshwari Jeeva, who was held in Lucknow jail, was brought to the court for hearing in a case and was shot dead by an unknown assailant," said Lucknow Police Commissioner S B Shiradkar who reached the court premises shortly after the incident. Jeeva (48) was a resident of Muzaffarnagar district. He was an accused in the mur-



Body of gangster Sanjeev Jeeva after he was shot dead on Lucknow court premises, Wednesday.

der of BJP MLA Krishnand Rai and then state minister Brahm Dutta Dwivedi as well as 24 other cases, including that of murder, fraud and criminal conspiracy.



# Absconding director of two chit fund companies nabbed

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 07:** Police arrested the director of two chit fund companies, who cheated crores of rupees from the common people on promise of higher returns on their investment. Supela Police has arrested the absconding Director of Artha Tatva Credit Society and Sanskardhani Infra Housing Limited from Bilaspur.

Durg Police is continuously taking action against the directors of the chit fund companies and is working to protect the investments of the people. A number of cases are registered against the accused.

According to the intention of the state government, Inspector General of Police (Durg Range) Dr

Anand Chhabra and Superintendent of Police (Durg) Shalabh Kumar Sinha are ensuring continuous action against the directors of the chit fund companies.

Police had received complaints against Idrish Ahmed, Director of Artha Tatva Credit Society. He lured the common people to invest money in his company by giving attractive offers and assuring the people of higher interests in the short term.

On the completion of the time period, when the investors approached the company to withdraw their money, the Director of the company did not re-



turn the money. A complaint in this regard was lodged by Samridhi Jain at Supela Police Station under Section 409 of IPC.

On the instructions of SP Shalabh Kumar Sinha and under the guidance of ASP (City) Sanjay Dhruv and CSP (Bhilai Nagar) Nikhil Rakhecha, Supela

Police was making efforts to arrest the absconding director of chit fund companies.

Idrish Ahmed, director of Arthatatva Credit Society and Sanskardhani Infra Housing Limited, had fled from his residence as soon as he came to know about the FIR

against him. Police searched his addresses continuously but did not find any trace of the accused.

Meanwhile, information was received that the accused was living in Bilaspur. A team of cops in civil dress was entrusted with the task of arresting the accused. They maintained a constant watch on the suspect in Bilaspur and after confirming that the suspect is Idrish Ahmed, a team of Supela Police arrested him from Bilaspur.

The accused Idrish Ahmed (44) son of Late Nawab Ahmed a resident of Azad Chowk Bhilai-3 was duly arrested on June

07 and sent to the jail on judicial remand.

When questioned, the accused admitted to the crime. Several chit fund cases are registered against the accused in Police Station Supela, Police Station Newai and other police stations.

Section 10 of Chhattisgarh Protection of Interest of Depositors Act, 2005 was added in the case. With this action of the Supela police, the possibilities of getting back the amount deposited by the investors have increased.

Inspector Durgesh Sharma (SHO, Supela), Sub Inspector Lakhesh Gangesh, Head Constable Pankaj Choubey and Constable Vikas Tiwari played a vital role in arresting the accused.

## Interdepartmental Music Competition from June 20

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 07:** Bhilai Steel Plant's department of Sports, Cultural & Civic Amenities (SCCA) is organising a 5-day-long Inter-Departmental Music Competition-2023 from June 20 to 24, at Mahatma Gandhi Kala Mandir, Civic Center.

The competition, being organized for BSP Employees and their spouses, is held under three categories, Hindi Category (Women & Men), Non-Hindi Category (Women & Men) and Duet Singing Category respectively.

The Non-Hindi Category includes all songs in other languages such as Punjabi, Telugu, Tamil, Bangla, Marathi, Malayalam etc. It is mandatory to have at

least six participants in each category, in order to hold the competition in that particular category.

The winners of the Inter-departmental music competitions held in the previous years can also take part in the competition.

The Duet category is reserved exclusively for husband-wife duo, with either of the two being a BSP-employee.

The arrangement of accompanist musicians will be done by the SCCA Department.

Registration of participants, Admit-card and rules of the competition for the Interdepartmental Music (singing) Competition-2023 can be obtained from SCCA Office, Handball Academy, Sector-4 from June 05 to 17.

## Road safety awareness campaign organized in TPL workshop

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 07:** TPL Workshop, Bhilai Steel Plant organised a Road Safety Campaign under the guidance of Shailendra Kumar Agrawal, GM (TPL), on June 03. The road safety campaign was organized by the workshop from 08.45 am at the TPL Workshop road, Forest Avenue (Near Fire Department Headquarters).

Presiding over the programme, Shailendra Kumar Agrawal, GM (TPL), urged everyone to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) while driving and drive safely



under controlled speed.

This campaign was conducted by Anil Kumar Phule (DSO, TPL Workshop). On this occasion Praveen Kumar Vyavhare, Asst Mgr (TPL Workshop), along with all the personnel of the workshop stood with placards

(boards) displaying traffic related precautions, facing the direction of the traffic on the road.

The placards had road-safety awareness slogans such as, 'Wear Helmets', 'Use Seat Belts', 'Maintain Speed Limit', 'Do not Use Mobile While Driving' etc.

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 07:** Bhilai Steel Plant's Propane Plant observed World Environment Day on June 05, by organising Tree Plantation. Asit Saha, CGM I/c (M&U) was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Saplings of several plant varieties were planted by the Chief Guest at Propane Plant premises, along with other officers and personnel.

Propane Storage & Distribution Plant is an essential unit of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant and it comes under extremely hazardous category. The

Propane Plant ensures continuous supply of propane gas to other units of the Plant, such as SMS-2, SMS-3 and Plate Mill, which is an essential component in the process of steel production.

AK Joshi, CGM (Utilities), SK Gajbhiye, CGM (Mechanical), RP Ahirwar, GM (PP), SK Kshatriya, GM (ACWE), Utpal Dutta, GM (WMD), Chinmoy Khan, GM (CAS & CWP), MV Babu, GM (PLEM), PC Bag, GM (OP-2), also took part in the tree plantation, along with PD



Sundrani, AGM (PP), and RK Chandra, Sr Mgr (PP). RP Ahirwar, GM (PP), along with Plant-employees and contract workers of the department also contributed in organising the program successfully.

A tree plantation drive was also organised by the LDCP fraternity of Plant's RMP-3, on the eve of World Environment Day, under the guidance of Ratan Mukherjee, GM I/c (RMP-2 & 3). A "Life Oath", was ad-

ministered by Mukherjee, under the banner of 'Mission LiFE' to adopt a lifestyle that facilitates the environmental conservation initiative. Along with the Chief Guest, other officers, personnel and contract workers planted as many as 150 saplings on this occasion.

Sushant Pal, GM, SK Naik, DGM, DK Verma, DGM, Shatruhan Srivastava, DGM, also took part in the tree plantation, along with P.Morya, Mgr. It is noteworthy that a tree plantation drive is conducted every year at RMP-3 on the occasion of World Environment Day.

## Youth bludgeoned to death; three juveniles held

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 07:** A youth was bludgeoned to death in Shakti Nagar area of Mohan Nagar Police Station on the intervening night of Wednesday. Police have arrested three juveniles in connection with this murder. The deceased had abused the juveniles late evening on Tuesday.

On the same night, the juveniles got an opportunity to take revenge and they attacked the youth with a heavy stone. With the help of CCTV footage, police identified the accused and managed to solve the blind murder case within a few hours.

SP has rewarded the investigation team for solving

the case promptly.

DSP (Crime) Rajeev Sharma informed that on June 07, Mohan Nagar Police Station received information that a youth was lying in a pool of blood on the road at Shakti Nagar in Durg. Police team reached the spot and the youth was rushed to the District Hospital Durg for treatment. The youth died during treatment in the hospital. When the cops discovered that it was a murder, they informed the senior officers.

Taking the sensational incident into serious cognizance, SP Shalabh Sinha and ASP (City) Sanjay Dhruv visited the crime scene and gave necessary instructions to the investiga-



tion team for tracing the unknown accused. A joint team of ACCU and Mohan Nagar Police Station led by Inspector Santosh Mishra and Inspector Vipin Rangari was formed. The team closely inspected the scene of crime and collected the footage of the CCTV cameras installed nearby. In the CCTV recording, 03 boys were seen executing the incident of murder. The footage

was shown to the local people and soon the accused were identified as three local juveniles of Shakti Nagar.

The juveniles were called and interrogated in presence of their relatives. During interrogation, they confessed to committing the murder. They disclosed that on the night of June 06, the deceased Lukesh Yadav had abused them in a state of intoxication.

On the same night, while returning from the wedding, the juveniles found the deceased Lukesh Yadav sitting alone in the street in a state of intoxication. Finding him alone, the juveniles decided to take revenge and attacked Lukesh Yadav with a stone.

They left him bleeding

and escaped. The young man died due to severe injuries. After interrogation, stones and other items used in the crime were seized. Further action is being taken from Police Station Mohan Nagar.

ASI Rajesh Pandey, Purna Bahadur, Head Constable Narendra Singh, Constables Pradeep Singh, Keshav Sahu, Farooq Khan, Dharendra Yadav, Sanat, Shobhit Sinha, Upendra Yadav, Pankaj Chaturvedi, Shahid Khan, Kranti Sharma, Sachin, Javed, Thomson Peter, Kamlesh, Gaur Rajput and Bharthari played a vital role in solving the case. For solving the murder case within a few hours, SP gave a cash reward of Rs 10000 to the team.

## Plantation Drive & Pond Cleaning conducted at Konari Bharda

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 07:** On the occasion of World Environment Day, several activities based on environmental conservation were organised by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant around the township, Plant premises and peripheral areas. As a part of World Environment Day on June 05, 2023, Plant's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department organised cleaning of ponds along with Tree Plantation at village Konari Bharda.

Village Sarpanch Bharat Lal Chandrakar, Sushil Kamde, Senior



Manager (CSR), Vivek Mishra, Assistant Manager, were present on this occasion along with Vijayalakshmi, Sita Sinha, Anjani Dwivedi, Budhe Lal and villagers of village

Konari Bharda. Villagers were made aware about the importance of environmental protection, and saplings were planted with their cooperation.

## BJP stages aggressive demonstration at BMC

### Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 07:** Condemning the local body over several issues, the BJP party workers led by District President Brijesh Bichpuria, Deputy Leader of Opposition Daya Singh along with Corporators staged an aggressive demonstration at Bhilai Municipal Corporation.

The BJP Corporators poured their anger against the local civic body during this demonstration. BJP Corporators had reached the dharna spot with their ward residents to highlight their different problems. The Councilors got the support of the BJP district Bhilai organization.

BJP District President Brijesh Bichpuria was present with his entire team. He said they are continuously going among the public and are listening to their problems. Deputy Leader of Opposition Daya Singh said that the city government of Congress is neck deep in

corruption and is working with 18% commission.

The local government should resign on moral grounds, said Daya Singh as the civic body failed to resolve the 18 different issues which were discussed in the past.

Daya Singh said that different types of problems are prevalent in different wards of the city. People have to struggle for small things. Drinking water crisis has increased in summer. The internal roads of the city are in bad condition. The city sanitation system is messed up.

There is no light on the street poles. The BJP Corporators present during the dharna were former leader of opposition Rikesh Sen, Veena Chandrakar, Mahesh Verma, Priyanka Sahu, Lakshmi Diwakar, Chandeshwari Bande, Mukesh Aggarwal, Girja Banchor, Sarita Baghel, Satyadevi Jaiswal, Vinod Chelak, Selja Raju, Ismita Dodke, Laxmi Sahu, Sanjay

Singh, Ishwari Netam and Shakutala Sahu.

The BJP Corporators highlighted 18 issues through this demonstration. Apart from the township, the drinking water crisis has intensified in other areas of the city including Khamharia, Kohka, Kurud, Vaishalinagar, Camp, Chhawni and Khursipar. They demanded supply of drinking water to these wards through tankers and make an action plan for the future.

The cost of city sanitation has increased but the system has not improved. The condition of cleanliness is very bad. They demanded that the monitoring of the contracting agency should be done. They alleged that the laborers engaged in city sanitation works are being exploited. Their PF, ESIC, etc is not



being deducted and the agency is compromising with the health of the laborers. BJP leaders asserted that the internal roads of the city are in bad condition. There are potholes in many places, where it has become difficult to walk. Those roads should be constructed, they demanded.

They also demanded a separate sump well for water supply in Khursipar

area because there is a lack of water supply in this populated area. As the frequency of power cuts has increased in Khursipar, they demanded that the corporation administration should resolve this issue.

There is a drinking water crisis in the camp area as water has not reached the houses despite laying pipeline under Amrut Mission. The supply of

dirty water containing chemicals in the Chhawani area is being done from the sump well. They demanded to seal those sump wells and lay new pipelines.

The street lights of Supela Road are not working. They alleged that massive corruption has taken place in the pretext of beautification of this road. They demanded an investigation over this matter. They further alleged that the illegal plotting is being done indiscriminately in the city.

The land mafia is grabbing people's hard earned money. Action should be taken against such land mafia. BJP leaders demanded from the local civic body to recognize the areas where illegal plotting is being done.

Khursipar. Resolution of this problem cannot be averted any more as for the last several years no one paid any attention to the sewerage system of these colonies.

They further demanded that CCTV cameras should be installed in the labour colony and outer wards. Corporation should take initiative immediately as it is essential to curb crime.

The parks are in a bad condition and are ruining due to lack of maintenance. Maintenance of deserted gardens in all sectors and wards of the city should be started without delay.

They said that the exemption of property tax has been given to industrialists. The same exemption should also be given to the poor people and working class areas of the city. Such type of discrimination cannot be tolerated.

There are continuous complaints of corruption in the construction projects of the city. The investigation re-

port is not yet known in the Sector-7 Sports Complex case. No action has been taken against the concerned people.

The sanitation system in the sectors of the township is in a bad condition. There is an increased risk of diseases like dengue. If the cleanliness is not improved, the situation will become difficult in the coming months. BJP leaders demanded that the BMC itself should take the responsibility of city sanitation in the BSP areas.

The economic condition of Municipal Corporation Bhilai is bad. In such a situation, the workers are not getting the honorarium on time. Therefore, the system should be rectified, so that there is no delay in payment to the workers.

BJP leaders further demanded a separate cell to work on subjects like roads, drains and cleanliness and water. A separate committee should be formed by including the BJP Corporators.



## चल रहा है आपके शहर में बीटीआई मैदान शंकर नगर रायपुर में

# फन वर्ल्ड फेयर

### डिजनीलैंड मेला 2023

• खाना, खरीदी, मनोरंजन एक साथ  
• हैंडलूम हैंडीक्राफ्ट बाजार के साथ

समय- रोजाना शाम 5:00 बजे  
से रात्रि 10:00 बजे तक



# IT raids 22 establishments of Steel-Power sector

**Action taken Singhal group's factories, residence in Raipur, Raigarh and Kolkata**

**First major action taken in the new FY**

**Raipur, Jun 07:** A combined investigation team of Income Tax (IT) from Chhattisgarh and MP conducted raids in different establishments of Singhal group associated with Steel and Power sector here on Wednesday. IT sleuths conducted raids in total 22 establishments including offices of the companies of the Group in Raipur and Raigarh and Kolkata and at the official residence, corporate office and sales office at 6:00 am. Presently the department has not issued any official statement from its side.



The IT officials are checking the computer records in the sales office, factories and offices of the Group. Apart from this the sales-purchase records and the raw material and stock available in the factories too is being cross-checked.

**Factory in Raigarh**  
Singhal Group which is

associated with Steel and Billets and Power business is having factories in Industrial area of Raigarh in Punjipatra. The parent company of the Group is Singhal Enterprises Pvt Ltd (SEPL), Salasar Steel and Power Limited (SSPL) and Singhal Energy in Raigarh. The Directors of



the Group are Sanjay Agrawal, Ajay Agrawal and Piyush Agrawal and Ayush Agrawal.

**Products of the Group**  
Being associated with the Steel and Power sector, the Singhal Group is mainly related with Sponge iron, power billets, wire rods, HV wire, TMT Steel



Bar, MS Strips and MS pipes and Ferro-alloys.

**Dozen establishments raided in capital city**  
The IT officials raided in about a dozen establishments of the Group including offices and residence of the Directors in capital city. It is based upon the investigations,

the statements of the Directors is being taken. The investigation is in progress in capital city's office at Shankar Nagar main road; residential premises in Geetanjali Nagar; office in Samta Colony. Apart from Raipur, raids were conducted in six establishments in

Raigarh as well and this includes factories and residential premises.

**Investigation at four places in Kolkata**  
The Directors of the Group originally are from Kolkata and they are having total four establishments including their corporate office, sales office and residence in Kolkata were the investigation is in process.

**Jewellery worth Rs 50 lakh**  
In the preliminary inquiry, the IT team has seized jewellery worth Rs 50 lakh from the residential premises of the Group's directors and its valuation is to be carried out. Along with this cash of Rs 20 lakh has also been recovered from all the places. After tallying with the books of record, cash of Rs 4 lakh has been seized. After valuation of the jewellery, the IT team

would provide the freedom to have jewellery as per the rules of IT for both men and women in the family and the jewellery recorded in the books of records and rest will be seized.

**Found 13 lockers**  
On the first day the IT team found 13 lockers in the Group's Raipur and Raigarh premises and action to operate the same will be taken later.

**Team of 150 officers**  
A total of 150 officials of IT team are involved in the raids conducted in 22 establishments of the Group in Raigarh, Raipur and Kolkata and they belong to MP and Chhattisgarh. In the IT team from MP, the officials from Indore, Bhopal and Jabalpur are there. A total staff of 100 CG RPF was provided to the IT team in Chhattisgarh.

## Collector, DEO hold meeting with political reps

**Dates fixed for second special brief revision prog for VS-2023**

**Raipur, Jun 07:** The Collector and District Electoral Officer (DEO) Dr Sarveshwar Bhure convened a meeting with representatives of political parties and held discussions with them in context of the forthcoming Vidhan Sabha poll 2023 on various issues. Under the special brief revision programme, the work that of verification door-to-door will be done through BLOs from May 25 to June 23; the work that of rationalisation or shifting of the polling centres; remove discrepancies in the voter list or EPIC list; replacing the bad quality photos in the voter list with good quality photo; reorganization of sub-division polling centres and restructuring of borders as per requirement and update of control table will



be done from Jun 24 to July 24. In the same way the preparations for Format 1-8 and supplementary and integrated draft role in context in context of eligibility as on 1 Oct 2023 will be done from July 25 to 31. The preliminary publication of integrated voter list will be done on August 2 and claims & objections on it will be invited from Aug 2-31. For this special camp will be organised on August 12, 13 and 19 and 20. The last date for solution to claims and objections will be held on Sept 22. To check the health parameter of voter list and to obtain date for final publication of the voter list and to print the updated data base, Sept 29 has been fixed as the date and final

publication of voter list will be published on 4 Oct 2023.

**First-level checking of EVM machines**  
The first-level checking of total of 5,216 ballot units available in the Raipur district and 2,752 control units and 2,950 VVPAT, will be done by ECIL engineers from June 10-27. For inspection of the above work, the political parties have been asked to provide their name or that of rep in advance, so that ID cards can be prepared as per Commission's instructions. The use of mobile during first-level checking is totally prohibited and if brought, then it will be deposited at the main gate. Only 3 mobiles will be allowed to be taken inside the premises for scanning purpose only.

Discussions held on rationalisation of polling centres

In case of more than 1500 voters, the electoral registration officers have been asked to carry out examining of proposals for new polling centres; proposal for change of building or premises, by June 25, 2023. If the political representative have any proposal for any examining to be done, they can submit it within time limit to concerned electoral registration officer of their Vidhan Sabha or the DEO's office before the above date.

**Booth-level agents to be appointed in polling centres**  
The appointment of booth-level agents will be done and the list will be provided to the District Electoral Officer. For this the booth-level agent be appointed as authorised rep by the District President. The Form-2 will have the list of persons appointed as Booth-level agents for each polling centre by the authorised representative.

## CG govt should ensure MSP hike reaches farmers: Sao

**Raipur, Jun 07:** Hailing the decision of Union Government to hike the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Agricultural crops including paddy, the Chhattisgarh Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President Arun Sao on Wednesday said that the Chhattisgarh Government should ensure the benefits of hike in MSP reaches to people without any delay.

In a statement issued here, the BJP chief Sao said that farmers from Chhattisgarh would be significantly benefited with the hike in MSP on paddy whereas the other Agricultural produce price hike would also be benefitted to people. He further added that the farmers would be economically more benefitted with the hike in Kissan Samman Nidhi as announced by Centre.

BJP Vice President and former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh too has hailed the Rs 143 per quintal hike in MSP on paddy and added that the farmers from Chhattisgarh would get major economic growth from the decision of Central government.

# Mahasamund Collector shifted in major admn reshuffle

**Pardeshi given key posting of Public Health and Higher Education**

**Raipur, Jun 07:** In a major administrative reshuffle, the Chhattisgarh Government on Wednesday issued fresh posting orders of nearly two dozen Indian Administrative Services (IAS) Officers.

2003 batch senior IAS Officer Pardeshi Siddharth Komal working as Secretary to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has been given additional charge of Secretary Higher Education and Secretary Public Health & Family Welfare whereas Bhuvanvesh Yadav has been given the key posting of Secretary Public Works Department in the reshuffle. 2004 batch IAS Officer Sanjay Kumar Alang has been shifted to Raipur as Divisional Commissioner

whereas Raipur Commissioner Yashwant Kumar has been given the charge of Managing Director of Chhattisgarh Beverages Corporation. While Janak Prasad Pathak has been given independent charge of Commercial Tax (Excise), the Director Health Services Bhim Singh has been transferred to Bilaspur as Divisional Commissioner.

Additional Chief Election Officer Sikha Rajput Tiwari has been shifted as Sarguja Divisional Commissioner whereas KD Kunjam has been given the charge of Director Mining as well as MD of Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation.

In a significant development, the Mahasamund District Collector Nilesh Kumar Sheersagar has been shifted to Mantralaya as Joint Secretary General Administration

Department whereas the Gariabandh District Collector Prabhat Mallick has been shifted to Mahasamund as District Collector and Raipur District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Akash Chikara has been made Gariabandh District Collector.

IAS Officer JP Maurya has been given the charge of Special Secretary Mineral Resources Department and additional charge of in-charge Director Health Services whereas Ranu Sahu has been made Director Town & Country Planning in the reshuffle.

2010 batch IAS Officer Saransh Mittar has been given key posting of Director Urban Administration and Development and additional charge of Director Commerce & Industries.

In total 23 IAS Officers have been given fresh posting in the reshuffle.

## 'Hike in MSP is like making a mountain of molehill'

**Modi govt failed to double farmers' income**

**Raipur, Jun 07:** PCC Chief Mohan Markam has termed the hike in MSP of paddy and other Rabi crop as cheating and injustice with the farmers and added that hike of just 7% is like a lethal attack on the farmers waiting to double their income. He charged that farmers are being pushed towards economic bankruptcy. At one place where the inflation is high, on the other with 820% hike in the prices of diesel and petrol and double in the agriculture labourers from 9 and massive hike in prices of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, tractor parts, oil-grease and other and with hike in insurance premium on crops, the agriculture cost compared to 2014 has hiked many times today. On the other hand, the Modi government could not hike the MSP rates on paddy in last 9 yrs to even 1/4th of its production cost.

PCC Chief Mohan



Markam said that BJP in 2014 and 2019 LS polls had made promise to pay 1.5 times of MSP on production cost as per recommendations by the Swaminathan Commission and to double the farmers income by 2022 and both have not been fulfilled in last 9 yrs. Modi government got the chance to hike the MSP on paddy to 1.5 times and increase their income, but they simply cheated on them. With this the farmers would now depart the Modi government in 2024 LS polls and Congress would form the government and then good-days of farmers would come. Inflation would come down and they would get right price for their produce and which will make farmers happy and prosperous.

## Pandri police takes Mannu Nathani into custody

**Holds interrogation in context of online cricket 'satta'**

**Raipur, Jun 07:** The MCX trader in capital city Mannu Nathani has been taken into custody by the Pandri police in context of running online cricket 'satta'. Actually the police got some inputs on him and then it came into action. Though earlier also

the police has taken action against him and he was taken into arrest in case of abduction and threat to kill and with charges of getting signature on Rs 70 lakh property and other such cases.

It was as per the inputs of online 'satta', the Pandri police raided residence of Mannu Nathani in Ashoka Ratan and seized online 'satta' machine, laptop, mobiles and

other items. The Police has taken him into custody and interrogating him for last 3 hours and likely to take him into arrest.

It was 8 yrs back that the police nabbed Mannu Nathani on charges of using muscle-power in recovery business and had even issued arrest warrant against Mannu Nathani. Mannu Nathani, being the only son of

biggest 'khaiwal' and 'satoriya' Late Madan Mathani, had started looking after his father's business after his demise. Mannu runs a gang of his own in this game of 'satta' and they are involved in all sorts of criminal practices like abduction, murder, loot, gang-war and others and cases against him have been lodged in Civil Lines and Kotwali thana.

## Two nabbed with 500 quintal 'ganja' worth Rs 1.25 cr



**Central Chronicle News**

**Mahasamund, Jun 07:** Two inter-state drug smugglers have been nabbed with 5 quintal of 'Ganja' worth Rs 1.25 cr by the Singhoda police of Mahasamund district here on Wednesday. One of the smugglers is from Delhi and the other is from UP and they were bringing Ganja from Odisha to Raipur.

It was tip from an informer that the Singhoda police managed to seized such a huge quantity of 'Ganja' from Odisha. As per information, while checking different vehicles the Singhoda police

stopped a truck near Gram Rehati Khol on NH-53. The accused have kept the 'Ganja' hidden beneath the paddy husk in their Eicher truck.

The two accused nabbed are Sudhir Kumar Yadav and Ramkumar Sahushankar and it was informed that both were hired from Raipur for smuggling of 'Ganja' from Odisha. It was on combined action by Cyber Cell and Singhoda police that the police got success in seizing this major drug consignment worth Rs 1.25 cr. Both the accused have been booked under section 20 (K) of Narcotics Act.

## Artists get awards but not facilities: Pt. Vishwamohan

**Pension scheme should be started after getting civilian honours**

**Raipur, Jun 07:** Artists get awards and recognition but nothing in the name of facilities. We have to join the process there by queuing up at the airport. The government should increase the facilities for the people who get civilian honours. Also, pension scheme should be considered for them. This pension should be received till the last moment, even if it is nominal said Padmavibhushan and Grammy Awardee Pt. Vishwamohan Bhatt while speaking to this newspaper who was in Raipur



to attend the valedictory function of Nriyta Shreedhara award ceremony at Shahid Smarak Bhawan, Raipur.

Addressing the scribes here Pt. Vishwamohan Bhatt said that the tradition of classical music has continued uninterruptedly in our family for 300 years. My dream is to have

music playing in every house. It is the responsibility of all of us to come forward for this.

He said that talents are being identified through social media. If the artist's work is good, people also appreciate it. But due to YouTube, artists have suffered loss of royalty. However, Indian Performing Rights Society (IPRS) started thinking for the artistes and came forward in getting royalty. This has given relief to the artists, he added.

Pt. Vishwamohan Bhatt said that I made Mohan Veena 60 years ago. At that time it came to my mind that there should be such an instrument in which sitar, sarod, veena, sarangi and santoor would all be included. I imbibed the characteristics of both tantrakari (instrumental)

and singing. My grandson Atharva has also started playing it. His only video has got 5 lakh views.

On Wednesday the performance on Mohan Veena by Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt enthralled the audience. He was accompanied by Tabla Taalmani Ashok Kurm on tabla. After this the students of Nriyta Shreedhara performed group Odissi dance which made the audience spell bound. On this occasion a solo Kathak recital was performed by Prafull Singh Gehlot. The programme ended with Folk Panthi Dance presented Chhattisgarh Sanskrit Sringerar by Umesh Nirmalkar & Group. The programme ended with vote of thanks by Arya Nande the organiser of the event.



## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



Members of Advertising Agency Association of Chhattisgarh like every year, planted sapling on occasion of World Environment Day and in this President AAA Omkar Singh, Patron Ajay Jain, gen. secy. Afsar Khan, Vijay Ghosh, Virendra Shukla were present.

## Minister Dr Tekam submits survey report to Union Minister Gadkari

● Requests him for upgrading of Ambikapur-Banaras road as National Highway

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 07: Chhattisgarh School Education, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Minister Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam today met Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Mr. Nitin M. Gadkari at his residence in New Delhi. Minister Dr. Tekam has requested Union Minister Mr. Gadkari to give National Highway status to Ambikapur-Banaras highway.

During the meeting with Union Minister Nitin M.

Gadkari, Minister Dr. Tekam submitted the survey report, which mentions that the Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh)-Dhanwar-Banaras (Uttar Pradesh) route under Chhattisgarh is 110.60 km long. This route connects Surguja, Surajpur and Balarampur districts of Chhattisgarh with Uttar Pradesh. He informed through the letter that this route is of great importance because it directly connects Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

This route is the busiest route from a commercial point of view. Vegetables, minerals, mineral produce and various goods are transported from Chhattisgarh to Uttar Pradesh through this



route in a large quantity. There are many small and big bridges, culverts, ghats, dangerous turns etc. in this route and the traffic pressure is also high. Therefore, it is very important to make Ambikapur-Dhanwar-Banaras a national highway in order to facilitate the traffic on this route.

It is also worth mentioning here that Banaras holds

great religious and spiritual significance for people of the country. With the development of the Ambikapur-Dhanwar-Banaras road as a national highway, the surrounding areas of states like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Bihar will be benefited. The present traffic survey of this route from 20th June 2022 to 26th June 2022 shows movement of 2394 cars, jeeps, vans and three wheelers, 198 scooters, motor cycles, 345 buses and minibuses, 1767 trucks, 6548 tractors including trolleys, 196 cycles and 1904 Horse cart-bullock cart, indicating the need for measures to regulate the traffic pressure. Chhattisgarh as well as other neighboring states will be benefited by making this route a national highway.

## Training Officer Recruitment Exam from June 7-22

Raipur, June 07: Training Officer Recruitment Examination will be conducted by Chhattisgarh Professional Examination Board (CGVYAPAM) Raipur from June 07 to June 22.

The examination will be held in two sessions-one between 10 am and 12:15 pm and second between 2 pm and 4:15 pm at specified examination centres.

Collector Dr Sarveshwar Bhure has appointed Deputy Collector Ruchi Sharma as nodal officer to ensure smooth conduct of the examination.

During the examination, it will be mandatory for all examinees and officers-employees to wear masks and follow other guidelines for prevention of Covid-19 pandemic.

## Mass plantation drive marked WED 2023 at Lara

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, (Lara), June 07: World Environment Day 2023 was celebrated at NTPC Lara with mass plantation drive and environment awareness walkathon under the guidance of Diwakar Kaushik, ED (Lara) on June 5th.

With active participation of employees, housewives, associates, and participants of Girl Empowerment Mission took part in the walkathon followed by plantation drive inside Maitree Nagar township, showcasing their commitment towards environment protection for a sustainable future.



On this occasion Diwakar Kaushik, ED-Lara administered environment protection pledge on "Mission Life", committing to safeguard our precious environment to all participants. Employees and associates holding placards and banner visited the township to make employees

aware on Mission Life for an environment conscious lifestyle.

Taking a step ahead to #BeatPlasticPollution, environment friendly cloth bags were distributed among the contractual workers working under various contracts in NTPC. To sensitize our future

generation about environment protection participants of Girl Empowerment Mission were included in this environment day celebration so that they could realise the need of the hour for protection of our environment and encourage others to do so and make this a mass movement.

Rajeev Ranjan, GM (Fuel Management), Samarendra Kumar Roy, GM (Operation), Ravi Shankar, GM (Project Construction), Kanhaiya Das, AGM (HR), Head of Departments, members of Prerita Mahila Samiti, employees, CISF personnel, and contract labourers were present on this occasion.

## V-C Prof. Chakrawal nominated as member of IUCTE

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, June 07: Vice-Chancellor of Guru Gishwaidya Vishwavidyalaya (Central University), Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, has been nominated as a member of the Research Advisory Committee of the Inter University Center for Teacher Education (IUCTE), Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Chakrawal has been nominated by the Chairman of the Governing Body of IUCTE. His tenure will be

of three years from the date of nomination.

The Inter-University Center for Teacher Education (IUCTE) was established in 2014 by the Prime Minister to provide need-based support in the areas of academic and technical guidance to teachers, advisory and policy making, global collaboration, and research and innovation.

This includes suggesting ways for faculty empowerment and academic up gradation in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the rapidly changing world of education.



Prof-ChakrawalGGU

In the National Education Policy 2020, special emphasis has been laid on the development and educational empowerment of teachers. The Inter University

Center for Teacher Education (IUCTE) is a specialized center of the University Grants Commission which provides services and programs to universities and higher educational institutions.

Through this, various dimensions of education including teaching methods, educational development, problems and challenges in teaching etc. are considered in a holistic manner and solutions are provided in an integrated manner by the Inter-University Center for Teacher Education (IUCTE).

## HNLU celebrates World Environment Day

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 07: The Centre for Environmental Laws (CEL) under the School for Law and Public Policy (SLPP) HNLU, celebrated the World Environment Day on 5th June 2023 by organizing a Panel Discussion (Webinar) on the theme of this year's environment day celebration which was "Solutions to Plastic Pollution". This year marks the 50th anniversary of Environment Day, which was first celebrated in 1973.

The Panel discussion had Prof. (Dr.) M.K. Ramesh, Former Professor of Law, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru and Sanjay Upadhyay, Advocate,



Supreme Court of India, & Founder & Managing Partner, Enviro Legal Defence Firm, New Delhi deliberating on the chosen themes as esteemed panelists.

Prof. (Dr.) M.K. Ramesh a well-known Environmental Law professor formerly with National Law School of India Bangalore deliberated upon the enforce-

ment issues under the environmental law specially relating to the plastic pollution.

He lamented that in spite of the formulation of rules & regulations and also massive awareness campaign the results of reducing the pollution including plastic pollution has not yielded the desired results and requires introspection of

how to get the desired results.

He emphasized the role of the local bodies involvement which could bring the targeted results and detailed on the gap of the legislation and ground reality.

Advocate Sanjay Upadhyay in his deliberation elaborated Plastic waste management rules that are in place and the

issues plaguing the implementation of the same. He stressed that there has to be a continuous audit to attain the desired standards by adhering to the current regulatory regime and also to modify the same to meet the new challenges.

The webinar had Prof. Yogendra Kumar Srivastava, Professor of Law and Director of SLPP presiding with his opening remarks, Dr. Ankit Awasthi, faculty member welcoming the gathering, Dr. Atul Jayabae, faculty as the discussant and Urvi Srivastav, faculty moderating the session. The programme was designed and organized by Dr. Rana Navneet Roy, Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Centre.

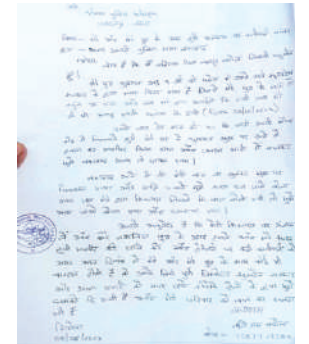
## Student beaten by the teacher and the father by the police

● Victim lodges complaint with SP

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, June 07: Villager Baliram Baghel, a resident of village panchayat Pahrubel, lodged a complaint against the teacher in the police station under Bakavand police station of the district. Allegedly, on complaining, the Bakavand police personnel thrashed the villager badly. The victim villager has complained about the matter to the Superintendent of Police, Bastar.

The victim villager has told in the complaint that Yuvraj, the nine-year-old son of Baliram Baghel, a resident of Gram Panchayat Pahrubel of Bakavand development block, is a student of



Shantinagar School. School teacher Sukhdev Sarkar mercilessly thrashed the innocent Yuvraj on a trivial issue. Yuvraj has suffered a lot of injuries. His father Baliram Baghel had complained about the matter to the local police station. On information, the team of 112 reached the village. Instead of arresting the accused teacher, the police personnel involved in the team

pounced on the applicant Baliram. Police personnel thrashed Baliram Baghel with kicks and punches and returned without catching the accused teacher. After this, the victim Baliram was taken to the police station and made to sit. It is mentioned in the complaint letter that the victim was dropped from the police station at 11:00 pm. It is mentioned in the letter that even my complaint was not registered in the police station and I was threatened. The complainant has also written in his letter that if any incident happens to him or his son in the near future, the accused teacher and station in-charge Bakavand will be responsible for it. The victim, Baliram Baghel, has complained about the matter in the Superintendent of Police's office, Jagdalpur.

## CM launches 'Doctor Tumcho Dwaar' initiative

■ Initiative connects remote villages to quality healthcare through telemedicine  
■ Doctors just a phone call away in remote villages of Baderajpur and Farasgaon



Central Chronicle News

Kondagaon, June 07: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday launched the Kondagaon district administration's new initiative "Doctor Tumcho Dwaar", in a programme held in Bedma village of Keshkal Development Block.

This pilot project aims to provide medical facilities through telemedicine in remote villages of the Baderajpur and Farasgaon development blocks, where accessibility is a challenge. A dedicated 24-hour call centre will be established to provide comprehensive support for this initiative. Whenever

a call is received at the call centre, a team consisting of doctors, ANMs, and other staff members will be promptly informed. Doctors will offer teleconsultations and guidance, engaging in discussions with patients and their families regarding their health concerns.

In the case of critically ill patients who require immediate treatment, doctors and their teams will visit their homes with a well-equipped vehicle to provide necessary medical care. The Chief Minister's Haat Bazaar Clinic scheme, designed to offer healthcare services in remote areas of the district,

is being successfully implemented in the district. In line with this, the "Doctor Tumcho Dwaar" initiative has been launched to provide accessible healthcare facilities in villages with limited accessibility and extended medical services to a broader population through telemedicine.

With the scheme's success, its implementation will be expanded to other development blocks as well. This initiative stands as an example of the government's commitment to ensuring equal justice and equal access to facilities for all citizens.

## Police should prioritize protecting women's safety above anything else: Dangri

Workshop organized to raise awareness regarding the safety of women and crimes against them

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 07: To raise awareness regarding women's protection and crimes committed against them, a workshop is organized at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Police Academy in Chandrakhuri for investigating officers and gazette officers from various districts of Chhattisgarh.

During the inauguration of the five-day workshop organized by the National Crime and Investigation Bureau, Mr. Ratan Lal Dangri, the Director of the Academy, expressed his concerns regarding the ongoing incidents that cause fear and apprehension among women.

He stated that in order to stop the rising number of crimes against



women, it is the duty of the investigating officer and gazette officers to report any crime involving women as soon as they know about it and to take immediate action against the offenders by presenting their case in court with concrete evidence. Addressing the work-



shop, he added that police officers should regularly mark their presence in public places like marketplaces, bus stops, crowded areas, schools, and universities where women are present in order to prevent anti-social things to happen. He continued by saying



that police officers should be proud of their work as they have the chance to defend the public and those in need. The government has also granted statutory rights in order for you to carry out this duty. By making proper use of these rights you can help

women to develop confidence.

During this five-day workshop, all police officers will receive comprehensive training on the latest amendments in legal provisions related to women, as well as the procedures involved in a scientific investigation.



