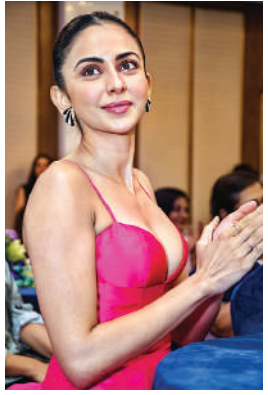


### BRIEF



Bollywood actor Rakul Preet Singh during announcement of the India Couture Week 2023, in New Delhi, Monday.

### Watery grave

**Mumbai:** Four persons are feared drowned and two were rescued after a group of people ventured into the rough seas at Juhu here on Monday, a civic official said. The incident occurred at Juhu Koliwada in the western suburbs, where six people had ventured into the sea around 5.30 pm, he said.

### Prohibit

**Bhubaneswar:** Ahead of Lord Jagannath's annual Ratha Jatra on June 20, Puri police has banned flying drones near the 12th century shrine, an official said on Monday. The restriction will be in force till July 1, the official said, adding legal action will be taken against violators.

### Trial run

**Ranchi:** The Patna-Ranchi Vande Bharat Express successfully completed the first phase of its trial run on Monday. The semi high-speed train, which arrived here around 12.40pm from Patna, left for the Bihar capital on its return leg at 2.20pm, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of Ranchi Railway Division Nishant Kumar told PTI.

### Recovered

**Bahraich:** A man allegedly in possession of charas worth Rs 3 crore in international market was arrested near the Indo-Nepal border here, a senior police official said on Monday. During patrolling by a joint team of police and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) in Rupaidiha Police Station area of the border on Sunday evening, a man coming from the Nepal side was stopped, Superintendent of Police Prashant Verma said.

### Cancelled

**Guwahati:** The Jalpaiguri-Dhaka-Jalpaiguri Mitali Express have been cancelled by Indian Railways due to the forthcoming Eid Festival in Bangladesh, a North East Frontier Railway release said on Monday.

### Protest

**Hisar:** A number of students of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHU) here protested in front of its administrative block building on Monday against the fee hike for various courses from the new academic session.

**Weather**  
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# Govt imposes stock limit on wheat

■ Till Mar 2024

**New Delhi, June 12 (PTI):** For the first time in 15 years, the government on Monday imposed stock limits on wheat with immediate effect till March 2024 in a bid to check hoarding and contain rising prices of the key commodity.

The government also decided to offload 15 lakh tonnes of wheat to bulk consumers and traders from the central pool from month-end under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS). Apart from wheat, rice will be offloaded to bulk buyers under the OMSS and the quantity will be decided in due course of time.

The government made it clear that it has no plans to tweak the wheat import policy as the country has ample stock. It further said the ban on wheat export would continue and

## Govt to offload 15 lakh via OMSS to check prices

The reserve price of wheat has been fixed at Rs 2,150 per quintal for Fair and Average Quality (FAQ) grain and Rs 2,125 per quintal for under relaxed specifications (URS) and applicable till December 31. Whereas the reserve price of rice has been fixed at Rs 3100 per quintal for private parties and the rate is applicable up to October 31, he added. Citing reasons for selling rice via OMSS, the Secretary said there has been 10 per cent increase in prices in the last year. "We assume in sinc with wheat, some people may link with rice and this is just the signal we are giving to the market and I think public stock holding everyone is aware. We will dispose so that prices are tapered." Asked if the stock limit on wheat was imposed to shield the market from the price rise crisis before the Lok Sabha polls, the Secretary said, "Wheat starts coming to the market from April 1. Once it comes to market, there is no need to impose stock limits.

further export of sugar will be not permitted as of now.

The stock limit on wheat has been imposed until March 2024 just before the commencement of General Elections to control prices. Last time, the stock limit was imposed in

2008. Briefing media, Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra said the stock limit has been imposed on wheat because some "unscrupulous elements are holding the stock and creating artificial scarcity" driving mandi prices up by almost 8 per cent in the past

month. "The wholesale and retail prices have not gone up to that much. With the lag, we expect the wholesale and retail prices will also go up as modal mandi prices are showing up-swing. The government has imposed stock limit on wheat..." he said.

Wheat prices in mandi rose to Rs 2,302 per quintal on June 7 from Rs 2,129 per quintal a month before.

A stock holding limit of 3,000 tonnes has been imposed on wheat traders/wholesalers; 10 tonnes on retailers, 10 tonnes for each outlet of big chain retailer and 3,000 tonnes at all their depots. In the case of processors, 75 per cent of annual installed capacity, he said.

They have been directed to declare the stock position and update them regularly on the portal of the Department of Food and Public Distribution.

### SSB personnel injured in accidental firing

**Kanker, Jun 12:** A constable from the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) sustained a bullet injury when he accidentally fired his INSAS rifle in Kanker district on Monday, police said.

The incident took place when a team from the SSB was heading to Antagarh town in the district to provide security at the railway station this morning, an official said.

According to the police, the firing occurred near the railway tracks in Tumpal, around 200 km south of state capital Raipur. "Constable Indrajeet Yadav accidentally fired his INSAS rifle and sustained a bullet injury to his shoulder. He was immediately rushed to the community health centre in Antagarh," sub-divisional officer of police Amar Sidar said.

Yadav's condition is stable and he has been referred to Raipur for better treatment, he said.

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## Woman Naxalite gunned down in encounter

**Kanker, Jun 12:** A woman Naxalite was killed in a gun battle with security personnel in the forests of Kanker district on Monday, a police official said.

The gunfight took place at around 7 am in the forest near Binagunda village under Chhotethiya police station limits when security personnel were out on an anti-Naxalite operation. Inspector General of Police (Bastar range) Sundarraj P said.

"The operation was launched on Sunday based on inputs about the pres-

### About the encounter

The gunfight took place at around 7 am in the forest near Binagunda village under Chhotethiya police station limits when security personnel were out on an anti-Naxalite operation. After the exchange of fire stopped, the body of an unidentified woman Naxalite clad in 'uniform' was found along with a .303 rifle close by.

ence of Naxalite leaders belonging to Rajnandgaon-Kanker border division (RKB) and 20 to 25 armed cadres.

## Bike-taxi can't run in Delhi for now: SC

**New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):**

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the High Court order that essentially allowed bike-taxi aggregators Rapido and Uber to operate in the national capital by asking the Delhi government not to take any coercive action against them till a new policy was formulated.

A vacation bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Rajesh Bindal granted liberty to the two aggregators to request urgent hearing of their pleas by the Delhi HC. The bench, which stayed the May 26 order of the Delhi HC, also recorded the Delhi government counsel's submission the final policy will be notified before July-end. The

top court was hearing two separate petitions by the AAP government challenging the High Court order that no coercive action should be taken against the bike-taxi aggregators until the final policy was notified. Last week, the top court had sought a response from the Centre on the pleas of Delhi government. Earlier, senior advocate Manish Vasishth, appearing for the Delhi government, said the high court's decision to stay the government's notice till the final policy is notified is like virtually allowing Rapido's writ petition.

On May 26, while issuing a notice to the Delhi government on Rapido's plea challenging a law that excludes two-wheelers from

being registered as transport vehicles, the high court directed that no coercive action should be taken against the bike-taxi aggregator till the final policy was notified.

The high court, which listed Rapido's plea on August 22 before the registrar for completion of pleading, said, "The counsel for the petitioners (Rapido) submits that policy is under active consideration." "Accordingly, we hereby stay the notice and make it clear that the stay shall operate till the final policy is notified. However, once the final policy is notified, if the petitioners are still aggrieved, they are at liberty to take steps before the appropriate forum," the high court said.

## Farmers block Delhi-Chandigarh highway over MSP

**New Delhi, Jun 12:**

Traffic on the Delhi-Chandigarh National Highway was disrupted on Monday as farmers gathered there after holding a mahapanchayat in this district to press for minimum support price for sunflower seed.

Apart from leaders of various khaps and Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait, Olympic medal-winning wrestler Bajrang Punia, one of the grapplers who have been demanding action against outgoing Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, were present at the mahapanchayat. The "MSP Dilao, Kisan



Farmers gather on the road to hold Mahapanchayat over their demand for the minimum support price for sunflower seed, in Kurukshetra, Monday.

Bachao mahapanchayat", called by Bharatiya Kisan Union (Charuni), was being held at a grain market in Pipli close to National Highway-44 which was blocked by farmers a few days ago demanding that the government procure sunflower

seed at MSP. After the mahapanchayat the farmers started marching towards the highway. Farmers led by Bharatiya Kisan Union (Charuni) chief Gurnam Singh Charuni had June 6 blocked the national highway near Shahabad for over six hours demanding

that the government procure sunflower seeds at minimum support price (MSP). Police used water cannons and resorted to lathicharge to disperse the protesters. Later, nine BKU (Charuni) leaders, including its president, were arrested over various charges, including rioting and unlawful assembly.

Addressing the mahapanchayat, some farm leaders criticised the government for its "anti-farmers" policies and police actions against their leaders. They demanded that the government procure sunflower seeds at MSP and that the protesters arrested in Shahabad recently be released.

## WELCOME RAINS



People cover themselves with umbrella during rainfall, in Kochi, Monday.

## Five railway employees under scanner

**Bhubaneswar, Jun 12:**

Five railway employees, including the station master of Bahanaga Bazar, are being investigated in connection with the three-train accident in Odisha's Balasore district that claimed 288 lives, official sources said on Monday.

The four other employees perform signalling-related job and were on duty at the time of the accident earlier this month, they said.

The sources said the five employees are discharging their duties at present and any future action would depend on the accident probe report prepared by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS).

### For Balasore triple train crash

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is conducting a separate probe into alleged criminal negligence leading to the accident at Bahanaga Bazar station on June 2.

Railway ministry officials have indicated a possible manual tampering of the interlocking system which turned the signal for the Coromandel Express to green and guided it to the loop line where it collided with a stationary goods train.

An interference with the interlocking system, which is an automated signalling system, is being

seen as the major cause of the incident. "Five railway personnel are currently at the centre of the probe. A final report from the CRS is expected soon," a senior rail official, who did not wish to be named, said.

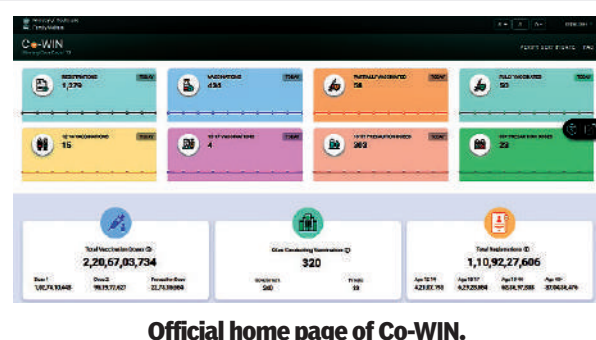
Three possible scenarios are being probed — whether the tampering of the system was intentional or by mistake or a consequence of maintenance work underway in the area — the sources said.

Meanwhile, two rail workers' unions have come out in support of the national transporter amidst harsh criticism from the Opposition parties over the accident in which more than 1,000 people were injured.

## Govt seeks report from CERT-In

**New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):** Amid reports of alleged breach of data on the CoWIN platform, Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Monday asserted that it does not appear that Cowin app or database has been directly breached, and added that Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) immediately responded and reviewed the matter.

The Minister of State for IT further said the National Data Governance policy has been finalised that will create a common framework of data storage, access and security standards in the country.



"With reference to some alleged Cowin data breaches reported on social media, @IndianCERT has immediately responded and reviewed this," Chandrasekhar tweeted.

A Telegram Bot was throwing up Cowin app details upon entry of phone numbers, he said.

"The data being accessed by bot from a threat actor database, which seems to have been populated with previously breached/stolen data stolen from past. It does not appear that Cowin app or database has been directly breached," the minister said clearing the air.

### Govt refutes claims

The government on Monday said reports claiming a breach of data of beneficiaries registered on the CoWIN platform were "mischievous" and "without any basis", and that the matter has been reviewed by the country's nodal cyber security agency CERT-In.

The clarification came after reports earlier in the day suggested CoWIN (Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network) data breach, which reportedly allowed access to certain personal information that an individual gave on the government's portal for vaccination.



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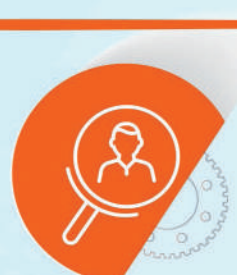
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# SEFI pays courtesy call on SAIL Chairman

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 12:** SEFI office bearers met the newly appointed SAIL President Amalendu Prakash in Delhi and congratulated him on assuming the post. SEFI office bearers expressed hope that under the leadership of Amalendu Prakash, SAIL would scale new heights in production, productivity and profitability.

In this meeting, SEFI President Narendra Kumar Banthore discussed with SAIL President the challenges and their possible solutions as well as smart working and leadership development.

For the welfare and well-being of the employees, SEFI had a detailed discussion with the SAIL President on many pending issues of the personnel,

mainly the issues of Special Allowance (DASA), House Allowance, Incremental PRP, SAIL Pension, Company Quarters for Mines Officers, work life balance and optimum use of resources.

It needs to be mentioned here that the personnel in SAIL are still waiting for the resolution of many issues, including the special allowance of mines officers which was stopped from 29 September 2022. In the second pay revision, 10 percent of the basic salary was given as special allowance to the employees working in SAIL mines by declaring SAIL mines as inaccessible areas.

This allowance is currently stopped in SAIL. In the report of the Third Pay Revision Committee, it has been recommended to continue the same provision

for service in remote and far-flung areas. The special allowance has been continued with reference to the previous orders issued by the Ministry of Steel.

In a recently issued order dated 29 September 2022, SAIL has been directed to stop the special allowance received for service in remote areas. SAIL mines are mostly located in remote locations and affected by Naxalism with lack of basic facilities like medical, education and township.

At present, the officers working in the mines are demoralized due to non-reinstatement of special allowances, which may have an impact on the perform-



ance of the company. Therefore, 'DASA' is very necessary to increase the morale of the officers of the mines to maintain the company's performance better, SEFI officials stated.

SEFI Chairman requested an adjustment of incre-

mental benefit in the calculation of DPE as per DPE guidelines. He said that in the financial year 2017-18, SAIL declared a total loss before tax of Rs 759 crore and in the year 2018-19 declared a total profit before tax of Rs 3338 crore.

They demanded a calculation of PRP based on incremental profit, which is the profit of turnover in SAIL. All the officers can be encouraged by giving incremental PRP.

SEFI Chairman urged SAIL Chairman to give necessary guidelines for implementation of Uniform HRA Policy in SAIL. In the year 2013, by a disputed order by the then SAIL management, with immediate effect, the management had stopped taking new applications for HRA, as a result of which discrepancy has arisen in the HRA eligibility of the personnel.

The employees who have shifted to their private

houses after 2013 are not being given HRA. BSP houses are more than 50 years old which are not suitable for living. Under these circumstances, those workers who have constructed and shifted to their own houses, are feeling cheated.

Due to non-receipt of HRA, these personnel are facing inconvenience in repaying the housing loan. SAIL Chairman has been requested to implement a uniform HRA policy across the company.

SEFI President raised objections to the "Fast Track" promotion being given in the new promotion policy and said that no officer has been given grades that fulfill the qualifications of "Fast Track" in any of the plants of SAIL.

The benefits of such schemes will be available

only to the people posted near the main offices and power centers and the officers working hard for the company will not be benefited. Therefore, "fast track" should be removed from the promotion policy with immediate effect and attention should be paid to making the leadership in the company advanced and effective.

SEFI held a detailed discussion on renovation of company quarters in all the units of SAIL, plans to construct new houses in a systematic manner, maintenance of city services etc.

SEFI discussed necessary improvements in medical services in all units of SAIL and MoUs etc with big medical institutions. SEFI President Narendra Kumar Banthore and General Secretary Akshay Malik were present.