# ABVP submits memorandum, demands high-level inquiry

● Into alleged irregularities in State PSC 2021 exam results

Central Chronicle News

Berla, June 07: In protest against alleged irregularities in the examination results of State PSC 2021, the members of ABVP gheraoed MLA's residence on Monday and submitted a memorandum in the name of MLA Ashish Chabda, demanding inquiry by a central agency or forming a high-level team and getting an inquiry done.

11 May 2023, the results of CG PSC exam 2021 were declared and on checking the merit list of the candidates in this exam it was pointed out the top 20 candidates are either the son of an officer or a person belonging to a political party or a leader.

There are also names who are either husband and wife or brother-sister who have got selected in the exam. Set aside this there is also name of son of Chairman State PSC Toman Singh Sonwani and other close relatives of members as well in the list.

ABVP State secy. Manoj Vaishnav said that lakhs of



candidates from all over the state took part in the state PSC exam and coming out voice of such candidates, ABVP raised demand for conducting a high-level inquiry into the case for those who have

ticular including that of a husband-wife, brother-sister or close associates of those in power or in bureaucracy, smells of corruption and it just cannot be a coincidence and demanding free & fair inquiry into the same.

Among those who submitted memorandum included Nagar Mantri Navagarh ABVP Prashant Rajak, Saja Nagar Mantri Rajit Rajput, Vasudev Sahu, Sandeep Yadav, Kamdev Yadu, Aman Dewangan, Tushar Banjare, Samir Tarkeshwar, Tupesh Sharma, and large number of other ABVP workers.

# Women's Commission closed down 6 cases

● Transfer 8 cases to Raipur

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, June 06: The chairperson of State Women's Commission Dr. Kiranmayi Nayak and member Balo Baghel held a public hearing on the cases presented related to harassment of women in the Astha Sabha room of Collector's office here on Monday.

During today's hearing, the applicant was present in one case and she submitted her application regarding the withdrawal of her case. One of her case was against the non applicant under section 376 in the court, in which the non-applicant



was acquitted. Therefore, she does not want to continue the case further; the case was cancelled. In today's hearing, 8 cases were transferred for hearing in Raipur and files of 6 cases was closed down.

In another case, the case was heard in the presence of both the parties. During this the security officer Hirwani

informed that the complaint is being investigated by the local complaint committee. And the evidence of non-applicant side is yet to be taken. In such a situation, one month's time was given. The person was asked to send his report to the Commission, the next hearing will be done in Raipur after receiving the report.

# Rakesh Pandey appointed media co-in-charge



Rakesh Pandey

● Of Bemetara district

Central Chronicle News

Berla, June 07: The political activities have gained momentum with few months left for the VS polls in the state. It was on consent of the State President Arun Sao, organisational gen. secy. Pawan Sai, state media in-charge Amit Chimmanni and President BJP Bemetara Omprakash Joshi that a young and dynamic leader of the party - Rakesh Pandey has been

appointed as media co-charge of Saja Vidhan Sabha (VS) and on which the party's office bearers and party workers and well-wishers have extended greetings to him.

Expressing happiness on his appointment as media co-in-charge, Rakesh Pandey said that he would honestly fulfill the responsibility bestowed upon his shoulders by the party and expressed gratitude towards the senior party leaders and party office bearers.

He also expressed thanks to BJP State President Arun Sao, organisational gen. secy. Pawan Sai, state media in-charge Amit Chimmanni, BJP Bemetara district Omprakash Joshi and to ex-MLA Labhchand Bafna.

In the same way, Nagar Panchayat Devkar V-P Ajay Agrawal, Leader of Oppn and Corporator Manoj Verma, LS MP rep Ravishankar Soni, district minorities cell treasurer Rawal Jain and others have also extended greetings to him.

# MLA dedicates sub-tehsil office, college soon



● In Gram Devarbija

Central Chronicle News

Berla, June 07: The inauguration of new sub-tehsil office in Gram Devarbija was held recently and its chief guest was MLA Ashish Chabda. Speaking on the occasion Chabda said that it was on arrival of CM Bhupesh Baghel to Devarbija that declaration of opening of sub-Tehsil office was made and it was just in six

months that it is being inaugurated and a college too would be dedicated soon.

Now the beneficiaries, including farmers and labourers would not have to travel 25 kms to Berla in order to get various documents and it would save their time and money as well. The works which cannot be done in 15 yrs rule of BJP government in the state, is now being done in just four yrs of Congress rule. The district panchayat member

TR Sahu said that the persons should bring in application for their work at the right time and it would be sorted out. Meeting was also addressed by Nohar Dewangan and Vijay Dewangan.

The welcome speech was given by ADM AK Bajpayee and vote of thanks was proposed by SDM Revenue Yugal Kishore Urvasha. In this programme, Heeradevi Verma, Sunita Devi, Sarpanch Devarbija, Suresh Dubey, Dr

Prabhat Shrivastava, Sankant Mochan Choubey, Kamal Verma, Yuvraj Dubey, Sarpanch Nandlal Saluja, Bharat Verma, Baldu Sahu, Ramadhar Dewangan, Praveen Kumar Dubey, Suresh Sahu, Media in-charge Manoj Bafna, Aman Tamrakar and others were present.

Navapara-Rajim, June 07: Former President District Panchayat Ashok Bajaj charged that the Congress party which has come to power making false promises to farmers at the time of last election has done gross injustice with the farmers from 27 villages of Nava Raipur.

More than four years have passed since the Congress government came to power in the state, but the problems of the farmers is more or less the same. Bajaj said that as & when the farmers Nava Raipur try to stage protest, the state government always try to suppress their movement. Few days back the farmers in Jora staged massive protest and it is by misguiding them their protest was called off. Bajaj said that making promises and then for-

getting about it is an old habit of Congress.

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I. KAVITA VAISHNAVA D/o GOVERDHAN DAS VAISHNAVA CHUIKHADAN DISTRICT. RAJANANDGAON C.G., PN. 491441. SO AFTER MARRIAGE MY NAME BECOME. KAVITA DAS VAISHNAV W/O SATISH DAS VAISHNAV MAITRI KUNJ, RISALI, BHILAI DURG PN.- 490006. SO IN FUTUFB I SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY MY NEW NAME THAT IS KAVITA DAS VAISHNAV W/O SATISH DAS VAISHNAV IN ALL GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS. KAVITA DAS VAISHNAV MAITRI KUNJ, RISALI, DURG

# Saplings planted on World Environment Day



● In SAGES, Kharora

Central Chronicle News

Kharora, June 07: Bharat Dewangan Excellent Hindi/English Medium School (SAGES) and Climate Change, Environment and Forest department Tilda circle, jointly celebrated World Environment Day on Monday. On this occasion, saplings of Mango, 'Anwala', 'Seetaphal', and other variety of fruit-bearing trees were planted and pledge was given for envi-

ronment conservation. In this programme, the Principal Rajani Minj, Vice Principal Harish Dewangan, Scouts & Guides in-charge Shahina Parveen, Amar Burman, from forest deptt- Yadu Kumar Sahu (Asst. Circle office Tilda), Jageshwar Bandhe (Forest guard), Indrachand Dhankar (forest guard), Bhupendra Kumar Jangde (forest guard), Dharmandra Sahu, Vijay Vidya, Tikeshwar Dhruv, Heeradhar Dhruv (Van Choukidar), Preeti Dhruv, Kumari Yadav and others were present.

**FORM No. IV**  
(See sub-rule (2A) of rule 5) Summon under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the 585 Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993

**BEFORE DRT JABALPUR AT H.No. 797-II, SHAKTIKUNJ, SOUTH CIVIL LINES, JABALPUR**  
O.A. NO. 221 /2021

BANDHAN BANK LIMITED Applicant  
Versus  
PRAVEEN ALLENA AND OTHERS. Defendants

To, **MR. PARVEEN ALLENA** S/o Krishna Allena, R/o 15/906, Zorapara Behind RDA Building, Sharda Chowk Raipur, Chattisgarh- 492001. Last Known Addresses :-  
(a) 23-214, Sai Tulsini Nagar, P.M. Palem, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh- 530041.  
(b) B-6, NHPC Township, Gingle, URI Power Station, Baramulla, Buniyar, Jammu & Kashmir-193122.

**2. MRS. NIRMALA ALLENA** W/o Mr. Krishna Allena, R/o 15/906, Zorapara Behind RDA Building, Sharda Chowk Raipur, Chattisgarh- 492001. Last Known Addresses :-  
(a) 23-214, Sai Tulsini Nagar, P.M. Palem, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh- 530041.  
(b) B-6, NHPC Township, Gingle, URI Power Station, Baramulla, Buniyar, Jammu & Kashmir-193122

**3. MR. ANSHOO K. BAFNA** S/o Shantilal Kanhaiyalal Bafna, R/O H.No. 121, Century Colony, Baikunth, Kalyaninagar, Village Kundru, Raipur - 493116

**Publication**  
WHEREAS, O.A. No 221 of 2021 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer on Whereas this Hon'ble Tribunal please to issue summons/notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the ACT, (OA) filed against you for recovery of the debts Rs. 52,62,285/-. (Rs. Fifty Two Lakhs Sixty Two Thousands Two Hundred and Eighty Five Only) as on 19.02.2021, with expenses and future interest (Application along with copies of the documents etc. annexed)

In accordance with sub section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-

- to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons/Publication as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
- to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the Original Application;
- you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
- you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
- you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You all are directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before the Registrar on **12.06.2023 at 10:30 AM** failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023.

By order of the tribunal

Registrar  
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Jabalpur

**INDIAN BANK** Branch- Shyam Nagar, Raipur Branch- Rajnandgaon Branch- Raipur Main

**E-AUCTION** On 26.06.2023 & 14.07.2023

**APPENDIX- IV-A** [See proviso to rule 8 (6)] Sale notice for sale of immovable properties E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, Physical/Symbolic/Constructive possession (whichever is applicable) of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s) / Guarantor (s) / Secured Assets/ Dues/ Reserve Price/ e-Auction Date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below -

SI No.	Name & Address of the Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) & Mortgagee(s)	Detailed description of the Properties/ Encumbrances on property	Outstanding Amount	Reserve Price	EMD	Bid Incremental amount	Property ID No.
1	Branch- Shyam Nagar, Raipur Borrower- M/s GT Steel Industries, Partners & Guarantors -1) Sri Sudarshan Gupta S/o Sri Madan Lal Gupta 2. Sri Gouravsheel Gupta S/o Sri Sudarshan Gupta, 3. Sri Rishankar Tekriwal S/o Sri Arun Tekriwal & 4. Sri Ramakant Tekriwal S/o Sri Prem Kumar Tekriwal, Guarantors- Sri. Prem Kumar Tekriwal S/o Sri Mahabir Prasad Tekriwal & Sri. Arun Kumar Tekriwal S/o Sri Mahabir Prasad Tekriwal.	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Flat situated at Flat No. 703 at Hill Tower Apartment, covering a built up area of 62.33 Sq. Mtrs on 7th Floor including proportionate share in the common area provided to the said building, bearing corporation house no 1751/B/20, city Survey No. 48 and Sheet No. 3 of Mouza -Pandhara bodi, Dhanthili, Nagpur in the name Sri Prem Kumar Tekriwal and Sri Arun Kumar Tekriwal and the same is bounded as under:-North: - Property of Shri Chauhan, South:-Property of Shri Ghatge, East: Property of Shri Deshmukh, West:- Ambazari Road. Encumbrances on property- Not Known, Symbolic Possession	Rs. 55499096/- as on 02.06.2023 + Int. & Other Charges	Rs. 41.45 Lakhs	Rs. 4.145 Lakhs	Rs. 10,000.00	IDB15024 6434094
<b>Date &amp; Time of E-auction - 26.06.2023, 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM</b>							
2	Branch-Rajnandgaon Borrower: M/s AS Traders (Prop. Deepak Shrivastava), Vill/PO-Dhaba, RNM- Ghumka, Dist- Rajnandgaon (CG) and Guarantors: 1) Mr. Deepak Shrivastava S/o Late Sri Madanlal Shrivastava, Sonarpura, (2) Mr. Prakash Shrivastava, S/o Late Ram Narayan Shrivastava, (3) Mr. Nishant Shrivastava S/o Munna Bhawani Shrivastava.	Property No.1, Open Land at Vill-Dhaba, Kh No-68/04 in the name of Prakash Shrivastava Total Area- 0.24 Acre, Dist Rajnandgaon. Bounded By: North: Land of Deepak Shrivastav, South: Road, East: Land of Deepak Shrivastav, West: Land of Nishant Shrivastav Property No. 2, Open Land at Vill-Dhaba, Kh No-68/05 in the name of Nishant Shrivastava Total Area-0.22 Acre, Dist Rajnandgaon. Bounded By: North: Land of Deepak Shrivastav, South: Land of Deepak Shrivastav, East: Land of Prakash Shrivastav, West: Land of Deepak Shrivastav. Encumbrances on property- Not Known, Symbolic Possession.	Rs. 1906217/- as on 09.11.2021 + Int. & Other Charges	Rs. 16.00 Lakhs	Rs. 1.60 Lakhs	Rs. 10,000.00	IDB13013 714518
<b>Date &amp; Time of E-auction - 26.06.2023, 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM</b>							
3	Branch-Rajnandgaon Borrower: Shri Nishant Shrivastava, Sonarpura, Ward No-21, Dist- Rajnandgaon (CG) and Guarantor: Smt Chanchla Bai Shrivastav W/o Madan Lal Shrivastava.	All peace and parcel of Land situated at Kh No.1132/1 Ward No. 33, Brahman Para, Near Digvijay Chowk, Rajnandgaon, Total Area-480 Sq.Ft in the name of Smt. Chanchla Bai Shrivastav Bounded By: North: Gali, South: House of Durgaprasad Shrivastav Encumbrances on property- Not Known, Symbolic Possession.	Rs. 1917182/- as on 25.08.2021 + Int. & Other Charges	Rs. 14.60 Lakhs	Rs. 1.46 Lakhs	Rs. 10,000.00	IDB1301 52715081
<b>Date &amp; Time of E-auction - 26.06.2023, 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM</b>							
4.	Branch-Raipur Main Borrower M/s SHREE SAI INDUSTRIES, Shop no. 06, 1st floor, Manglam Mall, Near Ganesh Temple, Agrasen Chowk Raipur, CG and Guarantors: Mr. Manoranjan Pandey and Mrs. Anita Pandey, Address: House no. Mdd-82, Phase-1, Kabir nagar, Raipur, CG.	Property No.1) Equitable Mortgage of Property located at I.D.S.M.T. (Municipal Corporation Raipur) Agrasen Chowk besides Manglam, First Floor, Shop No. 3, Area 177.54 Sqft at Ph no.106(B), RIC-1, Shaheed Chudamani Ward No.16, Raipur (C.G) measuring 177.54 Sq. Ft. in the name of shri Manoranjan Pandey, Boundries: North: Passage & Road , South: Corridor, East: Shop No. 3, West: Shop	Rs. 44206699/- as on 07.08.2017 + Int. & Other Charges	Rs. 14.50 Lakhs	Rs. 1.45 Lakhs	Rs. 10,000.00	IDB50299 8111207
<b>Date &amp; Time of E-auction - 14.07.2023, 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM</b>							
<b>For Any Enquiry Contact : 9439223185 &amp; 9089854157</b>							

Bidders are advised to visit the website ([www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com)) of our e auction service provider MSTC Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call MSTC HELPDESK No. 033-22901004 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with MSTC Ltd, please contact [ibapi@mstcecommerce.com](mailto:ibapi@mstcecommerce.com) and for EMD status please contact [ibapi@mstcecommerce.com](mailto:ibapi@mstcecommerce.com). For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: <https://ibapi.in> and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number 18001025026 and 011-41106131. Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with <https://ibapi.in> and [www.mstcecommerce.com](http://www.mstcecommerce.com).

Date : 08.06.2023, Place : Raipur & Rajnandgaon Authorized Officer, Indian Bank

**SBI भारतीय स्टेट बैंक**  
क्षेत्रीय व्यवसाय कार्यालय, क्षेत्र 2, सेक्टर-1, भिलाई (छ.ग.)

भारतीय स्टेट बैंक, क्षेत्रीय व्यवसाय कार्यालय, क्षेत्र 2, भिलाई के अंतर्गत आने वाली निम्न शाखाओं 1 वैयक्तिक बैंकिंग शाखा नेहरु नगर भिलाई, 2 मालवीय नगर दुर्ग के लिए पट्टे किराया आधार पर व्यवसायिक परिसर हेतु मालिकाना पॉवर ऑफ एटॉर्नी धारकों से निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। अन्य विवरण तथा निविदा कागजात डाऊनलोड करने हेतु कृपया बैंक की वेबसाइट [www.sbi.co.in](http://www.sbi.co.in) पर लिंक Procurement News के अंतर्गत दिनांक 08.06.2023 से दिनांक 22.06.2023 के बीच लागू-ईन करें। इस कार्यालय में निविदाएं प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 22.06.2023 को अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक होगी। इस विषय में और अधिक नोटिस / स्पष्टीकरण बैंक की उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर ही प्रकाशित किया जाएगा। क्षेत्रीय प्रबंधक भारतीय स्टेट बैंक क्षेत्रीय व्यवसाय कार्यालय, क्षेत्र 2 भिलाई



**BRIEF**



**WB CM Mamata Banerjee with a child during a ceremony organised to give financial aid and appointment letters of state government jobs to family members of the victims of Balasore train accident, in Kolkata, Wednesday.**

**Held**

**Sambhal:** A man was arrested for allegedly trying to convert a woman to Islam here, police said on Wednesday. The 22-year-old Hindu woman told police that the man, Zaid, introduced himself as Anurag, however, she found out his real identity after stumbling upon his Aadhaar card.

**Graft**

**Jaipur:** The Rajasthan Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday arrested a land records inspector in Barmer district for allegedly taking a bribe of Rs 50,000, officials said. A complaint was received by the bureau accusing Gajaram, inspector of Mandali in Kalyanpur Tehsil, of demanding Rs 5 lakh as a bribe in lieu of getting some work done.

**Derail**

**Jabalpur:** Two oil tankers of a goods train derailed under Jabalpur railway division in Madhya Pradesh and restoration efforts are underway, an official said on Wednesday. The oil tankers went off the track on Tuesday night when the goods train was on the siding line of an oil depot near Bhitoni railway station, said West Central Railway Chief Public Relations Officer Rahul Shrivastava.

**Injured**

**Jammu:** Two Army personnel were injured on Wednesday when the service rifle of a soldier went off accidentally inside a camp in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. The incident took place at Galthi in the Manjakote area when the soldiers of Rashtriya Rifles were unloading their weapons as per the protocol after returning from operational duty, a police official said.

**Dead**

**Deoria:** A 22-year-old woman was found dead at her home on Wednesday here with her family members claiming that she hanged herself from a ceiling fan, police said. The incident occurred in a village under Barhaji Police Station area, they said.

**Old bomb**

**Hoshiarpur:** An old bomb was found in a field in the Mukerian area here, police on Wednesday. A man discovered the bomb after it got stuck in a cultivator (agricultural equipment) while tillage work was undertaken in Dharampura village of Mukerian sub-division, they said.

## SP announces support to AAP over Central ordinance

Lucknow Jun 07 (PTD)

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday announced his party's support to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal against the Centre's ordinance on control of services in the national capital after a meeting here with the AAP convener.

Kejriwal was accompanied by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann at the meeting. "We had discussion with SP chief Akhilesh Yadav...we thank him as he has assured his party's support when the ordinance comes in the Rajya Sabha," Kejriwal told a joint press conference after the meeting.

The SP chief termed the ordinance as "anti-democratic" and said, "My party is with you (Kejriwal)."

Kejriwal said that if the ordinance gets defeated in the Rajya Sabha, it will send a "strong message"



**Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal exchange greetings during a joint press conference, at SP office in Lucknow, Wednesday.**

before the 2024 parliamentary elections. "If all the anti-BJP parties unite and get the ordinance defeated in the Rajya Sabha, where the BJP is not in majority, it will be a semifinal of the next year's elections and send a strong message to the country," Kejriwal said. The Aam Aadmi Party chief has been reaching out to leaders of non-BJP parties to garner their support against the ordinance so that the Centre's bid to replace it

through a Bill is defeated when it is brought in Parliament.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee have so far extended their support to the AAP. Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar and

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin have also supported Kejriwal in the matter.

The Centre on May 19 had promulgated the ordinance to create an authority for the transfer and posting of Group-A officers in Delhi, which the AAP government had called a deception with the Supreme Court verdict on control of services.

The ordinance came a week after the Supreme Court handed over the control of services in Delhi, excluding police, public order and land, to the elected government. It seeks to set up a National Capital Civil Service Authority for the transfer of and disciplinary proceedings against Group-A officers from the DANICS cadre. Transfer and postings of all officers of the Delhi government were under the executive control of the lieutenant governor before the top court's May 11 verdict.

**VIKAS TIRTH YATRA**



**Union Minister Krishan Pal Gurjar (center) during the 'Vikas Tirth Yatra' organised on completion of 9 years of the NDA government at Centre, in Faridabad, Wednesday.**

## Kejriwal attacks LG over crime situation

● In national capital

New Delhi, Jun 07 (PTD)

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said criminals in Delhi have become "fearless" and the people are "losing faith" in the police as he took a swipe at Lt Governor VK Saxena,

asking him to discharge his constitutional duties instead of doing politics.

The ruling AAP dispensation in Delhi and the LG have been engaged in a keen tussle over a range of issues related to governance and decision-making, since Saxena took charge in May last year. In a tweet in Hindi, Kejriwal, "Everyday news

of crime is coming in Delhi. The criminals are fearless, the public is losing faith in the police." "LG Saheb take time out to see how scared the public is. The public wants works to be done and safety, not politics. Please do work assigned to you by the Constitution instead of doing politics," the AAP leader said.

## Woman in trouble for 'faking' husband's death

● In train accident

Bhubaneswar, Jun 07 (PTD)

A woman who tried to "fake" her husband's death in the Balasore train accident for compensation cash announced by the state government and Railways is in trouble.

Gitanjali Datta of Maniabanda in Cuttack district had claimed that her husband Bijay Datta had died in the accident on June 2 and had even identified a body as her husband's. However, after verification of documents, it was found that her claim was false.

Though police let her go with a warning, trouble started after her husband filed a complaint at

Maniabandha police station. The woman has now gone into hiding fearing arrest, police said.

Police said the couple has been living separately for the last 13 years.

Bijay has demanded stringent action against Gitanjali for attempting to grab public money and also faking his death.

Maniabanda police station in-charge Basant Kumar Satpathy said police have asked Gitanjali's husband to lodge a complaint at Bahanaga police station in Balasore district as the incident took place there.

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary PK Jena asked the Railways and Odisha police to take stringent action against people making fake claimants over bodies.

Earlier, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had announced Rs 5 lakh ex gratia for the next of kin of the deceased while Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh. On the other hand, the Railway Ministry has declared Rs 10 lakh compensation for the families of those who died in the accident.

The Coromandel Express crashed into a stationary goods train, derailling most of its coaches at 7 pm on June 2. In all, some 288 people died in the accident and more than 1,200 were injured. A few coaches of Coromandel toppled over the last few coaches of the Bengaluru-Howrah Express which was passing by at the same time.

## Maha CM Shinde performs 'bhoomi puja' of temple

Thane, Jun 07 (PTD)

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Wednesday performed the 'bhoomi puja' of a temple being built on a 10 acre land in Navi Mumbai allotted by the state government to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) trust.

The TTD governs the ancient hill shrine of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala in Tirupati.

The Maharashtra government has allotted 10 acre land for the temple of Lord Balaji at Ulwe in Navi Mumbai. It will be a replica of the temple in Tirumala, a TTD trust official said. Among those present during the 'bhoomi puja' on Wednesday included Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Raymond company Chairman and Managing Director Gautam Singhania, TTD



**Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde with Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis during the 'bhoomi puja' of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam temple being built at Ulwe, in Navi Mumbai, Wednesday.**

trust board Chairman YV Subba Reddy and its Executive Officer AV Dharma Reddy.

The temple will be built at a cost of Rs 70 crore, with Singhania coming forward to foot the entire expenses, Subba Reddy said, adding the construction will be completed

within two years.

Following a request from the Maharashtra chief minister, his Andhra Pradesh counterpart YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had asked the TTD to build the temple of Lord Venkateswara on the lines of the one in Tirumala, he said.

The TTD board chairman thanked CM Shinde, his deputy Fadnavis, Singhania and former Maharashtra minister Aaditya Thackeray for taking the initiative to allot land for the temple.

Shinde in his address said the temple will go a long way in fulfilling the desire of thousands of devotees who want to visit Tirumala but are not able to do so for various reasons. He assured all cooperation from the state government for the temple.

Shinde said Deputy CM Fadnavis got some necessary clearances for the temple project from the Centre. "All the hurdles have been removed and today is the day of happiness," he added.

Singhania in his address said the people who are not able to visit Tirupati will now have the opportunity to visit this temple.

## 'There is anti-BJP wave, country's people want change'

Aurangabad, Jun 07 (PTD)

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Wednesday claimed there is currently an "anti-BJP" wave and people of the country want a change considering results of the recent Assembly polls in Karnataka.

If this mindset of people continues, the country will witness a change in the forthcoming elections, Pawar said at a press meet here.

He also claimed that small incidents in Maharashtra were being given a "religious colour", which was not a good sign.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) faced defeat in the recently held Assembly elections in Karnataka, where the Congress came back to power after a gap of five years.

The Lok Sabha elections are due in 2024, and the Maharashtra Assembly polls are also due in the later part of next year.

Pawar said, "Looking at the scenario, I think there is an anti-BJP wave going on. Considering the Karnataka election results, people are in the mood for a change. If this mentality of people continues, there will be a change in the country in the forth-



**Sharad Pawar**

coming elections. There is no need of any astrologer to tell this."

Asked about the possibility that the Lok Sabha and Maharashtra Assembly polls may be

held simultaneously, the NCP chief said many people from his party and allies are also of the same view. "But, I don't think so. Considering the results of the Karnataka Assembly polls, I don't think rulers of the country will fall into a mess of conducting the state Assembly elections along with the Lok Sabha polls. They will only focus on the Lok Sabha polls," Pawar said.

On the 'Telangana model' (of giving financial assistance to farmers) being promoted in Maharashtra, Pawar said, "The Telangana model has to be checked. But, Telangana is a small state

and announcing such an aid in a small state can be done. But, I feel more funds should be spent on infrastructure works (related to farming)."

Asked about the law and order situation and some incidents of violence in Maharashtra in the recent past, Pawar claimed "religious colour" was being given to some small issues in the state.

"The rulers are responsible to establish law and order in the state. If the ruling parties and their people come out on roads over it and create a rift between two religions, then it is not a good sign," he said.

## First batch of 630 pilgrims from J&K leaves for Haj

Srinagar, Jun 07 (PTD)

The first batch of 630 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir left for Saudi Arabia on Wednesday for the annual Haj pilgrimage, officials said.

The pilgrims left in two flights carrying 315 passengers each, they said. There were 339 male pilgrims and 291 female pilgrims in total, they added. Chairperson Jammu and Kashmir Haj Committee Safina Baig said all the arrangements were in place for the pilgrims. "We have tried to make the arrangements better this

year," she added. Baig said another batch of 115 women will leave for Haj on June 10. "This is God's blessings that we are going for the pilgrimage. We will pray for Jammu and Kashmir," Abdul Khaliq, a pilgrim from Rainawari area of the city here, told the video team of PTI. Firdous Bhat, a pilgrim from Chadoora area of central Kashmir's Budgam district, said: "I have never felt so much happiness as it is the ultimate goal of a Muslim to go on this pilgrimage. We will pray for peace and prosperity in Kashmir."

**WELCOME RAINS**



**Citizens ride past during rain, in Kochi, Wednesday.**

## 'Women's work in Sakhi Mandals' boosts family income'

Ranchi, Jun 07 (PTD)

Women can contribute significantly towards economic growth of their family by joining Sakhi Mandals' or Self Help Groups (SHGs), Jharkhand Governor C P Radhakrishnan said.

He was listening to the problems of villagers at Bhakso and Rampur during a visit to Lohardaga district on Tuesday.

Set up by the Rural Development Department, currently 2.3 lakh Sakhi Mandals' have brought together 29 lakh rural women in the state by connecting them through SHGs and enabling them to make a living of their own. President Droupadi Murmu during her visit to



**C P Radhakrishnan**

the state last month had interacted with about 25,000 women associated with Sakhi Mandals' at Khunti.

"When a village develops, you will develop. I want that villagers should get the benefits of various schemes of the central and state governments," he said.



## US closely watching AI flight that landed in Russia

Washington, Jun 07 (PTI):

The United States has said that it is "closely monitoring" the situation after a San Francisco-bound Air India flight made an emergency landing in Russia's remote town of Magadan.

Flight AI173 from Delhi was diverted to Magadan in Russia on Tuesday owing to an engine glitch, the Tata Group-owned private carrier said in a statement last evening.

The Boeing 777-200 LR aircraft, carrying 216 passengers and 16 crew, landed safely.

"We are aware of a US-bound flight that had to make an emergency landing in Russia and are continuing to monitor that situation closely. I'm not able to confirm how many US citizens were aboard the flight at this time," State Department Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel told reporters at his daily news conference on Tuesday.

"It was a flight that was



**Air India flight passengers stay at makeshift accommodation in a nearby school after it had to land at the Sokol Airport in Magadan, Russia following a technical snag. The Air India plane, carrying 216 passengers and 16 crew members, was flying from Delhi to San Francisco.**

bound for the US. So, it is, of course, likely that there are American citizens on board. There's public reporting from Air India that they are sending what my understanding is a replacement aircraft to the destination to have the passengers carry on for their route, but I would defer to the air carrier to

speak to anything further on this," Patel said in response to a question.

When asked if the US would allow the export of parts for the repair of the Boeing aircraft that may need exemptions in view of the various embargoes and sanctions on Russia, the spokesman said, "I'm just not going to speculate

on that here. And of course, we'll let Air India speak to any steps that they're taking as it relates to mitigating the technical issues."

Air India on Wednesday sent a ferry flight - carrying food and other essentials - to Magadan to fly the passengers bound for San Francisco, who are currently stranded.

The airline said the aircraft operating the ferry flight will take all passengers and crew onward to San Francisco on June 8.

It said that a team from the airline is also on board the flight to provide any support that the passengers and staff at Magadan may require.

Magadan is located on the shores of the Sea of Okhotsk in northeastern Russia and falls under the administrative centre of Magadan Oblast. The port town is about 10,167 km from Moscow. It takes around 7 hours and 37 minutes to reach Magadan from Moscow by air.

## BANGLA PM MEETS MANOJ PANDEY



**Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina and Indian Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande during a meeting, in Ganabhaban, Bangladesh.**

## NATO allies prepare unprecedented air deployment exercise

Berlin, Jun 07 (AP):

Germany is preparing to host the biggest air deployment exercise in NATO's history, a show of force intended to impress allies and potential adversaries such as Russia,

German and American officials said on Wednesday.

The Air Defender 23 exercise starting next week will see 10,000 participants and 250 aircraft from 25 nations respond to a simulated attack on a NATO member country. The US

alone is sending 2,000 US Air National Guard personnel and about 100 aircraft to take part in the training manoeuvres.

"This is an exercise that would be absolutely impressive to anybody who's watching, and we don't

make anybody watch it," US Ambassador to Germany Amy Gutmann said. "It will demonstrate beyond a shadow of a doubt the agility and the swiftness of our allied force in NATO as a first responder," she said.

## Floodwaters engulf more areas of southern Ukraine after dam breach as hundreds evacuated



**Streets are flooded in Kherson, Ukraine, Wednesday, June 7 after the walls of the Kakhovka dam collapsed. Residents of southern Ukraine, some who spent the night on rooftops, braced for a second day of swelling floodwaters on Wednesday as authorities warned that a Dnieper River dam breach would continue to unleash pent-up waters from a giant reservoir.**

Kherson (Ukraine), Jun 07 (AP):

Floodwaters from a collapsed dam kept rising in southern Ukraine on Wednesday, forcing hundreds of people to flee their homes in a major emergency operation that brought a dramatic new

dimension to the war with Russia, now in its 16th month.

Amid the disaster response, artillery shelling rang out as people scrambled to get out of the danger zone, climbing onto military trucks or rafts.

Officials said the

flood's force was expected to slacken as the day wore on, a day after Tuesday's breach of the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam and reservoir, which is one of the largest in the world.

Even so, authorities said water levels were expected to rise by another

metre (about 3 feet) over the following 20 hours and engulf more downriver areas along the banks of the Dnieper.

Some local residents spent the night on rooftops. Others, scrambling to flee the rising waters, were evacuated by buses and trains with the belongings they could carry.

"The intensity of floods is slightly decreasing," Oleksandr Prokudin, the head of Kherson Regional Military administration, said in a video. "However, due to the significant destruction of the dam, the water will keep coming."

He said more than 1,800 houses were flooded along the Dnieper and that almost 1,500 people had been evacuated.

Residents sloshed through knee-deep waters in inundated homes as videos posted on social media showed scenes including rescue workers carrying people to safety, and what looked like the triangular roof of an entire building that had been uprooted drifting downstream.

## More Indian Americans stepping into political leadership roles in US

Washington, Jun 07 (PTI):

In the past 10 years, Indian Americans have increasingly taken political leadership roles besides being at the forefront in private industries, according to a prominent member of the diaspora in the US state of Ohio.

Pavan V Parikh, Hamilton County Clerk of Courts said that he was appointed by the Hamilton County Democratic Party in December 2021 to replace Indian American Aftab Pureval, who was elected to the office of Cincinnati Mayor. "We are coming to a time where Indian Americans are really taking on leadership roles across the country. We've seen it happen in private industry, but we're in this period now in the last 10 or so years or so..." told PTI.

Parikh said his focus is on increasing access to justice, improving customer service, modernising the Clerk's office, and ensuring that the Clerk's staff reflects

the diversity of Hamilton County. "In 2023, there are a large number of Indian Americans in elected offices across the country and more are aspiring to run for elected offices. It's impressive. It's wonderful. There's still much more work to be done. But I think it is time for us to take that leadership role, and I'm so happy to be surrounded by so many people that are doing that," he said.

Responding to a question, Parikh said when he was young, this was never an opportunity to serve as an elected official in the US. "We had no idea that you could even do this. We know that we can achieve this now. So opportunities will come. We'll work hard to be excellent, be focused on a community, and be focused on doing good for the people in our community. And these opportunities will come. I look forward to seeing so many more people come up behind us. I look forward to support-

ing them as well," he said. Inside the Hamilton County Clerk of Courts,

Parikh said he is working on carrying out various people-friendly reforms.

## First India-Sri Lanka defence exhibition held in Colombo

● For boosting bilateral relations between both countries

Colombo, Jun 07 (PTI):

The High Commission of India organised the first India-Sri Lanka Defence Seminar and Exhibition here on Wednesday to promote and identify newer areas of cooperation and collaboration between the two countries in the defence sector.

The event will witness participation from the Indian Defence Industry, Sri Lankan entrepreneurs, Sri Lanka Armed Forces, Police and Special Task Force, the High Commission said on Wednesday.

"The grand event includes a seminar highlighting the capability and capacities of the two countries in defence equipment manufacturing and would also exhibit a wide variety of defence products," the release said.

The exhibition organised with the aim to deepen ties with Sri Lanka through inclusive and collaborative engagement, aims to identify newer areas of cooperation for economic revival whilst ensuring capacity building of Sri Lanka Armed Forces.

The High Commission also said that the Sri Lanka Armed forces have been successfully operating a wide range of Indian defence equipment like Indra Radar, Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessels, L 70 Guns, Dornier Aircraft and Army training simulators.

Similarly, Indian armed forces use Fast Interceptor Crafts and refit of Floating Dock at Colombo.

"More recently, the Government of India committed to the supply of Floating Dock, Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre and Dornier aircraft which would ensure capacity building of Sri Lanka Armed Forces", the release added.

## India and US launch strategic trade dialogue

Washington, Jun 07 (PTI):

Ahead of the historic US visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the two countries have launched a strategic trade dialogue here during which officials reviewed the ongoing cooperation in multilateral export control regimes and agreed to share the best practices to further the bilateral ties.

At the inaugural India-US Strategic Trade Dialogue (IUSSTD), the Indian delegation was led by Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra. The US delegation was co-lead by Alan Estevez, Under Secretary for Industry and Security in the US Department of Commerce and Ambassador Victoria Nuland, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs in the US Department of State.

The dialogue is a key mechanism to take forward the strategic technology and trade collaborations envisaged under the India-US initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET).

The meeting took place ahead of Prime Minister Modi's maiden state visit

to the US at the invitation of President Joe Biden. Modi will be visiting the US from June 21 to 24.

It focused on ways in which both governments can facilitate the development and trade of technologies in critical domains such as semiconductors, space, telecom, quantum, AI, defence, bio-tech and others, a media release from the Indian embassy here said.

**CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LTD**  
No.02-02/NIT/T-04/609 Raipur, dt.07/06/2023

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Scaled tenders, for the following item are invited:-

Tender Specification No.	Item	Approx. tender value (₹ in Lakhs)	Purchase /download of Tender document fee with GST (₹)	Last date of tender submission
02/02/T-04	Engagement of 8 No Computer operators	₹ 56.91	5000	28.06.2023

**IMPORTANT: (I) Please note that any Notice for Corrigendum or extension of due date of tender opening shall not be published in newspapers. It will be displayed only on official website of the company. (II) The tenders will be processed through e-bidding module of SAP-SRM. Bidders are advised to visit our website for viewing detailed instructions regarding submission of offer through SAP-SRM. (III) Date of "Pre-Bid" meeting to be held will be intimated separately on our website.**

For details, visit our web site: [www.cspdcl.co.in](http://www.cspdcl.co.in)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
S-37328/1 RA&PM

**SAVE ELECTRICITY**

**कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता**  
**मिनीमाता बांगो बांध संभाग क्र. 03**  
**माचाडोली (छ.ग.)**

**निविदा निरस्तीकरण आदेश**

आदेश क्र. /व.ले.लि./2023-24 माचाडोली, दिनांक .....

कार्यालय प्रमुख अभियंता जल संसाधन विभाग, शिवनाथ भवन, सेक्टर-19, नार्थ ब्लॉक, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, रायपुर का पत्र क्र. 4262683/निविदा प्रक्रां/2023/8/165 (T.C.) दिनांक 27.04.2023 के अनुपालन में इस कार्यालय की निविदा सूचना क्र. 16/व.ले.लि./2022-23 दिनांक 03.04.2023 सिस्टम नं. 129383 (प्रथम आमंत्रण) मिनीमाता (हसदेव) बांगो बांध माचाडोली कोरवा के आधार गैलरी व निरीक्षण गैलरी के विद्युतीकरण का नवीनीकरण कार्य की अनुमोदित राशि रु. 322.58 लाख के कार्य के लिये आमंत्रित की गई निविदा में प्रतिभागी निविदाकार की संख्या निरंक होने के कारण निविदा निरस्त की जाती है।

जो. क्र.-जी-00442 कार्यपालन अभियंता  
मिनीमाता बांगो बांध संभाग क्र. 03  
माचाडोली (छ.ग.)

G-02137/1

**CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LTD.**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (RCR) GUDHIYARI, RAIPUR, PH.NO. 0771-2574703 & FAX NO.2593403  
No. 10-01/Wk-II/Tender No. 10/907 Raipur, Date 07.06.2023

**NOTICE INVITING FOR e-TENDERING**

Online bids are invited through CSPCL e-bidding system (SAP SRM) from eligible Contractors for the following works:

Tender No/ Rfx no.	Name of work	Type of Contractor	Total value of tender (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender form (in Rs.)	Date of Submission / Opening
Tender No. 10/907 RFX No 8100031832	For replacement of 11 KV and overhead line to underground at Avanti Bai Chowk Pandri Raipur under Shankar Nagar Zone of City Dn. East Raipur.	Class-III	25,55,064.00	5000/- (Including GST)	29.06.2023 02.00 / 02.30 PM

Details of Tenders, Technical Specification, Terms & Conditions pre-qualification requirement etc. are available on our website [www.cspdcl.co.in](http://www.cspdcl.co.in) and e-bidding.cspcl.co.in. Tender documents can be downloaded from CSPDCL's official website mentioned above. The cost of required tender fees shall be deposited through demand draft drawn in favor of Sr. A.O.-I CSPDCL Raipur and shall be submitted in hard copy before due date and time, the scanned copy of the DD of Tender fees should be uploaded in the e-bidding portal.

The notice for extension of due date of tender submission, opening /corrigendum/amendment, if any to the tender document will not be published in newspapers. It will only be displayed on CSPDCL's official website as mentioned above and office Notice Board.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (RCR)**  
CSPDCL, RAIPUR

**SAVE ELECTRICITY** S-37329/2

**कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भिलाई**

क्र./परियोजना/न.नि./2023/830/100 भिलाई, दिनांक 05/06/2023  
// रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति (EOI) 2nd call //

नगर पालिक निगम भिलाई क्षेत्रांतर्गत जोन 01, नेहरू नगर स्थित जी.ई. रोड से लगे हुए उद्यान क्र. 03 के व्यवसायिक उपयोग संचालन एवं संधारण हेतु (EOI) दिनांक 19.06.2023 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। प्राप्त (EOI) दिनांक 20.06.2023 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे उपस्थित एजेंसी अथवा उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि के समक्ष खोली जावेगी।

कार्य की विस्तृत जानकारी कार्यालयीन समय में परियोजना शाखा एवं मुख्य कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भिलाई की वेबसाइट [www.bhilainagarnigam.com](http://www.bhilainagarnigam.com), <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> एवं UAD की साईट में देखी जा सकती है।

**कार्यपालन अभियंता**

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**MINIMATA BANGO DAM DIVISION NO. 03, MACHADOLI**  
**DISTT.-KORBA (C.G.)**

**e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>  
**(FIRST CALL)**  
System Tender No. 137011 NIT No.: 08/SAC/2023-24  
Dated: 06-06-2023  
Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 27-06-2023 at 17.30 Hour

**Name of work: EXCAVATION OF PARTIAL HARD ROCK NEAR EDA D/S MASONARY DAM AND POWER HOUSE AND DEWATERING OF BUCKET NO. 4.**

**Probable Amount of Contract: - Rs. 290.06 Lakhs**

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 13-06-2023, at 17.31 Hours. (IST) onwards.

**NOTE :-** All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,**  
**MINIMATA BANGO DAM DIVISION NO. 03**  
**MACHADOLI (C.G.)**  
G-02098/2





## CENTRAL Chronicle

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### Countering China

#### Strengthening Indo-US Defence Ties

In anticipation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to Washington, India and the United States have solidified their commitment to enhancing defence cooperation. The two nations have reached a consensus on a comprehensive roadmap for defence industrial collaboration, with the aim of expediting technology partnerships and co-production of vital military platforms, including air combat and land systems. As part of this collaboration, negotiations are set to commence on the Security of Supply Arrangement and a reciprocal defence procurement pact, both of which are geared towards promoting stability in the supply chain. Over the past decade, the defence ties between India and the United States have made significant progress, propelled by a series of crucial agreements. These include the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (2016), enabling both militaries to utilize each other's bases for repairs and replenishment of supplies; the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (2018), fostering interoperability and the transfer of high-end technology; and the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (2020), facilitating the sharing of cutting-edge military technology, logistics, and geospatial maps. Despite these noteworthy initiatives, it is important to acknowledge that the United States currently ranks third on the list of India's major arms suppliers, accounting for a mere 11 percent, significantly trailing behind Russia (45 percent) and France (29 percent). This statistic highlights the considerable ground the US needs to cover in order to become a more significant participant in India's defence imports and a substantial contributor to the 'Make in India' program. India's preference for Russian and French manufacturers is influenced by factors such as reliability, quality control, cost-effectiveness, and ease of conducting business. Therefore, the key to forging a stronger strategic cooperation between India and the US lies in facilitating technology transfer and fostering indigenous production capabilities within India. In the current geopolitical climate, characterized by China's increasingly assertive posture in the Indo-Pacific region, it is imperative that both India and the US intensify their efforts to overcome any obstacles hindering the growth of their defence relations. The rise of China presents shared security concerns, making closer collaboration a necessity. By leveraging their respective strengths, India and the US can enhance their defence capabilities and jointly address the challenges posed by China's growing influence. For India, strengthening defence ties with the United States offers a multitude of benefits. First and foremost, it enables access to advanced military technology, which is vital for maintaining a competitive edge in an ever-evolving security landscape. Collaborative ventures in research, development, and production can foster innovation and create avenues for India to become self-reliant in defence manufacturing. This aligns perfectly with India's ambitious 'Make in India' initiative, which seeks to transform the country into a global manufacturing hub. The United States, with its technological prowess and expertise, can play a pivotal role in assisting India in achieving this goal. Moreover, closer cooperation between India and the US can contribute to the overall stability and security of the Indo-Pacific region. A united front against common challenges, including maritime security threats and territorial disputes, would send a strong message of deterrence to potential adversaries. By deepening their collaboration, India and the US can develop a robust framework for joint military exercises, intelligence sharing, and coordinated responses to regional security crises. However, it is essential to address the existing barriers and concerns that have hindered the full realization of the potential in the Indo-US defence relationship. Complex bureaucratic processes, stringent export control regulations, and limited technology transfer have often impeded progress. A concerted effort is required to streamline these processes, enhance transparency, and foster an environment conducive to collaboration and partnership.

### Enhancing Banking Experience

#### Empowering Customers through RBI Panel Recommendations

The recently released recommendations of an expert panel established by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are a much-needed catalyst for improving customer service in the banking sector, non-banking financial companies, and other regulated institutions. With proposals ranging from penal action against entities failing to meet customer service standards to rewards for systemic upgrades, these recommendations have the potential to significantly enhance the banking experience for customers. The report outlines a series of customer-centric initiatives, including online settlement of claims by heirs of deceased account holders and greater flexibility in the submission of life certificates by pensioners. One of the key proposals is the establishment of a centralized know-your-customer (KYC) database, which would streamline the process and eliminate the need for periodic updates to halt account operations. This move would alleviate the inconvenience faced by customers when their accounts are frozen due to pending KYC updates. Additionally, the report emphasizes the need for timely return of property documents after the closure of a loan account. It suggests imposing penalties on lenders who fail to adhere to the specified time limit, ensuring that customers are not subjected to unnecessary delays and inconveniences. A critical concern highlighted by the panel is the lack of effective enforcement actions. To address this, the recommendations call for empowering the RBI ombudsmen to direct regulated entities to review complaints, take corrective actions, and ensure compliance. Customers often face frustrating delays and templated responses from call centers when resolving complaints. The report suggests implementing a dedicated interactive voice response system flow, along with an automated call-back feature in case a call is dropped midway. The focus, according to the panel, should be on clear communication between executives and customers, including the provision of services in regional languages. Furthermore, the recommendations propose mandatory soft skills training for staff members who interact with customers, ensuring that they possess the necessary communication and interpersonal abilities. These recommendations align with the global emphasis placed by central banking regulators on the development of a "treating customers fairly" framework. The report suggests making the Charter of Customer Rights enforceable after updating it to reflect the current banking landscape. Additionally, it advocates for the creation of a customer service and protection index to monitor and evaluate the performance of banks and financial institutions in providing quality customer care. As the RBI seeks public feedback on these proposals until July 7, it presents an opportunity for individuals to contribute informed inputs that can shape the future of banking customer service in India. Improving customer care and experience in the banking sector is of paramount importance. Customers are the lifeblood of any financial institution, and their satisfaction should be a top priority. The recommendations put forth by the expert panel aim to address the shortcomings and challenges faced by customers, providing them with a more streamlined and efficient banking experience. By holding entities accountable for their service standards, empowering regulators to enforce compliance, and investing in employee training and development, the RBI can foster a customer-centric banking ecosystem that instills trust and confidence among consumers.

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

### HAJ PILGRIMS



Relatives watch Haj pilgrims leave for their annual pilgrimage to Mecca, from Haj House, at Bemina, in Srinagar, Wednesday, June 7.

## The Environmental Challenges of Highway Expansion

MANOJ KUMAR K. P.



#### Addressing Environmental Concerns with Green Highways Policy

The first Sustainability Report released by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) sheds light on these challenges and outlines the solutions formulated under the Green Highways (Plantations, Transplantations, Beautification, and Maintenance) Policy framework. The report, titled "Building a Sustainable Road Infrastructure: Sustainability Report for 2021-2022," acknowledges that forest clearance and tree felling are sometimes inevitable consequences of highway development, leading to environmental degradation, including biodiversity loss and carbon emissions. The report emphasizes that addressing sustainability challenges for highways requires multidimensional solutions, encompassing traffic regulation, electric mobility, fuel efficiency, and more.

#### Progress and Impact of Green Highways Initiatives

The report highlights the positive impact of the Green Highways policy, which has been in place since 2015. Over the past decade, plantation works along the National Highways have shown marked improvements, with designated green corridors facilitating carbon sequestration, reduction of air and noise pollution, and the provision of shelter for nesting birds. These efforts reflect a transition towards greater environmental sustainability. The report also references a study conducted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, titled "An Assessment of Avoided CO2 Emissions during Construction, Maintenance, and Operation of National Highways."

Highway expansion is often seen as a symbol of accelerated growth in a country, but it comes at a cost. The adverse impact on the environment, including forest clearance and tree felling, cannot be ignored. In India, highways and expressways, which constitute only 1.7% of the total road length, bear the burden of 40% of the country's road traffic. This disparity underscores the importance of highways and the increasing demand for their expansion. However, ensuring environmental sustainability during the construction of greenfield highways and the widening/development of brownfield highways presents enormous challenges.

The study evaluates the net greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the construction and maintenance of national highways.

#### Striving for Holistic Environmental Solutions

The study's findings shed light on the environmental impact of rapid highway construction and expansion. For instance, felling of trees and forest removal for highway construction has resulted in the emission of 653 thousand tonnes of CO2. However, the adoption of green practices has led to significant fuel savings. Under business-as-usual conditions, fuel consumption by vehicles would have reached 51 billion liters over a 20-year period. However, with the improved highways, petrol savings range from 2% to 21%, and diesel savings range from 1% to 42% across the 20 stretches assessed. These savings translate to an estimated avoidance of 25.19 million tonnes of CO2 over the entire 2,191 km of national highway stretches in a 20-year period.

#### A Call for Further Research and Regional Solutions

While these figures offer promising insights into the positive outcomes of green policies, further examination is needed to fully understand the complexities of environmental challenges posed by highway expansion. For instance, assessing the survival and growth of planted trees, particularly in the ecologically fragile northeast region, requires independent third-party assessments. Additionally, region-specific solutions should be developed by contrasting data on tree plantations with data on tree felling and biodiversity loss caused by construction and highway expansion. States in the northeast re-

gion can play a crucial role by supporting studies on the environmental sustainability of road networks and contributing to the creation of a robust data bank for informed policy decisions.

#### 6: Prioritizing Environmental Sustainability on a Global Scale

Climate change and the impact of global warming have pushed the environmental sustainability of highways/expressways to the center stage of policy discourse on road projects across the globe. Recognizing the importance of mitigating environmental risks, it is crucial for states in the northeast region and other areas to conduct thorough studies on the environmental sustainability of road networks, including state and national highways. By creating a comprehensive data bank, policymakers can make informed decisions regarding greenfield and brownfield road projects, tailored to the specific needs of each region.

#### Assessing Ground Realities and Ensuring Accountability

While the NHAI claims to have planted over 274 lakh plants on national highways since the adoption of the Green Highway Policy in 2016-17, it is essential to commission independent third-party assessments, supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC), to evaluate the survival and growth status of these plants. This evaluation becomes even more critical in ecologically sensitive regions like the northeast, where the impact of plantation efforts must be thoroughly analyzed to reflect ground realities. Furthermore, a comprehensive analysis of tree plantation data should be contrasted with information on tree felling and biodi-

versity loss resulting from highway construction and expansion. Adopting region-specific solutions based on localized data is imperative, moving away from a one-size-fits-all approach. Understanding the nuanced challenges faced by each region will facilitate the development of targeted strategies to minimize environmental impact and enhance sustainability.

#### The Role of Technology and Innovation

Technology and innovation play a crucial role in addressing the environmental challenges associated with highway expansion. Embracing advancements in electric mobility, promoting fuel-efficient vehicles, and implementing intelligent transportation systems can significantly reduce the carbon footprint of highway networks. Additionally, exploring alternative materials for road construction, such as recycled materials or eco-friendly alternatives, can further enhance the sustainability of infrastructure projects.

#### Subtitle 10: A Call to Action

As the urgency to address environmental sustainability grows, it is essential for policymakers, experts, and communities to come together and prioritize responsible development. It is not enough to view highways solely as facilitators of economic growth; they must be designed and managed with a keen focus on environmental preservation. By adopting a holistic approach that incorporates green practices, supports research and data-driven decision-making, and fosters collaboration among stakeholders, we can achieve a balance between infrastructure development and environmental conservation.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Strength mercury and air toxic standards

Along north karnataka region, little Ashy crowned sparrows and brown shrike sparrows build their nests in houses of villages. Climate change has already caused their population to decline across the north Karnataka. But that's not the only threat they face. Mercury pollution especially from North Karnataka power plants deposits into our soil and water, and can make its way to little Ashy crowned sparrows and brown shrike sparrows habitat, forming toxic methylmercury. This gets into the birds' bloodstream from their food supply, negatively impacting the survival of their nests. The Environmental and Forest ministry should strengthen and update the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for power plants otherwise Methylmercury impacts not only sparrows but also other wildlife species reproduction, growth and development, behavior, immune response, and overall survival.

Dr. Vijay Kumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

#### Embrace Plastic-Free Lifestyle

The Union Government's initiative to eliminate single-use plastic items through a comprehensive ban on their production, import, distribution, and usage highlights the urgent need to address the environmental consequences of plastic waste. The detrimental effects of littered single-use plastics on both land and water ecosystems have gained international recognition. Tackling the pollution caused by such plastics has become a pressing global environmental challenge. However, it is essential for every citizen to take personal responsibility and embrace a plastic-free lifestyle. By adopting a no-plastic policy, individuals can contribute significantly to preserving our environment for future generations.

MK Nair, Raipur

#### Encouraging Critical Thinking

The removal of important topics from NCERT textbooks raises concerns about the balanced approach to education. While avoiding excessive information is crucial for young minds, it is equally important to promote rational thinking. In order to combat pseudoscience and obscurantism, fostering a scientific temper becomes imperative. Students should be encouraged to develop an inquisitive mindset and the spirit of enquiry. Science academies play a vital role in formulating a comprehensive plan to propagate the scientific spirit in schools. This includes debunking superstitions, dispelling myths, promoting rational thinking, and bridging the gap between science and the general public.

Navneet Nair, Raipur

## PROTEST IN A SANE WAY

Kajal Chatterjee

Rape is rape. Irrespective of the age of the victim, it needs to be severely condemned with demand of exemplary punishment for the perpetrators. So I feel extremely disturbed when it gets heard following sexual atrocities upon any child. "How can even a child be...". Yes, not a single child should face such horror, but that same fate should not befall upon any adult as well. I wonder does rape of an adult then OK for such "protesters".

Next, a political leader is notorious for addressing high-profile officers through their first name (no prefix or suffix) in meetings under full public and media glare. In response to it, many "sensitive" persons express shock - "How can IAS/IPS officers be called like this".

And I wonder "So no problem if any lower - cadre officer, peon or driver get beckoned through their first names only".

And right on this hypocrite perspective of "selective protests", I get shocked on hearing statements of "anguish" - "How can government treat the medal winners in such a disgusting fashion". What a bad "taste" subjected to the ear.

That means had the athletes been "medal losers", no problem. Had the protesting brigade been fruit vendors, poor labourers or house-maids - "no problem" if State agencies mistreat them. How can human rights or sense of honour of individuals depend upon presence or absence of mere medals in their kitty.

Our focus should be on the allegations of sexual atrocities lodged against a high profile person! We

should demand that person be tried in Court. We should protest when physical assault gets launched upon the athletes who are registering democratic protest in non-violent way. But by which logic, being "medal-winners" or "national-level athletes" get stressed repeatedly! Else it would get proved that the right for self-honour should remain the privilege of selected "elite".

Lastly, the protesting athletes who are always insisting - "We gave everything for India in sports field, we have brought medals and laurels for the country". I will respect their skills. I will respect their success.

But it also remains the fact that they have entered the athletic field (applicable for people of all sportspersons and profession) primarily for their own sake. To excel themselves in preferred field, to

win medals for themselves, to earn money and build career.

This is not a bit wrong, but hints of "I have entered the field of athletics judiciary medicine cinema business or government service to serve the nation" is indeed too much ridiculous and hard to digest.

If anybody is serving or had served, it is/was Mother Teresa, Kallash Satyarthi, Amartya Sen (through his deluge of charity and trusts), the faceless lady who educates the orphans and destitutes in railway platform in an absolute selfless way, often burning their own limited purses. Or those rarest of rare Doctors who serve the poor on a "princely" fee of Rs 1/- (One).

Unlike a citizen, a foreigner holds no right to vote in the host country or take up a Government job. But as far as the assurance to get protected from goons and rapists, a foreigner enjoys the

same right as a citizen. In the same vein, as far as getting protected from sexual predators or State agencies, the greatest of greatest athlete and a faceless poor brick kiln labourer must enjoy the same right and honour.

So enjoy your Bharat Ratna/Arjuna /Padma awards to the full; but do not expect any "special privilege" because as citizens of India, all are on the same platform in terms of demanding honour and security. As for the people who feel the pain of the protesting athletes, they should stop expressing silly sentiment of "They have won laurels for India" because at the end of the day, the poor rag picking lady in the slum also deserve your equal sympathy and support if that golden heart also gets violated. Protest, but in a sane logical way by exterminating all class-consciousness from mind.



**BRIEF**

**FDI destination**



**Mumbai:** Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said Maharashtra has topped in receiving foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country and critics who were claiming projects were moving out of the state should now remain silent. He also said the government has signed agreements worth Rs 71,000 crore with two energy companies for setting up hydro power plants with a total capacity of 12,450 MW and these projects are expected to generate employment for around 30,000 people. Speaking to reporters here after the signing of the agreements, Fadnis, who also holds finance and energy portfolios, said during the first three months of 2023, Maharashtra has topped in receiving foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country.

**Tourism industry**

**Kathmandu:** Prime Minister Pushpakamal Dahal "Prachanda" has urged foreign investors to invest in the tourism industry of Nepal, saying the government is fully committed to supporting the industry by improving infrastructure and providing competitive services. The Prime Minister made the remarks on Tuesday while inaugurating the three-day Himalayan Travel Mart organised by Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Nepal Chapter here.

**Biz corridor**



**Gangtok:** Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang urged the Centre to build an international business corridor in West Sikkim for improved connectivity with Nepal, which, he claimed, will boost development in the Himalayan state. Tamang also said the central government appeared to be keen to consider the project, keeping in view its benefits to the people of Sikkim and added that a decision would be taken in due course.

**Warranty programme**

**New Delhi, Jun 07:** Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) on Wednesday said it has unveiled an extended warranty initiative for all scooter and motorcycle models up to the 250 cc segment. The initiative enables customers to acquire an extended warranty within a flexible window of 91 days to ninth year from the date of vehicle purchase, the two-wheeler major said in a statement. The programme not only grants customers a comprehensive 10-year warranty coverage but also offers renewal options that remain transferable even in the event of a change in ownership, it added.

## Govt accords priority to keep prices under check: Goyal

New Delhi, Jun 07:

Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday said the government accords priority to keeping prices under check and that is the reason why inflation is low in India as compared to several developed nations. He said that a group of ministers regularly meets and discuss the price situation. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi gives priority to keep prices under check," Goyal told reporters here while briefing about increase of Rs 143 in the minimum support price (MSP) of paddy to Rs 2,183 per quintal for this year. He added that be-



fore 2014, the average inflation rate used to be at 10-12 per cent, but after the Modi government came to power the average rate of inflation in the last nine years has come down to 4.5 per cent. "On one side we are increasing MSP and

on the other hand, we have kept the inflation under control," he said. The prices in India are much lower when compared to most of developed countries, where inflation is in double digits.

Wholesale prices in India fell for the first time in almost three years in April, as softening global commodity prices brought down food, fuel, and other input costs for producers. Retail inflation declined to an 18-month low of 4.7 per cent in April mainly due to falling prices of vegetables, oils and fats, and came closer to Reserve Bank's target of 4 per cent, according to the government data.

## Maruti Suzuki drives in Jimny with price starting at Rs 12.74 lakh

New Delhi, Jun 07:

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Wednesday launched Jimny priced between Rs 12.74 lakh and Rs 15.05 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi), as it eyes the top slot in the robustly growing sports utility vehicle segment in the country.

The manual trims of the four-wheel drive model are priced between Rs 12.74 lakh and Rs 13.85 lakh, while the 4-speed automatic trims are tagged between Rs 13.94 lakh and Rs 15.05 lakh. The five-door model, which features a 1.5-litre petrol motor, will come in two trims — Zeta and Alpha, and will be sold



through Nexa dealerships. "The launch of Jimny (5-door) marks an exhilarating milestone in our SUV portfolio and will play an important role in our goal of becoming the country's largest SUV maker," MSI

Managing Director & CEO Hisashi Takeuchi said in a statement. India holds a significant position for Suzuki Motor Corporation not only as a domestic market but also as a global export base, he added. "It

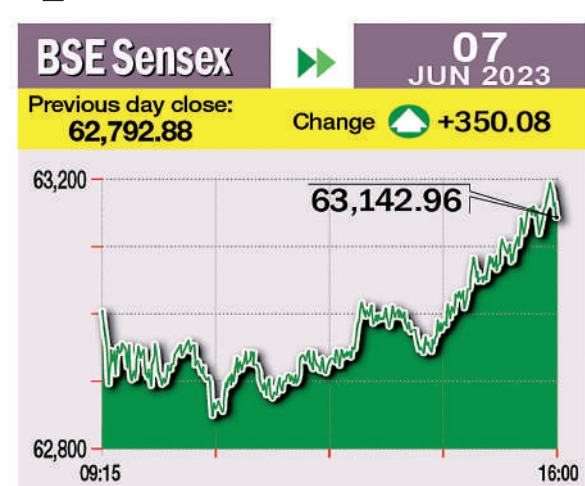
gives me immense pleasure to announce that India will proudly serve as the mother plant for the Jimny (5-door) and will be the first market for its launch. This truly reaffirms our commitment to Make-In-India for the world," Takeuchi noted. The Jimny comes with the ALLGRIP PRO (4WD) with low-range transfer gear (4L mode) offering extreme off-road ability. The model comes with a ground clearance of 210 mm. MSI said the automatic trims of the model offer fuel-efficiency of 16.94 km per litre and the five-speed manual variants come with 16.39 km per litre fuel economy.

## Markets climb for 4th day; Sensex rallies 350 pts to reclaim 63,000-mark

**Mumbai, Jun 07:** Benchmark equity indices ended with gains on Wednesday, logging their fourth day of rally amid fresh foreign fund inflows and a mixed trend in global markets. The gains in metal, realty, oil & gas and industrials stocks also supported the market's rally.

Rising for the fourth straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 350.08 points or 0.56 per cent to settle at 63,142.96. During the day, it jumped 403.55 points or 0.64 per cent to 63,196.43. The NSE Nifty advanced 127.40 points or 0.68 per cent to end at 18,726.40.

From the Sensex pack, Nestle, Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Bharti Airtel, Larsen & Toubro, Power Grid, NTPC, Tata



Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Infosys and Axis Bank were the major gainers. Kotak Mahindra Bank, Maruti, Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra and ICICI Bank were the laggards. In

Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the green, while Tokyo settled lower.

Equity markets in Europe were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended in positive ter-

ritory on Tuesday. The Reserve Bank's rate-setting monetary policy panel began deliberations on Tuesday and the decision would be announced on June 8. "Investors are becoming more optimistic due to the anticipation of a positive revision in the RBI's inflation forecast during the ongoing MPC meeting. It is expected that the RBI will maintain its pause on rate hikes, considering the significant improvement in inflation, which has now come within the RBI's comfort zone. "Furthermore, the participation of FIIs as net buyers, after a brief halt, contributed to today's market rally, particularly driven by mid-and small-cap stocks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

## India is a fantastic potential market but taxation higher: IATA chief

**Istanbul, Jun 07:** India is a fantastic potential market for aviation but not a cheap market to operate as taxation is higher in the country than in many other places, international airlines' grouping IATA's chief Willie Walsh said on Tuesday. During a media briefing here, Walsh also highlighted the scale of the economy and investments going into airports in India. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) is a grouping of more than 300 airlines, including Air India, IndiGo and SpiceJet. While responding to a query about a possible duopoly in the Indian airline market, Walsh said there is "plenty of scope for others (airlines) to compete in the market". "What you have in India is a fantastic poten-



The International Air Transport Association (IATA) Director General Willie Walsh, in Istanbul, Türkiye.

tial market. You look at the scale of the economy, investments going into airports... (but) India is not a cheap market to operate. "Taxation in India is higher than most places in the world. I think there is a lot of potential in India," he said. India is one of the fastest-growing aviation markets globally. Meanwhile, Walsh also said that he has no sympathy for airports and that they are profitable all the time. "Airports try to convince people that every new passenger I get means I have to increase my charges. That is complete nonsense. The more passengers you get, the lower your cost should be. What we have seen with airports is very high returns on capital way in excess of the cost of their capital," he said.

## Reliance Jewels unveils 'Vivaham Collection'

Mumbai, Jun 07:

Reliance Jewels, a renowned name in the jewellery industry, is delighted to announce the launch of its highly anticipated "Vivaham Collection" - an exquisite range of wedding jewellery designed to make every bride feel like a queen on her special day no matter what strata of life one comes from.

This collection pays homage to the diversity and elegance of regional brides across India, capturing their unique styles and inspirations. Incorporating the rich cultural heritage of various regions, the Vivaham Collection showcases 15 plus distinct bridal looks, each representing a different part of India. From the opulent Bengali bride to the resplendent Odisha bride, the ravishing



Maharashtrian bride to the elegant Rajasthani bride, the trendy metro bride to the dazzling Punjabi bride, the elegant Telugu bride to the gorgeous Bihari bride and many more mesmerizing and intricate looks that celebrate our country's rich culture and traditions of weddings.

Reliance Jewels has meticulously curated jewellery to complement

every bride's ensemble making it one stop shop for all bridal jewellery needs. The collection features a wide range of designs in chokers, long necklaces, bangles, rings, earrings, choker sets, mangalsutra's, mangtika's, naths, , hathpools, Waistbelts, armbands, bracelets and more. This diverse collection celebrates the brides of every region, creating an enchanting symphony of cultures and traditions.

"Our Vivaham Collection is a testament to the magnificence and diversity of Indian weddings," Mr. Sunil Nayak, CEO of Reliance Jewels, said. "We believe that every bride deserves to feel like a queen on her wedding day, regardless of her caste, age, socio-economic segment, or location.

## Amazon India launches 'Yoga store' to celebrate International Day of Yoga

Mumbai, Jun 07:

To celebrate and support the Government of India's vision of promoting 'Healthy and Fit India', Amazon India announced the launch of 'Yoga store' that brings an unprecedented selection of Yoga essentials from Indian sellers. Officially launched by Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of AYUSH and Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Government of India at a physical launch, the store not only extends an opportunity for customers to adopt a healthier lifestyle but also aims to boost the growth of emerging Indian brands and manufacturers in the health and fitness category.



Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of AYUSH and Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Government of India said, "Yoga is an ancient practice that promotes holistic well-being and aims to improve the overall quality of life. I am

pleased to be a part of the launch and would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Amazon India on the successful launch of the 'Yoga store-front' in alignment with honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji's vision of 'Healthy and Fit India'.

This is yet another significant contribution from Amazon India towards transforming and shaping the world of Indian e-commerce and entrepreneurship."

Manish Tiwary, Vice President & Country Manager, Consumer Business, Amazon India said, "We are excited to support the Government's vision to build a healthy and fit India. With our endeavor to provide high-quality yoga products, equipment and resources for our customers and support their physical, mental, and spiritual wellness, the Yoga store also reinforces Amazon India's commitment to nurture and support local manufacturers and sellers."

## India has one of the best airfare regimes; there should be no 'gouging': Akasa Air CEO

Istanbul, Jun 07:

India has one of the best airfare regimes in the world, but there should not be "gouging" in terms of ticket prices to take advantage of a particular situation, according to Akasa Air CEO Vinay Dube. His comments come against the backdrop of concerns about a steep rise in airfares in certain routes amid capacity reduction due to the Go First crisis and higher travel demand, and the government asking airlines to devise a mechanism to ensure a reasonable ticket pricing system. India is one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets, and domestic air traffic is recovering strongly after the coronavirus pandemic. Dube, also the founder of Akasa Air, said the civil aviation ministry has an excellent point in terms of



gouging and is not talking about average fares in India, like equivalent to USD 45 or 50, which is too high. "Gouging is what the government is worried about... as an airline fraternity, we should ensure that there is no gouging," Dube told PTI in an interview in Istanbul. He explained that gouging is a particular term used when anybody really jacks up the price of something to take advantage of a particular micro-environmental situation.

## 5 benefits of using digital payment methods in India

**I**n India, cash transactions have been mostly affected by digital payments in recent years. The Indian government has implemented a number of schemes, including Digital India and demonetization, to encourage the adoption of digital payment methods. Furthermore, the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) trinity's unification is accelerating financial inclusion in India like never before. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana intends to give bank accounts to the unbanked, and Aadhaar, the Unique Identification Authority of India's flagship product, is a quick and easy way to confirm people and beneficiaries using their biometric data.

**In India, using digital payment systems has the following five advantages:**

**1- Convenience:** Digital payment options are more practical than older ones like cheques and cash. Payments can be made whenever you choose, without having to carry cash or go to a bank. Numerous digital payment options also include functions like mobile wallets, which let you save money and make purchases with a few simple clicks. Digital payment alternatives enable speedy and effective payments because transactions are completed in real-time.

**2- Security:** Compared to cash transactions, digital payment systems provide a higher level of safety and security. Because transactions are encrypted and shielded by numerous levels of security, there is a reduced danger of theft and fraud. Digital payments create a digital trail that is simple to follow and keep an eye on. Merchants and customers can keep track of their

payments.

**3- Cost-effectiveness:** Compared to traditional ways, digital payment methods are typically more economical. Digital payment options do not incur any additional fees, and transactions are processed swiftly. Additionally, since there is no need to handle cash, printing, shipping, and storing actual money are less expensive when using digital payments. Digital payment methods do not have additional fees, in contrast to conventional payment methods like cheques or wire transfers. This is due to the fact that electronic processing of digital payments eliminates the need for middlemen and lowers the overall cost of transactions.

**4-Economic growth:** Digital payment systems promote economic growth by enhancing transparency and eliminating corruption. Financial trans-

actions may be tracked and monitored more easily because to the digital footprints left by transactions. This increases the nation's overall revenue by decreasing the black market and criminal activity. Financial transactions are more productive and efficient because to the use of digital payment systems, which also lower transaction costs. This is due to the fact that digital payment methods do not require manual processing, which cuts down on processing time and costs. India's businesses can now make tax payments digitally rather than manually thanks to the development of digital payment platforms and big data, which will allow them to save days, time, and money. Because digital transactions will make it easier for the government to keep track of things, this will aid the economy as well as the

government because it will reduce the cost of minting money.

**5-Financial Inclusion:** Digital payment systems are a useful tool for financial inclusion, particularly for those who live in distant places. Banks are no longer required with digital payments, making it simpler for customers to obtain financial services.

This supports financial inclusion and literacy and boosts the nation's overall economic prosperity. Indians are switching more and more to digital wallets since they can save their bank information, credit and debit card information, allow them to conduct financial transactions whenever they want, and make payments easily by centralising their cards and information.

By Harita Desai, CMO Mswipe Technologies





## Anjali Tatrari reveals what inspired her to take up her 'Vanshaj' role

Actress Anjali Tatrari, who will be seen essaying the role of Yuvika in the upcoming television show 'Vanshaj', has shared what inspired her to take up the role.

The actress, who has always been intentional in selecting characters that convey a message to the audience, found a perfect role in Yuvika's character.

She said, "Life sometimes places us in circumstances where we mature or grow up ahead of our time, and I can deeply connect with this as it reflects my own journey. I believe I matured and shouldered responsibilities at a young age, which aligns with Yuvika's trajectory. This character holds great significance as Yuvika challenges patriarchy and proves capability is supreme."

She further mentioned, "Both men and women should be given opportunities based on their potential. It is a role that exudes strength, and I have always been drawn to portraying such characters that inspire and leave a lasting impact on the audience. I am absolutely thrilled and excited to portray Yuvika's character, which possesses a remarkable strength and a relatability factor that resonates deeply." The makers also have revealed the set of

the show. It is designed to support the narrative of the show with modern architectural opulence. Be it props, furniture or aesthetic, all the elements align with the story of the show and convey the utopian business class feel.

Talking about her preparation for the part, the actress said, "In my preparation for Yuvika's character, workshops certainly played a part, but personally, I am committed to immersing myself in the script repeatedly to infuse nuanced details that bring the character to life, transcending mere fiction. For instance, Yuvika might freeze in a serious situation or become momentarily lost, unsure of her next move."

She added, "We have incorporated various elements into Yuvika's character, and honestly, there are numerous layers to her persona. Every day, I uncover something new about the character, continually adding dimensions to enhance its authenticity. Given the multitude of shades within the role, it feels like an evolving task, where the character undergoes changes with each passing day."

"Vanshaj" will air on Sony SAB on June 12 from Monday to Saturday.

## 'Can't wait to hear my grandfather's roaring voice in the theatres again'

In the year 2001, Sunny Deol and Amrish Puri gave Hindi cinema one of its biggest blockbusters till date - *Gadar: Ek Prem Katha*. The film is getting a sequel after 22 years that will release in August, 2023. But to create hype for the film, the makers are re-releasing the 2001 film in theatres on June 9. Amrish Puri's grandson Vardhan Puri is emotional and excited about it as he will get to hear his grandfather's voice once again on the big screen.



Talking about *Gadar's* re-release, Vardhan says, "It's an absolute joyous moment to know that *Gadar* is re-releasing in theatres after 22 glorious years. It's going to be something larger than life. Anil Sharma sir has re-mastered and reimag-

ined the film in 4K and Dolby Atmos sound effect. That's phenomenal. I cannot wait to watch the film in its renewed version with my family. It's going to be overwhelming."

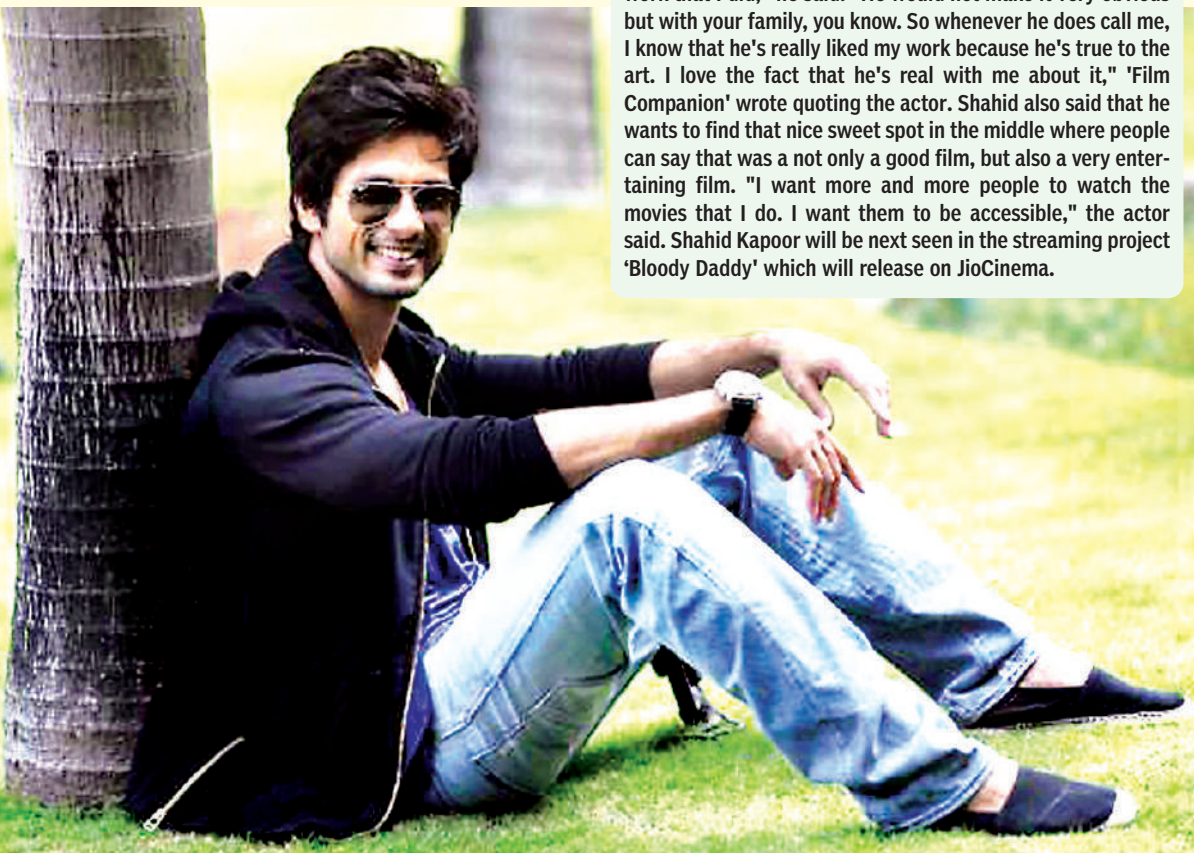
Sharing his memory from the film's premiere

in 2001, the young actor revealed, "I still remember when we watched *Gadar* at a special preview in Mumbai, we were all short of words. It had released with 'Lagaan' which was also a great film. But the hysteria that *Gadar* had when it re-

leased was something special." Talking about his excitement to watch his grandfather on the big screen again, Vardhan says ecstatically, "I want to watch my Dadu on screen once again as the powerful antagonist with a beating heart for his daughter. I can't wait to hear his roaring voice in the theatres. When I watched '*Gadar*' for the first time, I was a child, and for me at that point he was just my grandfather. Every time I saw the screen, I was only looking at him. This time it's going to be very different and I am sure '*Gadar 2*' is going to be very special because I know the impact that '*Gadar*' had on our Indian society and all the NRIs who live across the world and whose hearts beat for India."