# ED nets Liquor Transporter from crematorium

**Absconding transporter had come to perform last rites of his mother**

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 12:** On Monday, a team of Enforcement Directorate reached Ramnagar Muktidham in search for an absconding transporter involved in the transportation of liquor. He had come to the crematorium to perform the last rites of his mother.

The ED team allowed him to perform the last rites and thereafter took him to the ED office in Raipur. ED had conducted raids at his residence last month in connection with the alleged liquor scam

worth Rs 2000 crores. Since then, the transporter was absconding.

According to information, Kalavati Devi, mother of the transporter Arvind Singh, had left for heavenly abode on June 11. Arvind Singh was performing the last rites of his mother on Monday at Ramnagar Muktidham.

Meanwhile, some officers of the Enforcement Directorate along with 15 jawans of CRPF reached



Ramnagar Muktidham. They stayed there till the conclusion of the last rites and thereafter asked Arvind Singh to come with them.

They took Arvind Singh to his residence in Khursipar and thereafter to the ED Office in Raipur. Some elected representatives and local dignitaries were also present at the Muktidham.

It needs to be mentioned here that ED had conducted raids at the res-

idence of liquor trader Trilok Singh Dhillon, liquor transporter Arvind Singh and others on May 09. Since then, Arvind Singh was at large.

According to information, Arvind Singh is an employee of Bhilai Steel Plant and was posted as Master Operator in the Transport and Diesel Department.

He came in contact with the top officials of Excise Department after which in the year 2020, he took a leave of three years for doing business and got involved in liquor transportation.

# Ruffians arrested for attempt to murder

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 12:** Police arrested three ruffians for allegedly attempting to kill a man in Anjora. AI Pawan Dewangan (SHO, Anjora Chowki) informed that the victim is Vishwamitra Yadav (53) son of Late Lalu Yadav a resident of Abadipara, Anjora Chowki.

On June 7, he entered into an altercation with three others of the same locality. Later in the evening, the accused attacked him with sticks when he was returning home. He suffered head injuries and was rushed to a private hospital in Durg.

The victim is undergoing treatment in the ICU of the hospital. On the



basis of the medical report, police lodged an FIR under sections 294, 506 (B), 323, 307 of IPC against the accused identified as Visto Yadav (37) son of Bittu Yadav, Shrawan Yadav (33) son of Bengali Yadav and Kishan Yadav (22) son of Shankar Yadav,

all residents of Abadipara, Anjora.

Police arrested all the three accused and during interrogation, they confessed to the crime. They were produced before the court and have been sent to the jail on judicial remand. ASI Yodha

Deshmukh, Head Constable Gulab Sahu, Ashish Rajput, Bihari Dhruv, Lata Suman, Constable Brijmohan Singh, Toman Deshmukh, Yogesh Chandrakar and Suresh Sahu played a vital role in arresting the accused.

# Free medical camp organised at Village Katro

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 12:** Bhilai Steel Plant conducts several public welfare activities as part of its organizational social responsibility towards the community in and around its areas of operations. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department of the Plant organized a one-day free Health Camp, at Village Katro, on June 10.

The Medical Team from CSR department comprising of Dr Isha Kujur, Pharmacist, Shashi Bhushan Rai, Rekha Dev for Blood-Sugar and BP examination, Shambhu for registration, volunteered their services for the camp. Rajni Rajak, Development Assistant,



from the CSR department was also present during the Health Camp.

A total of 41 villagers from village Katro, including 11 men, 28 women and 02 Children, availed free health services at the day long Health Camp and free medicines were distributed to them.

It is noteworthy that Health Camp is one of the prime initiatives, through

which BSP's CSR Department has contributed substantially towards Public Health & Medicine. The CSR Department of Bhilai Steel Plant, conducts health camps on regular basis in the adjoining areas or mines, with the aim of ensuring adequate medical & Health facilities to the communities within which it works.

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 12:** With the arrest of three persons including a juvenile, police claimed to have solved a case of theft which occurred at a locked house in Deobaloda Charoda. The accused committed the crime in the state of intoxication. Gold and silver jewellery, LPG cylinder, LED TV, Mixer Grinder and some household utensils were recovered from them.

DSP (Crime) Rajeev Sharma informed that on June 05, the victim Indrajit Ratre, a resident of Deobaloda Charoda, filed an FIR at Police Station Old Bhilai regarding theft at his locked house. On May 21, he went to his house in Raipur and when he returned on June 04, he found the channel gate of the house was broken. Some unidentified thieves had stolen gold and silver ornaments, LPG

# Three held for theft at locked house



cylinder, LED TV, mixer and some household items.

Police launched investigations and activated the network of informers. Cops maintained vigil on the suspects and interrogated the

habitual criminals. Meanwhile, police received a tip off about Deobaloda residents Bhopendra Kumar Tandon and Sandeep Chauhan who were trying to sell LPG

cylinder in hotels.

They were taken into custody and during interrogation, they confessed to committing the theft. They disclosed the name of a minor accomplice. Later, the

minor accused was also taken into custody. Police recovered the stolen booty worth Rs 01 lakh from them. Advance action is being taken from the old Bhilai police station.

The accused Bhopendra Tandon alias Bulledo (20) son of Mahendra Kumar Tandon a resident of Satnami Basti Deobaloda Charoda Bhilai; Sandeep Chauhan alias Jhoda (21) son of Manharan Chauhan a resident of Deobaloda Charoda and the juvenile have been arrested and produced before the court.

ASI Shamit Mishra, Head Constable Satyendra Madharia, Chandrashekhar Banjir, Constable Rinku Soni, Nitin Singh, Rakesh Chaudhary, Gunit Kumar, D Prakash, Bhavesh Patel, Amit Dubey, Ramesh Pandey, Meghraj Chelak, Vikrant Kumar and ASI Subhash Sahu played a vital role in arresting the accused.

# Workshop on Capacity Building Programme inaugurated

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 12:** DAV group of institutions not only strives for excellence but also tries to touch the future they teach. A three-day workshop for Capacity Building Program on various subjects Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Social science, Computer science, Accountancy & Business Studies, Economics and EEDP was inaugurated at DAV Hudco on Monday.

Around 281 teacher delegates from 21 DAV schools were present in the inauguration ceremony and will be attending the three-day seminar. The inaugural ceremony started with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp by SK Mishra (ARO) along with BP Sahu (ARO cum Principal of DAV Public School ISPAT Nandini), SK Pandey, CM Pandey,



Mallika Mukherjee, Anamika Bharti, Priyanka Shukla, HK Pathak.

The resource persons were Geeta Singh, Subhashis Basak, Neelsh Shrivastava (Physics senior secondary), Naveen Kumar Sharma, Nisha Nair, Suparna Bose (chemistry senior secondary), Omprakash Katre, Prakash Chandra Sahu,

Sreeja Praveen (biology senior secondary), Shiv Kumar Pandey (mathematics primary), AK Choubey, Moses Das (mathematics middle) SP Dwivedi, A Vasantha (mathematics secondary), Santosh Kumar Panigrahi, BR Panda, Ravi Prakash Verma (mathematics senior secondary), DR Sahu, Sita Sharma (social studies primary),

Harmit Singh, Rajesh Kashyap, Jolly Thomas (social studies middle), DK Panda, BK Mallick (social studies secondary), PP Ram, Mamta Singh, Santosh Verma (computer science primary), Aparna Mazumdar, RK Soni, Kamendra Kumar Singh (computer science middle), Ajaya Innes, Pramod Nayak (computer science sr.sec.), Dhananjay Panda,

Narayan Agrawal (accountancy and business studies Sr. secondary), Laxmi Sinha, Ruchira Mukherjee, PS Amritya (economics senior secondary), Indrani Mahadik (EEDP LKG & UKG), Meetu Tiwari and Shahnaz Begum (EEDP-1 & 2).

SK Mishra (ARO) while delivering the inaugural speech addressed the delegate that our education system is the oldest education system of the world. With time teachers must be updated so teachers' training is most important. Through the last few years lots of emphasis has been given to the teachers' training with updated tools and techniques. Our sole target is to improve our students' career. Through this three-day Capacity Building Program our teachers will be benefited, he said.

# Electrical Zone employees felicitated with Shiromani Awards



## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 12:** Bhilai Steel Plant employees of Electrical Zone were awarded with the 'Pali Shiromani' and 'Karm Shiromani' Awards under the 'Shiromani Puraskar Yojana' of Bhilai Steel Plant, for displaying exemplary work performance. The award ceremony was organised on June 09, where the awardees were felicitated by the dignitary guests. TK Krishna Kumar, CGM (Electrical) was the chief guest on this occasion.

Hariom Pandey, Assistant Manager (ETL) was awarded the 'Pali Shiromani Award' for his exemplary performance at the

workplace, while the 'Karm Shiromani Award' awardees included Prem Bahadur, MOC (ERS) and Veer Bahadur Sharma, C/Man Cum Senior Technician (CRME). Senior officials of the department were also present on this occasion, including General Managers, Prakash, GM (Telecomm), Uma Shankar Barwal, GM (ETL), Prabeer Kumar Padhy, GM (ERS), Akshaya Kumar Nayak, GM (CRME), Md Ashraf Siddique, GM (HME), S Lakshmi, GM (TPIE), Subhash Rathore, GM (ETL) and Kamini Gupta, GM (ETL). The main objective of felicitating the employees under the 'Shiromani Puraskar Yojana' is to

acknowledge the sincere efforts of plant's hardworking employees and motivate them to work with same spirit while maintaining healthy competition as well as innovation for better utilization of resources and maintaining the highest level of safety standards at the workplace.

Mementoes and Certificates were presented to the awardees, along with Letter of Appreciation to their respective Spouses. During the programme, the awardees were appreciated for their achievements and contributions at the workplace. D Belsar of Personnel Office (P&E Zone), conducted the programme.

# 'Long queue of unemployed outside PO'

- For submitting offline application for govt jobs
- Lack of drinking water, shade posing lots of problems to youth

## Central Chronicle News

**Mungeli, June 12:** For recruitment in government departments in the state many vacancies have been advertised and for which the unemployed youth in the state are submitting applications in large number in the district employment office in the district. Hundreds of youth are reaching post office to get registry done and it is accepted either through speed-post and registered post.

With only one counter in the Post office, there is long queue of the unemployed youth there and with no drinking water facility and shade the youth are made to face scorching



heat and wondering in search of water for hours.

The unemployed youths viz. Rishiraj, Ajit, Vinod, Basant and others reaching the Head post office informed that there was break in the recruitment procedure in various government departments in the state for long and due to which they were not getting any chance to apply. But now vacancies have

been declared and for which they have come to submit applications in the post office. Among many vacancies at the state-level, they are hopeful that they will get chance this time.

In majority of the posts, the government has sought applications offline only and therefore there is so much of rush of unemployed youth in the POs. The youth are applying for

different posts in the govt department through speed-post or registered envelope.

At present, many vacancies have been announced in the health department, Collectorate, Education and Ayurveda Department and others. Taking the forms of all the applicants, it is being forwarded through speed-post and registered post.

But since there is only one counter in the head post office, the unemployed youth are facing lots of problems. With less of staff and few on leave, there is generally long queue seen outside the counter for hours and in view of the summer season and lack of shade, there is demand to open one more counter for speed-post in the PO soon.

Set aside this with no drinking water facility in PO, the youth are made to wander in search of drinking water daily. But so far no arrangements have been made in the PO and this shows the concern on part of Postal department.

There is need for one more sub post-office in the city, so as to meet the increasing requirement. The head post office in city is already with less of staff and in such conditions opening another sub post-office can prove to be handy and for speed-post and registered post and other services.

# Pandey expresses gratitude towards Modi govt

## For hike on MSP on paddy for farmers

### Central Chronicle News

**Saja, June 12:** For increase in the MSP on paddy by the Modi government, media in-charge Saja VS Rakesh Pandey has expressed gratitude towards PM Modi and said that that Modi government is working for the poor, farmer and happiness and prosperity of the villages. Hike of Rs 143 on MSP on paddy has led to increase in MSP on paddy to Rs 2182 and expressing happiness on the same, Rakesh Pandey has welcomed this decision.

In a statement made to the press, Santosh Pandey held the Modi government as pro-farmer and said that in last 9 yrs of its rule at the Centre, PM Modi has



Rakesh Pandey

deposited an amount of Rs 6000 into the account of each farmer under PM Samman Nidhi; provide 'pucca' houses to poor under PMAY; and provided facility like free of cost gas Chullah under Swachh PM Yojana. Pandey fur-

ther said the Central cabinet has increased the MSP on 'Udat dal' from Rs 350 per quintal to Rs 69.50 per quintal; MSP on 'makka' to Rs 128 per quintal and MSP on paddy to Rs 143 per quintal, making it Rs 2183 per quintal as on date.

He said that this is pro-farmer policy of Modi-led central government and they would continue to get benefit in the near future. Pandey said that we should express gratitude towards PM Modi as following pro-farmer policy, the rice that of farmers from entire Chhattisgarh is being purchased by Modi-government on MSPO and is making payment for this entire expenditure to the state government.

# Badminton Tournery to conclude on June 13th

## Central Chronicle News

**Dongargarh, June 12:** 40th ITBF Dongargarh is organising inter-battalion Badminton tournament from June 10-13 at Nehru College's Badminton Court. In this Regional Hq's Bengaluru, ITBP, four Battalions (27th, 39th, 40th and 44th) are taking part and it is selecting the players from these contestants that players for inter-Border Badminton tournament will be finalised, so that a strong participation of ITBP regional Hq's Bengaluru can be presented in the future Badminton tournaments. This tournament

was inaugurated at the hands of Second Command 40th Battalion ITBP Tarun Kumar Banjari. This particular tournery is being organised under guidance of OP Yadav-Dy IG Regional Hq's Bengaluru and Anand Narayan Dutta, Commandant 40th Battalion ITBP. At the inauguration of the tournament, the enthusiasm of the players was very much visible. For conduct of this tournament, there was presence of highly trained trainers and top-quality administrative management. The programme was conducted by Dy. Commandant (Vet) Dr Amit Pandey.

# DFO sidelining CCF's order issues cheques worth cr !

- By handing over charge to a Dy. Ranger in Biharpur and Manendragarh circle
- Eyebrows raised on why DFO so favourable to a controversial Dy. Ranger prior to transfer list

## Central Chronicle News

**Manendragarh, June 12:** The newly formed MCB district has become a centre of irregularities and it always remain in limelight due to some or the other controversial issues, be it an inquiry or the action taken, it always remains a mystery. One such surprising issue took place in Manendragarh Forest Mandal of Biharpur and Manendragarh forest circle. Here the DFO



Manendragarh on leaving of two rangers posted here on official leave, sidelined the order issued by senior officer of CCF Surguja Forest circle and made the Dy. Ranger, who is known for his works and payment, as in-charge of Manendragarh and Biharpur range.

It is on his appointment as in-charge, in just a month's time, cheques worth crore have been released in three ranges. Whereas prior to this a capable Dy. Ranger posted in Biharpur and as in-charge got the works worth Rs 3 crore done and created a record of the sort

and achievement. Now once again a cheque of Rs 70 lakh for Manendragarh range and that of Rs 87 lakh in Biharpur range has been issued and for its payment, two Dy. Rangers have been given responsibility by the DFO. With this prior to discussions about the transfer of DFO, there are rumours of some irregularity in the above two payments made, as the cheques have been issued after giving charge to a controversial Dy. Rangers.