## Was concerned about dad judging my choice to become a hero: Shahid Kapoor

Actor Shahid Kapoor has said that he was concerned about his father and veteran actor Pankaj Kapur judging his choice to become a hero. "My dad is Pankaj Kapur. The fact that I wanted to be a hero was because of my dad. I often wondered will he judge me for my choice of becoming an actor. One does get affected by what ones parents do," the actor said. Shahid said his mom (Neelima Azeem) is a phenomenal dancer and actor, while his dad is a legend as an actor. "My dad was supportive, but there were times when I could make out that he was not very happy with a film or the work that I did," he said. "He would not make it very obvious but with your family, you know. So whenever he does call me, I know that he's really liked my work because he's true to the art. I love the fact that he's real with me about it." 'Film Companion' wrote quoting the actor. Shahid also said that he wants to find that nice sweet spot in the middle where people can say that was not only a good film, but also a very entertaining film. "I want more and more people to watch the movies that I do. I want them to be accessible," the actor said. Shahid Kapoor will be next seen in the streaming project 'Bloody Daddy' which will release on JioCinema.



## Cycling leads to a Healthier Life!



It is well-known that regular physical activity, like cycling, protects against several serious illnesses. Anyone can easily incorporate this fun, low-impact cycling exercise into a daily routine. On World Bicycle Day, &TV artists talk about how cycling benefits them in staying fit. These include RJ Mohit (Manoj), Doosri Maa, Aaryan Prajapati (Hritik Singh), Happu Ki Ultan (Paltan), and Aasif Sheikh (Vibhuti Narayan Mishra, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai). RJ Mohit, essaying Manoj in &TV's show Doosri Maa, shares, "I am passionate about bicycling and pedalling, and I am a professional cyclist actively engaged in cycling marathons and races. Cycling plays a significant role in my fitness regimen. Every morning, I kickstart my day by hopping on my bicycle, and I often rely on it for trans-

portation whenever the need arises. Initially, I embraced cycling as a means to maintain my physical fitness. However, over time, it has transformed into something more profound for me—a form of therapy. When I'm cycling, my stress and anxiety melt away, replaced by a sense of happiness and contentment. Immersing myself in cycling helps me cultivate focus and heightens my awareness of the present moment, whether concentrating on the road ahead or maintaining a steady cadence. Notably, I can traverse more than 50 kilometres effortlessly, and my ongoing goal is to continually push my boundaries and increase my endurance." Tune in to Doosri Maa at 8:00 pm, Happu Ki Ultan (Paltan) at 10:00 pm, and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

## 'We marry into a family, it's no longer simply about you and your partner'

Sony Entertainment Television's 'Hum Rahe Na Rahe Hum' brings alive the clash of two diametrically opposite worlds; that of the larger-than-life royal family, the Barots, as well as that of the grounded, middle-class family of three and a half women – the Ahluwalias. Shivendra Barot (Jay Bhanushali), the first born of the Barot family, falls in love with Surilii Ahluwalia (Tina Datta) and after tumultuous twists and turns, they understand that they cannot live apart. Without his mother Damayanti's (Kitu Gidwani) approval, Shivendra brings Surilii to Ranagadh as his bride. The Barot mansion is shaken by this surprise and the arrival of Surilii promises to change everything.

Delving into how Surilii, a vibrant and modern thinking young woman, will fit into the royal way of living, while imbibing the values she holds dear, Tina Datta shares, "I wish love was enough to lead a happy life, but we marry into a family, it's no longer simply about you and your partner. Surilii understands the immense challenge she faces of being accepted into this royal family. However, she is delighted to find acceptance from

Shivendra's younger siblings and feels welcomed by them. Fans have loved the chemistry between Shiv and Surilii, and that will remain as her biggest support system in this rigid household will continue to be Shivendra."

Will Damayanti be able to accept the winds of change that Surilii brings with her?

Don't forget to tune in to **Hum Rahe Na Rahe Hum** every Monday to Friday at 9:00 p.m., exclusively on Sony Entertainment Television.



## 'Kathal' an effort to speak about absurdity of our reality: Guneet Monga Kapoor

Oscar winner Guneet Monga Kapoor has shared that her latest film 'Kathal', which stars Sanya Malhotra in the lead, is an effort to speak about the absurdity of our reality.

The film is a satirical comedy about a local politician whose prized jackfruits go missing and a young police officer (played by Sanya) is adamant to solve this bizarre case to prove herself.

The story is inspired by similar real-life incidents that have happened in the past, like an IAS Officer that cut practice sessions at a Delhi stadium short so that he could walk his dog.

Guneet Monga Kapoor, who has co-produced the film, said, "When Yashowardhan Mishra (director) and Ashok Mishra (the writer) approached us with the idea of 'Kathal', Achin and I instantly knew this was a project Sikhya



Entertainment could voice and lead. We made 'Kathal' with the hope of speaking about the absurdity of our reality, and with the headlines we're seeing now, it's all the

more validating that sometimes reality is stranger than fiction."

The movie also stars Anant V. Joshi, Vijay Raaz, Rajpal Yadav, Raghubir Yadav, Brijendra Kala, and Neha Saraf, in prominent roles.

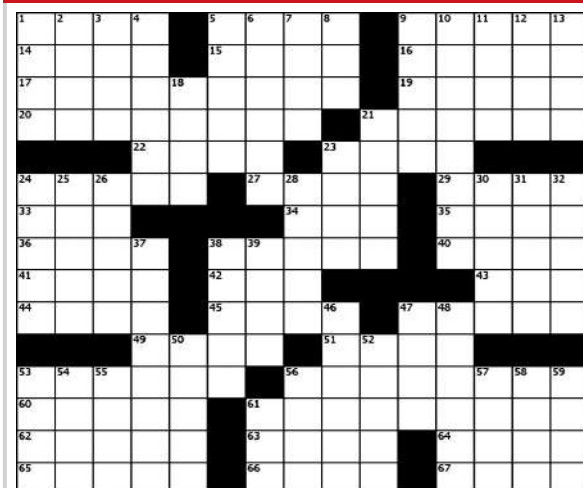
Director Yashowardhan Mishra said, "'Kathal' is a colourful bouquet of the bizarre that we see all around us nowadays. We wanted to make a sharp social satire which gently nudges the audiences towards critical thinking about the world we live in."

He added, "It's been really rewarding seeing the response and love for this quirky film of ours, and it's been an honour being able to tell this peculiar story based on true-ish events".

'Kathal - A Jackfruit Mystery', produced by Guneet Monga Kapoor's Sikhya Entertainment and Ekta Kapoor's Balaji Telefilms, is streaming on Netflix.

## CROSSWORD

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### ACROSS

- Inferno
- Gels
- Nighttime vision
- On a cruise
- Divya's speciality
- Musical show
- Comforted
- Prophetic signs
- Peacemaker
- Nasal sounds
- Water jug
- Passed effortlessly
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- Wise
- Greek deity
- Wee one
- Rec room
- Hot, molten rock
- Molecule part
- Remain
- Guess
- Festive occasion
- Wish undone
- Unwell

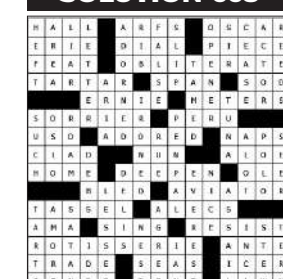
- House additions
- Toe trauma
- Got up
- Aberdeen native
- Behind schedule
- Hold up
- Capital of Hawaii
- Vote into office
- Wood-smoothing item
- Trumpet's sound
- Ocean movement
- Small city
- Made docile
- Pub potables
- Goals

### DOWN

- Animal
- Got it! (2 wds.)
- Peruse
- Less difficult
- Fry lightly
- Baseball blunders
- Level
- Dispirited
- Humming sound
- Redoes the kitchen
- For all time
- Father's sister
- Army chow
- Cutting tools
- ... of the crime
- Old
- Phase
- Entire
- Coral island

- Goodbye, in Paris
- Proportion
- Track shapes
- Costly fur
- "The Texas Chainsaw ..."
- Criminal burning
- Ram into
- Fair-haired
- Upon
- Narrate
- Used footnotes
- Chile's mountains
- Unpaid bill
- She, in Valencia
- Group of players
- Ice pellets
- "Once ... a time..."
- Bawdy
- Coffee vessels
- Amtrak stop (abbr.)

### SOLUTION 668





## Head's counter attacking fifty lifts Australia to 170/3

London, Jun 07 (PTI):

Travis Head's counter-attacking 60 off 75 balls and Steve Smith's patient 33 in bright sunshine took Australia to 170 for three at tea on day one of the Indian Test Championship final against India here on Wednesday.

Head played in his signature style and took the attack to the Indian pacers after Australia found themselves under pressure soon after the lunch break with the fall of Marnus Labuschagne (26 off 62).

Mohammed Shami, who was not his absolute best in the morning session, bowled a beauty for his first ball post lunch to disturb Labuschagne's off-stump. The full ball jagged back in from the fourth stump to clip the off stump.

Head joined Smith in the middle and hit a flurry of boundaries against Shami and Mohammed Siraj to put the pressure back on India. He was quick to flick anything directed towards his pads and was equally sharp with the cut shots. Head brought up his 14th Test fifty with a crisp



India's Mohammed Shami celebrates after taking the wicket of Australia's Marnus Labuschagne.

backfoot punch off Shardul Thakur. Ravindra Jadeja was brought into action in the 39th over and hardly gave anything away in his seven overs.

Umesh Yadav was brought towards the end of the session but was not able to get the breakthrough. Australia managed to get 97 runs from 28 overs in the session. Earlier, Siraj breathed fire in his opening spell before Thakur got rid of a well-set David Warner to reduce Australia to 73 for two at lunch. Having survived chal-

lenging conditions in the first hour at The Oval, Warner (43 off 60) and Labuschagne were on course to see off the session until Thakur dismissed the left-handed opener with a short ball targeting his rib cage. Wicketkeeper KS Bharat took a well-judged catch down the leg-side.

India expectedly opted to bowl in overcast conditions and on a pitch with fair amount of grass. They made the tough call to leave out Ravichandran Ashwin from the playing eleven

for a four-pronged pace attack including Shami, Siraj, Yadav and Thakur.

Both Siraj and Shami kept Australia in check in the first hour, sharing six overs six each and conceding only 29 runs.

Siraj got more out of the surface than Shami by bowling with a scrambled seam. Usman Khawaja (0 off 10), who has an ordinary record in England, began the tour on a disappointing note as he got a faint edge off a ball that pitched outside the off stump and seamed away. There was minimal feet movement and he paid the price for playing away from the body and the nick was taken easily by Bharat behind the stumps. Warner, who has a point to prove in this game and cement his spot in the playing XI for the upcoming Ashes, battled with grit and took his chances every time he was offered width. After an engrossing opening hour, India took the foot off the pedal with Umesh Yadav offering plenty of scoring opportunities to Warner, who collected four boundaries off the pacer in the 15th over.

## Sri Lanka secures ODI series from Afghanistan after Chameera heroics



Hambantota, Jun 07 (PTI):

Sri Lanka bowled out Afghanistan for 116 and reached the target in only 16 overs to win their one-day international series 2-1 at Suriyawewa on Wednesday.

Sri Lanka made 120-1 to win by nine wickets.

Fast bowler Dushmantha Chameera, sidelined for eight months by an ankle injury, took a leading 4-63 to be named player of the third match, and six wickets in two matches to be named player of the series in his comeback. He missed the first ODI. Fellow quick Lahiru Kumara, recov-

ered from a hamstring strain, dismissed both openers and Chameera took out four of the top six batters. Legspinner Wanindu Hasaranga finished with three wickets after Afghanistan chose to bat first.

Afghanistan was all out in 22.2 overs. It was a poor effort on a good batting surface. Only three batters managed 20-plus runs amid too many soft dismissals.

Afghanistan lost opening batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz early again, trying to hook Kumara in the second over and top-edging to fine leg on 8. Chameera got Rahmat Shah and Hashmatullah Shahidi out

in the same fifth over, both to nicks, and Afghanistan was reduced to 77-6 with little resistance from the tail against the spinners.

Mohammad Nabi top-scored with 23. Sri Lanka wasted no time in chasing down the target. Openers Pathum Nissanka and Dimuth Karunaratne shared an 84-run stand.

Nissanka raced to his seventh half-century in just 32 balls with eight fours and two sixes. He was trapped on 51.

Karunaratne required 43 balls for his eighth half-century that included seven fours. Karunaratne was unbeaten on

56 when Sri Lanka secured the win with 34 overs to spare.

It was a good comeback from Sri Lanka after losing the first game by six wickets. The host won the second game by 132 runs and sealed the series with a nine-wicket win. It was their first come-from-behind series victory since 2014.

After successive half-centuries in his first ODI series in more than two years, Karunaratne appears to have secured a spot for the World Cup qualifiers that begin in Zimbabwe next week.

Afghanistan was already through to the Cricket World Cup in India in October.

## Sindhu's form not a concern, she remains one of India's best: Gopichand

Kolkata, Jun 07 (PTI):

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu's lack of consistency after coming back from an injury should not be a cause of "concern", feels chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand.

Sindhu suffered yet another first round exit on Tuesday when she lost to world number 1 Akane Yamaguchi in the Singapore Open.

"She's very young in saying that she's just 26-27. It's a good age, there is no reason for concern," Gopichand told PTI in a virtual interaction.

A silver medallist at the 2016 Rio Olympics and bronze winner in the Tokyo Games, Sindhu suffered an ankle injury in August last year to be slipped out of top-10 in the BWF women's singles rankings. She remained out of action for four months because of that injury.

Sindhu's final and semi-final finish at Madrid Spain Masters and Malaysia Masters respectively were her best results this season. She



reached a low with a first round exit at the Thailand Open when she lost to Canada's Michell Li.

But Gopichand, a former All England champion who guided Sindhu since she was 10 till she became an Olympic medallist, firmly believed she would bounce back stronger.

"She has come out on top in the six-eight months. She is starting to play well. I do expect her to play well in future. She is definitely one of India's bets for the future," Gopichand said. Terming it a mixed sea-

son for Sindhu, Gopichand said: "It's the beginning of the season and beginning of Olympic qualification. The results have been mixed so far.

"We have a lot of pressure on players to perform. We have to just back them up and hope that they are playing the big tournaments."

The high point of the season for Indian badminton was HS Prannoy's title win at the Malaysia Masters last month, the 30-year-old's first men's singles triumph since 2017 US Open.

"From our perspective in general, Prannoy winning in Malaysia was a good one that's something I'm really happy about. It's the beginning of the season, it's early.

"We have not done well at the Sudirman Cup, it was kind of a negative note. Lakshya Sen did well to get to the semifinals in Thailand, and I do believe that the next few weeks will be very critical and we have big tournaments coming up," said the 49-year-old Gopichand.

## West Indies clinch ODI cricket series in UAE with a game to spare



Sharjah, Jun 07 (AP): Shai Hope and Daren Sammy secured their first ODI series victory as West Indies captain and coach with a 78-run win over United Arab Emirates here. nWest Indies won Game 1 with 88 balls to spare and clinched the three-game series with one to spare after setting the UAE a target of 307 and then restricting the home team to 228 for 7 in 50 overs in Game 2 on Tuesday night.

Johnson Charles set the West Indies on course for a big total when he plundered eight boundaries and three sixes to reach 63 from 47 deliveries, sharing a 129-run opening stand with Brandon King before he was caught off Ali Naseer's bowling in the 17th over. King scored 64 from 70 deliveries to lead

the scoring for West Indies, while Keacy Carty (32), Hope (23) and Kavem Hodge (26) made contributions in the middle. Odean Smith belted 37 from 24 balls before being dismissed by Zahoor Khan (3-44) to end the innings in 49.5 overs with the total at 306. UAE lost wickets in the 4th and 9th overs and slipped to 52-3 at the end of the 14th.

Vriitra Avarind withstood to the early pressure to compile 36, while Basil Hameed (49) and Ali Naseer, who posted 57 from 53 balls, helped the home team bat through the full 50 overs.

Game 3 is scheduled for Friday in Sharjah, giving both teams more preparation for the World Cup qualifying tournament in Zimbabwe starting June 18.

## IPL is envy of world but Test format can't be sacrificed: Farokh Engineer

London, Jun 07 (PTI):

The IPL being the "envy of the world" delights former India wicketkeeper Farokh Engineer but he also wants the stakeholders to pull Test cricket out of "danger" zone, saying the traditional format can't be sacrificed for the sake of prospering slam-bang version of the sport.

While financially strong nations like India, England and Australia remain committed to Test cricket, players from smaller countries are preferring to ply their trade in franchise leagues around the world as they offer better money.

"Test cricket being in danger is not a good thing. It is good that the game is prospering all over the world through T20 leagues but Test cricket should never be sacrificed," Engineer told PTI.

"That is why the World Test Championship is a showcase to the world that Test cricket can be just as interesting as limited overs cricket. "It is a game of chess depending on the conditions. It is the



ultimate test for batters. There should be room for both Test and limited overs cricket," said the 85-year-old, who has travelled to London from his Manchester base to watch the WTC final between India and Australia.

The final is being played at The Oval, where India won their first ever Test in England back in 1971. Engineer had played a big part in that momentous win with a 59-run knock in the first innings.

It is remarkable that even at this age, Engineer continues to watch the game closely, including

the T20 leagues around the world, as he feels it is important to keep up with the times.

He played the game when cricketers earned Rs 50 a day, but he could not be more happy that the current generation is making millions in the IPL.

"India have taken a lead in Test cricket and in limited overs cricket we have IPL which is the envy of the world. Indian cricket holds the strings and that makes me hugely delighted," said of one of the few Parsi cricketers to have played for India.

## Novak Djokovic perfect in key tiebreaker

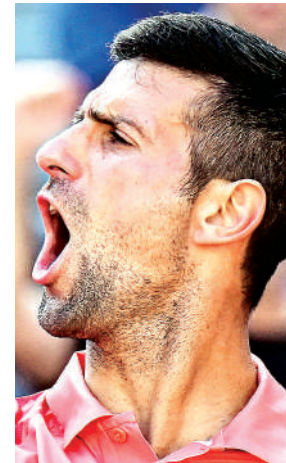
Paris, Jun 06 (AP):

Novak Djokovic has come back after dropping a set for the first time in the tournament to beat Karen Khachanov 4-6, 7-6 (0), 6-2, 6-4 at the French Open on Tuesday to reach his 45th career Grand Slam semifinal.

Roger Federer holds the men's record of 46 appearances in the final four of a major.

The victory over the 11th-seeded Khachanov, a semifinalist at the US Open last September and the Australian Open this January, put Djokovic in that round for the 12th time at Roland Garros. Only Rafael Nadal has done it more often, with 15 semifinals, he had arthroscopic hip surgery last week and is sitting out this edition of the clay-court major.

The number 3-seeded Djokovic now wants to see whether he will face number 1 Carlos Alcaraz next. Alcaraz, who beat Djokovic on clay at the Madrid Masters last year in their only previous encounter, was



scheduled to meet number 5 Stefanos Tsitsipas in the last men's quarterfinal Tuesday night.

Number 2 seed Aryna Sabalenka and unseeded Karolina Muchova both reached the women's semifinals in Paris for the first time by winning earlier in the day. Sabalenka, the reigning champion at the Australian Open, eliminated Elina Svitolina 6-4, 6-4, then appeared at a news conference for the first time in nearly a week. Muchova defeated 2021 runner-up Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 7-5, 6-2.

## Pakistan don't want to play in Ahmedabad unless they are in WC final

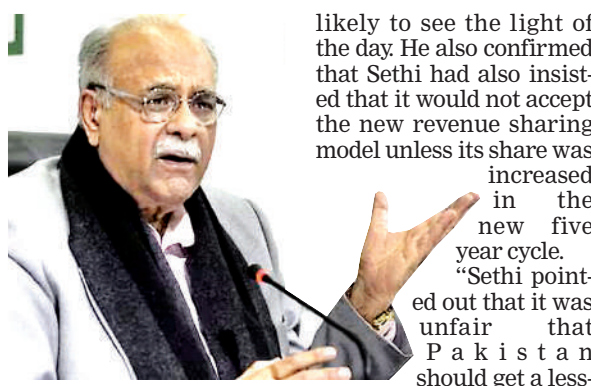
Karachi, Jun 07 (PTI):

The Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Najam Sethi has intimated his ICC counterpart Greg Barclay about his apprehensions about playing the World Cup match against arch-rivals India at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium, according to sources.

As it was reported by PTI initially, PCB wants its matches to be scheduled in Kolkata, Chennai and Bengaluru.

Barclay and ICC General Manager Geoff Allardice were recently in Karachi to seek assurance from PCB boss that they won't demand to play their ODI World Cup matches at a neutral venue since ACC is all set to reject its demand of playing Asia Cup on basis of 'Hybrid Model'.

According to a senior PCB source: "Sethi has conveyed to Barclay and Allardice that Pakistan doesn't want it matches to be scheduled in Ahmedabad unless it is a knock-out game like final." "He requested ICC



to schedule their games in Chennai, Bengaluru and Kolkata if national team gets clearance from Pakistan government to travel to India for the global event scheduled in October and November," the source added.

While Pakistan board is apprehensive about the security of its players if they have to play India in Ahmedabad, it must be mentioned that Inzamam ul Haq led side had played at the Motera during its 2005 tour to India.

The PCB official also informed that Sethi has asked ICC officials to convince BCCI to accept Pakistan's Hybrid Model for Asia Cup, which is un-

likely to see the light of the day. He also confirmed that Sethi had also insisted that it would not accept the new revenue sharing model unless its share was increased in the new five year cycle.

"Sethi pointed out that it was unfair that Pakistan should get a lesser share of the ICC revenues in the new cycle compared to Australia and England," the source said.

"Sethi argued that Australia and England regularly get to play bilateral series with India and their players also take part in the Indian Premier League which means extra revenues for the two boards from the IPL management," he added.

The BCCI and ICC officials who are presently in London for the World Test Championship Final are expected to finalize the schedule and venues for the World Cup in the next few days before it is circulated to the member/participating countries.

## India need a draw against Chinese Taipei to make SF

Kakamigahara, Jun 07 (PTI):

Unbeaten India would look to seal their semifinal berth when they face Chinese Taipei in their final pool match of the Women's Junior Asia Cup hockey tournament here on Thursday.

India have blanked Uzbekistan 22-0 and then registered a hard-fought 2-1 win over Malaysia.

In their last pool match they came from two goals down to salvage a point with a fighting 2-2 draw against Korea as India have two wins and draw to their name.

India are currently atop Pool A with seven points from three games and a draw against Chinese Taipei would be enough to seal a last-four berth.

Mumtaz Khan and Deepika have been brilliant for India scoring goals at will, while Deepika Soreng too has sparkled. Deepika's form can be ascertained from the fact she has scored in every single game of the

Women's Jr Asia Cup



tournament so far. But going into the business end of the tournament, India cannot afford to slip a bit in their title pursuit.

"The tournament so far has been good for us as we are yet to lose a game. The matches against Malaysia and Korea were closely fought, but it gave us a chance to prove our mettle as we bounced back in both games after conceding first," India captain Preeti said. "We consistently keep our plans and objectives in focus, ensur-

ing that we remain steadfast against any opposition we may encounter. Regardless of the challenges we face, we are committed to giving our best and staying dedicated to our strategies," she added. Going by their recent form, India shouldn't face much trouble in defeating Chinese Taipei, who have so far won only one game out of three they have played in the tournament and are placed fourth in Pool A with just three points in their kitty.



## Kerala govt adopts divine route to fight climate change

Thiruvananthapuram, Jun 07 (PTI)

In God's Own Country, hopes for increasing the state's green cover spring from temple courtyards.

In its effort to tackle the impacts of climate change in Kerala, the CPI(M)-led government has launched an ambitious project to improve the green cover of over 3,000 temples being managed by five Devaswom Boards under its control.

Besides, the project also envisages preserving the water resources by renovating the abandoned temple ponds and protecting

the sacred groves in the state. The 'Devankanam Charitham' (Beautiful Green Abodes of God) project will be implemented in 3,800 plus temples across the state that are managed by five Devaswom Boards.

State Devaswom Minister K Radhakrishnan inaugurated the project on June 5 on the occasion of World Environment Day by planting a sapling in the courtyard of the headquarters of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) here.

Travancore Devaswom

Board President K Ananthagopan said that an order in this regard has been issued and circulated to all devaswom boards in the state.

"The Devaswom boards in Kerala have several temples that have good land banks. So, our idea is to grow trees in these lands so that we can improve the green cover," Ananthagopan told PTI.

The temples will also plant various flowering plants and fruit-bearing trees in temple compounds so that they can also produce flowers and fruits for daily use in the

temple, helping these temples to be self-reliant, he said.

The TDB, which manages several temples, from the districts of Thiruvananthapuram to Ernakulam, has also directed all its assistant commissioners to collect data regarding the temple ponds that are in dilapidated condition.

"Temple ponds are a main source of water in various areas. So, these ponds will be renovated and preserved with funding from the government," Ananthagopan said.

## PROTEST MARCH



People from Manipur's Kuki community hold a protest outside Union Home Minister Amit Shah's residence against the ongoing violence in the northeastern state, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

## Efforts to rescue girl from borewell continue for second day

● Army joins operation

**Bhopal/Sehore (MP), Jun 07 (PTI):** More than 24 hours after a girl, aged around two-and-a-half-years, fell into a borewell in Madhya Pradesh's Sehore district, efforts to rescue her on still on with the task becoming more difficult as she slipped further down and stuck at a depth of nearly 100 feet, state Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Wednesday.

The girl fell into the 300-foot deep borewell in a field at Mungavali village on Tuesday afternoon.

Talking to reporters in Bhopal, CM Chouhan said, "The girl named Srishti

fell into the borewell around 1 pm on Tuesday and since then efforts were on to rescue her. She was initially stuck at the depth of about 40 feet in the borewell, but due to vibrations caused by the machines engaged in her rescue operation, she has slipped further down to about 100 feet, making the task more difficult."

"We have called an Army team for the rescue operation, while teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the State Disaster Emergency Response Force (SDERF) have already been working to rescue the girl," he said.

Efforts were on to bring out the girl safely, the CM

added. Meanwhile, district administration officials said oxygen is being supplied to the girl in the borewell through a pipe.

Nearly 12 JCB and Poclain machines are currently engaged in the rescue operation. An Army team has also reached the spot and joined the rescue operation, official sources said. CM Chouhan and a team of officials are also in touch with the district authorities to supervise the rescue operation, they said. State Home Minister and government spokesperson Narottam Mishra said the presence of hard rocks is creating obstruction in carrying out the rescue operation.

## After 'purple revolution', CSIR scientists focus on medicinal properties of lavender

Bhaderwah, Jun 07 (PTI)

The 'purple revolution' that started with farmers planting lavender in the picturesque slopes of this Jammu and Kashmir town is gathering steam with scientists at the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine studying the medicinal properties of the aromatic, flowering plants.

Scientists at the Jammu-based institute are focusing on the residue left behind after oil is extracted from the flower using a steam distillation process known as 'marc'.

This could be a game changer for the many farmers of what has come to be known as 'Lavender Valley', named after the rows of purple-tinted blossoms colouring the hilly slopes of this town.

"Lavender oil already fetches farmers Rs 10,000 per litre, but we are now focussing on some value-addition interventions and also studies on the waste of the oil extraction process," Zabeer Ahmed, Director of the CSIR-IIIM, told PTI here.

Farmers in this idyllic town surrounded by the Sonbain and the Ashapati glaciers in the

Himalayan ranges have embraced lavender farming with gusto since 2017 when the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research launched the Aroma Mission to harness the benefits of essential oils from aromatic plants.

Lavender oil has a calming effect and is a stress buster, besides being used in perfumes and cosmetics. The CSIR-IIIM has also tied up with the Hyderabad-based CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology to study the use of lavender oil in treating sleep disorders.

"We are trying to iso-

late and characterise what kind of molecules are present in the marc. Our scientists have isolated a couple of molecules. These molecules are new. We are doing bioactivity such as anti-cancer activity on these molecules," Ahmed said.

"The kind of molecules we are getting from the marc, definitely some new finding may be there in the future," he said. The health benefits of 'marc', if proved effective, could turn out to be a money spinner for the farmers. The other byproduct of the steam distillation process is hydrosol, or

lavender-scented water, which can be used in making room sprays, bathroom fresheners and body sprays. Even dried stalks of lavender flowers have a good market as they retain their fragrance for two years.

Besides lavender, the Aroma Mission aims to inject scientific research and development into the cultivation of aromatic plants such as rose, lemon grass, rosemary and wild marigold.

The CSIR laboratories involved in the mission provide free quality planting material to small and marginal farmers.

## New course at IIT-M aligns with Centre's mission

● To make India electronic hub

Chennai, Jun 07 (PTI)

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras here on Wednesday unveiled a new four-year online course on electronic systems in alignment with the Centre's mission to make India a global hub for electronic manufacturing.

The full time course would enable students to take up a career in various sectors including electronics, semiconductor, defence, and automotive, officials said.

Noting that majority of courses offered in the country were service sector oriented, IIT-M professor electrical engineering

department Andrew Thangaraj said companies like Samsung have their own equipment but avail service from other countries including India.

"This programme aims to create our own electronic equipment indigenously instead of importing the devices from other countries," Thangaraj, also the associate chair of Centre for Outreach and Digital Education (CODE) at IIT-M told reporters.

The programme aligns with the India's semiconductor mission to make India a global hub for electronics manufacturing and design, he said.

The Centre for Outreach and Digital Education (CODE) at IIT-M is already offering BS degree course on Data Science.

Semiconductor industry has emerged as one of the most important sectors and is a major contributor to the global economy, employing millions of people and generating billions of dollars in revenue every year, he added.

Elaborating, Thangaraj said the course would be offered in three streams — foundation (one year), diploma (two years) and degree (four years) priced at Rs 80,000, Rs 2.48 lakh and Rs 5.84 lakh, respectively. "Scholarships up to 75 per cent would be provided to students if their family income is less than Rs 5 lakh", he said.

Candidates who apply would be provided access to four weeks of content taught by IIT Madras faculty and on conclusion of

the course, examinations would be conducted based on the content, he said.

To a query, Thangaraj clarified that unlike the existing requirement of clearing Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) to take up a course in IIT-M, students can pursue the courses as per their convenience without JEE requirement.

"Other IITs present in the country are still in the conceptual stage of launching these kind of courses whereas we are the first to launch this course on electronic systems", he said.

While classes would be conducted through online mode, examinations would be held offline at the campus of IIT Madras, he said and added the institute has re-

ceived about 700 applications so far.

Citing a report of the Tamil Nadu government backed Guidance Tamil Nadu, a press release from IIT Madras said the Tamil Nadu Electronics Hardware Manufacturing policy seeks to increase the electronics industry output to USD 100 billion by 2025, accounting for 25 per cent of the total electronic exports from the country.

"There is a huge potential for manufacturing in electronics not only for India's needs but exports to the global market. By acquiring the fundamentals and skills, graduates of this BS Electronics Systems programme will be able to serve in multiple industries..." Thangaraj said.

## 'Leave bats alone in their habitats for a pandemic-free future'

New Delhi, Jun 07 (PTI)

Scientists make the case that pandemic prevention requires a global taboo or ban whereby mankind agreed to leave bats alone, to let them have the habitats they need, undisturbed, in a study published in the journal The Lancet Planetary Health.

The researchers from Cornell University, US, along with those from Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), US, say that while we may never know the exact means by which a bat virus, to which the COVID-19 pandemic and SARS coronavirus outbreak of 2003 can be traced, we do not

need to know all of the details in order to act.

Bats are known to be a source of rabies, Marburg filoviruses, Hendra and Nipah paramyxoviruses, coronaviruses such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) Coronavirus, and fruit

bats are strongly believed to be a source of Ebolaviruses.

This analysis, the researchers said, points to the value of humanity globally not fearing them or trying to chase them or culling them, all of them being activities only serving to disperse them and increase the odds of a

zoonotic spillover.

They emphasised that humanity simply must take the most basic, common-sense upstream steps to lower our risk of incurring another pandemic - at the interface where dangerous viruses can actually move from animals into people. "In a globalised world with 8 billion people, we can no longer ignore our interconnectedness with the wildlife and ecosystems around us. We must change humanity's relationship with nature if we want to prevent the next pandemic of zoonotic origin - and that can start with bats," said Susan Lieberman, WCS's Vice President for International Policy.

### NEW STUDY

## CYCLONE PREPARATION



Fishermen pull out a boat towards the shore as the region braces for Cyclone Biparjoy after it turned into a severe cyclonic storm, in Vasai near Mumbai, Wednesday.

## Up Coromandel Express leaves Shalimar 5 days after Balasore accident

Shalimar, Jun 07 (PTI):

Five days after the Shalimar-Chennai Coromandel Express met with an accident in Odisha's Balasore killing 288 people, the Up train chugged off from Shalimar station here at 3.25pm on Wednesday, five minutes behind the scheduled departure time.

As soon as the train pulled in on platform 2, there was a mad scramble to get into the general compartment and soon every nook and cranny of the two general second class coaches got filled up with people and their luggage. Ranjit Mondal, whose son has been missing since the June 2 accident, boarded the train to go to Bhubaneswar to look for his son again.

Mondal from Sandeshkhali said his 18-year-old son Dipankar had

boarded the ill-fated train with his friends to look for a job in Chennai.

"His phone has been ringing since the accident but no one is picking it up. I spoke to him minutes before the accident. He is yet to be tracked and I decided to look for him again," he said. Swati Chamoli, who is also travelling in the train, said, "I'm travelling for work to Chennai. Let's hope the journey goes on safely." Paromita, who is also on board the train, said, "I hope nothing goes wrong now. There is a fear at the back of my mind, but hope the journey is safe." Another passenger Manik Bauri, who stood sweating with scores of others in a serpentine queue at the station, is a cook by profession and is travelling to Chennai to rejoin work. While some lucky passengers have managed to secure reserved berths on

this train with a huge waiting list, many others such as Bauri are travelling by an unreserved coach. "I am scared the TV grabs from the accident last Friday are fresh on my mind. But I have a job in a guest house as a cook and my employers will dock my pay if I delay getting back to work," he said. Most of those who stood in the queue for the general coach were labourers, cooks, restaurant workers and drivers travelling to Chennai, Vizag and other industrial cities, to join or rejoin work. "We got to know that this train would run on Wednesday quite late. No reservation was available. But getting there (to Chennai) is essential as our families depend on our earnings. So we have to go whichever way we can, however we can," said Bauri, while a fellow

passenger nodded in agreement. Some with no place to sit are left standing. Said Raju Pal, from Gangesagar in the Sunderbans delta, "there is no point waiting in Bengal I have to go. Yes, I am uneasy after the accident, but I have travelled by this train for 12 long years. This will be just another journey."

**सर्वप्रथम अत्याधुनिक**

(अल्ट्रागार्डन) बर्न युनिट

10 इंटेसिव आइसोलेशन केयर ग्लास केबिन, हेपा फिल्टर/लेमिनर फ्लो 100% जीवाणु रहित ग्लास केबिन.

**डॉ. न. शासन से मान्यता प्राप्त**

**कालडा बर्न एंव प्लास्टिक कॉन्स्ट्रिक्ट सर्जरी सेंटर**

आर.के.सी.के.सामने, चौथे कालोनी एवं चण्डी नगर, धर्मपुरी रोड, कलकत्ता-700060, रायपुर कॉल: 9827143060/8871003060

Ajay Advt.





### BRIEF



Bollywood actor Sonalli Seygali and restaurateur Ashesh L Sajani pose for photos after their wedding ceremony, in Mumbai, Wednesday.

### Recovery

**■ Imphal:** As many as 57 arms, 318 ammunition and five bombs have been recovered in Manipur, taking the total number of recovered arms and ammunition to 868 and 11,518, respectively, security advisor to Manipur government Kuldiep Singh said on Wednesday. Curfew relaxation has been made for 12 hours in five valley districts and for 10 to eight hours in neighbouring hill districts.

### Speedy trial

**■ Mumbai:** Former media executive Indrani Mukerjee, the prime accused in the murder of her daughter Sheena Bora, on Wednesday moved a special court here seeking day-to-day trial in the case, contending that the slow pace of proceedings has affected her right to work. In her application, moved through advocate Ranjeet Sangle, she said that the inordinate delay in conducting the trial has deprived her of her fundamental right to work in the country of her nationality (England) and residence, as also the freedom to travel freely outside India.

### Run over

**■ Bhubaneswar:** At least four labourers were killed and three others critically injured in Odisha's Jaipur Road railway station after being run over by a goods train on Wednesday, an official said. The labourers had sheltered from heavy rain under the goods train when it started rolling.

### Committee

**■ Mumbai:** A one-member committee will conduct an inquiry into the rape and murder of an 18-year-old student inside her room at a government hostel in south Mumbai, the Maharashtra government said on Wednesday.

### Injured

**■ Mumbai:** A 23-year-old man escaped with minor injuries after a part of a crane broke at an under-construction site and fell on a few huts in Mumbai's Chembur on Wednesday, said an official. The incident occurred at the site of Deserva building in Om Ganesh Nagar, Vashi Naka, around 3.45 pm, said the official from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

**Weather**  
High 43 Low 28

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 18,726.40  
SENSEX 63,142.96

**BULLION**  
GOLD 59,720  
SILVER 72,210

# Wrestlers pause protest till Jun 15

### After 5-hour meet with minister

New Delhi, Jun 07 (PTI): The protesting wrestlers on Wednesday agreed to suspend their protest for a week after the government asked them to wait till police completes its probe into sexual harassment allegations against WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh by June 15.

The wrestlers, after a nearly five-hour meeting with Sports Minister Anurag Thakur, said the government has also assured them that the police will withdraw the FIRs filed against them.

The wrestlers were booked for violation of law and order on May 28 when they marched towards the new Parliament building without permission to hold 'Mahila Samman Mahapachayat'.

The meeting was attended by Olympic medalists Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik, her husband Satyawart Kadiyan



Wrestler Sakshi Malik speaks with the media after a meeting, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

and Jitender Kinha. Double world medallist Vinesh Phogat, a prominent face of the protest against WFI chief, skipped the meet.

"We were told that police investigation will be complete by June 15. Till then, we have been asked to wait and suspend the protest," Sakshi Malik told reporters after the meeting.

"The Delhi police will also withdraw the FIRs filed against the wrestlers

lodged on May 28," she added. Both Malik and Punia asserted that their agitation was not yet over and they have suspended their protest only till June 15 as requested by the government.

Later addressing a press conference, Thakur said the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) elections be held by June 30.

The crucial meeting was called by Thakur to break the deadlock.

## Chargesheet against WFI chief to be submitted by Jun 15

### Federation elections by Jun 30



Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur addresses media after a meeting with wrestlers.

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Wednesday said a chargesheet in the case into the allegations of sexual harassment against outgoing WFI chief Brijbhushan Sharan Singh will be filed by June 15. Addressing a press conference after a marathon meeting with the protesting wrestlers, Thakur also assured that the elections to the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) will be held by June 30. Noting that the government has accepted every demand of the wrestlers, he said WFI will also have an internal complaints committee, headed by a woman. Thakur said the wrestlers had also demanded the withdrawal of cases against various academies and sportspersons as well as not allowing Singh and his associates to participate in the election process. "All these issues were agreed by consensus," the sports minister said. Asked about the wrestlers' demand for Singh's arrest, Thakur said the investigation into the case will be completed and a chargesheet will be filed by June 15.

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NH MMI Narayana Superspecialty Hospital, Lalpur, Raipur

## Two eight-year-old cousins, woman drown in river

Mungeli, Jun 07 (PTI): A woman and two cousins who were minors drowned while bathing in a river in Chhattisgarh's Mungeli district on Wednesday, police said.

As per preliminary information, one Akshay Kashyap and his cousin sister Aradhya Kashyap, both aged eight years, were bathing in the Maniyari river near Rabeli village when they slipped into deep waters, an official said.

On seeing them drowning, a female resident of the village, Shankuntala Kahyap (38), who was also bathing nearby, tried to save them, but all three met watery grave, he said.

Aradhya Kashyap's younger brother, who was also at the spot, rushed to the village and alerted family members about the incident. Local residents took all three to a nearby community health centre (CHC) where doctors declared them dead, he said.

## Tension in Kolhapur over social media post on Tipu Sultan

Kolhapur, Jun 07 (PTI):

Wielding lathis, police in Maharashtra's Kolhapur on Wednesday dispersed hundreds of protesters after they pelted stones during a demonstration against the alleged use of Tipu Sultan's image along with an objectionable audio message as social media "status" by a few locals, an official said.

In view of the protest, internet services have been suspended till Thursday in Kolhapur, a senior police official said. While personnel from the State Reserve Police Force (SRPF) have been deployed in the city in western Maharashtra, police have sought more cops from Satara,



Security personnel chase away people protesting against the alleged use of Tipu Sultan's image in objectionable social media posts, in Kolhapur district, Wednesday.

he said. Prohibitory orders have been issued till June 19 banning the assembly of five or more persons, he said.

As there was a possibility that a few groups of protesters may go to the neighbouring Sangli district, police are put on alert and prohibitory orders

may be issued. Maharashtra Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis wondered if there was any link between the statement of a leader from the Opposition camp about likely riots and the subsequent "glorification" of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb and Tipu Sultan.

## Forest officials seize tiger skin, body parts of other animals

### Arrest six from Odisha

Gariaband, Jun 07: Forest officials from Gariaband district have arrested six persons on charges of poaching from adjoining Odisha and recovered tiger skin, four live peacocks and body parts of other wild animals from them, officials said on Wednesday.

Acting on inputs, the anti-poaching team of Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve along with Odisha forest officials on June 3 took action in villages under the neighbouring state's Khariar forest range bordering the reserve, they said.

According to Deputy Director Varun Jain of the tiger reserve, the officials



### What official says...

According to Deputy Director Varun Jain of the tiger reserve, the officials first raided the house of one Badan Manjhi (45) in Khudupani village on the inter-state border and recovered a big piece of tiger skin, four peacocks, bow-arrow and other materials used in poaching. Based on Badan's statement, five more persons Khageswar Manjhi (62), Vidyadhar Manjhi (37), Bada Manjhi (61), Sachin Manjhi (36) and Achyutanand Manjhi (23) were searched in nearby villages and body parts of leopard, bear and other animals and a muzzle-loading gun were seized from them.

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As per preliminary information, Badan came across the rotten carcass of a tiger in a jungle close to his village two months back. He and other locals then chopped it and distributed the pieces among them, he said.

## BEATING THE HEAT



Visitors at a water park on a hot summer day, in Agra, Wednesday.

## BBC TO IT DEPT 'May have underreported India income'

New Delhi, Jun 07 (PTI):

British broadcaster BBC has communicated to the income-tax department that some of its past income, for its operations in India, could have gone unreported during the statutory filing of returns and hence it would like to amend it, official sources said on Wednesday.

The development comes in the backdrop of the tax department conducting a three-day long survey in February at the offices of the organisation in Delhi as part of an alleged tax evasion investigation against them.

I-T sources, however, said that the purported BBC communication has "no legal value" till it pays the due taxes.

They also refused to quantify the possible amount of tax evaded or avoided by the company, saying their investigation was still on.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the administrative authority of the tax department, said they do not comment on individual cases.

The company responded to PTI's queries in this context saying it continues to cooperate with the tax authorities.

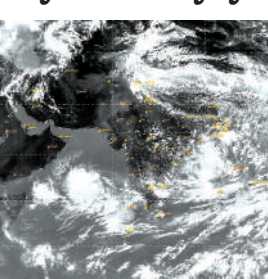
## Cyclone Biparjoy may be a killjoy for monsoon onset

New Delhi, Jun 07 (PTI):

Cyclone 'Biparjoy', the first storm brewing in the Arabian Sea this year, rapidly intensified into a severe cyclonic storm with meteorologists predicting a "mild" monsoon onset over Kerala and "weak" progress beyond southern peninsula under its influence.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday morning said conditions are favourable for monsoon onset over Kerala within two days.

Meteorologists, however, said the cyclone has been impacting the intensity of the monsoon and the onset over Kerala would be "mild".



Satellite image taken between 01:00 pm to 01:26 pm IST shows the location of Cyclone Biparjoy in the Arabian Sea, on Wednesday.

The Met office said the severe cyclonic storm is likely to move nearly northwards and intensify into a very severe cyclonic storm. It would then move north-northwestwards during the subsequent three days.

However, the IMD has not yet predicted any major impact on countries adjoining the Arabian Sea, including India, Oman, Iran and Pakistan.

Meteorologists say the tentative track of the system will be in the northward direction but storms at times defy the predicted track and the intensity.

Forecasting agencies said the storm has been undergoing "rapid intensification", escalating from just a cyclonic circulation to a severe cyclonic storm in just 48 hours, defying earlier predictions.

Atmospheric conditions and cloud mass indicate that the system is likely to sustain the strength of a very severe cyclone till June 12.

## UNION CABINET DECISION

# Cabinet approves Rs 89,047 cr for 4G, 5G spectrum allocation to BSNL

New Delhi, Jun 07 (PTI): The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the third revival package for BSNL with a total outlay of Rs 89,047 crore.

The package includes allotment of 4G and 5G spectrum for BSNL through equity infusion, an official statement said.

Also, the authorized capital of BSNL will be increased from Rs 1,50,000 crore to Rs 2,10,000 crore.

The package comprises allotment of premium wireless frequencies 700 MHz band spectrum worth Rs 46,338.6 crore; 70 MHz of frequencies in 3300 MHz band worth Rs 26,184.2 crore; frequencies in 26



Union Minister Piyush Goyal speaks during a media briefing on Cabinet Decisions.

GHz band worth Rs 6,564.93 crore; in 2500 MHz band worth Rs 9,428.2 crore and Rs 531.89 crore for miscellaneous items.

The spectrum allocation will enable BSNL to roll out pan-India 4G and 5G services, 4G coverage in

**Kharif crops' MSP sees up to 10.35% hike; paddy MSP is Rs 2,183/quintal**  
In a bonanza for farmers, the government on Wednesday announced an increase of Rs 143 in the minimum support price (MSP) of paddy to Rs 2,183 per quintal for this year, the second steepest increase in the last decade. The highest increase in the paddy MSP in the last 10 years was by Rs 200 per quintal in 2018-19.

rural and uncovered villages under various connectivity projects, provide Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) services for high-speed internet and provide services/spectrum for Captive Non-Public Network (CNPn).

## Mukhtar Ansari's aide shot dead

### On Lucknow court premises

Lucknow, Jun 07 (PTI): Gangster-politician Mukhtar Ansari's alleged aide Sanjeev Maheshwari Jeeva was shot dead on Lucknow court premises on Wednesday, police said.

Two persons were injured in the shooting by a man who, eyewitnesses said, was dressed like a lawyer.

"Sanjeev Maheshwari Jeeva, who was held in Lucknow jail, was brought to the court for hearing in a case and was shot dead by an unknown assailant," said Lucknow Police Commissioner S B Shiradkar who reached the court premises shortly after the incident. Jeeva (48) was a resident of Muzaffarnagar district. He was an accused in the mur-



Body of gangster Sanjeev Jeeva after he was shot dead on Lucknow court premises, Wednesday.

der of BJP MLA Krishnand Rai and then state minister Brahm Dutta Dwivedi as well as 24 other cases, including that of murder, fraud and criminal conspiracy.



# Absconding director of two chit fund companies nabbed

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 07:** Police arrested the director of two chit fund companies, who cheated crores of rupees from the common people on promise of higher returns on their investment. Supela Police has arrested the absconding Director of Artha Tatva Credit Society and Sanskardhani Infra Housing Limited from Bilaspur.

Durg Police is continuously taking action against the directors of the chit fund companies and is working to protect the investments of the people. A number of cases are registered against the accused.

According to the intention of the state government, Inspector General of Police (Durg Range) Dr

Anand Chhabra and Superintendent of Police (Durg) Shalabh Kumar Sinha are ensuring continuous action against the directors of the chit fund companies.

Police had received complaints against Idrish Ahmed, Director of Artha Tatva Credit Society. He lured the common people to invest money in his company by giving attractive offers and assuring the people of higher interests in the short term.

On the completion of the time period, when the investors approached the company to withdraw their money, the Director of the company did not re-



turn the money. A complaint in this regard was lodged by Samridhi Jain at Supela Police Station under Section 409 of IPC.

On the instructions of SP Shalabh Kumar Sinha and under the guidance of ASP (City) Sanjay Dhruv and CSP (Bhilai Nagar) Nikhil Rakhecha, Supela

Police was making efforts to arrest the absconding director of chit fund companies.

Idrish Ahmed, director of Arthatatva Credit Society and Sanskardhani Infra Housing Limited, had fled from his residence as soon as he came to know about the FIR

against him. Police searched his addresses continuously but did not find any trace of the accused.

Meanwhile, information was received that the accused was living in Bilaspur. A team of cops in civil dress was entrusted with the task of arresting the accused. They maintained a

constant watch on the suspect in Bilaspur and after confirming that the suspect is Idrish Ahmed, a team of Supela Police arrested him from Bilaspur.

The accused Idrish Ahmed (44) son of Late Nawab Ahmed a resident of Azad Chowk Bhilai-3 was duly arrested on June

07 and sent to the jail on judicial remand.

When questioned, the accused admitted to the crime. Several chit fund cases are registered against the accused in Police Station Supela, Police Station Newai and other police stations.

Section 10 of Chhattisgarh Protection of Interest of Depositors Act, 2005 was added in the case. With this action of the Supela police, the possibilities of getting back the amount deposited by the investors have increased.

Inspector Durgesh Sharma (SHO, Supela), Sub Inspector Lakhesh Gangesh, Head Constable Pankaj Choubey and Constable Vikas Tiwari played a vital role in arresting the accused.

# Interdepartmental Music Competition from June 20

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 07:** Bhilai Steel Plant's department of Sports, Cultural & Civic Amenities (SCCA) is organising a 5-day-long Inter-Departmental Music (Singing) Competition-2023 from June 20 to 24, at Mahatma Gandhi Kala Mandir, Civic Center.

The competition, being organized for BSP Employees and their spouses, is held under three categories, Hindi Category (Women & Men), Non-Hindi Category (Women & Men) and Duet Singing Category respectively.

The Non-Hindi Category includes all songs in other languages such as Punjabi, Telugu, Tamil, Bangla, Marathi, Malayalam etc. It is mandatory to have at

least six participants in each category, in order to hold the competition in that particular category.

The winners of the Inter-departmental music competitions held in the previous years can also take part in the competition.

The Duet category is reserved exclusively for husband-wife duo, with either of the two being a BSP-employee.

The arrangement of accompanist musicians will be done by the SCCA Department.

Registration of participants, Admit-card and rules of the competition for the Interdepartmental Music (singing) Competition-2023 can be obtained from SCCA Office, Handball Academy, Sector-4 from June 05 to 17.

# Road safety awareness campaign organized in TPL workshop

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 07:** TPL Workshop, Bhilai Steel Plant organised a Road Safety Campaign under the guidance of Shailendra Kumar Agrawal, GM (TPL), on June 03. The road safety campaign was organized by the workshop from 08.45 am at the TPL Workshop road, Forest Avenue (Near Fire Department Headquarters).

Presiding over the programme, Shailendra Kumar Agrawal, GM (TPL), urged everyone to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) while driving and drive safely



under controlled speed.

This campaign was conducted by Anil Kumar Phule (DSO, TPL Workshop). On this occasion Praveen Kumar Vyavhare, Asst Mgr (TPL Workshop), along with all the personnel of the workshop stood with placards

(boards) displaying traffic related precautions, facing the direction of the traffic on the road.

The placards had road-safety awareness slogans such as, 'Wear Helmets', 'Use Seat Belts', 'Maintain Speed Limit', 'Do not Use Mobile While Driving' etc.

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 07:** Bhilai Steel Plant's Propane Plant observed World Environment Day on June 05, by organising Tree Plantation. Asit Saha, CGM I/c (M&U) was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Saplings of several plant varieties were planted by the Chief Guest at Propane Plant premises, along with other officers and personnel.

Propane Storage & Distribution Plant is an essential unit of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant and it comes under extremely hazardous category. The

Propane Plant ensures continuous supply of propane gas to other units of the Plant, such as SMS-2, SMS-3 and Plate Mill, which is an essential component in the process of steel production.

AK Joshi, CGM (Utilities), SK Gajbhiye, CGM (Mechanical), RP Ahirwar, GM (PP), SK Kshatriya, GM (ACWE), Utpal Dutta, GM (WMD), Chinmoy Khan, GM (CAS & CWP), MV Babu, GM (PLEM), PC Bag, GM (OP-2), also took part in the tree plantation, along with PD



Sundrani, AGM (PP), and RK Chandra, Sr Mgr (PP). RP Ahirwar, GM (PP), along with Plant-employees and contract workers of the department also contributed in organising the program successfully.

A tree plantation drive was also organised by the LDCP fraternity of Plant's RMP-3, on the eve of World Environment Day, under the guidance of Ratan Mukherjee, GM I/c (RMP-2 & 3). A "Life Oath", was ad-

ministered by Mukherjee, under the banner of 'Mission LiFE' to adopt a lifestyle that facilitates the environmental conservation initiative. Along with the Chief Guest, other officers, personnel and contract workers planted as many as 150 saplings on this occasion.

Sushant Pal, GM, SK Naik, DGM, DK Verma, DGM, Shatruhan Srivastava, DGM, also took part in the tree plantation, along with P.Morya, Mgr. It is noteworthy that a tree plantation drive is conducted every year at RMP-3 on the occasion of World Environment Day.

# Youth bludgeoned to death; three juveniles held

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 07:** A youth was bludgeoned to death in Shakti Nagar area of Mohan Nagar Police Station on the intervening night of Wednesday. Police have arrested three juveniles in connection with this murder. The deceased had abused the juveniles late evening on Tuesday.

On the same night, the juveniles got an opportunity to take revenge and they attacked the youth with a heavy stone. With the help of CCTV footage, police identified the accused and managed to solve the blind murder case within a few hours.

SP has rewarded the investigation team for solving

the case promptly.

DSP (Crime) Rajeev Sharma informed that on June 07, Mohan Nagar Police Station received information that a youth was lying in a pool of blood on the road at Shakti Nagar in Durg. Police team reached the spot and the youth was rushed to the District Hospital Durg for treatment. The youth died during treatment in the hospital. When the cops discovered that it was a murder, they informed the senior officers.

Taking the sensational incident into serious cognizance, SP Shalabh Sinha and ASP (City) Sanjay Dhruv visited the crime scene and gave necessary instructions to the investiga-



tion team for tracing the unknown accused. A joint team of ACCU and Mohan Nagar Police Station led by Inspector Santosh Mishra and Inspector Vipin Rangari was formed. The team closely inspected the scene of crime and collected the footage of the CCTV cameras installed nearby. In the CCTV recording, 03 boys were seen executing the incident of murder. The footage

was shown to the local people and soon the accused were identified as three local juveniles of Shakti Nagar.

The juveniles were called and interrogated in presence of their relatives. During interrogation, they confessed to committing the murder. They disclosed that on the night of June 06, the deceased Lukesh Yadav had abused them in a state of intoxication.

On the same night, while returning from the wedding, the juveniles found the deceased Lukesh Yadav sitting alone in the street in a state of intoxication. Finding him alone, the juveniles decided to take revenge and attacked Lukesh Yadav with a stone.

They left him bleeding

and escaped. The young man died due to severe injuries. After interrogation, stones and other items used in the crime were seized. Further action is being taken from Police Station Mohan Nagar.

ASI Rajesh Pandey Purna Bahadur, Head Constable Narendra Singh, Constables Pradeep Singh, Keshav Sahu, Farooq Khan, Dharendra Yadav, Sanat, Shobhit Sinha, Upendra Yadav, Pankaj Chaturvedi, Shahid Khan, Kranti Sharma, Sachin, Javed, Thomson Peter, Kamlesh, Gaur Rajput and Bharthari played a vital role in solving the case. For solving the murder case within a few hours, SP gave a cash reward of Rs 10000 to the team.

# Plantation Drive & Pond Cleaning conducted at Konari Bharda

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 07:** On the occasion of World Environment Day, several activities based on environmental conservation were organised by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant around the township, Plant premises and peripheral areas. As a part of World Environment Day on June 05, 2023, Plant's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department organised cleaning of ponds along with Tree Plantation at village Konari Bharda.

Village Sarpanch Bharat Lal Chandrakar, Sushil Kamde, Senior



Manager (CSR), Vivek Mishra, Assistant Manager, were present on this occasion along with Vijayalakshmi, Sita Sinha, Anjani Dwivedi, Budhe Lal and villagers of village

Konari Bharda. Villagers were made aware about the importance of environmental protection, and saplings were planted with their cooperation.

# BJP stages aggressive demonstration at BMC

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 07:** Condemning the local body over several issues, the BJP party workers led by District President Brijesh Bichpuria, Deputy Leader of Opposition Daya Singh along with Corporators staged an aggressive demonstration at Bhilai Municipal Corporation.

The BJP Corporators poured their anger against the local civic body during this demonstration. BJP Corporators had reached the dharna spot with their ward residents to highlight their different problems. The Councilors got the support of the BJP district Bhilai organization.

BJP District President Brijesh Bichpuria was present with his entire team. He said they are continuously going among the public and are listening to their problems. Deputy Leader of Opposition Daya Singh said that the city government of Congress is neck deep in

corruption and is working with 18% commission.

The local government should resign on moral grounds, said Daya Singh as the civic body failed to resolve the 18 different issues which were discussed in the past.

Daya Singh said that different types of problems are prevalent in different wards of the city. People have to struggle for small things. Drinking water crisis has increased in summer. The internal roads of the city are in bad condition. The city sanitation system is messed up.

There is no light on the street poles. The BJP Corporators present during the dharna were former leader of opposition Rikesh Sen, Veena Chandrakar, Mahesh Verma, Priyanka Sahu, Lakshmi Diwakar, Chandeshwari Bande, Mukesh Aggarwal, Girja Banchor, Sarita Baghel, Satyadevi Jaiswal, Vinod Chelak, Selja Raju, Ismita Dodke, Laxmi Sahu, Sanjay

Singh, Ishwari Netam and Shakutala Sahu.

The BJP Corporators highlighted 18 issues through this demonstration. Apart from the township, the drinking water crisis has intensified in other areas of the city including Khamharia, Kohka, Kurud, Vaishalinagar, Camp, Chhawni and Khursipar. They demanded supply of drinking water to these wards through tankers and make an action plan for the future.

The cost of city sanitation has increased but the system has not improved. The condition of cleanliness is very bad. They demanded that the monitoring of the contracting agency should be done. They alleged that the laborers engaged in city sanitation works are being exploited. Their PF, ESIC, etc is not



being deducted and the agency is compromising with the health of the laborers. BJP leaders asserted that the internal roads of the city are in bad condition. There are potholes in many places, where it has become difficult to walk. Those roads should be constructed, they demanded.

They also demanded a separate sump well for water supply in Khursipar

area because there is a lack of water supply in this populated area. As the frequency of power cuts has increased in Khursipar, they demanded that the corporation administration should resolve this issue.

There is a drinking water crisis in the camp area as water has not reached the houses despite laying pipeline under Amrut Mission. The supply of

dirty water containing chemicals in the Chhawani area is being done from the sump well. They demanded to seal those sump wells and lay new pipelines.

The street lights of Supela Road are not working. They alleged that massive corruption has taken place in the pretext of beautification of this road. They demanded an investigation over this matter. They further alleged that the illegal plotting is being done indiscriminately in the city.

The land mafia is grabbing people's hard earned money. Action should be taken against such land mafia. BJP leaders demanded from the local civic body to recognize the areas where illegal plotting is being done.

There are continuous complaints of corruption in the construction projects of the city. The investigation re-

port is not yet known in the Sector-7 Sports Complex case. No action has been taken against the concerned people.

The sanitation system in the sectors of the township is in a bad condition. There is an increased risk of diseases like dengue. If the cleanliness is not improved, the situation will become difficult in the coming months. BJP leaders demanded that the BMC itself should take the responsibility of city sanitation in the BSP areas.

The economic condition of Municipal Corporation Bhilai is bad. In such a situation, the workers are not getting the honorarium on time. Therefore, the system should be rectified, so that there is no delay in payment to the workers.

BJP leaders further demanded a separate cell to work on subjects like roads, drains and cleanliness and water. A separate committee should be formed by including the BJP Corporators.



## चल रहा है आपके शहर में बीटीआई मैदान शंकर नगर रायपुर में

# फन वर्ल्ड फेयर

### डिजनीलैंड मेला 2023

• खाना, खरीदी, मनोरंजन एक साथ  
• हैंडलूम हैंडीक्राफ्ट बाजार के साथ

समय- रोजाना शाम 5:00 बजे  
से रात्रि 10:00 बजे तक



# IT raids 22 establishments of Steel-Power sector

**Action taken Singhal group's factories, residence in Raipur, Raigarh and Kolkata**

**First major action taken in the new FY**

**Raipur, Jun 07:** A combined investigation team of Income Tax (IT) from Chhattisgarh and MP conducted raids in different establishments of Singhal group associated with Steel and Power sector here on Wednesday. IT sleuths conducted raids in total 22 establishments including offices of the companies of the Group in Raipur and Raigarh and Kolkata and at the official residence, corporate office and sales office at 6:00 am. Presently the department has not issued any official statement from its side.



The IT officials are checking the computer records in the sales office, factories and offices of the Group. Apart from this the sales-purchase records and the raw material and stock available in the factories too is being cross-checked.

**Factory in Raigarh**  
Singhal Group which is

associated with Steel and Billets and Power business is having factories in Industrial area of Raigarh in Punjipatra. The parent company of the Group is Singhal Enterprises Pvt Ltd (SEPL), Salasar Steel and Power Limited (SSPL) and Singhal Energy in Raigarh. The Directors of



the Group are Sanjay Agrawal, Ajay Agrawal and Piyush Agrawal and Ayush Agrawal.

**Products of the Group**  
Being associated with the Steel and Power sector, the Singhal Group is mainly related with Sponge iron, power billets, wire rods, HV wire, TMT Steel



Bar, MS Strips and MS pipes and Ferro-alloys.

**Dozen establishments raided in capital city**  
The IT officials raided in about a dozen establishments of the Group including offices and residence of the Directors in capital city. It is based upon the investigations,

the statements of the Directors is being taken. The investigation is in progress in capital city's office at Shankar Nagar main road; residential premises in Geetanjali Nagar; office in Samta Colony. Apart from Raipur, raids were conducted in six establishments in

Raigarh as well and this includes factories and residential premises.

**Investigation at four places in Kolkata**

The Directors of the Group originally are from Kolkata and they are having total four establishments including their corporate office, sales office and residence in Kolkata were the investigation is in process.

**Jewellery worth Rs 50 lakh**

In the preliminary inquiry, the IT team has seized jewellery worth Rs 50 lakh from the residential premises of the Group's directors and its valuation is to be carried out. Along with this cash of Rs 20 lakh has also been recovered from all the places. After tallying with the books of record, cash of Rs 4 lakh has been seized. After valuation of the jewellery, the IT team

would provide the freedom to have jewellery as per the rules of IT for both men and women in the family and the jewellery recorded in the books of records and rest will be seized.

**Found 13 lockers**

On the first day the IT team found 13 lockers in the Group's Raipur and Raigarh premises and action to operate the same will be taken later.

**Team of 150 officers**

A total of 150 officials of IT team are involved in the raids conducted in 22 establishments of the Group in Raigarh, Raipur and Kolkata and they belong to MP and Chhattisgarh. In the IT team from MP, the officials from Indore, Bhopal and Jabalpur are there. A total staff of 100 CG RPF was provided to the IT team in Chhattisgarh.

## Collector, DEO hold meeting with political reps

**Dates fixed for second special brief revision prog for VS-2023**

**Raipur, Jun 07:** The Collector and District Electoral Officer (DEO) Dr Sarveshwar Bhure convened a meeting with representatives of political parties and held discussions with them in context of the forthcoming Vidhan Sabha poll 2023 on various issues. Under the special brief revision programme, the work that of verification door-to-door will be done through BLOs from May 25 to June 23; the work that of rationalisation or shifting of the polling centres; remove discrepancies in the voter list or EPIC list; replacing the bad quality photos in the voter list with good quality photo; reorganization of sub-division polling centres and restructuring of borders as per requirement and update of control table will



be done from Jun 24 to July 24. In the same way the preparations for Format 1-8 and supplementary and integrated draft role in context in context of eligibility as on 1 Oct 2023 will be done from July 25 to 31. The preliminary publication of integrated voter list will be done on August 2 and claims & objections on it will be invited from Aug 2-31. For this special camp will be organised on August 12, 13 and 19 and 20. The last date for solution to claims and objections will be held on Sept 22. To check the health parameter of voter list and to obtain date for final publication of the voter list and to print the updated data base, Sept 29 has been fixed as the date and final

publication of voter list will be published on 4 Oct 2023.

**First-level checking of EVM machines**

The first-level checking of total of 5,216 ballot units available in the Raipur district and 2,752 control units and 2,950 VVPAT, will be done by ECIL engineers from June 10-27. For inspection of the above work, the political parties have been asked to provide their name or that of rep in advance, so that ID cards can be prepared as per Commission's instructions. The use of mobile during first-level checking is totally prohibited and if brought, then it will be deposited at the main gate. Only 3 mobiles will be allowed to be taken inside the premises for scanning purpose only.

**Discussions held on rationalisation of polling centres**

In case of more than 1500 voters, the electoral registration officers have been asked to carry out examining of proposals for new polling centres; proposal for change of building or premises, by June 25, 2023. If the political representative have any proposal for any examining to be done, they can submit it within time limit to concerned electoral registration officer of their Vidhan Sabha or the DEO's office before the above date.

**Booth-level agents to be appointed in polling centres**

The appointment of booth-level agents will be done and the list will be provided to the District Electoral Office. For this the booth-level agent be appointed as authorised rep by the District President. The Form-2 will have the list of persons appointed as Booth-level agents for each polling centre by the authorised representative.

**CG govt should ensure MSP hike reaches farmers: Sao**

**Raipur, Jun 07:** Hailing the decision of Union Government to hike the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Agricultural crops including paddy, the Chhattisgarh Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President Arun Sao on Wednesday said that the Chhattisgarh Government should ensure the benefits of hike in MSP reaches to people without any delay.

In a statement issued here, the BJP chief Sao said that farmers from Chhattisgarh would be significantly benefited with the hike in MSP on paddy whereas the other Agricultural produce price hike would also be benefitted to people. He further added that the farmers would be economically more benefitted with the hike in Kissan Samman Nidhi as announced by Centre.

BJP Vice President and former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh too has hailed the Rs 143 per quintal hike in MSP on paddy and added that the farmers from Chhattisgarh would get major economic growth from the decision of Central government.

# Mahasamund Collector shifted in major admn reshuffle

**Pardeshi given key posting of Public Health and Higher Education**

**Raipur, Jun 07:** In a major administrative reshuffle, the Chhattisgarh Government on Wednesday issued fresh posting orders of nearly two dozen Indian Administrative Services (IAS) Officers.

2003 batch senior IAS Officer Pardeshi Siddharth Komal working as Secretary to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has been given additional charge of Secretary Higher Education and Secretary Public Health & Family Welfare whereas Bhuvanvesh Yadav has been given the key posting of Secretary Public Works Department in the reshuffle. 2004 batch IAS Officer Sanjay Kumar Alang has been shifted to Raipur as Divisional Commissioner

whereas Raipur Commissioner Yashwant Kumar has been given the charge of Managing Director of Chhattisgarh Beverages Corporation. While Janak Prasad Pathak has been given independent charge of Commercial Tax (Excise), the Director Health Services Bhim Singh has been transferred to Bilaspur as Divisional Commissioner.

Additional Chief Election Officer Sikha Rajput Tiwari has been shifted as Sarguja Divisional Commissioner whereas KD Kunjam has been given the charge of Director Mining as well as MD of Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation.

In a significant development, the Mahasamund District Collector Nilesh Kumar Sheersagar has been shifted to Mantralaya as Joint Secretary General Administration

Department whereas the Gariabandh District Collector Prabhat Mallick has been shifted to Mahasamund as District Collector and Raipur District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Akash Chikara has been made Gariabandh District Collector.

IAS Officer JP Maurya has been given the charge of Special Secretary Mineral Resources Department and additional charge of in-charge Director Health Services whereas Ranu Sahu has been made Director Town & Country Planning in the reshuffle.

2010 batch IAS Officer Saransh Mittar has been given key posting of Director Urban Administration and Development and additional charge of Director Commerce & Industries. In total 23 IAS Officers have been given fresh posting in the reshuffle.

## 'Hike in MSP is like making a mountain of molehill'

**Modi govt failed to double farmers' income**

**Raipur, Jun 07:** PCC Chief Mohan Markam has termed the hike in MSP of paddy and other Rabi crop as cheating and injustice with the farmers and added that hike of just 7% is like a lethal attack on the farmers waiting to double their income. He charged that farmers are being pushed towards economic bankruptcy. At one place where the inflation is high, on the other with 820% hike in the prices of diesel and petrol and double in the agriculture labourers from 9 and massive hike in prices of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, tractor parts, oil-grease and other and with hike in insurance premium on crops, the agriculture cost compared to 2014 has hiked many times today. On the other hand, the Modi government could not hike the MSP rates on paddy in last 9 yrs to even 1/4th of its production cost.



Markam said that BJP in 2014 and 2019 LS polls had made promise to pay 1.5 times of MSP on production cost as per recommendations by the Swaminathan Commission and to double the farmers income by 2022 and both have not been fulfilled in last 9 yrs. Modi government got the chance to hike the MSP on paddy to 1.5 times and increase their income, but they simply cheated on them. With this the farmers would now depart the Modi government in 2024 LS polls and Congress would form the government and then good-days of farmers would come. Inflation would come down and they would get right price for their produce and which will make farmers happy and prosperous.

## Pandri police takes Mannu Nathani into custody

**Holds interrogation in context of online cricket 'satta'**

**Raipur, Jun 07:** The MCX trader in capital city Mannu Nathani has been taken into custody by the Pandri police in context of running online cricket 'satta'. Actually the police got some inputs on him and then it came into action. Though earlier also

the police has taken action against him and he was taken into arrest in case of abduction and threat to kill and with charges of getting signature on Rs 70 lakh property and other such cases.

It was as per the inputs of online 'satta', the Pandri police raided residence of Mannu Nathani in Ashoka Ratan and seized online 'satta' machine, laptop, mobiles and

other items. The Police has taken him into custody and interrogating him for last 3 hours and likely to take him into arrest.

It was 8 yrs back that the police nabbed Mannu Nathani on charges of using muscle-power in recovery business and had even issued arrest warrant against Mannu Nathani. Mannu Nathani, being the only son of

biggest 'khaiwal' and 'satoriya' Late Madan Mathani, had started looking after his father's business after his demise. Mannu runs a gang of his own in this game of 'satta' and they are involved in all sorts of criminal practices like abduction, murder, loot, gang-war and others and cases against him have been lodged in Civil Lines and Kotwali thana.

## Artists get awards but not facilities: Pt. Vishwamohan

**Pension scheme should be started after getting civilian honours**

**Raipur, Jun 07:** Artists get awards and recognition but nothing in the name of facilities. We have to join the process there by queuing up at the airport. The government should increase the facilities for the people who get civilian honours. Also, pension scheme should be considered for them. This pension should be received till the last moment, even if it is nominal said Padmavibhushan and Grammy Awardee Pt. Vishwamohan Bhatt while speaking to this newspaper who was in Raipur



to attend the valedictory function of Nriyaa Shreedhara award ceremony at Shahid Smarak Bhawan, Raipur.

Addressing the scribes here Pt. Vishwamohan Bhatt said that the tradition of classical music has continued uninterrupted in our family for 300 years. My dream is to have

music playing in every house. It is the responsibility of all of us to come forward for this.

He said that talents are being identified through social media. If the artist's work is good, people also appreciate it. But due to YouTube, artists have suffered loss of royalty. However, Indian Performing Rights Society (IPRS) started thinking for the artists and came forward in getting royalty. This has given relief to the artists, he added.

Pt. Vishwamohan Bhatt said that I made Mohan Veena 60 years ago. At that time it came to my mind that there should be such an instrument in which sitar, sarod, veena, sarangi and santoor would all be included. I imbibed the characteristics of both tantrakari (instrumental)

and singing. My grandson Atharva has also started playing it. His only video has got 5 lakh views.

On Wednesday the performance on Mohan Veena by Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt enthralled the audience. He was accompanied by Tabla Taalmani Ashok Kurm on tabla. After this the students of Nriyaa Shreedhara performed group Odissi dance which made the audience spell bound. On this occasion a solo Kathak recital was performed by Prafull Singh Gehlot. The programme ended with Folk Panthi Dance presented Chhattisgarh Sanskrit Sringerar by Umesh Nirmalkar & Group. The programme ended with vote of thanks by Arya Nande the organiser of the event.

## Two nabbed with 500 quintal 'ganja' worth Rs 1.25 cr



**Central Chronicle News**

**Mahasamund, Jun 07:** Two inter-state drug smugglers have been nabbed with 5 quintal of 'Ganja' worth Rs 1.25 cr by the Singhoda police of Mahasamund district here on Wednesday. One of the smugglers is from Delhi and the other is from UP and they were bringing Ganja from Odisha to Raipur.

It was tip from an informer that the Singhoda police managed to seized such a huge quantity of 'Ganja' from Odisha. As per information, while checking different vehicles the Singhoda police

stopped a truck near Gram Rehati Khol on NH-53. The accused have kept the 'Ganja' hidden beneath the paddy husk in their Eicher truck.

The two accused nabbed are Sudhir Kumar Yadav and Ramkumar Sahushankar and it was informed that both were hired from Raipur for smuggling of 'Ganja' from Odisha. It was on combined action by Cyber Cell and Singhoda police that the police got success in seizing this major drug consignment worth Rs 1.25 cr. Both the accused have been booked under section 20 (K) of Narcotics Act.



## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



Members of Advertising Agency Association of Chhattisgarh like every year, planted sapling on occasion of World Environment Day and in this President AAA Omkar Singh, Patron Ajay Jain, gen. secy. Afsar Khan, Vijay Ghosh, Virendra Shukla were present.

## Minister Dr Tekam submits survey report to Union Minister Gadkari

● Requests him for upgrading of Ambikapur-Banaras road as National Highway

### Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 07: Chhattisgarh School Education, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Minister Dr. Premeai Singh Tekam today met Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Mr. Nitin M. Gadkari at his residence in New Delhi. Minister Dr. Tekam has requested Union Minister Mr. Gadkari to give National Highway status to Ambikapur-Banaras highway.

During the meeting with Union Minister Nitin M.

Gadkari, Minister Dr. Tekam submitted the survey report, which mentions that the Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh)-Dhanwar-Banaras (Uttar Pradesh) route under Chhattisgarh is 110.60 km long. This route connects Surguja, Surajpur and Balrampur districts of Chhattisgarh with Uttar Pradesh. He informed through the letter that this route is of great importance because it directly connects Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

This route is the busiest route from a commercial point of view. Vegetables, minerals, mineral produce and various goods are transported from Chhattisgarh to Uttar Pradesh through this



route in a large quantity. There are many small and big bridges, culverts, ghats, dangerous turns etc. in this route and the traffic pressure is also high. Therefore, it is very important to make Ambikapur-Dhanwar-Banaras a national highway in order to facilitate the traffic on this route.

It is also worth mentioning here that Banaras holds

great religious and spiritual significance for people of the country. With the development of the Ambikapur-Dhanwar-Banaras road as a national highway, the surrounding areas of states like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Bihar will be benefited. The present traffic survey of this route from 20th June 2022 to 26th June 2022 shows movement of 2394 cars, jeeps, vans and three wheelers, 198 scooters, motor cycles, 345 buses and minibuses, 1767 trucks, 6548 tractors including trolleys, 196 cycles and 1904 Horse cart-bullock cart, indicating the need for measures to regulate the traffic pressure. Chhattisgarh as well as other neighboring states will be benefited by making this route a national highway.

## Training Officer Recruitment Exam from June 7-22

Raipur, June 07: Training Officer Recruitment Examination will be conducted by Chhattisgarh Professional Examination Board (CGVYAPAM) Raipur from June 07 to June 22.

The examination will be held in two sessions-one between 10 am and 12:15 pm and second between 2 pm and 4:15 pm at specified examination centres.

Collector Dr Sarveshwar Bhure has appointed Deputy Collector Ruchi Sharma as nodal officer to ensure smooth conduct of the examination.

During the examination, it will be mandatory for all examinees and officers-employees to wear masks and follow other guidelines for prevention of Covid-19 pandemic.

## Mass plantation drive marked WED 2023 at Lara

### Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, (Lara), June 07: World Environment Day 2023 was celebrated at NTPC Lara with mass plantation drive and environment awareness walkathon under the guidance of Diwakar Kaushik, ED (Lara) on June 5th.

With active participation of employees, housewives, associates, and participants of Girl Empowerment Mission took part in the walkathon followed by plantation drive inside Maitree Nagar township, showcasing their commitment towards environment protection for a sustainable future.



On this occasion Diwakar Kaushik, ED-Lara administered environment protection pledge on "Mission Life", committing to safeguard our precious environment to all participants. Employees and associates holding placards and banner visited the township to make employees

aware on Mission Life for an environment conscious lifestyle.

Taking a step ahead to #BeatPlasticPollution, environment friendly cloth bags were distributed among the contractual workers working under various contracts in NTPC.

To sensitize our future

generation about environment protection participants of Girl Empowerment Mission were included in this environment day celebration so that they could realise the need of the hour for protection of our environment and encourage others to do so and make this a mass movement.

Rajeev Ranjan, GM (Fuel Management), Samarendra Kumar Roy, GM (Operation), Ravi Shankar, GM (Project Construction), Kanhaiya Das, AGM (HR), Head of Departments, members of Prerita Mahila Samiti, employees, CISF personnel, and contract labourers were present on this occasion.

## V-C Prof. Chakrawal nominated as member of IUCTE

### Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, June 07: Vice-Chancellor of Guru Gishwaidya Vishwavidyalaya (Central University), Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, has been nominated as a member of the Research Advisory Committee of the Inter University Center for Teacher Education (IUCTE), Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Chakrawal has been nominated by the Chairman of the Governing Body of IUCTE. His tenure will be

of three years from the date of nomination.