Prior to this also the district has been in news about the payments in the department and all this is being

## Where the funds were spent in one month by Dy. Ranger

The most surprising thing here is that when the Dy. Ranger is asked to where such a big amount has been spent and what all has been done he loses his temper and puts the entire blame or issue on DFP and SDO. This clearly proves as to how honestly the department is working! But as to when the Dy. Ranger in-charge would provide details of the expenditure worth Rs 3 crore made to the two Rangers coming back on leave, would be known only after looking at the documents.

saved courtesy a senior Forest officer in Korea district. Now once again a Dy. Ranger gets payment worth lakhs, are trying their level best to be appointed as Ranger in Manendragarh. It is worthwhile to mention here that in-charge Dy. Ranger Sankhuni Pandey

## What is order of senior officer

**As per letter No. 2023/2888 Ambikapur, dated 04/10/2022-3, by CCF Surguja Forest circle Ambikapur to DFO Manendragarh**  
During the period of sanction earned leave, it has been mentioned that suggestion has been sought for management of work in the circle during the leave period. In this the senior officer hassaid that with fire-season at present, prior to sanction of the leave, he (DFO) should ensure that the works related to Forestry/ Tendupatta collection/ and other administrative work is not affected and then only the leave be sanctioned and then only think of handing over the charge to Ranger level officer. But the DFO made the Dy. Ranger as in-charge and there is no objective of this order by CCF, as all the decisions are to be taken by DFO only.

prior to this was given the charge of Biharpur range on 30 Nov 2021. It generally takes a month to understand about the Range's work and immediately after this in December a payment of Rs 3.50 cr is made. Despite knowing the fact that this type of cases have come up in Baharasi and Kuvarpur range of Manendragarh Forest division and in the inquiry conducted it was proved and action was also

taken on former officer; but as to what action was taken is limited only on papers!

So once again the same person gets the charge of the District and payment worth lakhs have been released in Biharpur and Kelhari range of Manendragarh district and it has become centre of discussion among all and the question surrounding all is as to why the IFS is so favourable to a particular Dy. Ranger only?

# Mohile holds meeting with party workers of 4 mandals

- Handed over responsibility for various programmes

## Central Chronicle News

**Mungeli, June 12:** MLA Punmul Mohile by convening a meeting in 4 BJP mandals of Mungeli Vidhan Sabha, reviewed about the programmes to be held in the coming days and handed over responsibility to the concerned.

In the meeting held at Atal Parisar, district BJP office, the party workers from four Mandals of BJP viz. Mungeli (urban), Mungeli (Rural), Setganga and Jahraon Mandal, Mohile



informed that under the completion of 9 yrs of PM Narendra Modi the 'special contact campaign' launched from May 30 would continue till June 30.

This will be followed with Beneficiary sammelan in Setganga on June 16; sammelan of senior BJP leader at Jhulelal Dhaam from June 18; 'Sanyukt Morcha sammelan' in the chief

presence of BJP co-in-charge Nitin Nabin on June 20; International Yoga day on June 21; Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee martyrdom day on June 23; 'Prabudh Karyakarta sammelan' in Sakari of Takathpur on June 25; BJP National President JP Nadda's programme in Bilaspur on June 30. Discussions were also held

in context of revision of voter list, adding or deletion of names and on other subjects. On this occasion, BJP working committee member Girish Shukla, District BJP President Shailesh Pathak also addressed the party workers.

On this occasion ex-MLA Vikram Mohile, Dwarka Jaiswal, Rajani Sonwani, Shivpratap Singh, Deenanath Kesharvani, Ramkamal Parihar, Jaithu Singh, Vinay Pandey, Mani Singh, Ranapratap Singh, Shankar Singh Thakur, Som Vaishnav, Umashankar Sahu, Nitesh Bharadwaj, Rajiv Sriwas, Ramsharan Yadav and others were present.

# DEO holds meeting with officers, Principal readers

## Central Chronicle News

**Bemetara, June 12:** Even before the commencement of the new session 2023-24, on Monday, Block Education Officer, Assistant Development Block Education Officer, Development Block Resource Coordinator, at the Government Boys Higher Secondary School Bemetara of Block Bemetara were issued instructions by the District Education Officer (DEO) Bemetara Arvind Mishra here on Monday.

Holding a meeting of the cluster academic coordinator and head readers DEO discussed the major issues including necessary maintenance, repair, student admis-

sion, distribution of textbooks and uniforms, proper implementation of mid-day meals etc., building construction work, presence of teachers, painting of buildings with cow dung paint. Elaborate discussions were held on 100% enrollment of children in schools, attendance of teachers, etc.

Along with this, he gave necessary guidance regarding G-20, Sugghar Padhwaiya, School Entrance Festival, preparations before the new session. Mr. Narendra Verma, District Mission Coordinator, Samagra Shiksha informed about the Shala Siddhi Yojana portal, as well as directed the headmasters about the online entry of text books and uniforms.

# Workers participate in the divisional level conference

## Central Chronicle News

**Kareli badi, June 12:** Veteran leaders of Magarlod block, Kurud block, sub-tehsil Kareli Badi area participated in Congress's divisional level workers conference held in Raipur. Taking a pledge to work for the party in an enthusiastic manner, the workers agreed to the message given by the Chief Minister.

District Congress Committee Vice President



Hemant Sahu, Congress leader Laxmikanta Sahu said that district, tehsil and block and booth level workers participated in the divisional level conference.

The Chief Minister has given responsibility to all the workers to work towards the party. He said that the 2018 elections, 'I have fulfilled the resolution with which I worked'. It will now be the turn of the office bearers of the organization who have got the responsibility for the upcoming

elections. He said that the Chief Minister has asked all the party workers to work hard and do well, present on this occasion.

A large number of workers including Block President Kurud Ashish Sharma, District Panchayat members Kusumlata Sahu, Kanti Kanwar, Raju Sahu, Toshani Sahu, Uttam Sahu, Chandras Sahu were

**CHHATTISGARH RAJYA SAHAKARI BANK MYDT. (APEX BANK)**  
Sahakar Bhavan, Plot no.74, Sector-24, Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar  
Date: 13/06/2023

**Advertisement for RFP for PACS Hardware Procurement**  
Chhattisgarh Rajya Sahakari Bank Mydt., Raipur (Nodal Agency of Chhattisgarh State Government for PACS Computerisation Project) invites RFP for Supply, Installation, Configuration, Commissioning, Maintenance and Support of Computer Hardware Equipment for PACS Computerisation Project of Chhattisgarh State. RFP Document, Terms and Conditions, Eligibility criteria etc. shall be downloaded from www.gem.gov.in, document copy is also available at Bank's website www.cgapexbank.com.  
Last date of submission of RFP document is 13/07/2023. RFP document and other details are available on Gem and bank website.  
Managing Director

**IDBI BANK** Branch- Nehru Nagar, Bhilai (C.G.)  
CIN: L65190MH2004G0148838

**APPENDIX IV [RULE 8(1)]**  
**POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)**  
Whereas, The undersigned being the authorised officer of IDBI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 13.02.2023, which was further published on 19.03.2023 in the newspapers, The Central Chronicle (English) & The Amrit Sandesh (Hindi) calling upon the Borrower-M's Jain Agencies, Proprietor-Ms. Pooja Jain and Mortgagor cum Guarantor-Shri Raj Kumar Jain and Ms. Rashmi Anand to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 55,96,808/- (Rupees Fifty five lacs ninety six thousand eight hundred eight only) within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the said notice.  
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below, in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 07 day of June of the year 2023.  
The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of IDBI Bank Limited for an amount of Rs. 55,96,808/- (Rupees Fifty five lacs ninety six thousand eight hundred eight only) and interest thereon.  
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTIES**  
Property No. -1- All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot No 104, PH No 80/01, Sector-1, City of Valencia, Nardaha, Arang, admeasuring 2000 sq ft., Dist.-Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Asset owned and mortgaged by Smt. Rashmi Anand. Bounded: North by: Plot No. 103, South by: Road, East by: Plot No 105, West by: Road, together with all buildings and structures thereon and all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth.  
Property No. -2- All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot No 106, PH No 80/01, Sector-1, City of Valencia, Nardaha, Arang, admeasuring 2000 sq ft., Dist.-Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Asset owned and mortgaged by Shri Raj Kumar Jain. Bounded: North by: Plot No. 107, South by: Plot No 105, East by: Road, West by: Plot No 103, together with all buildings and structures thereon and all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth.  
Date: 13.06.2023, Place : Bhilai  
Authorised Officer, IDBI Bank Ltd.

**TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD.**  
Regd. Office:- 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400013. CIN No. U67190MH2008PLC187552.

**POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)**  
(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)  
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the TATA Capital Housing Finance Limited., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notices as mentioned below calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of the said notice.  
The borrower, having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, in particular and the public, in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described hereinbelow in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules.  
The borrower, in particular, and the public in general, are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the TATA Capital Housing Finance Limited, for an amount referred to below along with interest thereon and penal interest, charges, costs etc. from date mentioned below.  
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Loan Account No.	Name of Obligor(s)/ Legal Heir(s)/ Legal Representative(s)	Amount as per Demand Notice	Date of Possession
1	TCHHF02600 00100008579 & TCHHF02600 00100067044	Inderjeet Singh Sahni, Gaggan Service, Gurjeet Sahni, Amandeep Singh Sahni, Taveent Sahni	Rs. 3,08,41,991/- (Rupees Three Crore Eight Lakh Forty-One Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-One Only) as on 06-02-2023	07.06.2023

**Description of the Secured Assets/Immovable Properties/Mortgaged Properties:**  
All That Piece and Parcel of The Immovable Property Being Land Along With House Built Thereon, KH. No- 174/13, Area 0.115 Hect., Situated At Tatibandh, Raipur, P.C No- 103, RIC- Raipur-1, Tahsil & District Raipur, Chhattisgarh.  
Date: 07.06.2023  
Place : Chhattisgarh  
Sd/- Authorized Officer  
For Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited

## CM inaugurates 'Jal Mitan-Yuva Udyami' EDP

Organized under the aegis of Jal-Jeevan Mission and UNICEF

Raipur, June 12: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the 'Jal Mitan-Yuva Udyami' (Young Entrepreneur) Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) at his official residence here on Monday. This programme was organized under the aegis of Jal-Jeevan Mission and UNICEF.

Public Health Engineering Minister Guru Rudrakumar presided over the program. Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain, Secretary to Chief Minister Dr. S. Bharatidasan, Mission Director of Jal Jeevan Mission Chhattisgarh Alok Katiyar, UNICEF WASH specialist Shweta Patnaik were also present in the programme.

On the occasion, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, PHE Minister Guru Rudrakumar and the prominent guests of the program distributed tool



kits to 90 Jal Mitans and young entrepreneurs. The tool kit contained safety shoes, helmets etc.

A number of youngsters of the state have been provided skill development training as 'Jal Mitan' and 'Young Entrepreneur', with the objective to provide employment opportunities and to ensure permanent maintenance of the infrastructure being developed for water supply through pipeline to every

household in rural areas of Chhattisgarh under Jal Jeevan Mission.

Under the joint aegis of Jal Jeevan Mission and UNICEF, 540 youth and 90 young entrepreneurs of the state have been provided residential training for 21 days in permanent maintenance of drinking water supply infrastructure. This includes training in plumbing, Electrical, Solar Panel Repairing, RO repairing

etc. Jal Mitan will provide various services such as Water Quality Testing Services, Tap / Pipe Fitting Repairing, RO Fitting / Repairing, Electrical Fitting / Repairing, Solar Panel Fitting / Repairing, Pump Operator Service. In his address at the inaugural program, CM Bhupesh Baghel said that Chhattisgarh is the first state of the country, where a large number of youngsters are being trained for the operation and maintenance of drinking water schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission. As Mitan, young entrepreneur and Jal Didi, they are being groomed for maintenance and operation of the schemes.

CM further said that the State Government is making consistent efforts to engage the youth in various self-employment and employment activities. Besides the unemployment allowance, the government is also providing skill development training to youth. Chief Minister said that so far, 540 young people have been given the

high-level training under Jal Jeevan Mission and they have been provided free tool kits today. CM congratulated the trained Jal Mitans and Jal Didis for the new opportunities of self-employment.

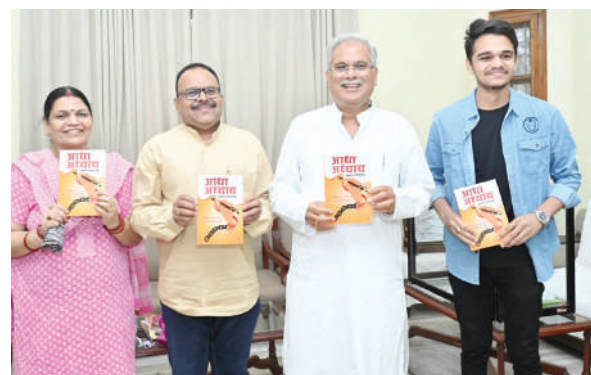
Chief Minister said that under Jal Jeevan Mission, a target has been set to provide tap water connections to 50 lakh households in rural areas of Chhattisgarh. So far, 24 lakh households have been equipped with the tap connections. And for operation and maintenance of such large number of connections, skilled manpower is required. Hence, these trained youngsters will always have employment opportunities and there will be no dearth of work. Chief Minister said that during his recent stay at Kondagaon, appointment letters were distributed to around 550 youths who were trained in skill development there. In this way, more and more employment and self-employment opportunities are being created for the youth of the state.

## CM Baghel releases a book titled 'Adha Adhyay'

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, June 12: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel released the book 'Adha Adhyay', written by the senior journalist and editor of Navbharat Bilaspur, Arun Upadhyay, at his residential office today. He congratulated and expressed his best wishes to Upadhyay for his new creation. Swarna Upadhyay and Om Upadhyay were also present on the occasion.

It is noteworthy that Upadhyay has written the book based on 35 years of his experience in journal-



ism. He has documented his experiences of seeing, understanding, and publishing the changes in this era's social, educational, political, and eco-

nomical public life from the viewpoint of a reporter to an editor, which will prove to be quite useful for new journalists.

## Car manufacturing co recruitment fair today

To be held at Arang

Raipur, Jun 12: A recruitment fair has been organized by India's largest car manufacturing company Gujarat at Raipur Government Devnarayan Agarwal ITI Arang on June 13, 2023 at 9:30 am. In

which interested students can participate in this recruitment fair. For this, 10th ITI pass, age 18 to 24 years have been kept and those who have passed ITI from 2017 to 2022.

Principal Homan Nagre said that this recruitment camp has been organized by Suzuki Motor

Company, in which other qualifications and attractive pay scales have been kept, this recruitment is only for male students. These students should have school certificate, ITI certificate and 5 copies of photocopies and it is compulsory to bring all original documents.

## Develop skills as a means of livelihood: Collector

Jagdalpur, Jun 12: Collector Dayaram K. said one should develop skills and talents as a means of livelihood. Increase employment opportunities by further enhancing skills in trainings. He said that according to the intention of the government and the Chief Minister, to remove unemployment, a provision of unemployment allowance has been made for the youth to get employment. Beneficiaries receiving unemployment allowance are to be given training by counseling according to their interest and the beneficiaries should learn with enthusiasm the training being given. Enthusiasm for work should remain from the beginning till the end of the training and even after getting employment so that the future can be safe.

Collector Vijay discussed with the beneficiaries after observing the registration work for skill training of the beneficiaries approved for unem-



ployment allowance at Livelihood College Adawal here on Monday.

The Collector informed that 2464 applicants were given the benefit of the scheme in the district under the Unemployment Allowance Scheme. Employment-oriented training for the eligible beneficiaries of unemployment allowance has been started at Livelihood College, Adawal Jagdalpur. At present, 90 youths are getting trained in the courses of Solar Pump Technician, Unarmed Security Guard and Front Office Associate

in three batches. This livelihood organization has prepared children for training in Security Guard, Assistant Electrician, Solar Pump Technician, Tailor, Desktop Publishing, Front Office Associate, Welder and Plumber trades. Along with the Livelihood College, another site has also been selected by the administration for training facilities. The course will be started on the basis of demand for skill training. Biometric attendance of the trainees will be recorded during the training, as well as an employ-

ment fair will also be organized after the training.

It should be known that the applicants who have been approved unemployment allowance. Those beneficiaries are being offered skill development training in a time period of one year. As per the instructions of the government, they will be helped to get employment after skill development training and if they refuse to participate in skill development training or do not accept the offered employment, their unemployment allowance will be stopped. In the application of unemployment allowance by the applicant, it has been mentioned to provide skill development training free of cost in any one of the mentioned trades.

On this occasion, in-charge of Livelihood College Sharadchandra Gaun, Employment Officer Netam and other officers and beneficiaries of unemployment allowance were present.

## Kotamsar cave entrance will remain open till June 30

Jagdalpur, Jun 12: Due to the delay in arrival of monsoon in Bastar, the entrance of Kotamsar cave located in Kangerghati National Park will remain open till June 30 this time. Due to the delay in arrival of rains, the park management has decided to close the Kutumsar cave on June 30 instead of June 15.

This will be the second time that due to delay in pre-monsoon showers in Bastar, additional time of 15 days has been given to keep the cave open. Last year also the Kotamsar cave was closed on June 30, which was reopened on September 1.

Kangerghati National



SDO Kamal Tiwari said that due to the delay in monsoon, preparations are being made to close the entrance of the Kotamsar cave in Kangerghati on June 30 instead of June 15. The Kotamsar cave is closed for safety for four months during the rainy

season. There has been no monsoon rain in Bastar this year yet. The closure of the Kotamsar cave limits the number of tourists reaching here. Due to the closure of the cave here during the rains, the crowd gathers only to see Tirathgarh waterfall. Local

youth will be benefited by increasing the duration of visiting the Kutumsar cave. Along with this, the nearby businessmen, guides and gypsy vehicle operators are also benefited by the arrival of tourists here. According to the park management, apart from the Kotamsar cave, other adventures including Babu Rattling going on inside the Kangerghati National Park will continue till the onset of rains. It is noteworthy that to promote tourism in Bastar, many adventure programmes are being run in the garden area, including Babu Rattling, Kayaking and trekking for tourists.

## BJP's Gudadhur Purkhauti Samman Yatra reached Bhanpuri, tribal society welcomed

Jagdalpur, Jun 12: Martyr Veer Gudadhur Purkhauti Samman Yatra was accorded grand welcome in various villages by BJP Mandal Bhanpuri of the district. Shaheed Veer Gudadhur's Jamasthan Gram Panchayat was duly inaugurated at Netanar. Purkhauti Saman Yatra reached Alnar, Seoni, Bade Amabal, Mundagaon, Kavdgaon, Mandlapal and Kungarpal under BJP Mandal Bhanpuri of Narayanpur assembly constituency here on Monday, the third day today. Here the people of the tribal society took the yatra forward by giving a grand welcome in a traditional way.



BJP SC/ST Morcha National Treasurer Dinesh Kashyap, who is leading the Yatra like Shaheed Veer Gudadhur Purkhauti, said that tribal leaders have been fighting for the independence of the country in various tribal areas. The tribal heroes responded to the battle of ammunition of the British with arrows and bows. But it is the

country's misfortune that the Congress government, which was in power for the longest time, suppressed the glorious history of the tribals. Even at present, the Congress government of the state is leaving no stone unturned to humiliate the pride of the tribals. Kashyap said that the Shaheed Veer Gudadhur Purkhauti Samman Yatra

has been taken out with the aim of taking the history of the martyrs to everyone.

During this Dr. Subhau Kashyap, Nandlal Mudami, Rup Singh Mandavi, Mahesh Kashyap, Maniram Kashyap, Santosh Baghel, Khitesh Maurya, Khuleshwar Kashyap, Fakir Kashyap, Khageshwar Kashyap, Raghunath Kashyap, Ramesh Kashyap, Nilkumari Baghel, Chalemi Maurya, Tulsu Kashyap, Ramprasad A large number of rural and BJP workers including Maurya, Jhadu Maurya, Neeraj Dewan, Khalim Kashyap, Manish Vaidh, Khageshwar Thakur were present.

Raipur, Jun 12: Performing brilliantly in the first Khelo India Tribal Games National Championship held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, Chhattisgarh's women football team has struck 'Gold' and brought laurels to the state. In the final match held today between the teams of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh's team won the gold medal by 2-0 in the tiebreaker. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Sports Minister Umesh Patel have congratulated the members of Chhattisgarh's women football team for the

achievement and extended best wishes for their future endeavours.

During the final match held in Bhubaneswar, both the teams i.e. of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand played with all their might but none of the teams could score any goal in the stipulated time. The outcome of the match was decided with a tiebreaker, when both the teams were given a chance to score five goals each.

In the tiebreaker round, Kiran Pisdha, a practicing player at the Girls Football Academy, Raipur, performed brilliantly and did not give a single chance to the opposing team to score,

whereas she and Muskan of Bastar scored one goal each and won the gold medal. Chhattisgarh's women football team had entered the finals after beating Tripura by 4-0 in the semi-final held on June 11. In the semi-final, Kiran Pisdha scored three goals, while Pinky Kashyap of Bastar scored one goal. Sports Secretary Mr. Neelam Namdev Ekka, Sports Director Mrs. Shweta Srivastava Sinha and officials and sports lovers have congratulated all the members of the team for their tremendous performance.

Excellent performance of sportspersons from

Chhattisgarh continues of Chhattisgarh are performing impressively well in 'Khelo India Tribal Games National Championship'. Kuber Singh of Residential Archery Academy, Bilaspur won the silver medal in 30 meters category and secured second position in the overall championship. Similarly, Kumari Tarnika Teta, a player of Residential Athletic Academy Bilaspur, won a silver medal in the 100 meter women's category. It is noteworthy that 5000 athletes from 18 states are participating in this competition being organized in Bhubaneswar.

## Ch'garh football women's team struck gold

In the first Khelo India Tribal Sports National Championship Defeated Jharkhand team 2-0 in a tiebreaker Kiran Pisdha and Muskan scored one goal each



## GNY empowering rural communities and fostering self-reliance

Rani Durgavati women SHG flourishes in vermicompost production, generates an income of Rs 5 lakh

Raipur, Jun 12: The Chhattisgarh Government's ambitious Godhan NYAY Yojana (GNY) is proving to be instrumental in bringing about positive changes in lives of rural population and fostering self-reliance. This scheme has successfully brought prosperity to rural communities by providing them with an additional source of income and creating employment opportunities,



especially for local women.

Regular cow dung procurement is being conducted at Gauthan in Bhendri village of Gariyaband district under the Godhan NYAY Yojana. The 15-membered Rani Durgavati Women Self-Help Group, associated with the Gauthan, is

actively involved in vermicompost production using the thus procured cow dung. The group has sold nearly 1,252 quintals of vermicompost, generating an income of about Rs 5 lakh thus far.

The group members have stated that the establishment

of Gauthan has provided them with employment opportunities and an additional source of income in their village itself. They have also expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Chhattisgarh Government for the commencement of this ambitious scheme. They have mentioned that schemes including 'Narva, Garuwa, Ghurwa, Badi' and 'Godhan NYAY Yojana', have proved to be highly beneficial for rural communities and played a vital role in improving livelihoods for people residing in villages. The operation of various livelihood-based activities in Gauthans has created new employment opportunities for the local population.

Koriya, Jun 12: In accordance with the instructions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the Millet Mission was started with the aim of promoting traditional crops in Chhattisgarh and decreasing the rate of malnutrition in the state. The United Nations has decided to celebrate 2023 as the 'International Year of Millets'. Moreover, the Chhattisgarh Government has endeavored to set up millet cafes in all districts of the state to make millet dishes accessible to everyone. Under the Mission Millets Scheme, Millets Café was launched in the Koriya district on May 10. Within a month of its operation, the



Koriya Millets Café has set a new record of success. It has provided employment to 18 people, including 12 women. With their collective efforts, the café has earned a net profit of Rs. 2 lakh within a month. One can enjoy the taste of delicacies like Dosa, Cheela, Idli, Kheer,

Gulabjamun, and cookies prepared from Jowar, Bajra, Ragi, Jhangora, Baira, Kangni, Kutki, Kodo, Chena (Cheena), Sama, and barley in the Koriya Millets Café. The café has emerged as a popular attraction for people right from the first day of its launch. The café provides facilities to con-

sumers like excellent seating arrangements, superior service, and a selfie point, along with delicious food. A music night program is organized every Saturday to entertain people visiting the café.

The Roshni Women's Self-Help Group runs the Millet Café in Koriya. The group has opened new avenues for the future by earning a net income of Rs. 2 lakh in the last month. Additionally, the café has provided an opportunity for farmers producing millets to sell their products. It has also transformed the lives of the people working in the café by empowering them economically.

## State govt procures farmers' paddy, takes loan and pays: Akbar

**Says Centre does not give any grant, aid or loan for the paddy procurement**

**State govt estimates 125 lakh MT of paddy procurement in Kharif year 2023-24**



so far paddy was being procured from farmers at the rate of 15 quintals per acre, which the state government decided to increase to 20 quintals per acre.

The state government takes a loan of 20 to 25 thousand crore rupees every year for the paddy procurement. This loan is taken from banks and NABARD etc. through Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Marketing Federation (MARKFED), said Akbar, adding that no assistance is given by the Central Government to the Government of Chhattisgarh for the procurement of paddy, nor is any grant or loan given.

Farmers of Chhattisgarh are becoming prosperous due to the policies and decisions of the state government,

Akbar said. Fulfilling the promise state government paid to the farmers Rs 2500 per quintal of paddy. Apart from the support price, farmers selling paddy in cooperative societies are being provided Rs 9000 per acre in 04 installments. Akbar informed that the state government increased the number of Seva Sahkari Samitis from 1333 to 2058 for the convenience of paddy producing farmers. The cheque for the amount of paddy is given to the farmers selling paddy through Sahkari Samitis (cooperative societies) under the cooperative department of Chhattisgarh government. Registration of farmers selling paddy is done in Chhattisgarh Integrated Farmer Portal of Government.

There is a system of paddy procurement, the state government procures paddy from farmers, then after custom milling, rice is deposited in the central pool, he said while talking to the reporters here today. Subsequently centre makes payment at the rate fixed in lieu of the deposited rice, he said. In the year 2023-24, 125 lakh metric tonnes of paddy is estimated to be procured, he said. He informed that

change in weather. Rajnandgaon recorded maximum temperature of 43 degree Celsius whereas Durg recorded maximum temperature of 41.6 degree Celsius and Bilaspur recorded maximum temperature of 41.3 degree Celsius. This year the pace of monsoon is faster than last year. Monsoon is moving forward covering the entire south western part including Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh. Entry of monsoon has also started from

## Heat wave prevails in several districts of Ch'garh



Light rains in the evening brings relief

**Monsoon likely to enter by 19th**

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jun 12: People are reeling under severe heat wave condition before entry of monsoon in Chhattisgarh. The IMD has issued yellow alert for heat wave at isolated pockets of Central Chhattisgarh for the next four days. The IMD also predicted thunderstorm accompanied with light-

ning and gusty winds with wind speed 30-40 kmph at isolated places over Chhattisgarh in the next two days.

Raipur remained hottest on Monday with maximum temperature of 44 degree Celsius. The intermittent showers in the afternoon and evening hours came as a big respite from scorching heat for the residents of the city and changed the evening atmosphere with many flocking the eating joints and enjoying the

cut the bag with a blade and taken out the box with gold chain and bangles worth Rs 5 lakh.

On seeing the bag, Soni came to know that the ornaments have been stolen and after which he went along with his daughter's husband to GRP thana and lodged a complaint. GRP has filed a report in this case and started the investigation and are checking CCTV footages from Kargiroad to Usalapur station.

the Bay of Bengal. In such a situation, it may rain early in Bihar as well. This is the reason that this time monsoon is entering both the south and north regions of Chhattisgarh. It is expected to reach the northern and southern parts of Chhattisgarh around June 19-20. At the same time, the impact of the storm in Gujarat will also be seen in Chhattisgarh and there is a possibility of thunderstorms in the south-western regions from June 14.

## SK Singh appointed DG NTA, Amit Agrawal CEO-UIDAI

**Both are senior IAS officers from Ch'garh cadre**

**Four IPS of state also empanelled as IG**



Raipur, Jun 12: Holding major post in the Centre, two IAS from state have been given important responsibility. Senior IAS Subodh Kumar Singh has been appointed as Director General of National Testing Agency (NTA). Another senior IAS officer Amit Agrawal has been appointed as CEO of Aadhar card making agency UIDAI. Agrawal is 1993 batch IAS officer and Singh is that of 1997 batch. Both are officers of Chhattisgarh cadre. The appointment committee of cabinet central has made this appointment.

Four IPS of 2004 from the state have been empanelled as IG by the central government. This include

Abhishekh Singh, Sanjeev Shukla, Neha Champawat and Ajay Kumar Yadav. Ajay Kumar Yadav was at present posted as IG Raipur and as Intelligence Chief. A total of 41 IPS officers have been empanelled by the Central Government and out of which four are from Chhattisgarh.

JP Pathak given additional charge

Meanwhile in the state, the State Government has issued fresh posting to one IAS officers and under this Janak Prasad Pathak has been given additional charge of Excise Commissioner. On the other hand, with Lalitaditya Neelam on getting transferred to TN cadre, has been released by the state government.

## AE from PHE deptt loses gold ornaments worth Rs 5 lakh

**Stolen in Bhopal-Durg Amarkantak Express**

Bilaspur, Jun 12: The gold ornaments worth Rs 5 lakh of wife of a retired assistant engineer from PHE department of MP were stolen from AC-2 coach of Bhopal-Durg Amarkantak Express on Monday morning. The thieves have smartly cut the bag of PHE officer's

wife and stolen the ornaments. They were supposed to get down at Usalapur station and in hurry they did not checked the bag. But when they reached their daughter's house, they found cut in the bag and ornaments missing. They lost a gold chain and bangles worth Rs 5 lakhs. He lodged complaint with GRP and in turn investigation has been started.

LR Soni, R/o Bhopal (MP) is a retired Assistant

Engineer of PHE and he was travelling along with his family in A-2 coach of Bhopal-Durg Amarkantak Express on Sunday. They were to get down at Usalapur station and go and meet their daughter in Minocha Colony. When the train reached Usalapur station, they took their bags and reached their daughter's home. They were taken aback when they opened the bag and found the ornaments missing. The thieves have smartly

cut the bag with a blade and taken out the box with gold chain and bangles worth Rs 5 lakh.

On seeing the bag, Soni came to know that the ornaments have been stolen and after which he went along with his daughter's husband to GRP thana and lodged a complaint. GRP has filed a report in this case and started the investigation and are checking CCTV footages from Kargiroad to Usalapur station.

## 23 vehicles illegally transporting minerals seized

Mahasamund, Jun 12: The Mineral Department has taken action against illegal transportation of coal, 'gitti' and sand by the mafia and seized 23 vehicles and imposed fine on them. The action was taken in the vehicle from Birkoni, Ghodari, Tungaon and Pithora area.

It is notable here that action is being taken against illegal transportation of building materials from



mines in the region under section 21 of Mine and Mineral Development Act 1957 and also under Chhattisgarh 'Gau' Khanij Adhiniyam 2015.

All the hywas seized are not from Mahasamund district and all are from outside. The mineral department is collecting information about the own-

ers of these trucks / Hywas.

As per information in this regard from departmental officers, this type of action would continue in the near future as well. All these vehicles were illegally transporting mineral without valid documents and it was during checking of the vehicles in Birkoni, Ghodari, Pithora and Tungaon that the 23 vehicles were seized and action was taken.

## Effective steps should be taken to prevent road accidents: Minister

**Fast work on security measures at black spots Meeting of Chhattisgarh State Road Safety Council concludes**



Raipur, Jun 12: Transport Minister Mohammad Akbar said that all necessary effective measures should be taken to reduce road accidents in the state. Chairing a meeting of the State Road Safety Council, held today at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan Akbar instructed the officers to take effective action for safe traffic system including prevention of road accidents.