The Inter-University Center for Teacher Education (IUCTE) was established in 2014 by the Prime Minister to provide need-based support in the areas of academic and technical guidance to teachers, advisory and policy making, global collaboration, and research and innovation.

This includes suggesting ways for faculty empowerment and academic up gradation in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the rapidly changing world of education.



Prof-ChakrawalGGU

In the National Education Policy 2020, special emphasis has been laid on the development and educational empowerment of teachers. The Inter University

Center for Teacher Education (IUCTE) is a specialized center of the University Grants Commission which provides services and programs to universities and higher educational institutions.

Through this, various dimensions of education including teaching methods, educational development, problems and challenges in teaching etc. are considered in a holistic manner and solutions are provided in an integrated manner by the Inter-University Center for Teacher Education (IUCTE).

## HNLU celebrates World Environment Day

### Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 07: The Centre for Environmental Laws (CEL) under the School for Law and Public Policy (SLPP) HNLU, celebrated the World Environment Day on 5th June 2023 by organizing a Panel Discussion (Webinar) on the theme of this year's environment day celebration which was "Solutions to Plastic Pollution". This year marks the 50th anniversary of Environment Day, which was first celebrated in 1973.

The Panel discussion had Prof. (Dr.) M.K. Ramesh, Former Professor of Law, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru and Sanjay Upadhyay, Advocate,



Supreme Court of India, & Founder & Managing Partner, Enviro Legal Defence Firm, New Delhi deliberating on the chosen themes as esteemed panelists.

Prof. (Dr.) M.K. Ramesh a well-known Environmental Law professor formerly with National Law School of India Bangalore deliberated upon the enforce-

ment issues under the environmental law specially relating to the plastic pollution.

He lamented that in spite of the formulation of rules & regulations and also massive awareness campaign the results of reducing the pollution including plastic pollution has not yielded the desired results and requires introspection of

how to get the desired results.

He emphasized the role of the local bodies involvement which could bring the targeted results and detailed on the gap of the legislation and ground reality.

Advocate Sanjay Upadhyay in his deliberation elaborated Plastic waste management rules that are in place and the

issues plaguing the implementation of the same. He stressed that there has to be a continuous audit to attain the desired standards by adhering to the current regulatory regime and also to modify the same to meet the new challenges.

The webinar had Prof. Yogendra Kumar Srivastava, Professor of Law and Director of SLPP presiding with his opening remarks, Dr. Ankit Awasthi, faculty member welcoming the gathering, Dr. Atul Jayabae, faculty as the discussant and Urvi Srivastav, faculty moderating the session. The programme was designed and organized by Dr. Rana Navneet Roy, Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Centre.

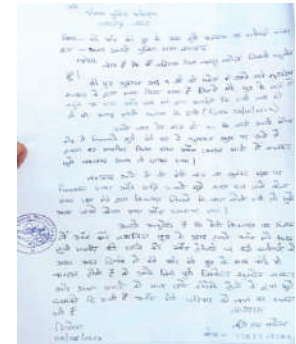
## Student beaten by the teacher and the father by the police

● Victim lodges complaint with SP

### Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, June 07: Villager Baliram Baghel, a resident of village panchayat Pahrubel, lodged a complaint against the teacher in the police station under Bakavand police station of the district. Allegedly, on complaining, the Bakavand police personnel thrashed the villager badly. The victim villager has complained about the matter to the Superintendent of Police, Bastar.

The victim villager has told in the complaint that Yuvraj, the nine-year-old son of Baliram Baghel, a resident of Gram Panchayat Pahrubel of Bakavand development block, is a student of



Shantinagar School. School teacher Sukhdev Sarkar mercilessly thrashed the innocent Yuvraj on a trivial issue. Yuvraj has suffered a lot of injuries. His father Baliram Baghel had complained about the matter to the local police station. On information, the team of 112 reached the village. Instead of arresting the accused teacher, the police personnel involved in the team

pounced on the applicant Baliram. Police personnel thrashed Baliram Baghel with kicks and punches and returned without catching the accused teacher. After this, the victim Baliram was taken to the police station and made to sit. It is mentioned in the complaint letter that the victim was dropped from the police station at 11:00 pm. It is mentioned in the letter that even my complaint was not registered in the police station and I was threatened. The complainant has also written in his letter that if any incident happens to him or his son in the near future, the accused teacher and station in-charge Bakavand will be responsible for it. The victim, Baliram Baghel, has complained about the matter in the Superintendent of Police's office, Jagdalpur.

## CM launches 'Doctor Tumcho Dwaar' initiative

- Initiative connects remote villages to quality healthcare through telemedicine
- Doctors just a phone call away in remote villages of Baderajpur and Farasgaon

### Central Chronicle News

Kondagaon, June 07: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday launched the Kondagaon district administration's new initiative "Doctor Tumcho Dwaar", in a programme held in Bedma village of Keshkal Development Block.

This pilot project aims to provide medical facilities through telemedicine in remote villages of the Baderajpur and Farasgaon development blocks, where accessibility is a challenge. A dedicated 24-hour call centre will be established to provide comprehensive support for this initiative. Whenever



a call is received at the call centre, a team consisting of doctors, ANMs, and other staff members will be promptly informed. Doctors will offer teleconsultations and guidance, engaging in discussions with patients and their families regarding their health concerns.

In the case of critically ill patients who require immediate treatment, doctors and their teams will visit their homes with a well-equipped vehicle to provide necessary medical care. The Chief Minister's Haat Bazaar Clinic scheme, designed to offer healthcare services in remote areas of the district,

is being successfully implemented in the district. In line with this, the "Doctor Tumcho Dwaar" initiative has been launched to provide accessible healthcare facilities in villages with limited accessibility and extended medical services to a broader population through telemedicine.

With the scheme's success, its implementation will be expanded to other development blocks as well. This initiative stands as an example of the government's commitment to ensuring equal justice and equal access to facilities for all citizens.

## Police should prioritize protecting women's safety above anything else: Dangri

Workshop organized to raise awareness regarding the safety of women and crimes against them

### Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 07: To raise awareness regarding women's protection and crimes committed against them, a workshop is organized at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Police Academy in Chandrakhuri for investigating officers and gazette officers from various districts of Chhattisgarh.

During the inauguration of the five-day workshop organized by the National Crime and Investigation Bureau, Mr. Ratan Lal Dangri, the Director of the Academy, expressed his concerns regarding the ongoing incidents that cause fear and apprehension among women.

He stated that in order to stop the rising number of crimes against



women, it is the duty of the investigating officer and gazette officers to report any crime involving women as soon as they know about it and to take immediate action against the offenders by presenting their case in court with concrete evidence. Addressing the work-

shop, he added that police officers should regularly mark their presence in public places like marketplaces, bus stops, crowded areas, schools, and universities where women are present in order to prevent anti-social things to happen. He continued by saying



that police officers should be proud of their work as they have the chance to defend the public and those in need. The government has also granted statutory rights in order for you to carry out this duty. By making proper use of these rights you can help

women to develop confidence.

During this five-day workshop, all police officers will receive comprehensive training on the latest amendments in legal provisions related to women, as well as the procedures involved in a scientific investigation.



# ABVP submits memorandum, demands high-level inquiry

**Into alleged irregularities in State PSC 2021 exam results**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Berla, June 07:** In protest against alleged irregularities in the examination results of State PSC 2021, the members of ABVP gheraoed MLA's residence on Monday and submitted a memorandum in the name of MLA Ashish Chabda, demanding inquiry by a central agency or forming a high-level team and getting an inquiry done.

11 May 2023, the results of CG PSC exam 2021 were declared and on checking the merit list of the candidates in this exam it was pointed out the top 20 candidates are either the son of an officer or a person belonging to a political party or a leader.

There are also names who are either husband and wife or brother-sister who have got selected in the exam. Set aside this there is also name of son of Chairman State PSC Toman Singh Sonwani and other close relatives of members as well in the list.

ABVP State secy. Manoj Vaishnav said that lakhs of



candidates from all over the state took part in the state PSC exam and coming out voice of such candidates, ABVP raised demand for conducting a high-level inquiry into the case for those who have

ticular including that of a husband-wife, brother-sister or close associates of those in power or in bureaucracy, smells of corruption and it just cannot be a coincidence and demanding free & fair inquiry into the same.

Among those who submitted memorandum included Nagar Mantri Navagarh ABVP Prashant Rajak, Saja Nagar Mantri Rajit Rajput, Vasudev Sahu, Sandeep Yadav, Kamdev Yadu, Aman Dewangan, Tushar Banjare, Samir Tarkeshwar, Tupesh Sharma, and large number of other ABVP workers.

# Women's Commission closed down 6 cases

**Transfer 8 cases to Raipur**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Jagdalpur, June 06:** The chairperson of State Women's Commission Dr. Kiranmayi Nayak and member Balo Baghel held a public hearing on the cases presented related to harassment of women in the Astha Sabha room of Collector's office here on Monday.

During today's hearing, the applicant was present in one case and she submitted her application regarding the withdrawal of her case. One of her case was against the non applicant under section 376 in the court, in which the non-applicant



was acquitted. Therefore, she does not want to continue the case further, the case was cancelled. In today's hearing, 8 cases were transferred for hearing in Raipur and files of 6 cases was closed down.

In another case, the case was heard in the presence of both the parties. During this the security officer Hirwani

informed that the complaint is being investigated by the local complaint committee. And the evidence of non-applicant side is yet to be taken. In such a situation, one month's time was given. The person was asked to send his report to the Commission, the next hearing will be done in Raipur after receiving the report.

# Rakesh Pandey appointed media co-in-charge

**Of Bemetara district**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Berla, June 07:** The political activities have gained momentum with few months left for the VS polls in the state. It was on consent of the State President Arun Sao, organisational general secretary Pawan Sai, state media in-charge Amit Chhimnani and President BJP Bemetara Omprakash Joshi that a young and dynamic leader of the party - Rakesh Pandey has been appointed as media co-in-charge of Saja Vidhan Sabha (VS) and on which the party's office bearers



**Rakesh Pandey**

and party workers and well-wishers have extended greetings to him. Expressing happiness on his appointment as media co-in-charge, Rakesh Pandey said that he would honestly fulfill the responsibility be-

stowed upon his shoulders by the party and expressed gratitude towards the senior party leaders and party office bearers.

He also expressed thanks to BJP State President Arun Sao, organisational gen. secy. Pawan Sai, state media in-charge Amit Chhimnani, BJP Bemetara district Omprakash Joshi and to ex-MLA Labhchand Bafna.

In the same way, Nagar Panchayat Devkar V-P Ajay Agrawal, Leader of Oppn and Corporator Manoj Verma, LS MP rep Ravishankar Soni, district minorities cell treasurer Rawal Jain and others have also extended greetings to him.

# No change in problems of farmers: Bajaj

**Navapara-Rajim, June 07:** Former President District Panchayat Ashok Bajaj charged that the Congress party which has come to power making false promises to farmers at the time of last election has done gross injustice with the farmers from 27 villages of Nava Raipur. More than four years have passed since the Congress government came to power in the state, but the problems of the farmers is more or less the same.

Bajaj said that as & when the farmers Nava Raipur try to stage protest, the state government always try to suppress their movement. Few days back the farmers in Jora staged massive protest and it is by misguiding them their protest was called off. Bajaj said that making promises and then forgetting about it is an old habit of Congress.

# MLA dedicates sub-tehsil office, college soon

**In Gram Devarbija**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Berla, June 07:** The inauguration of new sub-tehsil office in Gram Devarbija was held recently and its chief guest was MLA Ashish Chabda. Speaking on the occasion Chabda said that it was on arrival of CM Bhupesh Baghel to Devarbija that declaration of opening of sub-Tehsil office was made and it was just in six months that it is being inaugurated and a college too would be dedicated soon.

Now the beneficiaries, including farmers and labourers would not have to travel 25 kms to Berla in order to get various documents and



it would save their time and money as well. The works which cannot be done in 15 yrs rule of BJP government in the state, is now being done in just four yrs of Congress rule. The district panchayat member TR Sahu said that the persons should bring in application for their work at the right time and it would be sorted

out. Meeting was also addressed by Nohar Dewangan and Vijay Dewangan. The welcome speech was given by ADM AK Bajpayee and vote of thanks was proposed by SDM Revenue Yugal Kishore Urvasa. In this programme, Heerdevi Verma, Sunita Devi, Sarpanch Devarbija, Suresh

Dubey, Dr Prabhat Shrivastava, Sankant Mochan Choubey, Kamal Verma, Yuvraj Dubey, Sarpanch Nandlal Saluja, Bharat Verma, Baldau Sahu, Ramadhar Dewangan, Praveen Kumar Dubey, Suresh Sahu, Media in-charge Suresh Bafna, Aman Tamrakar and others were present.

# Ten active workers of BJP join Cong fold

**Vikram Mandavi said that BJP does Unassertive politics to benefit industrialists**



**Central Chronicle News**

**Bijapur, June 07:** On Monday, ten active BJP workers from Ketulnar village of Nelesnar area of Bijapur district at block headquarters Bhairamgarh, joined the Congress party being impressed with the customs and policies of the Congress party and state

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Bijapur MLA and Vice President of Bastar Area Tribal Development Authority Vikram Mandavi.

MLA Vikram Mandavi and Congress leaders got 10 BJP workers to join the Congress party by garlanding them and presenting the party's stole. Uday Singh

Thakur, Prabhunath Thakur, Sondev Yadav, Ramesh Kadi, Joga Kadi, Ankit Kadi, Lochan Karma, Balram Nag, Sukuram Hemla and Laxman Nag etc. are prominent among those who joined the Congress from BJP.

In response to a question, MLA Vikram Mandavi said that "BJP

practices only negative politics to benefit industrialists in the name of development while Congress party works for all sections including SC, ST, OBC and farmers, labourers, small traders, youth, women. It works for the development of the state, this is the reason why the base of the Congress is in-

creasing continuously. District Panchayat member Parvati Kashyap, Chhattisgarh Youth Commission member Praveen Dongre, District Mandi Vice President Nakul Thakur, Hiralal Mandavi, Nagar Panchayat Bhairamgarh President Sukhmati Manjhi, Block Congress Committee President Lachhu Ram Maurya, District President Dashrath Kunjam, District Vice President during the admission Sahdev Negi, District Congress Committee General Secretary Sukhdev Nag, Block Congress Committee Usur President Suklu Punem, IT cell leader Mohit Chauhan, Youth Congress's Ejaz Siddiqui, Abhishek Thakur, NSUT's Jagdev Yadav and a large number of Congress party workers were present.

# Saplings planted on World Environment Day



**In SAGES, Kharora**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Kharora, June 07:** Bharat Dewangan Excellent Hindi/English Medium School (SAGES) and Climate Change, Environment and Forest department Tilda circle, jointly celebrated World Environment Day on

Monday. On this occasion, saplings of Mango, 'Anwala', 'Seetaphal', and other variety of fruit-bearing trees were planted and pledge was given for environment conservation.

In this programme, the Principal Rajani Minj, Vice Principal Harish Dewangan, Scouts & Guides in-charge Shahina Parveen, Amar Burman,

from forest deptt- Yadu Kumar Sahu (Asst. Circle office Tilda), Jageshwar Bandhe (Forest guard), Indrachand Dhankar (forest guard), Bhupendra Kumar Jangde (forest guard), Dharmendra Sahu, Vijay Vidya, Tikeswar Dhruv, Heeradhar Dhruv (Van Choukidar), Preeti Dhruv, Kumari Yadav and others were present.

# Women imparted training in making soap, phenyl etc

**Establishment of industrial park will make women's groups self-sufficient**

**Central Chronicle News**

**Kareli Badi, June 07:** Rural Industrial Park (RIPA) is being established along with Narva Garva Ghurva and Bari, an ambitious scheme of the state government. Under the able guidance of District Collector Rituraj Raghuvanshi, District Panchayat CEO Raktma Yadav, Rural Industrial Parks are going to be established in Bhendri and Khisora under District Panchayat Magarlod. District Panchayat Magarlod CEO CS Dhruv said that rural self-employment training institute will be provided to rural women and men

working in RIPA Center. Training facility is being provided through RSETIs. Till now self-help groups and youth club members were trained for making incense sticks, after that, training in soap making, phenyl, washing powder, candle making also imparted.

It is said that establishment of Industrial Park is proving to be a strong medium. Well equipped working shed in which we will get an opportunity to work for the promotion of livelihood. The financial condi-



tion of the family will be strong. 10 women are working for making incense sticks and the incense sticks made by them is being sold hand-in-hand. An action plan is being prepared at the dis-

trict panchayat and district level to manufacture incense sticks in large quantities, so that better and better work can be done in the coming time to ensure the availability of more and more material and the manufactured material of rural industrial park is easily available in the market. May be Cement pole manufacturing machine, fully automatic chain link machine, bakery units will be set up at RIPA Center Khisora as soon as possible under Gram Panchayat Panchayat Bhandari. Due to which employment opportunities will be available to rural youth and women.

<p><b>NAME CHANGE</b></p> <p>It is informed to the general public that I, Aashi Farmaniya D/o Ritesh Farmania, R/o. Sakin Pendra, Tehsil Pendra, District Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi (C.G.) have Changed my old name Aashi Farmaniya D/o Ritesh Farmania So in future I should be recognized by my New Name is Aashi Farmania D/o Ritesh Farmania in all Government and other documents.</p> <p><b>Aashi Farmania</b> Sakin Pendra, Tehsil Pendra, District Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi (C.G.)</p>	<p><b>Public Notice</b></p> <p>Through this notification it is informed to all public and financial institutions and also all private and nationalized banks. That Smt. Sarojani Patel w/o Sundarmani Patel R/o Village Sendoras Tah. Sarangarh Distt. Sarangarh-Bilagarh (C.G.) has applied for business loan in Punjab National Bank Raigarh Branch (C.G.) He has offered the land bearing Kh.No.146/2,146/3,146/5,146/6,147/65 Area-0.018 Hect. (2000 sqft.) Situated at Vill. Bhagwarpur P.H.No.24, R.I.Cr. Raigarh-1, Tehsil Raigarh, Sub Registrar Raigarh, Distt. Raigarh (C.G.) He has submitted the present title deed and other property document for creation of Equitable Mortgage in bank. Notice is hereby given that the documents bearing original link sale deed dated 12/12/2005 executed and registered between Vender Prakar Builders and developers through partner Pankaj Agarwal S/o Prashant Agarwal and Buyer Sabyasat Pandit S/o Bibhu Bhushan Pandit, registered at Sub Registrar Raigarh on 09/04/2010, bearing registration details as book no. Adi-1/3241, document no.2559, has been misplaced and not traceable yet. The report of the same has been lodged Police Station on 07/06/2023.</p> <p>Through this notification it is informed that if through the mortgage of the said property in Punjab National Bank if anyone has any right, interest, mortgage or any kind of interest in this property then he/she can come to branch located at P.N.B. Raigarh, within 7 days from issue of this notification for claim of their right interest with all supporting documents related to this property.</p> <p>After the lapse of 7 days of the issue of this notification, the bank will come to the conclusion that this property is free from any right or interest by any third person.</p> <p>After that the said bank will finance loan to Kamesh Rice Mill/Smt. Sarojani Patel and the said property will be kept mortgaged in bank. After the mortgage of said property in bank, the bank will not entertain any claim by any person.</p> <p><b>Sanjay Kumar Panda Advocate Raigarh Res. and Office Garhmaria Distt. Raigarh Chhattisgarh 496001</b> Raigarh Mob. 98266-04858 Date 07/06/2023</p>	<p><b>Public Notice</b></p> <p>Through this notification it is informed to all public and financial institutions and also all private and nationalized banks. That Smt. Sarojani Patel w/o Sundarmani Patel R/o Village Timariaga Tah. Sarangarh Distt. Sarangarh-Bilagarh (C.G.) has applied for business loan in Punjab National Bank Raigarh Branch (C.G.) She has offered the land bearing Kh.No.124/21 area 0.202 Hect. Kh.No.124/22 area 0.203 Hect., Kh.No.124/32 area 0.069 Hect., Kh.No.124/35 area 0.067 Hect., Kh.No.124/36 area 0.065 Hect., &amp; Kh.No.124/37 area 0.067 Hect. Total area 0.673 Hect. Situated at Vill. Timariaga P.H.No.42, R.I.Cr. Godam, Tehsil Sarangarh, Sub Registrar Sarangarh, Distt. Sarangarh-Bilagarh (C.G.) She has submitted the present title deed and other property document for creation of Equitable Mortgage in bank. Notice is hereby given that the documents bearing original link sale deed dated 09/04/2010 executed and registered between Vender Hanuman Prasad S/o Ramswarup Agrawal and Buyer Vivek Agrawal S/o Mahaveer Prasad Agrawal, registered at Sub Registrar Sarangarh on 09/04/2010, bearing registration details as book no. Adi-1, document no.50, has been misplaced and not traceable yet. The report of the same has been lodged Police Station on 07/06/2023.</p> <p>Through this notification it is informed that if through the mortgage of the said property in Punjab National Bank if anyone has any right, interest, mortgage or any kind of interest in this property then he/she can come to branch located at P.N.B. Raigarh, within 7 days from issue of this notification for claim of their right interest with all supporting documents related to this property.</p> <p>After the lapse of 7 days of the issue of this notification, the bank will come to the conclusion that this property is free from any right or interest by any third person.</p> <p>After that the said bank will finance loan to Kamesh Rice Mill/Smt. Sarojani Patel and the said property will be kept mortgaged in bank. After the mortgage of said property in bank, the bank will not entertain any claim by any person.</p> <p><b>Sanjay Kumar Panda Advocate Raigarh Res. and Office Garhmaria Distt. Raigarh Chhattisgarh 496001</b> Raigarh Mob. 98266-04858 Date 07/06/2023</p>
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## BRIEF



**WB CM Mamata Banerjee with a child during a ceremony organised to give financial aid and appointment letters of state government jobs to family members of the victims of Balasore train accident, in Kolkata, Wednesday.**

## Held

**Sambhal:** A man was arrested for allegedly trying to convert a woman to Islam here, police said on Wednesday. The 22-year-old Hindu woman told police that the man, Zaid, introduced himself as Anurag, however, she found out his real identity after stumbling upon his Aadhaar card.

## Graft

**Jaipur:** The Rajasthan Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday arrested a land records inspector in Barmer district for allegedly taking a bribe of Rs 50,000, officials said. A complaint was received by the bureau accusing Gajaram, inspector of Mandali in Kalyanpur Tehsil, of demanding Rs 5 lakh as a bribe in lieu of getting some work done.

## Derail

**Jabalpur:** Two oil tankers of a goods train derailed under Jabalpur railway division in Madhya Pradesh and restoration efforts are underway, an official said on Wednesday. The oil tankers went off the track on Tuesday night when the goods train was on the siding line of an oil depot near Bhitoni railway station, said West Central Railway Chief Public Relations Officer Rahul Shrivastava.

## Injured

**Jammu:** Two Army personnel were injured on Wednesday when the service rifle of a soldier went off accidentally inside a camp in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. The incident took place at Galthi in the Manjakote area when the soldiers of Rashtriya Rifles were unloading their weapons as per the protocol after returning from operational duty, a police official said.

## Dead

**Deoria:** A 22-year-old woman was found dead at her home on Wednesday here with her family members claiming that she hanged herself from a ceiling fan, police said. The incident occurred in a village under Barhaji Police Station area, they said.

## Old bomb

**Hoshiarpur:** An old bomb was found in a field in the Mukerian area here, police on Wednesday. A man discovered the bomb after it got stuck in a cultivator (agricultural equipment) while tillage work was undertaken in Dharampura village of Mukerian sub-division, they said.

# SP announces support to AAP over Central ordinance

Lucknow Jun 07 (PTD)

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday announced his party's support to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal against the Centre's ordinance on control of services in the national capital after a meeting here with the AAP convener.

Kejriwal was accompanied by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann at the meeting. "We had discussion with SP chief Akhilesh Yadav...we thank him as he has assured his party's support when the ordinance comes in the Rajya Sabha," Kejriwal told a joint press conference after the meeting.

The SP chief termed the ordinance as "anti-democratic" and said, "My party is with you (Kejriwal)."

Kejriwal said that if the ordinance gets defeated in the Rajya Sabha, it will send a "strong message"



**Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal exchange greetings during a joint press conference, at SP office in Lucknow, Wednesday.**

before the 2024 parliamentary elections.

"If all the anti-BJP parties unite and get the ordinance defeated in the Rajya Sabha, where the BJP is not in majority, it will be a semifinal of the next year's elections and send a strong message to the country," Kejriwal said. The Aam Aadmi Party chief has been reaching out to leaders of non-BJP parties to garner their support against the ordinance so that the Centre's bid to replace it

when a Bill is defeated through it is brought in Parliament.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, Telangana Chief Minister Chandrashekar Rao, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee have so far extended their support to the AAP. Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar and

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin have also supported Kejriwal in the matter.

The Centre on May 19 had promulgated the ordinance to create an authority for the transfer and posting of Group-A officers in Delhi, which the AAP government had called a deception with the Supreme Court verdict on control of services.

The ordinance came a week after the Supreme Court handed over the control of services in Delhi, excluding police, public order and land, to the elected government. It seeks to set up a National Capital Civil Service Authority for the transfer of and disciplinary proceedings against Group-A officers from the DANICS cadre. Transfer and postings of all officers of the Delhi government were under the executive control of the lieutenant governor before the top court's May 11 verdict.

## VIKAS TIRTH YATRA



**Union Minister Krishan Pal Gurjar (center) during the 'Vikas Tirth Yatra' organised on completion of 9 years of the NDA government at Centre, in Faridabad, Wednesday.**

# Kejriwal attacks LG over crime situation

● In national capital

New Delhi, Jun 07 (PTD)

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said criminals in Delhi have become "fearless" and the people are "losing faith" in the police as he took a swipe at Lt Governor VK Saxena,

asking him to discharge his constitutional duties instead of doing politics.

The ruling AAP dispensation in Delhi and the LG have been engaged in a keen tussle over a range of issues related to governance and decision-making, since Saxena took charge in May last year. In a tweet in Hindi, Kejriwal, "Everyday news

of crime is coming in Delhi. The criminals are fearless, the public is losing faith in the police." "LG Saheb take time out to see how scared the public is. The public wants works to be done and safety, not politics. Please do work assigned to you by the Constitution instead of doing politics," the AAP leader said.

# Woman in trouble for 'faking' husband's death

● In train accident

Bhubaneswar, Jun 07 (PTD)

A woman who tried to "fake" her husband's death in the Balasore train accident for compensation cash announced by the state government and Railways is in trouble.

Gitanjali Datta of Maniabanda in Cuttack district had claimed that her husband Bijay Datta had died in the accident on June 2 and had even identified a body as her husband's. However, after verification of documents, it was found that her claim was false.

Though police let her go with a warning, trouble started after her husband filed a complaint at

Maniabanda police station. The woman has now gone into hiding fearing arrest, police said.

Police said the couple has been living separately for the last 13 years.

Bijay has demanded stringent action against Gitanjali for attempting to grab public money and also faking his death.

Maniabanda police station in-charge Basant Kumar Satpathy said police have asked Gitanjali's husband to file a complaint at Bahanaga police station in Balasore district as the incident took place there.

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary PK Jena asked the Railways and Odisha police to take stringent action against people making fake claimants over bodies.

Earlier, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had announced Rs 5 lakh ex gratia for the next of kin of the deceased while Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh. On the other hand, the Railway Ministry has declared Rs 10 lakh compensation for the families of those who died in the accident.

The Coromandel Express crashed into a stationary goods train, derailling most of its coaches at 7 pm on June 2. In all, some 288 people died in the accident and more than 1,200 were injured. A few coaches of Coromandel toppled over the last few coaches of the Bengaluru-Howrah Express which was passing by at the same time.

# Maha CM Shinde performs 'bhoomi puja' of temple

Thane, Jun 07 (PTD)

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Wednesday performed the 'bhoomi puja' of a temple being built on a 10 acre land in Navi Mumbai allotted by the state government to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) trust.

The TTD governs the ancient hill shrine of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala in Tirupati.

The Maharashtra government has allotted 10 acre land for the temple of Lord Balaji at Ulwe in Navi Mumbai. It will be a replica of the temple in Tirumala, a TTD trust official said. Among those present during the 'bhoomi puja' on Wednesday included Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Raymond company Chairman and Managing Director Gautam Singhania, TTD



**Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde with Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis during the 'bhoomi puja' of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams temple being built at Ulwe, in Navi Mumbai, Wednesday.**

trust board Chairman YV Subba Reddy and its Executive Officer AV Dharma Reddy.

The temple will be built at a cost of Rs 70 crore, with Singhania coming forward to foot the entire expenses, Subba Reddy said, adding the construction will be completed

within two years.

Following a request from the Maharashtra chief minister, his Andhra Pradesh counterpart YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had asked the TTD to build the temple of Lord Venkateswara on the lines of the one in Tirumala, he said.

The TTD board chairman thanked CM Shinde, his deputy Fadnavis, Singhania and former Maharashtra minister Aaditya Thackeray for taking the initiative to allot land for the temple.

Shinde in his address said the temple will go a long way in fulfilling the desire of thousands of devotees who want to visit Tirumala but are not able to do so for various reasons. He assured all cooperation from the state government for the temple.

Shinde said Deputy CM Fadnavis got some necessary clearances for the temple project from the Centre. "All the hurdles have been removed and today is the day of happiness," he added.

Singhania in his address said the people who are not able to visit Tirupati will now have the opportunity to visit this temple.

# 'There is anti-BJP wave, country's people want change'

Aurangabad, Jun 07 (PTD)

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Wednesday claimed there is currently an "anti-BJP" wave and people of the country want a change considering results of the recent Assembly polls in Karnataka.

If this mindset of people continues, the country will witness a change in the forthcoming elections, Pawar said at a press meet here.

He also claimed that small incidents in Maharashtra were being given a "religious colour", which was not a good sign.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) faced defeat in the recently held Assembly elections in Karnataka, where the Congress came back to power after a gap of five years.

The Lok Sabha elections are due in 2024, and the Maharashtra Assembly polls are also due in the later part of next year.

Pawar said, "Looking at the scenario, I think there is an anti-BJP wave going on. Considering the Karnataka election results, people are in the mood for a change. If this mentality of people continues, there will be a change in the country in the forth-



**Sharad Pawar**

coming elections. There is no need of any astrologer to tell this."

Asked about the possibility that the Lok Sabha and Maharashtra Assembly polls may be

held simultaneously, the NCP chief said many people from his party and allies are also of the same view. "But, I don't think so. Considering the results of the Karnataka Assembly polls, I don't think rulers of the country will fall into a mess of conducting the state Assembly elections along with the Lok Sabha polls. They will only focus on the Lok Sabha polls," Pawar said.

On the 'Telangana model' (of giving financial assistance to farmers) being promoted in Maharashtra, Pawar said, "The Telangana model has to be checked. But, Telangana is a small state

and announcing such an aid in a small state can be done. But, I feel more funds should be spent on infrastructure works (related to farming)."

Asked about the law and order situation and some incidents of violence in Maharashtra in the recent past, Pawar claimed "religious colour" was being given to some small issues in the state.

"The rulers are responsible to establish law and order in the state. If the ruling parties and their people come out on roads over it and create a rift between two religions, then it is not a good sign," he said.

# First batch of 630 pilgrims from J&K leaves for Haj

Srinagar, Jun 07 (PTD)

The first batch of 630 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir left for Saudi Arabia on Wednesday for the annual Haj pilgrimage, officials said.

The pilgrims left in two flights carrying 315 passengers each, they said. There were 339 male pilgrims and 291 female pilgrims in total, they added. Chairperson Jammu and Kashmir Haj Committee Safina Baig said all the arrangements were in place for the pilgrims. "We have tried to make the arrangements better this

year," she added. Baig said another batch of 115 women will leave for Haj on June 10. "This is God's blessings that we are going for the pilgrimage. We will pray for Jammu and Kashmir," Abdul Khaliq, a pilgrim from Rainawari area of the city here, told the video team of PTI. Firdous Bhat, a pilgrim from Chadoora area of central Kashmir's Budgam district, said: "I have never felt so much happiness as it is the ultimate goal of a Muslim to go on this pilgrimage. We will pray for peace and prosperity in Kashmir."

## WELCOME RAINS



**Citizens ride past during rain, in Kochi, Wednesday.**

# 'Women's work in Sakhi Mandals' boosts family income'

Ranchi, Jun 07 (PTD)

Women can contribute significantly towards economic growth of their family by joining Sakhi Mandals' or Self Help Groups (SHGs), Jharkhand Governor C P Radhakrishnan said.

He was listening to the problems of villagers at Bhakso and Rampur during a visit to Lohardaga district on Tuesday.

Set up by the Rural Development Department, currently 2.3 lakh Sakhi Mandals' have brought together 29 lakh rural women in the state by connecting them through SHGs and enabling them to make a living of their own. President Droupadi Murmu during her visit to



**C P Radhakrishnan**

the state last month had interacted with about 25,000 women associated with Sakhi Mandals' at Khunti.

"When a village develops, you will develop. I want that villagers should get the benefits of various schemes of the central and state governments," he said.



## US closely watching AI flight that landed in Russia

Washington, Jun 07 (PTI):

The United States has said that it is "closely monitoring" the situation after a San Francisco-bound Air India flight made an emergency landing in Russia's remote town of Magadan.

Flight AI173 from Delhi was diverted to Magadan in Russia on Tuesday owing to an engine glitch, the Tata Group-owned private carrier said in a statement last evening.

The Boeing 777-200 LR aircraft, carrying 216 passengers and 16 crew, landed safely.

"We are aware of a US-bound flight that had to make an emergency landing in Russia and are continuing to monitor that situation closely. I'm not able to confirm how many US citizens were aboard the flight at this time," State Department Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel told reporters at his daily news conference on Tuesday.

"It was a flight that was



**Air India flight passengers stay at makeshift accommodation in a nearby school after it had to land at the Sokol Airport in Magadan, Russia following a technical snag. The Air India plane, carrying 216 passengers and 16 crew members, was flying from Delhi to San Francisco.**

bound for the US. So, it is, of course, likely that there are American citizens on board. There's public reporting from Air India that they are sending what my understanding is a replacement aircraft to the destination to have the passengers carry on for their route, but I would defer to the air carrier to

speak to anything further on this," Patel said in response to a question.

When asked if the US would allow the export of parts for the repair of the Boeing aircraft that may need exemptions in view of the various embargoes and sanctions on Russia, the spokesman said, "I'm just not going to speculate

on that here. And of course, we'll let Air India speak to any steps that they're taking as it relates to mitigating the technical issues."

Air India on Wednesday sent a ferry flight - carrying food and other essentials - to Magadan to fly the passengers bound for San Francisco, who are currently stranded.

The airline said the aircraft operating the ferry flight will take all passengers and crew onward to San Francisco on June 8.

It said that a team from the airline is also on board the flight to provide any support that the passengers and staff at Magadan may require.

Magadan is located on the shores of the Sea of Okhotsk in northeastern Russia and falls under the administrative centre of Magadan Oblast. The port town is about 10,167 km from Moscow. It takes around 7 hours and 37 minutes to reach Magadan from Moscow by air.

## BANGLA PM MEETS MANOJ PANDEY



**Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina and Indian Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande during a meeting, in Ganabhaban, Bangladesh.**

## NATO allies prepare unprecedented air deployment exercise

Berlin, Jun 07 (AP):

Germany is preparing to host the biggest air deployment exercise in NATO's history, a show of force intended to impress allies and potential adversaries such as Russia,

German and American officials said on Wednesday.

The Air Defender 23 exercise starting next week will see 10,000 participants and 250 aircraft from 25 nations respond to a simulated attack on a NATO member country. The US

alone is sending 2,000 US Air National Guard personnel and about 100 aircraft to take part in the training manoeuvres.

"This is an exercise that would be absolutely impressive to anybody who's watching, and we don't

make anybody watch it," US Ambassador to Germany Amy Gutmann said. "It will demonstrate beyond a shadow of a doubt the agility and the swiftness of our allied force in NATO as a first responder," she said.

## Floodwaters engulf more areas of southern Ukraine after dam breach as hundreds evacuated



**Streets are flooded in Kherson, Ukraine, Wednesday, June 7 after the walls of the Kakhovka dam collapsed. Residents of southern Ukraine, some who spent the night on rooftops, braced for a second day of swelling floodwaters on Wednesday as authorities warned that a Dnieper River dam breach would continue to unleash pent-up waters from a giant reservoir.**

Kherson (Ukraine), Jun 07 (AP):

Floodwaters from a collapsed dam kept rising in southern Ukraine on Wednesday, forcing hundreds of people to flee their homes in a major emergency operation that brought a dramatic new

dimension to the war with Russia, now in its 16th month.

Amid the disaster response, artillery shelling rang out as people scrambled to get out of the danger zone, climbing onto military trucks or rafts.

Officials said the

flood's force was expected to slacken as the day wore on, a day after Tuesday's breach of the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam and reservoir, which is one of the largest in the world.

Even so, authorities said water levels were expected to rise by another

metre (about 3 feet) over the following 20 hours and engulf more downriver areas along the banks of the Dnieper.

Some local residents spent the night on rooftops. Others, scrambling to flee the rising waters, were evacuated by buses and trains with the belongings they could carry.

"The intensity of floods is slightly decreasing," Oleksandr Prokudin, the head of Kherson Regional Military administration, said in a video. "However, due to the significant destruction of the dam, the water will keep coming."

He said more than 1,800 houses were flooded along the Dnieper and that almost 1,500 people had been evacuated.

Residents sloshed through knee-deep waters in inundated homes as videos posted on social media showed scenes including rescue workers carrying people to safety, and what looked like the triangular roof of an entire building that had been uprooted drifting downstream.

## More Indian Americans stepping into political leadership roles in US

Washington, Jun 07 (PTI):

In the past 10 years, Indian Americans have increasingly taken political leadership roles besides being at the forefront in private industries, according to a prominent member of the diaspora in the US state of Ohio.

Pavan V Parikh, Hamilton County Clerk of Courts said that he was appointed by the Hamilton County Democratic Party in December 2021 to replace Indian American Aftab Pureval, who was elected to the office of Cincinnati Mayor. "We are coming to a time where Indian Americans are really taking on leadership roles across the country. We've seen it happen in private industry, but we're in this period now in the last 10 or so years or so..." told PTI.

Parikh said his focus is on increasing access to justice, improving customer service, modernising the Clerk's office, and ensuring that the Clerk's staff reflects

the diversity of Hamilton County. "In 2023, there are a large number of Indian Americans in elected offices across the country and more are aspiring to run for elected offices. It's impressive. It's wonderful. There's still much more work to be done. But I think it is time for us to take that leadership role, and I'm so happy to be surrounded by so many people that are doing that," he said.

Responding to a question, Parikh said when he was young, this was never an opportunity to serve as an elected official in the US.

"We had no idea that you could even do this. We know that we can achieve this now. So opportunities will come. We'll work hard to be excellent, be focused on a community, and be focused on doing good for the people in our community. And these opportunities will come. I look forward to seeing so many more people come up behind us. I look forward to support-

ing them as well," he said. Inside the Hamilton County Clerk of Courts,

Parikh said he is working on carrying out various people-friendly reforms.