The Transport Minister instructed the officials to act expeditiously on measures to prevent accidents at black spots identified on various national highways and other roads of the state. He took detailed information from the officials about the action taken on the black spots and expressed his displeasure to the officials of the Public Works Department for the delay in the

improvement works of the black spots, and urged the departmental officers to take necessary action on it expeditiously.

He instructed to make arrangements for immediate treatment of the victims of road accidents. Detailed guidelines were given to the officers regarding the status of trauma centers in various districts of the state, challan proceedings for violation of traffic rules and ensuring compliance of traffic rules. He instructed to take action in the direction of installation of speed governors to check the vehicles and control the speed and to

take immediate action against those who drive vehicles after intake of alcohol or some narcotic substance and those stunting on the road. Akbar laid special emphasis on regular meeting of District Road Safety Committees.

Chhattisgarh State Housing Board Chairman and MLA Kuldeep Juneja also gave his suggestions to reduce accidents on national highways and other roads. Similarly, Chhattisgarh State Warehousing Corporation Chairman and MLA Arun Vora while discussing the road accidents in Durg district asked to take appropriate action to

reduce road accidents there. Parliamentary Secretary and MLA Chandradev Prasad Rai, present in the meeting, also put forward his important suggestions related to road safety and reducing road accidents. S. Prakash from Transport Department informed about the various works being done for road safety. Chairman of Inter-Departmental Lead Agency Road Safety Sanjay Sharma said that prompt action was being taken in compliance of the guidelines made by the Transport Minister in the previous meetings. He informed that 73 works of black spot improvement, 197 of junction improvement, 5 works of bus levy have been completed. He told that the police department was continuously taking measures for public awareness and road accident control to control road accidents. He said that under the public awareness programme, about 3 thousand 882 programs were organized at various places in the state, in which more than 15 lakh people participated.

## Rotary Club of Raipur Royal installs Water Cooler machine



Raipur, Jun 12: Rotary Club of Raipur Royal has installed a water cooler machine for general public at the inter-state New Bus Stand in Bhatagaon here on Sunday. With the help of this 400 lts water cooler, the hundreds of passenger arriving here at the Bus Stand will be benefited in this scorching heat.

On this occasion, Rotary Club of Raipur Royal President Somnath Agrawal, Secretary Rajiv Mundara, Bus Association President Anwar Bhai, and members of Rotary Club of Raipur Royal-Vishnu Sarda, Anoop Mundara, Sunil Agrawal, Vineet Yadav, Dr Vijay Tiwari, Sandeep Agrawal, Vijay Chugani, Vivek Arora, and Dr Naveen Bagrecha were prominently present.

## First zonal level Nirankari Bal Sant Samagam held



Raipur Jun 12: Sant Nirankari Mission's Raipur zone organised its first Bal-Sant Samagam at Sindh Dharmsala, Telibandha at Raipur. Thousands of devotees had reached the program. Young Saints from all branches of Raipur Zone participated in the Samagam, in which

Rajim, Tilda, Bhatapara, Raigarh, Dhantari, Raveli, Mungeli, Kabirdham, Bhumka, Mahasamund, Lormi etc. cities participated. Saint Shri Shyam Sundarji from Bilaspur served as the chief guest in the program. While Children in the program gave the message of

spiritual awareness along with how to live life like a civilized person in the society, they taught it through dance and short plays.

In the end, the chief guest Reverend Shyam Sundar ji gave the holy message of Nirankari Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj to the devotees and said that earlier pregnant women used to listen to the teachings of saints and sages, which had an effect on the child. Also after birth of child the Stories of Saints and warriors were narrated by the elders of the house, due to which the children used to be cultured, but in today's time, the use of mobiles has

left behind this practice. That is why it is necessary to motivate children to attend Spiritual Congregations (satsangs).

Gurubakhsh Singh, Zonal Incharge of Raipur said that character is formed by the education received in childhood and these children can be helpful in building a beautiful era when they grow up, so it is necessary to connect children with Spiritual Congregations (satsang). It is necessary to give them good manners. It is the duty of every parent to make their children cultured, informs media in-charge Prem Singh Dhama, in a press release.

**इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय जनजातीय विश्वविद्यालय**  
**Indira Gandhi National Tribal University**  
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 (A National University established by an Act of Parliament)

Adv.No.IGNTU/Rec.Cell/2023/NT-01 Date 29.05.2023

**Advertisement for recruitment in Non-teaching posts**

Applications are invited from eligible Indian Citizens for the post of Registrar (UR-1) and Finance Officer (UR-1) on tenure basis at IGNTU Amarkantak. Interested candidates are required to apply online in the prescribed format through [www.igntu.ac.in](http://www.igntu.ac.in). Minimum Qualification, Experience, Pay scale and other terms and conditions, etc. are available in University website ([www.igntu.ac.in](http://www.igntu.ac.in)). Amendments (if any) shall be published in the University website only.

- Date of start of online application : 29.05.2023
- Last date for submission of online application: 27.06.2023
- Last date for receiving of hardcopy of application: 10.07.2023

CBC 21345/12/0001/2324 Registrar

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1. Starting date of Application Process : 12.06.2023
2. Last date for submission of application form : 18.07.2023

Help line: 07752-260027 (M. Pharm), 260007 (M. Tech) Registrar (Acting)



## CENTRAL Chronicle

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### US-India Alliance

#### Strengthening Security and Countering China's Threat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the US holds the potential to be a game-changer, as the Joe Biden administration has committed to bolstering India's resilience in key technologies and supporting its indigenous capabilities to manufacture advanced fighter aircraft, artillery systems, and armored infantry vehicles. This move is part of the Biden administration's broader plan to address the vast technological and military asymmetry between India and China, help New Delhi counter the Beijing threat, and play a more prominent role as a regional security provider. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, Ely Ratner, emphasized the benefits of a stronger India, stating that it is "good for the US" when India can defend its interests and sovereignty. In recent months, the US-China relationship has significantly deteriorated, with China not only defying the US but also openly challenging its security apparatus. Provocative actions, such as collecting intelligence over sensitive military installations and engaging in threatening maneuvers near American military planes and naval warships, demonstrate China's brazen disregard for international norms. China's ultimate goal appears to be pressuring the US to retreat from East Asia, thereby expanding its own regional hegemony. Similarly, India-China relations have experienced setbacks, with Beijing refusing to withdraw troops from certain areas and making incursions into Indian territory. Chinese delegates have expressed dismissive views about India's defense capabilities and its commitment to independent diplomacy, indicating China's intention to assert dominance in the region as it pleases. India's restrained response to Chinese incursions can be attributed to the economic and military asymmetry between the two countries. India urgently needs to strengthen its domestic defense manufacturing capabilities, especially in fighter aircraft production, to replace damaged assets and reduce dependence on imports. Furthermore, there is a significant gap between India and China in various critical technologies, including drones, cyber warfare capabilities, and space warfare, which must be addressed. The US-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology, announced by President Biden and PM Modi in May 2022, laid the foundation for enhanced cooperation. The collaboration includes the manufacturing of the GE F-414 jet engine to power India's new Tejas fighter aircraft, a significant milestone as this technology has been closely guarded by the US, UK, France, and Russia. During the recent visit of the US Defense Secretary, both countries finalized a roadmap for defense industrial cooperation, focusing on air combat, land mobility systems, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, smart munitions, undersea domain, and cooperation in space, cyberspace, and artificial intelligence. The forthcoming visit of Prime Minister Modi is expected to bring substantial announcements, further supporting India's military modernization and fostering integration between the defense industries of both nations through co-production and co-development. It is likely that India will procure additional MQ-9B Predator drones from the US, enhancing its surveillance capabilities along the Line of Actual Control and in the Indian Ocean, monitoring Chinese troops and warships. India has realized that China's aggression and hostility have only escalated, despite numerous rounds of talks. China is preparing for a prolonged confrontation with India, while Russia's ability to support India's military equipment needs has weakened due to its involvement in the Ukraine conflict. Strengthening ties with the US becomes imperative for India to secure political support, attract investments, access new markets and supply chains, acquire critical technologies, and develop its indigenous defense industry.

### Bridging the Gap

#### Big Tech and News Publishers

The introduction of new draft legislation aimed at ensuring that Big Tech platforms pay news publishers for the content they utilize is a step in the right direction. Many countries have already initiated a fair revenue sharing model between content creators and aggregators, with Australia leading the way. Under Australian law, Facebook and Google are required to negotiate fees with media organizations to host their content, resulting in a substantial \$140 million injection into the Australian news industry last year. This influx of revenue has been crucial in enabling news outlets to invest in high-quality journalism and credible content. The forthcoming Digital India Bill, slated for public consultations this month, seeks to redress the imbalance between content creation and monetization by empowering news publishers with negotiating power. Advertising has long been the financial backbone of the news industry, but publishers have experienced a decline in their share within the digital realm, as social media companies garner a significant portion of revenue without generating original content. While both tech giants and publishers rely on each other, the contentious issue revolves around the disproportionate share of revenue acquired by Big Tech, leaving content creators with little control over the rates for their digital space sold by these platforms. India currently boasts an online population of approximately 850 million people, a number projected to reach 1.2 billion by 2025. Within this digital landscape, ensuring online safety becomes paramount. The draft Bill addresses critical issues such as child sexual abuse material, incitement of religious hatred, patent violations, and misinformation disseminated through social media platforms. This legislation aims to provide the government with the necessary legal tools to hold platforms accountable for hosting such content. Additionally, the regulation of artificial intelligence is also on the agenda. As the minister rightly stated, safeguarding the digital citizen must be the top priority. Beyond the revenue sharing aspect, the Digital India Bill presents an opportunity to foster a more equitable digital ecosystem. It is essential to recognize the transformative power of social media platforms as crucial channels for news distribution. However, their dominance in the digital landscape must not come at the expense of original content creators. The draft Bill aims to level the playing field by empowering news publishers with the ability to negotiate fair compensation for their content. Moreover, this legislation provides an opportune moment to address the broader challenges posed by the digital era. As the Indian online population continues to expand, it is crucial to enact measures that protect users from harmful and misleading content. By holding platforms accountable for facilitating the spread of misinformation, incitement to hatred, and other illegal activities, the draft Bill takes a proactive stance on safeguarding the digital space. In addition to online safety, the regulation of artificial intelligence is a critical consideration. As AI technologies advance, it is necessary to establish a framework that ensures responsible and ethical AI deployment. The draft Bill offers an opportunity to define guidelines and parameters for the development and utilization of AI, ensuring that it serves the best interests of Indian society. The forthcoming public consultations on the Digital India Bill provide an important avenue for stakeholders to contribute their insights and perspectives. By engaging in a robust and inclusive dialogue, policymakers can refine the legislation to best serve the interests of both news publishers and the digital citizenry.

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

### INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY PRACTICE



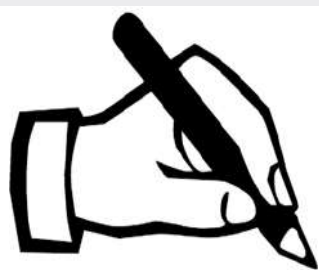
Team R11 personnel do yoga on INS Vikrant ahead of the International Yoga Day, at sea, Monday, June 12.

## Alarming Rise: Student Suicides Reflect Deep Concerns

EVERY YEAR AROUND EIGHT LAKH PEOPLE WORLDWIDE END THEIR LIFE BY SUICIDE



PROF. SUNIL GOYAL



The increasing trend of suicide among the youth of the country, especially among children below the age of eighteen years, is very worrying. Frustrated with life, the increasing trend of suicide has become a cause of serious concern. In Kota, Rajasthan, which has become the country's leading coaching centre, there is a lot of mental stress regarding the preparation of competitive exams. Due to pressure, incidents of suicide by the students keep coming to the fore. Now in India, cases of student suicides in best engineering institutes like IIT and also in some other reputed higher educational institutes have started shaking the society. Between May 8 and 25, news of four CBSE students committing suicide came to the fore in Kota. In the past the news of the suicide of three students in Delhi alone after the result of the Class XII examination was also shocking. These are the three such cases which came to media headlines from the nation's capital. But don't know how many has happened in the past in other parts of the country. The worrisome situation is becoming that during the examinations, in spite of not having proper preparation, the students are not able to solve the question paper properly and, in some cases, now some students have started killing themselves out of desperation. Be it class tenth or XII exam results or medical and engineering en-

trance exams, due to not being successful in such exams there, some students are now taking heart-wrenching steps like suicide. This increasing trend of suicide among the youth is now enough to force everyone to think seriously. If we look at the statistics of student suicides, a very worrying picture emerges. According to an information given in the Rajya Sabha, in a period of five years between 2018 and 2023, Sixty-one students committed suicide in higher educational institutions of the country like IIT, NIT, IIMS, of which thirty-three students were from IITs. This increasing trend of suicide among the youth of the country and especially among the children below the age of eighteen years is very alarming. This is worrying for the parents of the country as a whole due to fierce competition in education and career. The biggest reason for this is the rising expectations of parents and teachers that unnecessary creates pressure of studies on the students. Many children cannot handle this pressure, due to which depression develops in them. Many studies have shown that anxiety and depression increase in students as the examinations approach. It seems and, in some cases, this growing depression becomes the reason for them to commit suicide. Due to the limited availability of seats in engineering and medical colleges, there is a lot of competition now. For example, for admission to general graduate

courses in educational institutions of the University of Delhi, there is now a fierce fight. In such a situation, students are deeply confused about their education and future, some are worried about career or job as they are also struggling with family financial crisis. Some children commit suicide after getting less than expected or rank in the examination. They choose the path of B.A. because they feel that their future is bleak due to being left behind in the race for marks.

If we look at the statistics of the National Crime Records Bureau, where in 2020, a total of 12,526 students committed suicide across the country. Whereas in 2021 this figure increased to 13,089. Among the students who committed suicide, 56.54 percent were boys and 43.49 percent were girls. Of the 10,732 adolescents under the age of eighteen, 864 had failed the examination. It is becoming a cause of serious concern for the entire society. According to the World Health Organisation, one person in every forty in the world commits suicide in seconds. That means every year around eight lakh people worldwide end their life by suicide, with the vast majority of suicides occurring between the ages of 15 and 29. According to WHO statistics, 79 percent of suicides in the world are committed by people from low and middle-class countries. And in this, a large number of such youths are there, on whose shoulders the future of any country rests. Over the years, the incidents of suicide have increased rapidly all over the world, but the number of suicides in India is quite worrying.

Depression is continuously increasing among people, due to which some such people take heartbreaking steps like suicide. Frustrated with life, the increasing trend of suicide is becoming a cause of serious concern. According to psychiatrists whenever a person or youth is suffering from deep mental stress, then there is some change in his behaviour than before can be seen. In

such a situation, it is a great responsibility of the people and family members present around them to protect such a person or youth. Support emotionally, mentally or physically, whatever is needed, try to boost his morale, so that he should not feel alone. According to psychiatrists, suicide is a very serious problem and depression is mostly held responsible for committing suicide, which accounts for about nine-tenths percent of such cases. The thought of committing suicide develops inside a person when he is in a difficult situation. As far as the students are concerned, somewhere the parents are also guilty for the increasing suicide cases among them.

Actually, in most of the cases it is seen that parents or guardians do not understand the ability and interest properly and keep more expectations from them than necessary. In many cases, such students take wrong steps due to excessive mental pressure. Parents, close people and teachers play the biggest role in getting students out of mental pressure. There can only be someone who can sympathetically explain to them that their life is not determined by any failure. And this life of ours is the only thing that we cannot get again. We should encourage them to say that they can touch the heights of success even by working hard according to their capacity with positive thinking. In recent years counselling has also helped students to take up their studies. Efforts are being made to provide medical consultation, but these efforts need to be intensified. Cases like students' suicide can also be reduced by bringing awareness about mental health.

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Global Disparity

Despite India, Europe, and the US sharing a similar agricultural model, Indian farmers find themselves trapped in a distressing reality of suicides and hardships. In stark contrast, both Europe and the US have implemented diverse measures to safeguard and bolster their farming communities. These initiatives aim to tackle the challenges faced by farmers, ensuring the stability and sustainability of the agricultural sector. Through subsidies and direct payments, financial assistance is extended to farmers, stabilizing their incomes, supporting agricultural production, and mitigating the adverse impacts of market fluctuations and price volatility. The disparity between these regions highlights the urgent need for India to learn from successful international models and adopt comprehensive measures to alleviate farmer distress and create a more secure and prosperous farming sector.

MK Nair, Raipur

#### Exploited Annadatas

Farmers, known as annadatas or food providers, tragically face numerous challenges when it comes to selling their agricultural produce in the market. They are often at the mercy of middlemen and intermediaries who take advantage of their vulnerabilities, offering unjustifiably low prices and unfair deals. Moreover, inadequate infrastructure, including subpar transportation and storage facilities, further hampers the farmers' ability to access markets and sell their produce at profitable rates. Recently, farmers in Haryana were compelled to sell their sunflower seeds to private buyers at meager prices as low as Rs 4,000 per quintal, as the government failed to procure their produce at Minimum Support Price (MSP). While customers pay exorbitant prices, farmers continue to suffer, selling their hard-earned produce for a mere pittance.

Vinod Kumar, Chennai

#### Empower Farmers

To truly empower farmers and foster their prosperity, the pressing need of the hour is to provide them with a legal guarantee of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their agricultural produce. It is unfortunate that farmers are frequently forced to protest and endure police backlash just to secure fair prices for their crops. These hardworking individuals, who form the backbone of the agricultural sector and contribute significantly to food security, should naturally receive a fair and just compensation for their labor. Recognizing and appreciating the pivotal role farmers play in society is of utmost importance. Let us prioritize their well-being and work towards creating a system that supports and uplifts our farmers, ensuring their rightful place in society.

Rakesh Kumar Mishra, Korba.

### Ukraine-Russia conflict

## The world accepts India rather than China, as a mediator

DC Pathak

Soon after the launch of military operations by Russia in Ukraine in February 2022, which resulted in an escalating armed confrontation between the two countries, Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first world leader to call for an immediate cessation of hostilities and recourse to peace negotiations. Modi reached out to both Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky as a universally acceptable 'wise counsel.' The US-led West had by then already become involved in supporting the Ukrainian fight against Russia.

India took the stand from the very beginning of the conflict that the concerns of both warring countries had to be taken note of. Those who loudly advocated for NATO support for Ukraine implicitly upheld the Cold War approach in a situation where the dismemberment of the USSR had already reduced that superpower to a much shrunken Russia. As the prolonged war entered its second year, the emergence of China as an active stakeholder in the Ukraine-Russia conflict

has drawn the attention of the world and led to intense speculation among strategic analysts about China's President Xi Jinping's moves in regard to this ongoing military confrontation.

China first talked of 'principled neutrality' but as the conflict got prolonged and showed signs of escalation, it started putting emphasis on a 'political solution' of the Ukraine crisis while standing firmly with Russia. Xi Jinping's meeting with President Putin in Moscow on March 21, 2023, underscored the Chinese stance of 'facilitating talks for peace' - China at the same time made moves to check the adverse geopolitical fallout of the deepening Cold War kind of polarization between the US and Russia, on its own interests.

Interestingly, China's proclaimed 12-point stand on 'The Ukraine crisis' made public on the completion of one year of the conflict, etched what India's strategic analysts had already been spelling out by way of a framework for negotiations for peace. In China's presentation 'respect for the sovereignty of all countries' is meant to uphold the cause of Ukraine while criticism of 'unilateral sanctions' is designed to express

support for Russia. The call for ceasing hostilities to resume peace talks is directed more at Russia but the advice to 'abandon 'cold War mentality' was clearly meant for the US-led West. Like India, China was totally opposed to any use of nuclear weapons. Favouring the movement of grains and maintenance of industrial supply chains is aimed at containing the geopolitical repercussions of the conflict from the Chinese viewpoint.

'Post-war reconstruction' favoured by India, was an important element of the Chinese framework for peace talks too - India on its part would even expect Russia to contribute to that exercise in Ukraine as a goodwill gesture. India would like Ukraine to reaffirm its democratic polity based on the principle of 'one man one vote' to assuage its Russian-speaking minority and also to make it clear that it was not seeking NATO membership - these were the prerequisites for the negotiators before they could broach the subject of withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine. Prime Minister Modi continues to receive endorsement universally of the idea of India taking the initiative for bringing about a

peace settlement - the US, Europe, Ukraine and Russia are all in line with this proposition - and it would be quite appropriate for India not to let go of this strategic advantage over China. A track-II initiative under the aegis of NSAs of India, Russia and Ukraine could be a good starting point in this regard.

China's world strategy including its stand on the Ukraine-Russia military confrontation is not difficult to fathom. Xi Jinping is still pursuing the economic path to making China a superpower and while building the country's military strength, he would like geopolitical stability to continue to enable China to push ahead with 'economic expansion'. China's Belt & Roads Initiative (BRI) is in full swing as its strategic extension to Afghanistan and Iran proves. China continues to follow the Maoist doctrine of 'two steps forward, one step backwards' as was evident on the Sino-Indian border on one hand and the Indo-Pacific on the other - all it's being in line with Sun Tzu's dictum of 'winning a war without fighting'. China's ambition of becoming the second superpower after the US matches the rise of Xi Jinping to the status of Mao Zedong with the

Communist Party Congress last year voting for enshrining Xi's thoughts on 'Socialism with Chinese characteristics for the new era' in the party's constitution'.

In any case going by what is happening in the present, cessation of hostilities between Ukraine and Russia is in the best interests of the world at large. It is hence never too late for launching the peace effort. India would be on the high moral ground in taking the initiative to start the process even if its progress appeared uncertain. Working for a humane cause is rewarding in itself. India has nothing to lose even if talks get prolonged and move in an uncertain direction for its standing as an advocate of world peace will remain undiminished. The biggest geopolitical advantage for India in all of this is that the Indo-US strategic friendship is growing unhindered notwithstanding India's independent stand on the Ukraine-Russia conflict and our deep bonds with Russia; and that Prime Minister Modi's influence as a world leader on various international platforms has constantly risen in recent years.

(The writer is a former Director Intelligence Bureau)



## BRIEF

### Promotion



**Singapore:** Singapore Airlines on Monday announced the promotion of Tan Kai Ping, a senior officer extensively involved in the proposed merger of Air India and Vistara, to Executive Vice President of Operations and Chief Operations Officer. The merger between Air India and full-service carrier Vistara is a key plank of SIA's multi-hub strategy, the Singapore flag carrier said in a release on Monday.

### Loan

**New Delhi:** Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a USD 130 million loan agreement to increase agricultural productivity, improve access to irrigation and promote horticulture agribusinesses to raise farmers' income in Himachal Pradesh, a release said on Monday. The project interventions will help increase the income and resilience to the effects of climate change of at least 15,000 farm households across seven districts of the state namely Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Sirmour, Solan, and Una, the release said.

### Partnership

**Mumbai:** SpiceJet Ltd's cargo arm SpiceXpress and Logistics has partnered with supply chain services providers Ekart in the first and last-mile delivery space, the company said on Monday. As part of this partnership, Ekart will provide first-mile pickup of cargo shipments and will also help deliver them through last-mile connectivity across all serviceable pin codes in the country, SpiceXpress said in a statement.

### Ambassador

**New Delhi:** Hyundai Motor India Ltd on Monday said it has roped in cricketer Hardik Pandya as brand ambassador for its upcoming compact SUV Exter. The company will launch next month the Exter, which will compete with the likes of Tata Motors' Punch and Citroen C3. Pandya will be the brand ambassador exclusively for Hyundai Exter, Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) said in a statement.

### Inflation

**New Delhi:** Retail inflation declined to a 25-month low of 4.25 per cent in May mainly on account of softening prices of food and fuel items. Inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 4.7 per cent in April and 7.04 per cent in May 2022. This is the fourth straight month when retail inflation has declined and the third month in a row that Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation remained within the RBI's comfort zone of below 6 per cent.

# Patanjali Foods aims Rs 5K cr profit at EBITDA level

Over Rs 50K cr in 5 yrs

New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):

Edible oil firm Patanjali Foods has chalked out an aggressive growth plan to reach Rs 5,000 crore operational profit and over Rs 50,000 crore turnover in the next five years, banking on huge opportunity that it sees in FMCG business and oil palm plantations.

Patanjali Foods Ltd, erstwhile Ruchi Soya Industries, was acquired in September 2019 by Baba Ramdev-led Patanjali Group through a corporate insolvency resolution process.

In an interview with PTI, Ramdev said the company would like to grow its food and FMCG business as well as oil palm plantation vertical in a big way.

Patanjali Foods has prepared a vision document for the next five years to

become the largest player in the food-FMCG business, he highlighted.

"Our target is to achieve more than Rs 5,000 crore profitability at EBITDA level and over Rs 50,000 crore turnover in the next five years," Ramdev said.

During the full 2022-23 fiscal, the net profit rose to Rs 886.44 crore from Rs 806.30 crore in the preceding fiscal. The EBITDA (earnings before interest, depreciation, tax and amortisation) stood at Rs 1,577 crore last fiscal.

Its total income increased to Rs 31,821.45 crore in the last fiscal, against Rs 24,284.38 crore in 2021-22.

Out of the total revenue, the turnover of the edible oil segment rose to Rs 25,253.33 crore last fiscal from Rs 22,468.64 crore in the previous year. Food & FMCG segment revenue

jumped nearly four-fold to Rs 6,218.08 crore in the 2022-23 fiscal, from Rs 1,683.24 crore in the previous year.

To achieve the five-year growth vision, Ramdev said the company has lined up the launch of many new products this fiscal.

"We will be launching white buffalo ghee, premium biscuits and cookies, premium dry fruits, spices and more nutraceutical products in the coming months," he outlined.

Ramdev highlighted that the share of food-FMCG business in overall revenues grew exponentially to 20 per cent last fiscal against 7 per cent in the previous year.

The food-FMCG business contributed 72 per cent of the total EBITDA posted by the company, he said.

## OYO to add 300 hill station hotels to portfolio

By Aug

New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):

Hospitality and travel-tech firm OYO on Monday said it will on-board and add 300 hill station hotels to its portfolio by August 2023 to cash in on the summer vacation rush.

In north India, the new hotels will be in places such as Manali, Mussoorie, Nainital, Srinagar, Shimla, Dalhousie, and Haridwar while in the South, it will be Ooty, Munnar, and Kodaikanal, the company said in a statement.

Gangtok, Darjeeling, and Shillong in the East; and Lonavala and Mahabaleshwar in the

West will also see new OYO hotels, it added.

"The company is witnessing a surge in demand for hill stations and the trend will continue throughout the next three months, an OYO spokesperson said.

"With our expansion across key hill stations in India, we aim to provide a wide range of options for travellers, while also contributing to the growth of domestic tourism," the spokesperson added.

In addition to expansion across hill destinations, OYO is also aiming to add 1,800 new hotels to its portfolio in 2023 as part of its ongoing bid for premiumisation.

## Jaguar Land Rover plans annual investment of 3 billion pounds

By FY26

New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):

Tata Motors' owned Jaguar Land Rover plans an annual investment of 3 billion pounds while targeting revenue of over 30 billion pounds by FY26, according to an investor presentation by the company.

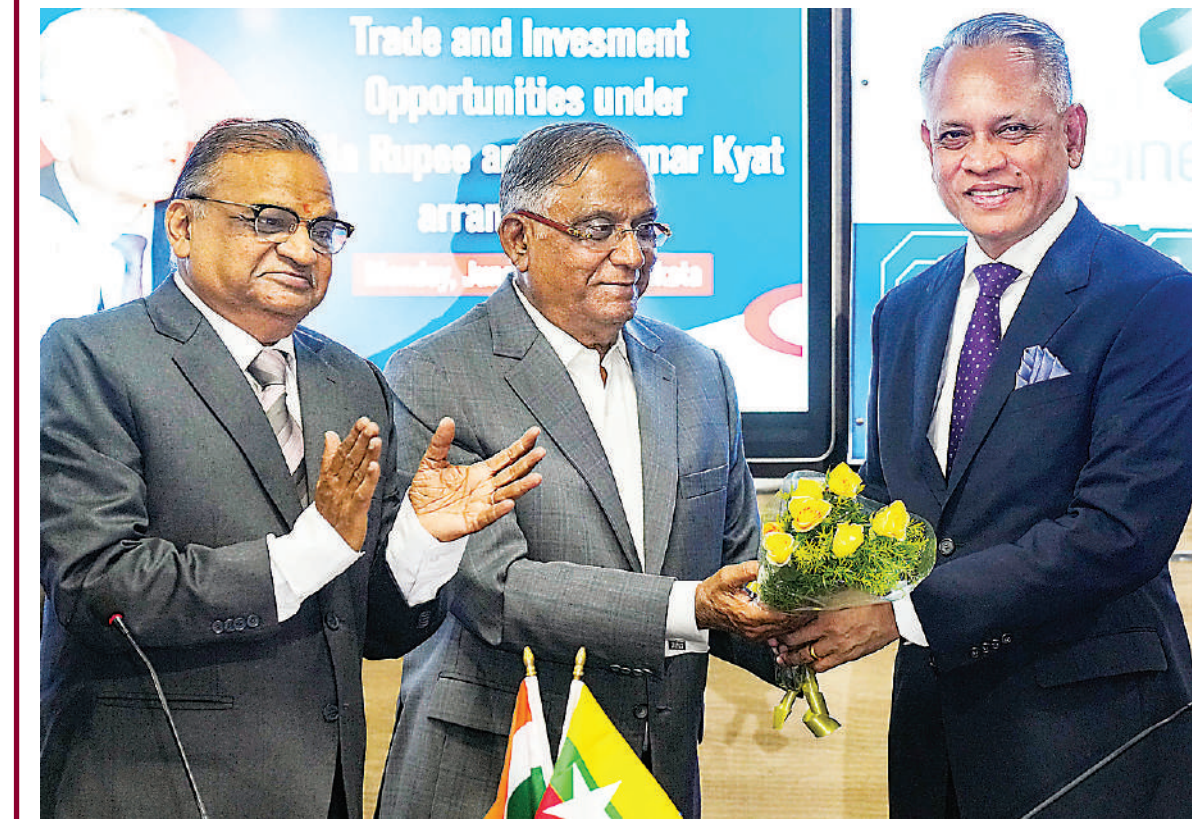
Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), which makes SUVs such as Range Rover, Defender and Discovery under the Land Rover brand and Jaguar luxury cars, expects to have revenue of over 28 billion pounds in FY24. Tata Motors shared the presentation to be made by JLR on stock exchanges. Under its 'Reimagine' strategy, which was designed to address the key challenges

facing its business, JLR had aimed to become a more agile business, with a simplified manufacturing operation and an ambition to achieve positive cash net-of-debt by 2025.

In its 'Investor Day 2023' presentation, JLR said, "Reimagine will deliver" and its investment target is 3 billion pounds per annum. Further, the company is looking at free cash flow of 2 billion pounds by FY24 and "continuing to be significantly positive thereafter".

In terms of revenue, the company said its target is over 28 billion pounds in FY24 and over 30 billion pounds in FY26. In the fiscal ended March 31, 2023, JLR had clocked revenue of 22.81 billion pounds. The EBIT margin will

## INTERACTIVE SESSION



Aung Naing Oo (R), Union Minister, Ministry of Commerce, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar being felicitated during an interactive session, in Kolkata, Monday.

## Mahindra LMM sees over two-fold rise in electric 3-wheeler sales

At 36,816 units in FY23

New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):

Mahindra Last Mile Mobility on Monday reported an over two-fold rise in its electric three-wheeler sales at 36,816 units in FY23, as compared to the previous fiscal.