## First India-Sri Lanka defence exhibition held in Colombo

● For boosting bilateral relations between both countries

Colombo, Jun 07 (PTI):

The High Commission of India organised the first India-Sri Lanka Defence Seminar and Exhibition here on Wednesday to promote and identify newer areas of cooperation and collaboration between the two countries in the defence sector.

The event will witness participation from the Indian Defence Industry, Sri Lankan entrepreneurs, Sri Lanka Armed Forces, Police and Special Task Force, the High Commission said on Wednesday.

"The grand event includes a seminar highlighting the capability and capacities of the two countries in defence equipment manufacturing and would also exhibit a wide variety of defence products," the release said.

The exhibition organised with the aim to deepen ties with Sri Lanka through inclusive and collaborative engagement, aims to identify newer areas of cooperation for economic revival whilst ensuring capacity building of Sri Lanka Armed Forces.

The High Commission also said that the Sri Lanka Armed forces have been successfully operating a wide range of Indian defence equipment like Indra Radar, Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessels, L 70 Guns, Dornier Aircraft and Army training simulators.

Similarly, Indian armed forces use Fast Interceptor Crafts and refit of Floating Dock at Colombo.

"More recently, the Government of India committed to the supply of Floating Dock, Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre and Dornier aircraft which would ensure capacity building of Sri Lanka Armed Forces", the release added.

## India and US launch strategic trade dialogue

Washington, Jun 07 (PTI):

Ahead of the historic US visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the two countries have launched a strategic trade dialogue here during which officials reviewed the ongoing cooperation in multilateral export control regimes and agreed to share the best practices to further the bilateral ties.

At the inaugural India-US Strategic Trade Dialogue (IUSSTD), the Indian delegation was led by Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra. The US delegation was co-lead by Alan Estevez, Under Secretary for Industry and Security in the US Department of Commerce and Ambassador Victoria Nuland, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs in the US Department of State.

The dialogue is a key mechanism to take forward the strategic technology and trade collaborations envisaged under the India-US initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET).

The meeting took place ahead of Prime Minister Modi's maiden state visit

to the US at the invitation of President Joe Biden. Modi will be visiting the US from June 21 to 24.

It focused on ways in which both governments can facilitate the development and trade of technologies in critical domains such as semiconductors, space, telecom, quantum, AI, defence, bio-tech and others, a media release from the Indian embassy here said.

**CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LTD**  
No.02-02/NIT/T-04/609 Raipur, dt.07/06/2023

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Scaled tenders, for the following item are invited:-

Tender Specification No.	Item	Approx. tender value (₹ in Lakhs)	Purchase /download of Tender document fee with GST (₹)	Last date of tender submission
02-02/T-04	Engagement of 8 No Computer operators	₹ 56.91	5000	28.06.2023

**IMPORTANT: (I) Please note that any Notice for Corrigendum or extension of due date of tender opening shall not be published in newspapers. It will be displayed only on official website of the company. (II) The tenders will be processed through e-bidding module of SAP-SRM. Bidders are advised to visit our website for viewing detailed instructions regarding submission of offer through SAP-SRM. (III) Date of "Pre-Bid" meeting to be held will be intimated separately on our website.**

For details, visit our web site: [www.cspdc.co.in](http://www.cspdc.co.in)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
S-37328/1 RA&PM

**SAVE ELECTRICITY**

**कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता**  
**मिनीमाता बांगो बांध संभाग क्र. 03**  
**माचाडोली (छ.ग.)**

**निविदा निरस्तीकरण आदेश**

आदेश क्र. /व.ले.लि./2023-24 माचाडोली, दिनांक .....

कार्यालय प्रमुख अभियंता जल संसाधन विभाग, शिवनाथ भवन, सेक्टर-19, नार्थ ब्लॉक, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, रायपुर का पत्र क्र. 4262683/निविदा प्रक्रां/2023/8/165 (T.C.) दिनांक 27.04.2023 के अनुपालन में इस कार्यालय की निविदा सूचना क्र. 16/व.ले.लि./2022-23 दिनांक 03.04.2023 सिस्टम नं. 129383 (प्रथम आमंत्रण) मिनीमाता (हसदेव) बांगो बांध माचाडोली कोरवा के आधार गैलरी व निरीक्षण गैलरी के विद्युतीकरण का नवीनीकरण कार्य की अनुमोदित राशि रु. 322.58 लाख के कार्य के लिये आमंत्रित की गई निविदा में प्रतिभागी निविदाकार की संख्या निरंक होने के कारण निविदा निरस्त की जाती है।

जो. क्र.-जी-00442 कार्यपालन अभियंता  
मिनीमाता बांगो बांध संभाग क्र. 03  
माचाडोली (छ.ग.)

G-02137/1

**CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LTD.**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (RCR) GUDHIYARI, RAIPUR, PH.NO. 0771-2574703 & FAX NO.2593403  
No. 10-01/Wk-II/Tender No. 10/907 Raipur, Date 07.06.2023

**NOTICE INVITING FOR e-TENDERING**

Online bids are invited through CSPDL e-bidding system (SAP SRM) from eligible Contractors for the following works:

Tender No/ Rfx no.	Name of work	Type of Contractor	Total value of tender (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender form (in Rs.)	Date of Submission / Opening
Tender No. 10/907 RFX No 8100031832	For replacement of 11 KV and overhead line to underground at Avanti Bai Chowk Pandri Raipur under Shankar Nagar Zone of City Dn. East Raipur.	Class-III	25,55,064.00	5000/- (Including GST)	29.06.2023 02.00 / 02.30 PM

Details of Tenders, Technical Specification, Terms & Conditions pre-qualification requirement etc. are available on our website [www.cspdc.co.in](http://www.cspdc.co.in) and e-bidding.cspdc.co.in. Tender documents can be downloaded from CSPDCL's official website mentioned above. The cost of required tender fees shall be deposited through demand draft drawn in favor of Sr. A.O.-I CSPDCL Raipur and shall be submitted in hard copy before due date and time, the scanned copy of the DD of Tender fees should be uploaded in the e-bidding portal.

The notice for extension of due date of tender submission, opening /corrigendum/amendment, if any to the tender document will not be published in newspapers. It will only be displayed on CSPDCL's official website as mentioned above and office Notice Board.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (RCR)**  
CSPDCL, RAIPUR

**SAVE ELECTRICITY** S-37329/2

**कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भिलाई**

क्र./परियोजना/न.नि./2023/830/100 भिलाई, दिनांक 05/06/2023  
// रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति (EOI) 2nd call //

नगर पालिक निगम भिलाई क्षेत्रांतर्गत जोन 01, नेहरू नगर स्थित जी.ई. रोड से लगे हुए उद्यान क्र. 03 के व्यवसायिक उपयोग संचालन एवं संधारण हेतु (EOI) दिनांक 19.06.2023 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। प्राप्त (EOI) दिनांक 20.06.2023 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे उपस्थित एजेंसी अथवा उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि के समक्ष खोली जावेगी।

कार्य की विस्तृत जानकारी कार्यालयीन समय में परियोजना शाखा एवं मुख्य कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भिलाई की वेबसाइट [www.bhilainagarnigam.com](http://www.bhilainagarnigam.com), <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> एवं UAD की साईट में देखी जा सकती है।

**कार्यपालन अभियंता**

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**MINIMATA BANGO DAM DIVISION NO. 03, MACHADOLI**  
**DISTT.-KORBA (C.G.)**

**e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>  
**(FIRST CALL)**  
System Tender No. 137011 NIT No.: 08/SAC/2023-24  
Dated: 06-06-2023

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 27-06-2023 at 17.30 Hour

Name of work: EXCAVATION OF PARTIAL HARD ROCK NEAR EDA D/S MASONARY DAM AND POWER HOUSE AND DEWATERING OF BUCKET NO. 4.

Probable Amount of Contract: - Rs. 290.06 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 13-06-2023, at 17.31 Hours, (IST) onwards.

**NOTE** :- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,**  
**MINIMATA BANGO DAM DIVISION NO. 03**  
**MACHADOLI (C.G.)**  
G-02098/2





## CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 11 No. 68

### Countering China

#### Strengthening Indo-US Defence Ties

In anticipation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to Washington, India and the United States have solidified their commitment to enhancing defence cooperation. The two nations have reached a consensus on a comprehensive roadmap for defence industrial collaboration, with the aim of expediting technology partnerships and co-production of vital military platforms, including air combat and land systems. As part of this collaboration, negotiations are set to commence on the Security of Supply Arrangement and a reciprocal defence procurement pact, both of which are geared towards promoting stability in the supply chain. Over the past decade, the defence ties between India and the United States have made significant progress, propelled by a series of crucial agreements. These include the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (2016), enabling both militaries to utilize each other's bases for repairs and replenishment of supplies; the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (2018), fostering interoperability and the transfer of high-end technology; and the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (2020), facilitating the sharing of cutting-edge military technology, logistics, and geospatial maps. Despite these noteworthy initiatives, it is important to acknowledge that the United States currently ranks third on the list of India's major arms suppliers, accounting for a mere 11 percent, significantly trailing behind Russia (45 percent) and France (29 percent). This statistic highlights the considerable ground the US needs to cover in order to become a more significant participant in India's defence imports and a substantial contributor to the 'Make in India' program. India's preference for Russian and French manufacturers is influenced by factors such as reliability, quality control, cost-effectiveness, and ease of conducting business. Therefore, the key to forging a stronger strategic cooperation between India and the US lies in facilitating technology transfer and fostering indigenous production capabilities within India. In the current geopolitical climate, characterized by China's increasingly assertive posture in the Indo-Pacific region, it is imperative that both India and the US intensify their efforts to overcome any obstacles hindering the growth of their defence relations. The rise of China presents shared security concerns, making closer collaboration a necessity. By leveraging their respective strengths, India and the US can enhance their defence capabilities and jointly address the challenges posed by China's growing influence. For India, strengthening defence ties with the United States offers a multitude of benefits. First and foremost, it enables access to advanced military technology, which is vital for maintaining a competitive edge in an ever-evolving security landscape. Collaborative ventures in research, development, and production can foster innovation and create avenues for India to become self-reliant in defence manufacturing. This aligns perfectly with India's ambitious 'Make in India' initiative, which seeks to transform the country into a global manufacturing hub. The United States, with its technological prowess and expertise, can play a pivotal role in assisting India in achieving this goal. Moreover, closer cooperation between India and the US can contribute to the overall stability and security of the Indo-Pacific region. A united front against common challenges, including maritime security threats and territorial disputes, would send a strong message of deterrence to potential adversaries. By deepening their collaboration, India and the US can develop a robust framework for joint military exercises, intelligence sharing, and coordinated responses to regional security crises. However, it is essential to address the existing barriers and concerns that have hindered the full realization of the potential in the Indo-US defence relationship. Complex bureaucratic processes, stringent export control regulations, and limited technology transfer have often impeded progress. A concerted effort is required to streamline these processes, enhance transparency, and foster an environment conducive to collaboration and partnership.

### Enhancing Banking Experience

#### Empowering Customers through RBI Panel Recommendations

The recently released recommendations of an expert panel established by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are a much-needed catalyst for improving customer service in the banking sector, non-banking financial companies, and other regulated institutions. With proposals ranging from penal action against entities failing to meet customer service standards to rewards for systemic upgrades, these recommendations have the potential to significantly enhance the banking experience for customers. The report outlines a series of customer-centric initiatives, including online settlement of claims by heirs of deceased account holders and greater flexibility in the submission of life certificates by pensioners. One of the key proposals is the establishment of a centralized know-your-customer (KYC) database, which would streamline the process and eliminate the need for periodic updates to halt account operations. This move would alleviate the inconvenience faced by customers when their accounts are frozen due to pending KYC updates. Additionally, the report emphasizes the need for timely return of property documents after the closure of a loan account. It suggests imposing penalties on lenders who fail to adhere to the specified time limit, ensuring that customers are not subjected to unnecessary delays and inconveniences. A critical concern highlighted by the panel is the lack of effective enforcement actions. To address this, the recommendations call for empowering the RBI ombudsmen to direct regulated entities to review complaints, take corrective actions, and ensure compliance. Customers often face frustrating delays and templated responses from call centers when resolving complaints. The report suggests implementing a dedicated interactive voice response system flow, along with an automated call-back feature in case a call is dropped midway. The focus, according to the panel, should be on clear communication between executives and customers, including the provision of services in regional languages. Furthermore, the recommendations propose mandatory soft skills training for staff members who interact with customers, ensuring that they possess the necessary communication and interpersonal abilities. These recommendations align with the global emphasis placed by central banking regulators on the development of a "treating customers fairly" framework. The report suggests making the Charter of Customer Rights enforceable after updating it to reflect the current banking landscape. Additionally, it advocates for the creation of a customer service and protection index to monitor and evaluate the performance of banks and financial institutions in providing quality customer care. As the RBI seeks public feedback on these proposals until July 7, it presents an opportunity for individuals to contribute informed inputs that can shape the future of banking customer service in India. Improving customer care and experience in the banking sector is of paramount importance. Customers are the lifeblood of any financial institution, and their satisfaction should be a top priority. The recommendations put forth by the expert panel aim to address the shortcomings and challenges faced by customers, providing them with a more streamlined and efficient banking experience. By holding entities accountable for their service standards, empowering regulators to enforce compliance, and investing in employee training and development, the RBI can foster a customer-centric banking ecosystem that instills trust and confidence among consumers.

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:editor@centralchronicle@gmail.com](mailto:emailto:editor@centralchronicle@gmail.com).

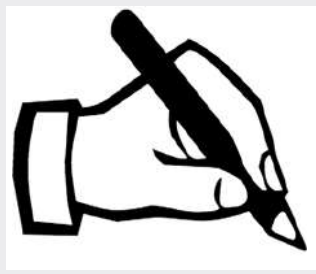
### HAJ PILGRIMS



Relatives watch Haj pilgrims leave for their annual pilgrimage to Mecca, from Haj House, at Bemina, in Srinagar, Wednesday, June 7.

## The Environmental Challenges of Highway Expansion

MANOJ KUMAR K. P.



#### Addressing Environmental Concerns with Green Highways Policy

The first Sustainability Report released by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) sheds light on these challenges and outlines the solutions formulated under the Green Highways (Plantations, Transplantations, Beautification, and Maintenance) Policy framework. The report, titled "Building a Sustainable Road Infrastructure: Sustainability Report for 2021-2022," acknowledges that forest clearance and tree felling are sometimes inevitable consequences of highway development, leading to environmental degradation, including biodiversity loss and carbon emissions. The report emphasizes that addressing sustainability challenges for highways requires multidimensional solutions, encompassing traffic regulation, electric mobility, fuel efficiency, and more.

#### Progress and Impact of Green Highways Initiatives

The report highlights the positive impact of the Green Highways policy, which has been in place since 2015. Over the past decade, plantation works along the National Highways have shown marked improvements, with designated green corridors facilitating carbon sequestration, reduction of air and noise pollution, and the provision of shelter for nesting birds. These efforts reflect a transition towards greater environmental sustainability. The report also references a study conducted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, titled "An Assessment of Avoided CO2 Emissions during Construction, Maintenance, and Operation of National Highways."

Highway expansion is often seen as a symbol of accelerated growth in a country, but it comes at a cost. The adverse impact on the environment, including forest clearance and tree felling, cannot be ignored. In India, highways and expressways, which constitute only 1.7% of the total road length, bear the burden of 40% of the country's road traffic. This disparity underscores the importance of highways and the increasing demand for their expansion. However, ensuring environmental sustainability during the construction of greenfield highways and the widening/development of brownfield highways presents enormous challenges.

The study evaluates the net greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the construction and maintenance of national highways.

#### Striving for Holistic Environmental Solutions

The study's findings shed light on the environmental impact of rapid highway construction and expansion. For instance, felling of trees and forest removal for highway construction has resulted in the emission of 653 thousand tonnes of CO2. However, the adoption of green practices has led to significant fuel savings. Under business-as-usual conditions, fuel consumption by vehicles would have reached 51 billion liters over a 20-year period. However, with the improved highways, petrol savings range from 2% to 21%, and diesel savings range from 1% to 42% across the 20 stretches assessed. These savings translate to an estimated avoidance of 25.19 million tonnes of CO2 over the entire 2,191 km of national highway stretches in a 20-year period.

#### A Call for Further Research and Regional Solutions

While these figures offer promising insights into the positive outcomes of green policies, further examination is needed to fully understand the complexities of environmental challenges posed by highway expansion. For instance, assessing the survival and growth of planted trees, particularly in the ecologically fragile northeast region, requires independent third-party assessments. Additionally, region-specific solutions should be developed by contrasting data on tree plantations with data on tree felling and biodiversity loss caused by construction and highway expansion. States in the northeast re-

gion can play a crucial role by supporting studies on the environmental sustainability of road networks and contributing to the creation of a robust data bank for informed policy decisions.

#### 6: Prioritizing Environmental Sustainability on a Global Scale

Climate change and the impact of global warming have pushed the environmental sustainability of highways/expressways to the center stage of policy discourse on road projects across the globe. Recognizing the importance of mitigating environmental risks, it is crucial for states in the northeast region and other areas to conduct thorough studies on the environmental sustainability of road networks, including state and national highways. By creating a comprehensive data bank, policymakers can make informed decisions regarding greenfield and brownfield road projects, tailored to the specific needs of each region.

#### Assessing Ground Realities and Ensuring Accountability

While the NHAI claims to have planted over 274 lakh plants on national highways since the adoption of the Green Highway Policy in 2016-17, it is essential to commission independent third-party assessments, supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC), to evaluate the survival and growth status of these plants. This evaluation becomes even more critical in ecologically sensitive regions like the northeast, where the impact of plantation efforts must be thoroughly analyzed to reflect ground realities. Furthermore, a comprehensive analysis of tree plantation data should be contrasted with information on tree felling and biodi-

versity loss resulting from highway construction and expansion. Adopting region-specific solutions based on localized data is imperative, moving away from a one-size-fits-all approach. Understanding the nuanced challenges faced by each region will facilitate the development of targeted strategies to minimize environmental impact and enhance sustainability.

#### The Role of Technology and Innovation

Technology and innovation play a crucial role in addressing the environmental challenges associated with highway expansion. Embracing advancements in electric mobility, promoting fuel-efficient vehicles, and implementing intelligent transportation systems can significantly reduce the carbon footprint of highway networks. Additionally, exploring alternative materials for road construction, such as recycled materials or eco-friendly alternatives, can further enhance the sustainability of infrastructure projects.

#### Subtitle 10: A Call to Action

As the urgency to address environmental sustainability grows, it is essential for policymakers, experts, and communities to come together and prioritize responsible development. It is not enough to view highways solely as facilitators of economic growth; they must be designed and managed with a keen focus on environmental preservation. By adopting a holistic approach that incorporates green practices, supports research and data-driven decision-making, and fosters collaboration among stakeholders, we can achieve a balance between infrastructure development and environmental conservation.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Strength mercury and air toxic standards

Along north Karnataka region, little Ashy crowned sparrows and brown shrike sparrows build their nests in houses of villages. Climate change has already caused their population to decline across the north Karnataka. But that's not the only threat they face. Mercury pollution especially from North Karnataka power plants deposits into our soil and water, and can make its way to little Ashy crowned sparrows and brown shrike sparrows habitat, forming toxic methylmercury. This gets into the birds' bloodstream from their food supply, negatively impacting the survival of their nests. The Environmental and Forest ministry should strengthen and update the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for power plants otherwise Methylmercury impacts not only sparrows but also other wildlife species reproduction, growth and development, behavior, immune response, and overall survival.

Dr. Vijay Kumar H K, Raichur, Karnataka

#### Embrace Plastic-Free Lifestyle

The Union Government's initiative to eliminate single-use plastic items through a comprehensive ban on their production, import, distribution, and usage highlights the urgent need to address the environmental consequences of plastic waste. The detrimental effects of littered single-use plastics on both land and water ecosystems have gained international recognition. Tackling the pollution caused by such plastics has become a pressing global environmental challenge. However, it is essential for every citizen to take personal responsibility and embrace a plastic-free lifestyle. By adopting a no-plastic policy, individuals can contribute significantly to preserving our environment for future generations.

MK Nair, Raipur

#### Encouraging Critical Thinking

The removal of important topics from NCERT textbooks raises concerns about the balanced approach to education. While avoiding excessive information is crucial for young minds, it is equally important to promote rational thinking. In order to combat pseudoscience and obscurantism, fostering a scientific temper becomes imperative. Students should be encouraged to develop an inquisitive mindset and the spirit of enquiry. Science academies play a vital role in formulating a comprehensive plan to propagate the scientific spirit in schools. This includes debunking superstitions, dispelling myths, promoting rational thinking, and bridging the gap between science and the general public.

Navneet Nair, Raipur

## PROTEST IN A SANE WAY

Kajal Chatterjee

Rape is rape. Irrespective of the age of the victim, it needs to be severely condemned with demand of exemplary punishment for the perpetrators. So I feel extremely disturbed when it gets heard following sexual atrocities upon any child. "How can even a child be...". Yes, not a single child should face such horror, but that same fate should not befall upon any adult as well. I wonder does rape of an adult then OK for such "protesters". Next, a political leader is notorious for addressing high-profile officers through their first name (no prefix or suffix) in meetings under full public and media glare. In response to it, many "sensitive" persons express shock - "How can IAS/IPS officers be called like this".

And I wonder "So no problem if any lower - cadre officer, peon or driver get beckoned through their first names only".

And right on this hypocrite perspective of "selective protests", I get shocked on hearing statements of "anguish" - "How can government treat the medal winners in such a disgusting fashion". What a bad "taste" subjected to the ear.

That means had the athletes been "medal losers", no problem. Had the protesting brigade been fruit vendors, poor labourers or house-maids - "no problem" if State agencies mistreat them. How can human rights or sense of honour of individuals depend upon presence or absence of mere medals in their kitty.

Our focus should be on the allegations of sexual atrocities lodged against a high profile person! We

should demand that person be tried in Court. We should protest when physical assault gets launched upon the athletes who are registering democratic protest in non-violent way. But by which logic, being "medal-winners" or "national-level athletes" get stressed repeatedly! Else it would get proved that the right for self-honour should remain the privilege of selected "elite".

Lastly, the protesting athletes who are always insisting - "We gave everything for India in sports field, we have brought medals and laurels for the country". I will respect their skills. I will respect their success.

But it also remains the fact that they have entered the athletic field (applicable for people of all sportspersons and profession) primarily for their own sake. To excel themselves in preferred field, to

win medals for themselves, to earn money and build career.

This is not a bit wrong, but hints of "I have entered the field of athletics judiciary medicine cinema business or government service to serve the nation" is indeed too much ridiculous and hard to digest.

If anybody is serving or had served, it is/was Mother Teresa, Kallash Satyarthi, Amartya Sen (through his deluge of charity and trusts), the faceless lady who educates the orphans and destitutes in railway platform in an absolute selfless way, often burning their own limited purses. Or those rarest of rare Doctors who serve the poor on a "princely" fee of Rs 1/- (One).

Unlike a citizen, a foreigner holds no right to vote in the host country or take up a Government job. But as far as the assurance to get protected from goons and rapists, a foreigner enjoys the

same right as a citizen. In the same vein, as far as getting protected from sexual predators or State agencies, the greatest of greatest athlete and a faceless poor brick kiln labourer must enjoy the same right and honour.

So enjoy your Bharat Ratna/Arjuna /Padma awards to the full; but do not expect any "special privilege" because as citizens of India, all are on the same platform in terms of demanding honour and security. As for the people who feel the pain of the protesting athletes, they should stop expressing silly sentiment of "They have won laurels for India" because at the end of the day, the poor rag picking lady in the slum also deserve your equal sympathy and support if that golden heart also gets violated. Protest, but in a sane logical way by exterminating all class-consciousness from mind.



**BRIEF**

**FDI destination**



**Mumbai:** Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said Maharashtra has topped in receiving foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country and critics who were claiming projects were moving out of the state should now remain silent. He also said the government has signed agreements worth Rs 71,000 crore with two energy companies for setting up hydro power plants with a total capacity of 12,450 MW and these projects are expected to generate employment for around 30,000 people. Speaking to reporters here after the signing of the agreements, Fadnis, who also holds finance and energy portfolios, said during the first three months of 2023, Maharashtra has topped in receiving foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country.

**Tourism industry**

**Kathmandu:** Prime Minister Pushpakamal Dahal "Prachanda" has urged foreign investors to invest in the tourism industry of Nepal, saying the government is fully committed to supporting the industry by improving infrastructure and providing competitive services. The Prime Minister made the remarks on Tuesday while inaugurating the three-day Himalayan Travel Mart organised by Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Nepal Chapter here.

**Biz corridor**



**Gangtok:** Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang urged the Centre to build an international business corridor in West Sikkim for improved connectivity with Nepal, which, he claimed, will boost development in the Himalayan state. Tamang also said the central government appeared to be keen to consider the project, keeping in view its benefits to the people of Sikkim and added that a decision would be taken in due course.

**Warranty programme**

**New Delhi, Jun 07:** Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) on Wednesday said it has unveiled an extended warranty initiative for all scooter and motorcycle models up to the 250 cc segment. The initiative enables customers to acquire an extended warranty within a flexible window of 91 days to ninth year from the date of vehicle purchase, the two-wheeler major said in a statement. The programme not only grants customers a comprehensive 10-year warranty coverage but also offers renewal options that remain transferable even in the event of a change in ownership, it added.

## Govt accords priority to keep prices under check: Goyal

New Delhi, Jun 07:

Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday said the government accords priority to keeping prices under check and that is the reason why inflation is low in India as compared to several developed nations. He said that a group of ministers regularly meets and discuss the price situation. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi gives priority to keep prices under check," Goyal told reporters here while briefing about increase of Rs 143 in the minimum support price (MSP) of paddy to Rs 2,183 per quintal for this year. He added that be-



fore 2014, the average inflation rate used to be at 10-12 per cent, but after the Modi government came to power the average rate of inflation in the last nine years has come down to 4.5 per cent. "On one side we are increasing MSP and

on the other hand, we have kept the inflation under control," he said. The prices in India are much lower when compared to most of developed countries, where inflation is in double digits.

Wholesale prices in India fell for the first time in almost three years in April, as softening global commodity prices brought down food, fuel, and other input costs for producers. Retail inflation declined to an 18-month low of 4.7 per cent in April mainly due to falling prices of vegetables, oils and fats, and came closer to Reserve Bank's target of 4 per cent, according to the government data.

## Maruti Suzuki drives in Jimny with price starting at Rs 12.74 lakh

New Delhi, Jun 07:

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Wednesday launched Jimny priced between Rs 12.74 lakh and Rs 15.05 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi), as it eyes the top slot in the robustly growing sports utility vehicle segment in the country.

The manual trims of the four-wheel drive model are priced between Rs 12.74 lakh and Rs 13.85 lakh, while the 4-speed automatic trims are tagged between Rs 13.94 lakh and Rs 15.05 lakh. The five-door model, which features a 1.5-litre petrol motor, will come in two trims — Zeta and Alpha, and will be sold



through Nexa dealerships. "The launch of Jimny (5-door) marks an exhilarating milestone in our SUV portfolio and will play an important role in our goal of becoming the country's largest SUV maker," MSI

Managing Director & CEO Hisashi Takeuchi said in a statement. India holds a significant position for Suzuki Motor Corporation not only as a domestic market but also as a global export base, he added. "It

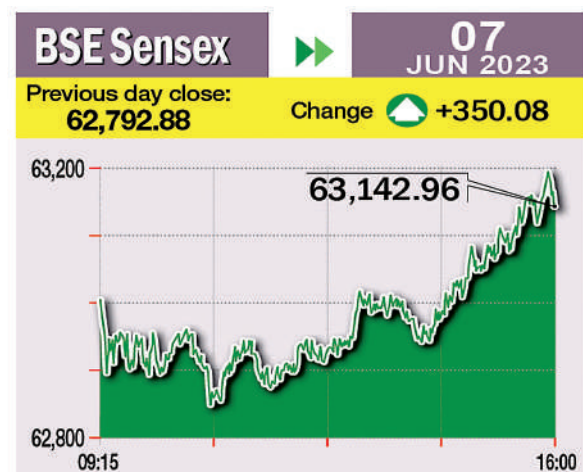
gives me immense pleasure to announce that India will proudly serve as the mother plant for the Jimny (5-door) and will be the first market for its launch. This truly reaffirms our commitment to Make-In-India for the world," Takeuchi noted. The Jimny comes with the ALLGRIP PRO (4WD) with low-range transfer gear (4L mode) offering extreme off-road ability. The model comes with a ground clearance of 210 mm. MSI said the automatic trims of the model offer fuel-efficiency of 16.94 km per litre and the five-speed manual variants come with 16.39 km per litre fuel economy.

## Markets climb for 4th day; Sensex rallies 350 pts to reclaim 63,000-mark

**Mumbai, Jun 07:** Benchmark equity indices ended with gains on Wednesday, logging their fourth day of rally amid fresh foreign fund inflows and a mixed trend in global markets. The gains in metal, realty, oil & gas and industrials stocks also supported the market's rally.

Rising for the fourth straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 350.08 points or 0.56 per cent to settle at 63,142.96. During the day, it jumped 403.55 points or 0.64 per cent to 63,196.43. The NSE Nifty advanced 127.40 points or 0.68 per cent to end at 18,726.40.

From the Sensex pack, Nestle, Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Bharti Airtel, Larsen & Toubro, Power Grid, NTPC, Tata



Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Infosys and Axis Bank were the major gainers. Kotak Mahindra Bank, Maruti, Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra and ICICI Bank were the laggards. In

Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the green, while Tokyo settled lower.

Equity markets in Europe were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended in positive ter-

ritory on Tuesday. The Reserve Bank's rate-setting monetary policy panel began deliberations on Tuesday and the decision would be announced on June 8. "Investors are becoming more optimistic due to the anticipation of a positive revision in the RBI's inflation forecast during the ongoing MPC meeting. It is expected that the RBI will maintain its pause on rate hikes, considering the significant improvement in inflation, which has now come within the RBI's comfort zone. "Furthermore, the participation of FIIs as net buyers, after a brief halt, contributed to today's market rally, particularly driven by mid-and small-cap stocks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

## India is a fantastic potential market but taxation higher: IATA chief

**Istanbul, Jun 07:** India is a fantastic potential market for aviation but not a cheap market to operate as taxation is higher in the country than in many other places, international airlines' grouping IATA's chief Willie Walsh said on Tuesday. During a media briefing here, Walsh also highlighted the scale of the economy and investments going into airports in India. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) is a grouping of more than 300 airlines, including Air India, IndiGo and SpiceJet. While responding to a query about a possible duopoly in the Indian airline market, Walsh said there is "plenty of scope for others (airlines) to compete in the market". "What you have in India is a fantastic poten-



The International Air Transport Association (IATA) Director General Willie Walsh, in Istanbul, Türkiye.

tial market. You look at the scale of the economy, investments going into airports... (but) India is not a cheap market to operate. "Taxation in India is higher than most places in the world. I think there is a lot of potential in India," he said. India is one of the fastest-growing aviation markets globally. Meanwhile, Walsh also said that he has no sympathy for airports and that they are profitable all the time. "Airports try to convince people that every new passenger I get means I have to increase my charges. That is complete nonsense. The more passengers you get, the lower your cost should be. What we have seen with airports is very high returns on capital way in excess of the cost of their capital," he said.

## Reliance Jewels unveils 'Vivaham Collection'

Mumbai, Jun 07:

Reliance Jewels, a renowned name in the jewellery industry, is delighted to announce the launch of its highly anticipated "Vivaham Collection" - an exquisite range of wedding jewellery designed to make every bride feel like a queen on her special day no matter what strata of life one comes from.

This collection pays homage to the diversity and elegance of regional brides across India, capturing their unique styles and inspirations. Incorporating the rich cultural heritage of various regions, the Vivaham Collection showcases 15 plus distinct bridal looks, each representing a different part of India. From the opulent Bengali bride to the resplendent Odisha bride, the ravishing



Maharashtrian bride to the elegant Rajasthani bride, the trendy metro bride to the dazzling Punjabi bride, the elegant Telugu bride to the gorgeous Bihari bride and many more mesmerizing and intricate looks that celebrate our country's rich culture and traditions of weddings.

Reliance Jewels has meticulously curated jewellery to complement

every bride's ensemble making it one stop shop for all bridal jewellery needs. The collection features a wide range of designs in chokers, long necklaces, bangles, rings, earrings, choker sets, mangalsutra's, mangtika's, naths, , hathphools, Waistbelts, armbands, bracelets and more. This diverse collection celebrates the brides of every region, creating an enchanting symphony of cultures and traditions.

"Our Vivaham Collection is a testament to the magnificence and diversity of Indian weddings," Mr. Sunil Nayak, CEO of Reliance Jewels, said. "We believe that every bride deserves to feel like a queen on her wedding day, regardless of her caste, age, socio-economic segment, or location.

## Amazon India launches 'Yoga store' to celebrate International Day of Yoga

Mumbai, Jun 07:

To celebrate and support the Government of India's vision of promoting 'Healthy and Fit India', Amazon India announced the launch of 'Yoga store' that brings an unprecedented selection of Yoga essentials from Indian sellers. Officially launched by Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of AYUSH and Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Government of India at a physical launch, the store not only extends an opportunity for customers to adopt a healthier lifestyle but also aims to boost the growth of emerging Indian brands and manufacturers in the health and fitness category.



Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of AYUSH and Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Government of India said, "Yoga is an ancient practice that promotes holistic well-being and aims to improve the overall quality of life. I am

pleased to be a part of the launch and would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Amazon India on the successful launch of the 'Yoga store-front' in alignment with honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji's vision of 'Healthy and Fit India'.

This is yet another significant contribution from Amazon India towards transforming and shaping the world of Indian e-commerce and entrepreneurship."

Manish Tiwary, Vice President & Country Manager, Consumer Business, Amazon India said, "We are excited to support the Government's vision to build a healthy and fit India. With our endeavor to provide high-quality yoga products, equipment and resources for our customers and support their physical, mental, and spiritual wellness, the Yoga store also reinforces Amazon India's commitment to nurture and support local manufacturers and sellers."

## India has one of the best airfare regimes; there should be no 'gouging': Akasa Air CEO

Istanbul, Jun 07:

India has one of the best airfare regimes in the world, but there should not be "gouging" in terms of ticket prices to take advantage of a particular situation, according to Akasa Air CEO Vinay Dube. His comments come against the backdrop of concerns about a steep rise in airfares in certain routes amid capacity reduction due to the Go First crisis and higher travel demand, and the government asking airlines to devise a mechanism to ensure a reasonable ticket pricing system. India is one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets, and domestic air traffic is recovering strongly after the coronavirus pandemic. Dube, also the founder of Akasa Air, said the civil aviation ministry has an excellent point in terms of



gouging and is not talking about average fares in India, like equivalent to USD 45 or 50, which is too high. "Gouging is what the government is worried about... as an airline fraternity, we should ensure that there is no gouging," Dube told PTI in an interview in Istanbul. He explained that gouging is a particular term used when anybody really jacks up the price of something to take advantage of a particular micro-environmental situation.

## 5 benefits of using digital payment methods in India

In India, cash transactions have been mostly affected by digital payments in recent years. The Indian government has implemented a number of schemes, including Digital India and demonetization, to encourage the adoption of digital payment methods. Furthermore, the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) trinity's unification is accelerating financial inclusion in India like never before. The Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana intends to give bank accounts to the unbanked, and Aadhaar, the Unique Identification Authority of India's flagship product, is a quick and easy way to confirm people and beneficiaries using their biometric data.

**In India, using digital payment systems has the following five advantages:**

- 1- Convenience:** Digital

payment options are more practical than older ones like cheques and cash. Payments can be made whenever you choose, without having to carry cash or go to a bank. Numerous digital payment options also include functions like mobile wallets, which let you save money and make purchases with a few simple clicks. Digital payment alternatives enable speedy and effective payments because transactions are completed in real-time.

- 2- Security:** Compared to cash transactions, digital payment systems provide a higher level of safety and security. Because transactions are encrypted and shielded by numerous levels of security, there is a reduced danger of theft and fraud. Digital payments create a digital trail that is simple to follow and keep an eye on. Merchants and customers can keep track of their

payments.

- 3- Cost-effectiveness:** Compared to traditional ways, digital payment methods are typically more economical. Digital payment options do not incur any additional fees, and transactions are processed swiftly. Additionally, since there is no need to handle cash, printing, shipping, and storing actual money are less expensive when using digital payments. Digital payment methods do not have additional fees, in contrast to conventional payment methods like cheques or wire transfers. This is due to the fact that electronic processing of digital payments eliminates the need for middlemen and lowers the overall cost of transactions.
- 4-Economic growth:** Digital payment systems promote economic growth by enhancing transparency and eliminating corruption. Financial trans-

actions may be tracked and monitored more easily because to the digital footprints left by transactions. This increases the nation's overall revenue by decreasing the black market and criminal activity. Financial transactions are more productive and efficient because to the use of digital payment systems, which also lower transaction costs. This is due to the fact that digital payment methods do not require manual processing, which cuts down on processing time and costs. India's businesses can now make tax payments digitally rather than manually thanks to the development of digital payment platforms and big data, which will allow them to save days, time, and money. Because digital transactions will make it easier for the government to keep track of things, this will aid the economy as well as the

government because it will reduce the cost of minting money.

- 5-Financial Inclusion:** Digital payment systems are a useful tool for financial inclusion, particularly for those who live in distant places. Banks are no longer required with digital payments, making it simpler for customers to obtain financial services. This supports financial inclusion and literacy and boosts the nation's overall economic prosperity. Indians are switching more and more to digital wallets since they can save their bank information, credit and debit card information, allow them to conduct financial transactions whenever they want, and make payments easily by centralising their cards and information.

By Harita Desai, CMO Mswipe Technologies









## Anjali Tatrari reveals what inspired her to take up her 'Vanshaj' role

Actress Anjali Tatrari, who will be seen essaying the role of Yuvika in the upcoming television show 'Vanshaj', has shared what inspired her to take up the role.

The actress, who has always been intentional in selecting characters that convey a message to the audience, found a perfect role in Yuvika's character.

She said, "Life sometimes places us in circumstances where we mature or grow up ahead of our time, and I can deeply connect with this as it reflects my own journey. I believe I matured and shouldered responsibilities at a young age, which aligns with Yuvika's trajectory. This character holds great significance as Yuvika challenges patriarchy and proves capability is supreme."

She further mentioned, "Both men and women should be given opportunities based on their potential. It is a role that exudes strength, and I have always been drawn to portraying such characters that inspire and leave a lasting impact on the audience. I am absolutely thrilled and excited to portray Yuvika's character, which possesses a remarkable strength and a relatability factor that resonates deeply." The makers also have revealed the set of

the show. It is designed to support the narrative of the show with modern architectural opulence. Be it props, furniture or aesthetic, all the elements align with the story of the show and convey the utopian business class feel.

Talking about her preparation for the part, the actress said, "In my preparation for Yuvika's character, workshops certainly played a part, but personally, I am committed to immersing myself in the script repeatedly to infuse nuanced details that bring the character to life, transcending mere fiction. For instance, Yuvika might freeze in a serious situation or become momentarily lost, unsure of her next move."