The company, a division of Mahindra & Mahindra, had sold 17,522 units in FY22, Mahindra Last Mile Mobility (LMM) said in a statement.

In FY23, the company introduced its new three-wheeler EV, the Zor Grand, which contributed to an order book of more than 23,000 within a year of its launch, it added. Apart from the

Zor Grand, the electric three-wheeler portfolio of the company consists of the Treo range of vehicles, and the Alfas Mini and Cargo.

"In FY23, we continued our market leadership in electric 3-wheelers with the highest market share. In June 2023, we have also reached the milestone of one lakh EV sales reflecting our deep experience and leadership in this space," LMM CEO Suman Mishra said.

The company said it has cumulatively sold one lakh 3-wheeler EVs. It has announced an additional line for its Treo auto at its Haridwar facility.

## MURTI LAB LAUNCH



S Chandrasekhar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology and others during the launch of MURTI lab in GITAM campus on June 10, in Visakhapatnam.

## 'Registration of homes in Hyd region falls 7%

To 5,877 units in May

New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):

Registration of residential properties in Hyderabad region fell 7 per cent annually to 5,877 units in May, according to property consultant Knight Frank India.

The residential market of Hyderabad region includes four districts, namely Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Rangareddy and Sangareddy.

Hyderabad recorded registrations of 5,877 residential properties in May 2023, up 31 per cent from previous month. However, it was 7 per cent lower from March last year.

The total value of properties registered stood at Rs 2,994 crore.

At a district level, the study shows Medchal-Malkajgiri district recorded 45 per cent of the home sales registrations followed by sales registrations at Rangareddy district at 39 per cent. The share of Hyderabad district in total registrations was 16 per cent during May 2023.

Knight Frank said the highest proportion of property registrations in Hyderabad region last month was in the price range of Rs 25-50 lakh, accounting for 55 per cent of the total registrations.

Registrations for properties priced below Rs 25 lakh constituted 17 per cent of the total registered properties during May.

The share of sales registrations for properties

with ticket sizes of Rs 1 crore and above increased to 9 per cent in May 2023, compared to 6 per cent in May last year.

The share of properties sized 1,000-2,000 square feet remained the highest with a total share of 70 per cent during May 2023.

The weighted average prices of transacted residential properties witnessed a YoY increase of 3 per cent during the last month.

Samson Arthur, Senior Branch Director at Knight Frank India, said, "The Hyderabad residential market remains sanguine reflecting the strong appetite of home buyers considering most of the demand has come for homes ranging within 1,000-2,000 sq.ft."

## NMDC organizes customer meet in Donimalai

Hyderabad, Jun 12:

India's largest iron ore producer, NMDC organized a Customer Meet in Donimalai, Karnataka on Sunday. The State Miner operates three fully mechanized iron ore mining complexes in Chhattisgarh and Karnataka and ensures a steady supply of iron ore to the steel sector.

NMDC's Director (Commercial) V Suresh, A.K. Padhy, Executive Director (Commercial), Sanjeev Sahi, Head of Project (Donimalai) and other senior officials represented the company.

Strengthening its relationship with its stakeholders, NMDC hosted over 30 customers from the Steel sector and sponge iron, pig iron, and pellet industries. Future

## Need to develop new techniques to audit 'Blue Economy': CAG

Panjim, Jun 12 (PTI):

Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu on Monday said that Supreme Audit Institutions should develop new techniques and capabilities to audit marine life or the Blue Economy to ensure sustainable development. In order to fulfil their commitment towards sustainability goals in consonance with SDG 14 - Life below Water —, the governments are reorienting policies and regulatory structures to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. "Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) must align themselves with na-



Girish Chandra Murmu

by delegates from SAI20-member Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of G20 countries, Guest SAIs, Invited SAIs, International Organizations and Engagement Groups. As the Blue Economy gains primacy, so will its audit, Murmu said, adding "to keep ahead of the curve, the SAI20 community must prioritise collaborations in arriving at new techniques, skills, capabilities and methods." He further said the experience and knowledge sharing that is evident in the Compendium on Blue Economy prepared by SAL India showcases 16 case studies that "will stand us in good stead as we undertake audits of the blue economy."



initiatives of NMDC to enhance iron ore production in general and from Donimalai in particular was the key agenda of the Meet. NMDC collected comprehensive feedback and engaged with the customers to improve their experience going forward.

The customers were briefed on NMDC's production, logistics, future

plans and upcoming projects, followed by an Interactive Session on the company's product quality, delivery and customer service.

Addressing the Meet, V Suresh said, "The Customer Meet has provided a great opportunity for NMDC to strengthen its relationship with its customers and increase its reach. More such in-

teractions in the future will help us develop customer-centric solutions." He also shared the company's ambitious plans to enhance its production to 67 MTPA and further to 100 MTPA keeping up with the growing demand from the domestic market. NMDC customers expressed their confidence in the company's capability to meet their needs.



# Novak Djokovic returns to ATP No. 1 with his 23rd Slam title

Paris, Jun 12 (AP):

Novak Djokovic returned to No. 1 in the ATP rankings on Monday, replacing Carlos Alcaraz there, after winning the French Open for a men's-record 23rd Grand Slam title.

Djokovic now will add to the record he already held for the most weeks leading the tennis rankings men's or women's since the computerised system was set up a half-century ago.

"So, of course, when you talk about history, people mostly talk about the Grand Slams won or the amount of time you spent at the No. 1 rankings," Djokovic said.

"I have managed to break the records in both of these statistics, which is amazing."

Iga Swiatek, the women's champion at Roland Garros, kept her spot atop the WTA rankings, where she has been for more than a year. She could have been overtaken by No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka, depending on the results



Serbia's Novak Djokovic poses with his trophy one day after winning the French Open tennis tournament in Paris, Monday.

in Paris. Djokovic had been No. 3 going into the year's second major tournament, but winning it for the third time after exiting in the quarterfinals a year ago provided the points boost he needed to jump up to No. 1. He defeated Alcaraz 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 in the semifinals on Friday, then got past Casper Ruud 7-6 (1), 6-3, 7-5 in the final on Sunday.

It gave Djokovic three championships at Roland Garros, adding to his 10 from the Australian Open,

seven from Wimbledon and three from the US Open. He had been tied with rival Rafael Nadal with 22 major trophies. Alcaraz dropped to No. 2, Daniil Medvedev slid one place to No. 3 after a first-round exit in Paris, while Ruud remained at No. 4.

Nadal hasn't played since January because of a hip injury and so was unable to defend his title at the French Open.

The inactivity sent him out of the Top 100 on Monday, to No. 136. Swiatek earned

## Novak Djokovic has 23 Slams, so is he the GOAT?"

Paris: The query was swift and direct. Novak Djokovic's reply was slow, thoughtful and revelatory, delivered in paragraphs. "How does it feel," a reporter wanted to know, "to be the greatest male player in history?"

First, a quick bit of background: Djokovic's championship at the 2023 French Open, earned via a 7-6 (1), 6-3, 7-5 victory over Casper Ruud on Sunday that included a so-so start and then a cascade of brilliance, provided his 23rd Grand Slam title. No man has won as many. After spending his entire career trying to accumulate as much hardware as rivals Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, Djokovic now stands alone atop the list. He had been tied at 22 with Nadal; Federer, who announced his retirement last year, has 20. So, now, back to that question.

her third French Open trophy in four years and her fourth Grand Slam title overall with a 6-2, 5-7, 6-4 victory over Karolina Muchova on Saturday. Swiatek has been at No. 1 since April 2022, when she moved there after Ash Barty retired.

Sabalenka, who won the Australian Open in January, had a chance to overtake Swiatek but lost in the semifinals in Paris to Muchova after holding a match point. Muchova soared all the way from

43rd to a career-high 16th in the rankings. Reigning Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina, who withdrew before her third-round match at the French Open because of an illness, is at No. 3, and Caroline Garcia is at No. 4, with Jessica Pegula going from No. 3 to No. 5.

Beatriz Haddad Maia, who made it to the semifinals before losing to Swiatek, rose from No. 14 to No. 10, becoming the first woman from Brazil to be ranked in the Top 10.

## India to play Pakistan on Oct 15 in Ahmedabad as per draft schedule

New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):

India will open their ODI World Cup campaign against Australia in Chennai on October 8 while Ahmedabad will host their much-anticipated match against arch-rivals Pakistan a week later, according to BCCI's draft schedule for the tournament.

"The BCCI shared the draft schedule with the ICC, which then sent it to the participating countries for feedback before a final schedule is put out early next week," ESPNcricinfo reported on Monday.

As per the initial draft, the tournament will begin on October 5 with reigning champions England taking on last edition's runner-up side New Zealand in Ahmedabad, which will also host the final on November 19.

The venues for the semifinals, which are likely to be played on November 15 and 16, are yet to be decided.

Hosts India, who last won the ODI World Cup in 2011 at home, will play

### India's tentative schedule:

- ◆ India vs Australia, Oct 8, Chennai
- ◆ India vs Afghanistan, Oct 11, Delhi
- ◆ India vs Pakistan, Oct 15, Ahmedabad
- ◆ India vs Bangladesh, Oct 19, Pune
- ◆ India vs New Zealand, Oct 22, Dharamsala
- ◆ India vs England, Oct 29, Lucknow
- ◆ India vs Qualifier, Nov 2, Mumbai
- ◆ India vs South Africa, Nov 5, Kolkata
- ◆ India vs Qualifier, Nov 11, Bengaluru.

their league phase matches across nine cities, including, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi and Bengaluru. They will take on Pakistan on October 15. Pakistan, meanwhile, will play their league matches across five cities.

"Pakistan are slotted to meet the two teams progressing from the Qualifier on October 6 and 12 in Hyderabad, and

then Australia in Bengaluru (October 20), Afghanistan (October 23) and South Africa (October 27) in Chennai, Bangladesh in Kolkata (October 31), New Zealand in Bengaluru (November 5, day match) and England in Kolkata (November 12)," the report read.

Australia's match against Trans-Tasman rivals New Zealand in Dharamsala on October 29 and against England in Ahmedabad on November 4 are some of the other big fixtures.

A total of 10 teams will participate in the tournament. Out of these, eight teams have already been decided and while two other teams will qualify for the main tournament via the qualifiers.

With a little over four months left for the marquee event to begin, there has been an unprecedented delay in releasing the schedule.

The schedule of the last two editions of the tournament — 2015 and 2019 — was finalised over a year in advance.

## New faces for Windies Tour: Pujara, Umesh under threat

Rinku, Jitesh in line for T20Is

New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI): There might not be a knee-jerk reaction to India's second successive World Test Championship final defeat but senior players Cheteshwar Pujara and Umesh Yadav's places could come under the scanner before the team travels to West Indies for a two-Test series.

Yashasvi Jaiswal and Mukesh Kumar are in contention to replace the duo as the selection committee starts preparing the next batch of players for tougher assignments.

India will have a month-long tour of West Indies where they would start with two Test matches starting July 12, followed



### Rinku, Jitesh in line for T20I selection

One format where there won't be any ambiguity is T20 Internationals where Hardik Pandya will lead India, including in next year's T20 World Cup in the Americas (West Indies and USA). The T20I team would be purely based on IPL performers and one can expect the likes of Rinku Singh and Jitesh Sharma to make the cut in the final squad, as teams in the past lacked finishers. Rituraj Gaikwad's comeback and Yashasvi Jaiswal's inclusions also look imminent while Mohit Sharma could earn a well-deserved comeback after his 27 wickets in last IPL.

by three ODIs and five T20Is in which a completely new team under Hardik Pandya's captaincy will be plying its trade with IPL performers likely to be rewarded.

While another WTC final defeat will hurt the team, there is a strong feeling that the Shiv Sunder

Das-led selection committee and head coach Rahul Dravid will be looking at some options going into the next WTC cycle, which starts with the series in the Caribbean.

The two weak links as of now seem to be Pujara and Umesh, who haven't been up to the mark for a long

time. "You need to strike a balance. Selection is a process of elimination but you need that blend of youth and experience. The idea should be long-term and you have to look at two-year cycle now."

"I believe Yashasvi Jaiswal is ready for international cricket.

La Plata (Argentina), Jun 12 (AP): Uruguay beat Italy 1-0 to win its first Under-20 World Cup title. The Celeste's victory ends a streak of four consecutive wins of European teams in the tournament.

Luciano Rodr guez scored the winning goal in the 86th minute in a header from close range on Sunday, giving Uruguay a much deserved victory after an entire match of dominance against Italy.

More than 40,000 people, mostly cheering for Uruguay, attended the match at the Diego Maradona Stadium. FIFA President Gianni Infantino was also present. Uruguay barely needed to count on its steady defense, which conceded only



Uruguay's players celebrate with the trophy after winning the FIFA U-20 World Cup final soccer match against Italy at the Diego Maradona stadium in La Plata, Argentina.

three goals in the tournament, all against England in the

group stage. The South American team had clear

chances to open the scoring much earlier in a free kick taken by Rodr guez, two long distance shots by captain Fabricio D az and a header by Anderson Duarte that forced goalkeeper Sebastiano Desplanches to make one of the best saves of the tournament.

"This is crazy, crazy, crazy and we deserve it," a tearful Rodr guez said after the match.

"We are living a dream." Uruguay was so involved with the match in La Plata that the country's soccer association suspended Sunday's round of the national championship so fans could watch the final against Italy.

## Netherlands' De Ligt ruled out of Nations League final four because of calf injury

Amsterdam, Jun 12 (AP): The Netherlands will be without Matthijs de Ligt for the Nations League final four after the Bayern Munich center-back sustained a calf injury.

The Dutch soccer federation said on Monday that De Ligt picked up the injury during a training session ahead of Wednesday's semifinal against Croatia.

Spain takes on Italy in the other semifinal.

The Netherlands is hosting the tournament, with the match for third place and the final taking place on Sunday in the cities of Enschede and Rotterdam?.

The Dutch federation said it has asked UEFA to replace De Ligt with Daley



Blind, who also plays for Bayern and is on a standby list.

The Netherlands are bidding for their first major title since winning the 1988 European Championship.

## WTC: Team India players lose 100% match fees, Gill penalised additional 15% for questioning umpire

Dubai, Jun 12 (PTI):

Indian players have been fined their entire match fees for maintaining a slow over rate while opener Shubman Gill was docked an additional 15 per cent for criticising the umpire's decision to rule him out in a debatable call during the World Test Championship final.

The Australian players were also fined 80 per cent of their fees for maintaining a slow over rate during the marquee-clash, which they won by 209 run in London on Sunday.

"It was confirmed shortly after the conclusion of the match on Sunday's final day that India will lose all of their match fees



for their slow over rate, with Australia also docked 80 percent of their match fees.

"In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, players are fined 20 per cent of their match fee for every

over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time," the ICC said in a statement on Monday.

The fines were imposed after India were ruled to be five overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration, while Australia were found to be

four overs short. Indian players, who are part of the playing XI earn Rs 15 lakh per Test while the reserve players get Rs 7.5 lakhs each.

Gill was found guilty of "breaching article 2.7 which relates to public criticism or inappropriate comment in relation to an incident occurring in an international match."

During India's second innings, television umpire Richard Kettleborough had adjudged a catch by Cameron Green to remove Gill had been taken cleanly. However after the day's play, the youngster had posted a TV screen grab of the replay in which the ball seemed to be touching the ground.

## India beat Argentina 2-1 in Pro League Hockey, end on positive note

Eindhoven, Jun 12 (PTI):

India returned to winning ways with a 2-1 victory over Argentina in the FIH Pro League hockey tournament here on Sunday, ending the 2022-23 season on a positive note.

A day after suffering a 2-3 defeat to hosts Netherlands, the Indian team made a comeback and emerged victorious through goals from Akashdeep Singh (1st minute) and Sukhjeet Singh (13th).