She added, "We have incorporated various elements into Yuvika's character, and honestly, there are numerous layers to her persona. Every day, I uncover something new about the character, continually adding dimensions to enhance its authenticity. Given the multitude of shades within the role, it feels like an evolving task, where the character undergoes changes with each passing day."

"Vanshaj" will air on Sony SAB on June 12 from Monday to Saturday.

## 'Can't wait to hear my grandfather's roaring voice in the theatres again'

In the year 2001, Sunny Deol and Amrish Puri gave Hindi cinema one of its biggest blockbusters till date - *Gadar: Ek Prem Katha*. The film is getting a sequel after 22 years that will release in August, 2023. But to create hype for the film, the makers are re-releasing the 2001 film in theatres on June 9. Amrish Puri's grandson Vardhan Puri is emotional and excited about it as he will get to hear his grandfather's voice once again on the big screen.

Talking about *Gadar's* re-release, Vardhan says, "It's an absolute joyous moment to know that *Gadar* is re-releasing in theatres after 22 glorious years. It's going to be something larger than life. Anil Sharma sir has re-mastered and reimag-



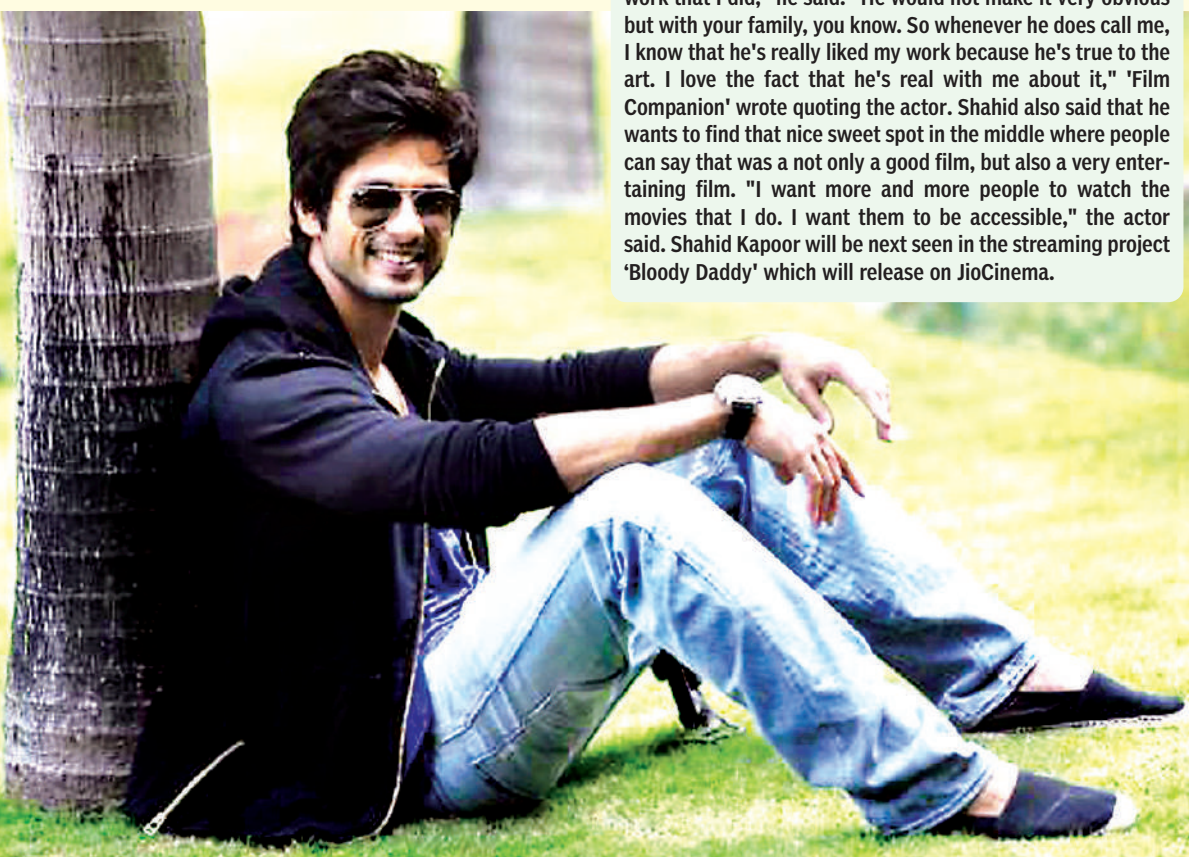
ined the film in 4K and Dolby Atmos sound effect. That's phenomenal. I cannot wait to watch the film in its renewed version with my family. It's going to be overwhelming."

Sharing his memory from the film's premiere

in 2001, the young actor revealed, "I still remember when we watched *Gadar* at a special preview in Mumbai, we were all short of words. It had released with 'Lagaan' which was also a great film. But the hysteria that *Gadar* had when it re-

leased was something special." Talking about his excitement to watch his grandfather on the big screen again, Vardhan says ecstatically, "I want to watch my Dadu on screen once again as the powerful antagonist with a beating heart for his daughter. I can't wait to hear his roaring voice in the theatres. When I watched 'Gadar' for the first time, I was a child, and for me at that point he was just my grandfather. Every time I saw the screen, I was only looking at him. This time it's going to be very different and I am sure 'Gadar 2' is going to be very special because I know the impact that 'Gadar' had on our Indian society and all the NRIs who live across the world and whose hearts beat for India."

## Was concerned about dad judging my choice to become a hero: Shahid Kapoor



Actor Shahid Kapoor has said that he was concerned about his father and veteran actor Pankaj Kapur judging his choice to become a hero. "My dad is Pankaj Kapur. The fact that I wanted to be a hero was because of my dad. I often wondered will he judge me for my choice of becoming an actor. One does get affected by what ones parents do," the actor said. Shahid said his mom (Neelima Azeem) is a phenomenal dancer and actor, while his dad is a legend as an actor. "My dad was supportive, but there were times when I could make out that he was not very happy with a film or the work that I did," he said. "He would not make it very obvious but with your family, you know. So whenever he does call me, I know that he's really liked my work because he's true to the art. I love the fact that he's real with me about it." 'Film Companion' wrote quoting the actor. Shahid also said that he wants to find that nice sweet spot in the middle where people can say that was not only a good film, but also a very entertaining film. "I want more and more people to watch the movies that I do. I want them to be accessible," the actor said. Shahid Kapoor will be next seen in the streaming project 'Bloody Daddy' which will release on JioCinema.

## Cycling leads to a Healthier Life!



It is well-known that regular physical activity, like cycling, protects against several serious illnesses. Anyone can easily incorporate this fun, low-impact cycling exercise into a daily routine. On World Bicycle Day, &TV artists talk about how cycling benefits them in staying fit. These include RJ Mohit (Manoj), Doosri Maa), Aaryan Prajapati (Hritik Singh, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan), and Aasif Sheikh (Vibhuti Narayan Mishra, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai). RJ Mohit, essaying Manoj in &TV's show Doosri Maa, shares, "I am passionate about bicycling and pedalling, and I am a professional cyclist actively engaged in cycling marathons and races. Cycling plays a significant role in my fitness regimen. Every morning, I kickstart my day by hopping on my bicycle, and I often rely on it for transportation whenever the need arises. Initially, I embraced cycling as a means to maintain my physical fitness. However, over time, it has transformed into something more profound for me—a form of therapy. When I'm cycling, my stress and anxiety melt away, replaced by a sense of happiness and contentment. Immersing myself in cycling helps me cultivate focus and heightens my awareness of the present moment, whether concentrating on the road ahead or maintaining a steady cadence. Notably, I can traverse more than 50 kilometres effortlessly, and my ongoing goal is to continually push my boundaries and increase my endurance." Tune in to Doosri Maa at 8:00 pm, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm, and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

## 'We marry into a family, it's no longer simply about you and your partner'

Sony Entertainment Television's 'Hum Rahe Na Rahe Hum' brings alive the clash of two diametrically opposite worlds; that of the larger-than-life royal family, the Barots, as well as that of the grounded, middle-class family of three and a half women – the Ahluwalias. Shivendra Barot (Jay Bhanushali), the first born of the Barot family, falls in love with Surilii Ahluwalia (Tina Datta) and after tumultuous twists and turns, they understand that they cannot live apart. Without his mother Damayanti's (Kitu Gidwani) approval, Shivendra brings Surilii to Ranagadh as his bride. The Barot mansion is shaken by this surprise and the arrival of Surilii promises to change everything.

Delving into how Surilii, a vibrant and modern thinking young woman, will fit into the royal way of living, while imbibing the values she holds dear, Tina Datta shares, "I wish love was enough to lead a happy life, but we marry into a family, it's no longer simply about you and your partner. Surilii understands the immense challenge she faces of being accepted into this royal family. However, she is delighted to find acceptance from

Shivendra's younger siblings and feels welcomed by them. Fans have loved the chemistry between Shiv and Surilii, and that will remain as her biggest support system in this rigid household will continue to be Shivendra."

Will Damayanti be able to accept the winds of change that Surilii brings with her?

Don't forget to tune in to **Hum Rahe Na Rahe Hum** every Monday to Friday at 9:00 p.m., exclusively on Sony Entertainment Television.



## 'Kathal' an effort to speak about absurdity of our reality: Guneet Monga Kapoor

Oscar winner Guneet Monga Kapoor has shared that her latest film 'Kathal', which stars Sanya Malhotra in the lead, is an effort to speak about the absurdity of our reality.

The film is a satirical comedy about a local politician whose prized jackfruits go missing and a young police officer (played by Sanya) is adamant to solve this bizarre case to prove herself.

The story is inspired by similar real-life incidents that have happened in the past, like an IAS Officer that cut practice sessions at a Delhi stadium short so that he could walk his dog.

Guneet Monga Kapoor, who has co-produced the film, said, "When Yashowardhan Mishra (director) and Ashok Mishra (the writer) approached us with the idea of 'Kathal', Achin and I instantly knew this was a project Sikhya



Entertainment could voice and lead. We made 'Kathal' with the hope of speaking about the absurdity of our reality, and with the headlines we're seeing now, it's all the

more validating that sometimes reality is stranger than fiction."

The movie also stars Anant V. Joshi, Vijay Raaz, Rajpal Yadav, Raghubir Yadav, Brijendra Kala, and Neha Saraf, in prominent roles.

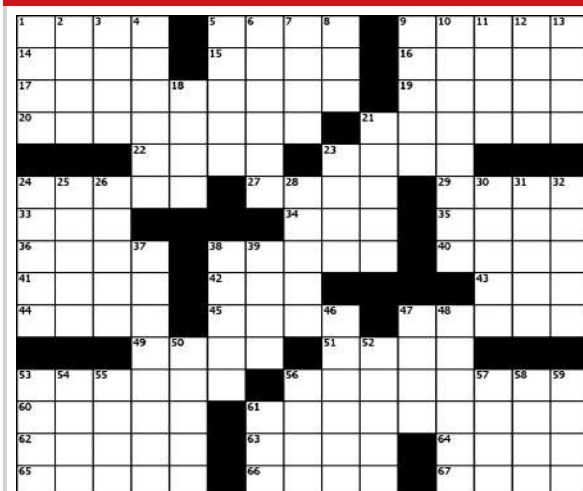
Director Yashowardhan Mishra said, "'Kathal' is a colourful bouquet of the bizarre that we see all around us nowadays. We wanted to make a sharp social satire which gently nudges the audiences towards critical thinking about the world we live in."

He added, "It's been really rewarding seeing the response and love for this quirky film of ours, and it's been an honour being able to tell this peculiar story based on true-ish events".

'Kathal - A Jackfruit Mystery', produced by Guneet Monga Kapoor's Sikhya Entertainment and Ekta Kapoor's Balaji Telefilms, is streaming on Netflix.

## CROSSWORD

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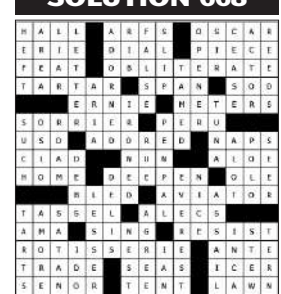


### ACROSS

- Inferno
- Gels
- Nighttime vision
- On a cruise
- Divya's speciality
- Musical show
- Comforted
- Prophetic signs
- Peacemaker
- Nasal sounds
- Water jug
- Passed effortlessly
- Leading actors
- Wise
- Greek deity
- Wee one
- Rec room
- Hot, molten rock
- Molecule part
- Remain
- Guess
- Festive occasion
- Wish undone
- Unwell

- House additions
- Toe trauma
- Got up
- Aberdeen native
- Behind schedule
- Hold up
- Capital of Hawaii
- Vote into office
- Wood-smoothing item
- Trumpet's sound
- Ocean movement
- Small city
- Made docile
- Pub potables
- Goals
- Level
- Dispirited
- Humming sound
- Redoes the kitchen
- For all time
12. Father's sister
- Army chow
- Cutting tools
- ... of the crime
- Old
- Phase
- Entire
- Coral island
- Goodbye, in Paris
- Proportion
- Track shapes
- Costly fur
- "The Texas Chainsaw ..."
- Criminal burning
- Ram into
- Fair-haired
- Upon
- Narrate
- Used footnotes
- Chile's mountains
- Unpaid bill
- She, in Valencia
- Group of players
- Ice pellets
- "Once ... a time..."
- Bawdy
- Coffee vessels
- Amtrak stop (abbr.)

### SOLUTION 668









## Head's counter attacking fifty lifts Australia to 170/3

London, Jun 07 (PTI):

Travis Head's counter-attacking 60 off 75 balls and Steve Smith's patient 33 in bright sunshine took Australia to 170 for three at tea on day one of the World Test Championship final against India here on Wednesday.

Head played in his signature style and took the attack to the Indian pacers after Australia found themselves under pressure soon after the lunch break with the fall of Marnus Labuschagne (26 off 62).

Mohammed Shami, who was not his absolute best in the morning session, bowled a beauty for his first ball post lunch to disturb Labuschagne's off-stump. The full ball jagged back in from the fourth stump to clip the off stump.

Head joined Smith in the middle and hit a flurry of boundaries against Shami and Mohammed Siraj to put the pressure back on India. He was quick to flick anything directed towards his pads and was equally sharp with the cut shots. Head brought up his 14th Test fifty with a crisp



India's Mohammed Shami celebrates after taking the wicket of Australia's Marnus Labuschagne.

backfoot punch off Shardul Thakur. Ravindra Jadeja was brought into action in the 39th over and hardly gave anything away in his seven overs.

Umesh Yadav was brought towards the end of the session but was not able to get the breakthrough. Australia managed to get 97 runs from 28 overs in the session. Earlier, Siraj breathed fire in his opening spell before Thakur got rid of a well-set David Warner to reduce Australia to 73 for two at lunch. Having survived chal-

lenging conditions in the first hour at The Oval, Warner (43 off 60) and Labuschagne were on course to see off the session until Thakur dismissed the left-handed opener with a short ball targeting his rib cage. Wicketkeeper KS Bharat took a well-judged catch down the leg-side.

India expectedly opted to bowl in overcast conditions and on a pitch with fair amount of grass. They made the tough call to leave out Ravichandran Ashwin from the playing eleven

for a four-pronged pace attack including Shami, Siraj, Yadav and Thakur.

Both Siraj and Shami kept Australia in check in the first hour, sharing six overs six each and conceding only 29 runs.

Siraj got more out of the surface than Shami by bowling with a scrambled seam. Usman Khawaja (0 off 10), who has an ordinary record in England, began the tour on a disappointing note as he got a faint edge off a ball that pitched outside the off stump and seamed away. There was minimal feet movement and he paid the price for playing away from the body and the nick was taken easily by Bharat behind the stumps. Warner, who has a point to prove in this game and cement his spot in the playing XI for the upcoming Ashes, battled with grit and took his chances every time he was offered width. After an engrossing opening hour, India took the foot off the pedal with Umesh Yadav offering plenty of scoring opportunities to Warner, who collected four boundaries off the pacer in the 15th over.

## Sri Lanka secures ODI series from Afghanistan after Chameera heroics



Hambantota, Jun 07 (PTI):

Sri Lanka bowled out Afghanistan for 116 and reached the target in only 16 overs to win their one-day international series 2-1 at Suriyawewa on Wednesday.

Sri Lanka made 120-1 to win by nine wickets.

Fast bowler Dushmantha Chameera, sidelined for eight months by an ankle injury, took a leading 4-63 to be named player of the third match, and six wickets in two matches to be named player of the series in his comeback. He missed the first ODI. Fellow quick Lahiru Kumara, recov-

ered from a hamstring strain, dismissed both openers and Chameera took out four of the top six batters. Legspinner Wanindu Hasaranga finished with three wickets after Afghanistan chose to bat first.

Afghanistan was all out in 22.2 overs. It was a poor effort on a good batting surface. Only three batters managed 20-plus runs amid too many soft dismissals.

Afghanistan lost opening batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz early again, trying to hook Kumara in the second over and top-edging to fine leg on 8. Chameera got Rahmat Shah and Hashmatullah Shahidi out

in the same fifth over, both to nicks, and Afghanistan was reduced to 77-6 with little resistance from the tail against the spinners.

Mohammad Nabi top-scored with 23. Sri Lanka wasted no time in chasing down the target. Openers Pathum Nissanka and Dimuth Karunaratne shared an 84-run stand.

Nissanka raced to his seventh half-century in just 32 balls with eight fours and two sixes. He was trapped on 51.

Karunaratne required 43 balls for his eighth half-century that included seven fours. Karunaratne was unbeaten on

56 when Sri Lanka secured the win with 34 overs to spare.

It was a good comeback from Sri Lanka after losing the first game by six wickets. The host won the second game by 132 runs and sealed the series with a nine-wicket win. It was their first come-from-behind series victory since 2014.

After successive half-centuries in his first ODI series in more than two years, Karunaratne appears to have secured a spot for the World Cup qualifiers that begin in Zimbabwe next week.

Afghanistan was already through to the Cricket World Cup in India in October.

## Sindhu's form not a concern, she remains one of India's best: Gopichand

Kolkata, Jun 07 (PTI):

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu's lack of consistency after coming back from an injury should not be a cause of "concern", feels chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand.

Sindhu suffered yet another first round exit on Tuesday when she lost to world number 1 Akane Yamaguchi in the Singapore Open.

"She's very young in saying that she's just 26-27. It's a good age, there is no reason for concern," Gopichand told PTI in a virtual interaction.

A silver medallist at the 2016 Rio Olympics and bronze winner in the Tokyo Games, Sindhu suffered an ankle injury in August last year to be slipped out of top-10 in the BWF women's singles rankings. She remained out of action for four months because of that injury.

Sindhu's final and semi-final finish at Madrid Spain Masters and Malaysia Masters respectively were her best results this season. She



reached a low with a first round exit at the Thailand Open when she lost to Canada's Michell Li.

But Gopichand, a former All England champion who guided Sindhu since she was 10 till she became an Olympic medallist, firmly believed she would bounce back stronger.

"She has come out on top in the six-eight months. She is starting to play well. I do expect her to play well in future. She is definitely one of India's bets for the future," Gopichand said. Terming it a mixed sea-

son for Sindhu, Gopichand said: "It's the beginning of the season and beginning of Olympic qualification. The results have been mixed so far.

"We have a lot of pressure on players to perform. We have to just back them up and hope that they are playing the big tournaments."

The high point of the season for Indian badminton was HS Prannoy's title win at the Malaysia Masters last month, the 30-year-old's first men's singles triumph since 2017 US Open.

"From our perspective in general, Prannoy winning in Malaysia was a good one that's something I'm really happy about. It's the beginning of the season, it's early.

"We have not done well at the Sudirman Cup, it was kind of a negative note. Lakshya Sen did well to get to the semifinals in Thailand, and I do believe that the next few weeks will be very critical and we have big tournaments coming up," said the 49-year-old Gopichand.

## West Indies clinch ODI cricket series in UAE with a game to spare



Sharjah, Jun 07 (AP): Shai Hope and Daren Sammy secured their first ODI series victory as West Indies captain and coach with a 78-run win over United Arab Emirates here. nWest Indies won Game 1 with 88 balls to spare and clinched the three-game series with one to spare after setting the UAE a target of 307 and then restricting the home team to 228 for 7 in 50 overs in Game 2 on Tuesday night.

Johnson Charles set the West Indies on course for a big total when he plundered eight boundaries and three sixes to reach 63 from 47 deliveries, sharing a 129-run opening stand with Brandon King before he was caught off Ali Naseer's bowling in the 17th over. King scored 64 from 70 deliveries to lead

the scoring for West Indies, while Keacy Carty (32), Hope (23) and Kavem Hodge (26) made contributions in the middle. Odean Smith belted 37 from 24 balls before being dismissed by Zahoor Khan (3-44) to end the innings in 49.5 overs with the total at 306. UAE lost wickets in the 4th and 9th overs and slipped to 52-3 at the end of the 14th.

Vriitra Avarind withstood to the early pressure to compile 36, while Basil Hameed (49) and Ali Naseer, who posted 57 from 53 balls, helped the home team bat through the full 50 overs.

Game 3 is scheduled for Friday in Sharjah, giving both teams more preparation for the World Cup qualifying tournament in Zimbabwe starting June 18.

## IPL is envy of world but Test format can't be sacrificed: Farokh Engineer

London, Jun 07 (PTI):

The IPL being the "envy of the world" delights former India wicketkeeper Farokh Engineer but he also wants the stakeholders to pull Test cricket out of "danger" zone, saying the traditional format can't be sacrificed for the sake of prospering slam-bang version of the sport.

While financially strong nations like India, England and Australia remain committed to Test cricket, players from smaller countries are preferring to ply their trade in franchise leagues around the world as they offer better money.

"Test cricket being in danger is not a good thing. It is good that the game is prospering all over the world through T20 leagues but Test cricket should never be sacrificed," Engineer told PTI.

"That is why the World Test Championship is a showcase to the world that Test cricket can be just as interesting as limited overs cricket. "It is a game of chess depending on the conditions. It is the



ultimate test for batters. There should be room for both Test and limited overs cricket," said the 85-year-old, who has travelled to London from his Manchester base to watch the WTC final between India and Australia.

The final is being played at The Oval, where India won their first ever Test in England back in 1971. Engineer had played a big part in that momentous win with a 59-run knock in the first innings.

It is remarkable that even at this age, Engineer continues to watch the game closely, including

the T20 leagues around the world, as he feels it is important to keep up with the times.

He played the game when cricketers earned Rs 50 a day, but he could not be more happy that the current generation is making millions in the IPL.

"India have taken a lead in Test cricket and in limited overs cricket we have IPL which is the envy of the world. Indian cricket holds the strings and that makes me hugely delighted," said of one of the few Parsi cricketers to have played for India.

## Pakistan don't want to play in Ahmedabad unless they are in WC final

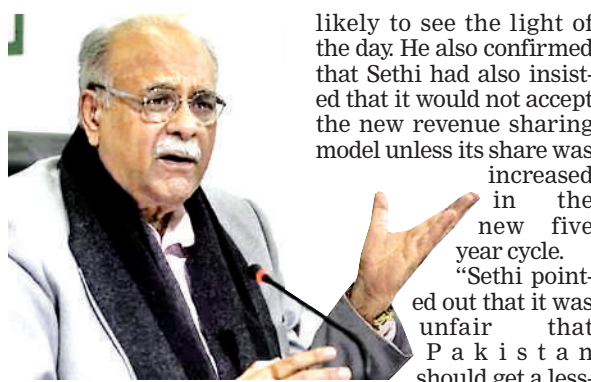
Karachi, Jun 07 (PTI):

The Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Najam Sethi has intimated his ICC counterpart Greg Barclay about his apprehensions about playing the World Cup match against arch-rivals India at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium, according to sources.

As it was reported by PTI initially, PCB wants its matches to be scheduled in Kolkata, Chennai and Bengaluru.

Barclay and ICC General Manager Geoff Allardice were recently in Karachi to seek assurance from PCB boss that they won't demand to play their ODI World Cup matches at a neutral venue since ACC is all set to reject its demand of playing Asia Cup on basis of 'Hybrid Model'.

According to a senior PCB source: "Sethi has conveyed to Barclay and Allardice that Pakistan doesn't want it matches to be scheduled in Ahmedabad unless it is a knock-out game like final." "He requested ICC



to schedule their games in Chennai, Bengaluru and Kolkata if national team gets clearance from Pakistan government to travel to India for the global event scheduled in October and November," the source added.

While Pakistan board is apprehensive about the security of its players if they have to play India in Ahmedabad, it must be mentioned that Inzamam ul Haq led side had played at the Motera during its 2005 tour to India.

The PCB official also informed that Sethi has asked ICC officials to convince BCCI to accept Pakistan's Hybrid Model for Asia Cup, which is un-

likely to see the light of the day. He also confirmed that Sethi had also insisted that it would not accept the new revenue sharing model unless its share was increased in the new five year cycle.

"Sethi pointed out that it was unfair that Pakistan should get a lesser share of the ICC revenues in the new cycle compared to Australia and England," the source said.

"Sethi argued that Australia and England regularly get to play bilateral series with India and their players also take part in the Indian Premier League which means extra revenues for the two boards from the IPL management," he added.

The BCCI and ICC officials who are presently in London for the World Test Championship Final are expected to finalize the schedule and venues for the World Cup in the next few days before it is circulated to the member/participating countries.

## India need a draw against Chinese Taipei to make SF

Kakamigahara, Jun 07 (PTI):

Unbeaten India would look to seal their semifinal berth when they face Chinese Taipei in their final pool match of the Women's Junior Asia Cup hockey tournament here on Thursday.

India have blanked Uzbekistan 22-0 and then registered a hard-fought 2-1 win over Malaysia.

In their last pool match they came from two goals down to salvage a point with a fighting 2-2 draw against Korea as India have two wins and draw to their name.

India are currently atop Pool A with seven points from three games and a draw against Chinese Taipei would be enough to seal a last-four berth.

Mumtaz Khan and Deepika have been brilliant for India scoring goals at will, while Deepika Soreng too has sparkled. Deepika's form can be ascertained from the fact she has scored in every single game of the

Women's Jr Asia Cup

## Novak Djokovic perfect in key tiebreaker

Paris, Jun 06 (AP):

Novak Djokovic has come back after dropping a set for the first time in the tournament to beat Karen Khachanov 4-6, 7-6 (0), 6-2, 6-4 at the French Open on Tuesday to reach his 45th career Grand Slam semifinal.

Roger Federer holds the men's record of 46 appearances in the final four of a major.

The victory over the 11th-seeded Khachanov, a semifinalist at the US Open last September and the Australian Open this January, put Djokovic in that round for the 12th time at Roland Garros. Only Rafael Nadal has done it more often, with 15 semifinals, he had arthroscopic hip surgery last week and is sitting out this edition of the clay-court major.

The number 3-seeded Djokovic now wants to see whether he will face number 1 Carlos Alcaraz next. Alcaraz, who beat Djokovic on clay at the Madrid Masters last year in their only previous encounter, was

ing that we remain steadfast against any opposition we may encounter. Regardless of the challenges we face, we are committed to giving our best and staying dedicated to our strategies," she added. Going by their recent form, India shouldn't face much trouble in defeating Chinese Taipei, who have so far won only one game out of three they have played in the tournament and are placed fourth in Pool A with just three points in their kitty.

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scheduled to meet number 5 Stefanos Tsitsipas in the last men's quarterfinal Tuesday night.

Number 2 seed Aryna Sabalenka and unseeded Karolina Muchova both reached the women's semifinals in Paris for the first time by winning earlier in the day. Sabalenka, the reigning champion at the Australian Open, eliminated Elina Svitolina 6-4, 6-4, then appeared at a news conference for the first time in nearly a week. Muchova defeated 2021 runner-up Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 7-5, 6-2.



## Kerala govt adopts divine route to fight climate change

Thiruvananthapuram, Jun 07 (PTI)

In God's Own Country, hopes for increasing the state's green cover spring from temple courtyards.

In its effort to tackle the impacts of climate change in Kerala, the CPI(M)-led government has launched an ambitious project to improve the green cover of over 3,000 temples being managed by five Devaswom Boards under its control.

Besides, the project also envisages preserving the water resources by renovating the abandoned temple ponds and protecting

the sacred groves in the state. The 'Devankanam Charitham' (Beautiful Green Abodes of God) project will be implemented in 3,800 plus temples across the state that are managed by five Devaswom Boards.

State Devaswom Minister K Radhakrishnan inaugurated the project on June 5 on the occasion of World Environment Day by planting a sapling in the courtyard of the headquarters of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) here. Travancore Devaswom

Board President K Ananthagopan said that an order in this regard has been issued and circulated to all devaswom boards in the state.

"The Devaswom boards in Kerala have several temples that have good land banks. So, our idea is to grow trees in these lands so that we can improve the green cover," Ananthagopan told PTI.

The temples will also plant various flowering plants and fruit-bearing trees in temple compounds so that they can also produce flowers and fruits for daily use in the

temple, helping these temples to be self-reliant, he said.

The TDB, which manages several temples, from the districts of Thiruvananthapuram to Ernakulam, has also directed all its assistant commissioners to collect data regarding the temple ponds that are in dilapidated condition.

"Temple ponds are a main source of water in various areas. So, these ponds will be renovated and preserved with funding from the government," Ananthagopan said.

## PROTEST MARCH



People from Manipur's Kuki community hold a protest outside Union Home Minister Amit Shah's residence against the ongoing violence in the northeastern state, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

## Efforts to rescue girl from borewell continue for second day

● Army joins operation

**Bhopal/Sehore (MP), Jun 07 (PTI):** More than 24 hours after a girl, aged around two-and-a-half-years, fell into a borewell in Madhya Pradesh's Sehore district, efforts to rescue her on still on with the task becoming more difficult as she slipped further down and stuck at a depth of nearly 100 feet, state Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Wednesday.

The girl fell into the 300-foot deep borewell in a field at Mungavali village on Tuesday afternoon.

Talking to reporters in Bhopal, CM Chouhan said, "The girl named Srishti

fell into the borewell around 1 pm on Tuesday and since then efforts were on to rescue her. She was initially stuck at the depth of about 40 feet in the borewell, but due to vibrations caused by the machines engaged in her rescue operation, she has slipped further down to about 100 feet, making the task more difficult."

"We have called an Army team for the rescue operation, while teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the State Disaster Emergency Response Force (SDERF) have already been working to rescue the girl," he said.

Efforts were on to bring out the girl safely, the CM

added. Meanwhile, district administration officials said oxygen is being supplied to the girl in the borewell through a pipe.

Nearly 12 JCB and Poclain machines are currently engaged in the rescue operation. An Army team has also reached the spot and joined the rescue operation, official sources said. CM Chouhan and a team of officials are also in touch with the district authorities to supervise the rescue operation, they said. State Home Minister and government spokesperson Narottam Mishra said the presence of hard rocks is creating obstruction in carrying out the rescue operation.

## After 'purple revolution', CSIR scientists focus on medicinal properties of lavender

Bhaderwah, Jun 07 (PTI)

The 'purple revolution' that started with farmers planting lavender in the picturesque slopes of this Jammu and Kashmir town is gathering steam with scientists at the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine studying the medicinal properties of the aromatic, flowering plants.

Scientists at the Jammu-based institute are focusing on the residue left behind after oil is extracted from the flower using a steam distillation process known as 'marc'.

This could be a game changer for the many farmers of what has come to be known as 'Lavender Valley', named after the rows of purple-tinted blossoms colouring the hilly slopes of this town.

"Lavender oil already fetches farmers Rs 10,000 per litre, but we are now focussing on some value-addition interventions and also studies on the waste of the oil extraction process," Zabeer Ahmed, Director of the CSIR-IIIM, told PTI here.

Farmers in this idyllic town surrounded by the Sonbain and the Ashapati glaciers in the

Himalayan ranges have embraced lavender farming with gusto since 2017 when the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research launched the Aroma Mission to harness the benefits of essential oils from aromatic plants.

Lavender oil has a calming effect and is a stress buster, besides being used in perfumes and cosmetics. The CSIR-IIIM has also tied up with the Hyderabad-based CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology to study the use of lavender oil in treating sleep disorders. "We are trying to iso-

late and characterise what kind of molecules are present in the marc. Our scientists have isolated a couple of molecules. These molecules are new. We are doing bioactivity such as anti-cancer activity on these molecules," Ahmed said.

"The kind of molecules we are getting from the marc, definitely some new finding may be there in the future," he said. The health benefits of 'marc', if proved effective, could turn out to be a money spinner for the farmers. The other byproduct of the steam distillation process is hydrosol, or

lavender-scented water, which can be used in making room sprays, bathroom fresheners and body sprays. Even dried stalks of lavender flowers have a good market as they retain their fragrance for two years.

Besides lavender, the Aroma Mission aims to inject scientific research and development into the cultivation of aromatic plants such as rose, lemon grass, rosemary and wild marigold.

The CSIR laboratories involved in the mission provide free quality planting material to small and marginal farmers.

## New course at IIT-M aligns with Centre's mission

● To make India electronic hub

Chennai, Jun 07 (PTI)

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras here on Wednesday unveiled a new four-year online course on electronic systems in alignment with the Centre's mission to make India a global hub for electronic manufacturing.

The full time course would enable students to take up a career in various sectors including electronics, semiconductor, defence, and automotive, officials said.

Noting that majority of courses offered in the country were service sector oriented, IIT-M professor electrical engineering

department Andrew Thangaraj said companies like Samsung have their own equipment but avail service from other countries including India.

"This programme aims to create our own electronic equipment indigenously instead of importing the devices from other countries," Thangaraj, also the associate chair of Centre for Outreach and Digital Education (CODE) at IIT-M told reporters.

The programme aligns with the India's semiconductor mission to make India a global hub for electronics manufacturing and design, he said.

The Centre for Outreach and Digital Education (CODE) at IIT-M is already offering BS degree course on Data Science.

Semiconductor industry has emerged as one of the most important sectors and is a major contributor to the global economy, employing millions of people and generating billions of dollars in revenue every year, he added.

Elaborating, Thangaraj said the course would be offered in three streams — foundation (one year), diploma (two years) and degree (four years) priced at Rs 80,000, Rs 2.48 lakh and Rs 5.84 lakh, respectively. "Scholarships up to 75 per cent would be provided to students if their family income is less than Rs 5 lakh", he said.

Candidates who apply would be provided access to four weeks of content taught by IIT Madras faculty and on conclusion of

the course, examinations would be conducted based on the content, he said.

To a query, Thangaraj clarified that unlike the existing requirement of clearing Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) to take up a course in IIT-M, students can pursue the courses as per their convenience without JEE requirement.

"Other IITs present in the country are still in the conceptual stage of launching these kind of courses whereas we are the first to launch this course on electronic systems", he said.

While classes would be conducted through online mode, examinations would be held offline at the campus of IIT Madras, he said and added the institute has re-

ceived about 700 applications so far.

Citing a report of the Tamil Nadu government backed Guidance Tamil Nadu, a press release from IIT Madras said the Tamil Nadu Electronics Hardware Manufacturing policy seeks to increase the electronics industry output to USD 100 billion by 2025, accounting for 25 per cent of the total electronic exports from the country.

"There is a huge potential for manufacturing in electronics not only for India's needs but exports to the global market. By acquiring the fundamentals and skills, graduates of this BS Electronics Systems programme will be able to serve in multiple industries..." Thangaraj said.

## 'Leave bats alone in their habitats for a pandemic-free future'

New Delhi, Jun 07 (PTI)

Scientists make the case that pandemic prevention requires a global taboo or ban whereby mankind agreed to leave bats alone, to let them have the habitats they need, undisturbed, in a study published in the journal The Lancet Planetary Health.

The researchers from Cornell University, US, along with those from Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), US, say that while we may never know the exact means by which a bat virus, to which the COVID-19 pandemic and SARS coronavirus outbreak of 2003 can be traced, we do not

need to know all of the details in order to act.

Bats are known to be a source of rabies, Marburg filoviruses, Hendra and Nipah paramyxoviruses, coronaviruses such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) Coronavirus, and fruit

bats are strongly believed to be a source of Ebolaviruses.

This analysis, the researchers said, points to the value of humanity globally not fearing them or trying to chase them or culling them, all of them being activities only serving to disperse them and increase the odds of a

zoonotic spillover.

They emphasised that humanity simply must take the most basic, common-sense upstream steps to lower our risk of incurring another pandemic - at the interface where dangerous viruses can actually move from animals into people. "In a globalised world with 8 billion people, we can no longer ignore our interconnectedness with the wildlife and ecosystems around us. We must change humanity's relationship with nature if we want to prevent the next pandemic of zoonotic origin - and that can start with bats," said Susan Lieberman, WCS's Vice President for International Policy.

## CYCLONE PREPARATION



Fishermen pull out a boat towards the shore as the region braces for Cyclone Biparjoy after it turned into a severe cyclonic storm, in Vasai near Mumbai, Wednesday.

## Up Coromandel Express leaves Shalimar 5 days after Balasore accident

Shalimar, Jun 07 (PTI):

Five days after the Shalimar-Chennai Coromandel Express met with an accident in Odisha's Balasore killing 288 people, the Up train chugged off from Shalimar station here at 3.25pm on Wednesday, five minutes behind the scheduled departure time.

As soon as the train pulled in on platform 2, there was a mad scramble to get into the general compartment and soon every nook and cranny of the two general second class coaches got filled up with people and their luggage. Ranjit Mondal, whose son has been missing since the June 2 accident, boarded the train to go to Bhubaneswar to look for his son again.

Mondal from Sandeshkhali said his 18-year-old son Dipankar had

boarded the ill-fated train with his friends to look for a job in Chennai.

"His phone has been ringing since the accident but no one is picking it up. I spoke to him minutes before the accident. He is yet to be tracked and I decided to look for him again," he said. Swati Chamoli, who is also travelling in the train, said, "I'm travelling for work to Chennai. Let's hope the journey goes on safely." Paromita, who is also on board the train, said, "I hope nothing goes wrong now. There is a fear at the back of my mind, but hope the journey is safe." Another passenger Manik Bauri, who stood sweating with scores of others in a serpentine queue at the station, is a cook by profession and is travelling to Chennai to rejoin work. While some lucky passengers have managed to secure reserved berths on

this train with a huge waiting list, many others such as Bauri are travelling by an unreserved coach. "I am scared the TV grabs from the accident last Friday are fresh on my mind. But I have a job in a guest house as a cook and my employers will dock my pay if I delay getting back to work," he said. Most of those who stood in the queue for the general coach were labourers, cooks, restaurant workers and drivers travelling to Chennai, Vizag and other industrial cities, to join or rejoin work. "We got to know that this train would run on Wednesday quite late. No reservation was available. But getting there (to Chennai) is essential as our families depend on our earnings. So we have to go whichever way we can, however we can," said Bauri, while a fellow

passenger nodded in agreement. Some with no place to sit are left standing. Said Raju Pal, from Gangesagar in the Sunderbans delta, "there is no point waiting in Bengal I have to go. Yes, I am uneasy after the accident, but I have travelled by this train for 12 long years. This will be just another journey."

**सर्वप्रथम अत्याधुनिक**

(अल्ट्रागार्डन) बर्न युनिट

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हेपा फिल्टर/लेमिनर  
फ्लो 100% जीवाणु  
रहित ब्ल्यास केबिन.

**डॉ. न. शासन से मान्यता प्राप्त**

**कालडा बर्न एव**

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