India scored their two goals in first quarter itself while Argentina reduced the margin with a strike by Toscani Lucas in the 57th minute.

India opened the scoring less than two minutes from the start of the game with an unmarked Akashdeep, waiting for the ball inside the D, converting an excellent pass from the right flank.

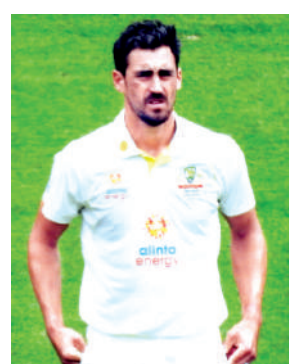
A goal so early into the match took the Argentines by surprise but they tried to put up a fight. However, they soon found themselves 0-2 down as the Indians doubled their lead when a diving Sukhjeet tapped the ball in after some excellent work by Vivek Sagar Prasad.

Not a single goal was scored in the second quarter as India went into the half-time break comfortably ahead by two goals.

## 'Playing Test cricket for Australia more important than IPL money'

London, Jun 12 (PTI):

One of the finest pacers of the current generation, Mitchell Starc keeps away from the franchise cricket, including the IPL, despite the handsome money on offer as he wants to be at his "best" playing for Australia. For Starc, playing Test cricket for Australia is paramount, a path he hopes many youngsters will follow in future. Several colleagues of Starc have appeared in various T20 leagues across the globe such as Indian Premier League (IPL), Big Bash, but the left-arm pacer has managed to stay away from the lure. "I enjoyed it (IPL), likewise I



enjoyed my time at Yorkshire 10 years ago, but Australia will always sit at the top. I don't regret any of it, money will come and go but I'm very grateful for the opportunities I've had," Starc told "The

Guardian". "Over a hundred years of Test cricket and there's been less than 500 men who have played it for Australia, that in itself makes it very special to be a part of it. "The traditionalist in me still hopes there is a generation of boys and girls who want to represent their country in Test cricket. But the easy money is in franchise cricket, it's the fast track to notoriety," he added.

The 33-year-old, who last played franchise cricket back in 2015 for the Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL, is clear in his mind that Test cricket will remain his priority for the foreseeable future.

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## Kids take over HP assembly for mock session

**Demand stern action against drug traffickers**

**Shimla, Jun 12 (PTI):**

Kids took over the Himachal Pradesh Assembly for an hour and a half on Monday, participating in a mock session in which "opposition MLAs" trooped into the Well of the House, demanding action against the drug traffickers. The one-day MLAs, selected out of 1,085 applications received by the state's Education Department, also raised the issue of drug menace during the Vidhan Sabha's "Bal Satra", or the children's session. For the first time, Himachal Pradesh got a woman chief minister in



**Children dressed as legislators and ministers take part in the special children session of Vidhan Sabha, in Shimla, Monday.**

the make-believe session. The post was held by Jahaanvi. Stating that the drug menace situation in the state is so grave that today parents are scared to even send their children out of their homes, the MLAs of the opposition party said the state gov-

ernment is just arresting a few peddlers in the name of curbing the issue. Terming the state government as "government of assurance", they raised anti-government slogans and walked to the Well of the House, demanding strong measures to curb

the drug menace in the state. "We are aware of the concern of the opposition leaders. My reply might seem like a formality to the leader of the opposition, but my government is sensitive to the problems of the people," said Jahaanvi, directing the home minister to take strict action on the matter. Earlier, replying to a question, Deputy Chief Minister Tushar Anand informed the house that there are 91 'Nasha Mukti Kenderiya' (deaddiction centres) in Himachal Pradesh. He said most of these centres are set up in the bordering districts of Solan, Una and Kangra as drugs especially "chitta" is smuggled through these areas to Shimla, the capital district.

## Oppn leaders 'assaulted', 'stopped' from filing nominations

**For panchayat polls**

**Kolkata, Jun 12 (PTI):**

Several incidents of clashes were reported from different parts of West Bengal on Monday, as unidentified miscreants allegedly attacked opposition leaders while they were on their way to file nomination papers for the panchayat polls, a senior official said. The skirmishes were reported in Daspur (Paschim Medinipur), Kakdwip (South 24 Parganas), Raninagar (Murshidabad), Saktinagar and Barshul (both in Purba Bardhaman) and Minakhan (North 24 Parganas), he said. A CPI(M) party office at Minakhan in Basirhat

subdivision was "vandalised" and the candidate was "assaulted" by the miscreants when he was going to file his nomination, the official said. In another incident at Sonamukhi in Bankura district, BJP MLA Dibakar Gharami was allegedly attacked by unidentified people as he was heading to the nomination centre. "Several such incidents of clashes have been reported, and we have sought details in this regard from the DMs and SPs," the senior State Election Commission (SEC) official told PTI. The development comes on a day the SEC directed all district magistrates and superintendents of police to impose prohibitory orders

under Section 144 of the CRPC in 1-km radius of all nomination centres. The orders, which were issued on Sunday, will be in force till Thursday. The panchayat polls are scheduled to be held on July 8. The SEC official said over 10,000 nomination papers have been filed so far. Meanwhile, the SEC on Monday told the Calcutta High Court that it can extend the last date of filing nominations for the panchayat polls by a day to June 16. After hearing petitions of opposition leaders for extension of date for filing nominations and deployment of central forces for the July 8 polls, the court had on June 9 observed that the time given for filing papers is prima facie inadequate.

## 'Amarnath Yatra is a symbol of the collective culture'

**Udhampur (J&K), Jun 12 (PTI):**

Union minister Jitendra Singh on Monday said the annual Amarnath Yatra is a symbol of the collective culture of the country and Jammu and Kashmir and was not a political issue. Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a public rally organised by the BJP here to highlight the achievements of the Narendra Modi-led government over the past nine years, the minister, who is also the local MP, expressed confidence that a large number of devotees will join the pilgrimage this year. "Amarnath Yatra is not a political issue. It is a symbol of collective culture of the country and Jammu and Kashmir. The Hindu devotees join the yatra in large numbers and are welcomed by Muslims of Kashmir who also made arrangements for them," the minister said.

## RESORT FIRE



**People try to douse fire at a tourist resort in Pahalgam, in Anantnag, Monday.**

## HC permits 13-year-old sexual assault victim to terminate 24-week pregnancy

**New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):**

The Delhi High Court on Monday permitted a 13-year-old victim of sexual assault to undergo medical termination of pregnancy of over 24 weeks. A vacation bench of Justice Jasmeet Singh passed the order after the report of a medical board which examined the minor girl was placed before it. The minor victim, who was sexually assaulted in

January, had moved the high court last week seeking permission to terminate the foetus with the help of registered medical practitioners. Allowing her plea, the judge also asked the Delhi State Legal Services Authority to look into the issue of grant of compensation to the petitioner in consonance with the applicable policy. The parents of the victim have consented to the abortion and said continu-

ation of the pregnancy would result in grave physical as well as mental injury to their daughter. The court was informed that after the incident of sexual assault, the petitioner was taken to her native place in Madhya Pradesh, and was subsequently found to be almost 24 weeks pregnant. An FIR was registered for alleged commission of various offences under the Indian Penal Code, including rape, as well as

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The petitioner's lawyer said she was currently admitted in Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital where her condition was very critical. On June 9, the high court had directed a medical board, comprising a minimum of two doctors of Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, to review the case of the victim and submit its opinion.

## 'Lack of awareness, family members' reluctancy hampering organ donation'

**New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):**

Lack of awareness about organ donation and unwillingness of people to donate their relatives' organs are among the main reasons behind the rising number of patients languishing on a transplant waiting list, experts have said. Dr K R Balakrishnan, Chairman of Cardiac Sciences at MGM Healthcare, said people don't come forward to donate the organs of their loved ones after their death due to lack of awareness and myths associated with it. "India is far behind other nations in terms of having access to donated organs. One of the primary causes of this is a lack of awareness regard-

ing organ donation," Dr Balakrishnan, who is also the Director of the Institute of Heart and Lung Transplant and Mechanical Circulatory Support (IHLTMCs) at the Chennai-based facility, said at a press conference in New Delhi on June 8. One deceased donor may save eight lives, he said, adding the purpose of this gathering of organ transplant recipients and the medical team is to raise awareness of organ donation and disseminate the word far and wide. MGM Healthcare's IHLTMCs has performed 600 heart and lung transplants in India, Dr Balakrishnan stated. At the presser, some patients, who had undergone transplant procedures, also shared their

experience. MGM Healthcare is proud to announce that "we have completed more than 50 heart and lung transplants in patients from Delhi. Each of them was in critical medical conditions with heart or lung failure not responding to medical therapy and were saved through timely transplant surgeries", the hospital said. Sharing their experience during

the press conference, the family of a six-year-old boy from Jammu, who underwent a successful heart transplant at MGM Healthcare, said he was brought to the hospital last year with cardiomyopathy and body swelling. The boy underwent a successful heart transplant after three weeks of wait and resumed his normal routine in a couple of weeks, the family said.

## RELIGIOUS PRAYERS



**Bahanaga villagers perform religious prayers for the triple-train accident victims, in Balasore, Monday.**

## Court refuses to grant transit remand of KTF operatives to Punjab Police

**Over 'belated' application**

**New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):**

A Delhi court on Monday refused to grant transit remand of two alleged operatives of the banned terrorist outfit 'Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF)' to Punjab police, saying the application was "belated". Duty Metropolitan Magistrate Isha Singh noted the accused were to be produced before the court concerned in Punjab today on a production warrant it had issued earlier. The judge said the application was filed today at 11:55 AM and, even if the application to take the accused to Punjab was allowed, it would not be possible to

produce them in the court before 5 PM. "If the accused had to be produced before the court concerned in Jagraon, Punjab, the investigating officer should have filed the application in time... This application is belated," the judge said.

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### BRIEF



Bollywood actor Rakul Preet Singh during announcement of the India Couture Week 2023, in New Delhi, Monday.

### Watery grave

**Mumbai:** Four persons are feared drowned and two were rescued after a group of people ventured into the rough seas at Juhu here on Monday, a civic official said. The incident occurred at Juhu Koliwada in the western suburbs, where six people had ventured into the sea around 5.30 pm, he said.

### Prohibit

**Bhubaneswar:** Ahead of Lord Jagannath's annual Ratha Jatra on June 20, Puri police has banned flying drones near the 12th century shrine, an official said on Monday. The restriction will be in force till July 1, the official said, adding legal action will be taken against violators.

### Trial run

**Ranchi:** The Patna-Ranchi Vande Bharat Express successfully completed the first phase of its trial run on Monday. The semi high-speed train, which arrived here around 12.40pm from Patna, left for the Bihar capital on its return leg at 2.20pm, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of Ranchi Railway Division Nishant Kumar told PTI.

### Recovered

**Bahraich:** A man allegedly in possession of charas worth Rs 3 crore in international market was arrested near the Indo-Nepal border here, a senior police official said on Monday. During patrolling by a joint team of police and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) in Rupaidiha Police Station area of the border on Sunday evening, a man coming from the Nepal side was stopped, Superintendent of Police Prashant Verma said.

### Cancelled

**Guwahati:** The Jalpaiguri-Dhaka-Jalpaiguri Mitali Express have been cancelled by Indian Railways due to the forthcoming Eid Festival in Bangladesh, a North East Frontier Railway release said on Monday.

### Protest

**Hisar:** A number of students of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHU) here protested in front of its administrative block building on Monday against the fee hike for various courses from the new academic session.

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# Govt imposes stock limit on wheat

**Till Mar 2024**

**New Delhi, June 12 (PTI):** For the first time in 15 years, the government on Monday imposed stock limits on wheat with immediate effect till March 2024 in a bid to check hoarding and contain rising prices of the key commodity.

The government also decided to offload 15 lakh tonnes of wheat to bulk consumers and traders from the central pool from month-end under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS). Apart from wheat, rice will be offloaded to bulk buyers under the OMSS and the quantity will be decided in due course of time.

The government made it clear that it has no plans to tweak the wheat import policy as the country has ample stock. It further said the ban on wheat export would continue and

## Govt to offload 15 lakh via OMSS to check prices

The reserve price of wheat has been fixed at Rs 2,150 per quintal for Fair and Average Quality (FAQ) grain and Rs 2,125 per quintal for under relaxed specifications (URS) and applicable till December 31. Whereas the reserve price of rice has been fixed at Rs 3100 per quintal for private parties and the rate is applicable up to October 31, he added. Citing reasons for selling rice via OMSS, the Secretary said there has been 10 per cent increase in prices in the last year. "We assume in sinc with wheat, some people may link with rice and this is just the signal we are giving to the market and I think public stock holding everyone is aware. We will dispose so that prices are tapered." Asked if the stock limit on wheat was imposed to shield the market from the price rise crisis before the Lok Sabha polls, the Secretary said, "Wheat starts coming to the market from April 1. Once it comes to market, there is no need to impose stock limits.

further export of sugar will be not permitted as of now.

The stock limit on wheat has been imposed until March 2024 just before the commencement of General Elections to control prices. Last time, the stock limit was imposed in

month. "The wholesale and retail prices have not gone up to that much. With the lag, we expect the wholesale and retail prices will also go up as modal mandi prices are showing up-swing. The government has imposed stock limit on wheat..." he said.

Wheat prices in mandi rose to Rs 2,302 per quintal on June 7 from Rs 2,129 per quintal a month before.

A stock holding limit of 3,000 tonnes has been imposed on wheat traders/wholesalers; 10 tonnes on retailers, 10 tonnes for each outlet of big chain retailer and 3,000 tonnes at all their depots. In the case of processors, 75 per cent of annual installed capacity, he said.

They have been directed to declare the stock position and update them regularly on the portal of the Department of Food and Public Distribution.

## Bike-taxi can't run in Delhi for now: SC

**New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):**

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the High Court order that essentially allowed bike-taxi aggregators Rapido and Uber to operate in the national capital by asking the Delhi government not to take any coercive action against them till a new policy was formulated.

A vacation bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Rajesh Bindal granted liberty to the two aggregators to request urgent hearing of their pleas by the Delhi HC. The bench, which stayed the May 26 order of the Delhi HC, also recorded the Delhi government counsel's submission the final policy will be notified before July-end. The

top court was hearing two separate petitions by the AAP government challenging the High Court order that no coercive action should be taken against the bike-taxi aggregators until the final policy was notified. Last week, the top court had sought a response from the Centre on the pleas of Delhi government. Earlier, senior advocate Manish Vasishth, appearing for the Delhi government, said the high court's decision to stay the government's notice till the final policy is notified is like virtually allowing Rapido's writ petition.

On May 26, while issuing a notice to the Delhi government on Rapido's plea challenging a law that excludes two-wheelers from

## Farmers block Delhi-Chandigarh highway over MSP

**New Delhi, Jun 12:**

Traffic on the Delhi-Chandigarh National Highway was disrupted on Monday as farmers gathered there after holding a mahapanchayat in this district to press for minimum support price for sunflower seed.

Apart from leaders of various khaps and Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait, Olympic medal-winning wrestler Bajrang Punia, one of the grapplers who have been demanding action against outgoing Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, were present at the mahapanchayat. The "MSP Dilao, Kisan

## SSB personnel injured in accidental firing

**Kanker, Jun 12:** A constable from the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) sustained a bullet injury when he accidentally fired his INSAS rifle in Kanker district on Monday, police said.

The incident took place when a team from the SSB was heading to Antagarh town in the district to provide security at the railway station this morning, an official said.

According to the police, the firing occurred near the railway tracks in Tumpal, around 200 km south of state capital Raipur. "Constable Indrajeet Yadav accidentally fired his INSAS rifle and sustained a bullet injury to his shoulder. He was immediately rushed to the community health centre in Antagarh," sub-divisional officer of police Amar Sidar said.

Yadav's condition is stable and he has been referred to Raipur for better treatment, he said.

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## Woman Naxalite gunned down in encounter

**Kanker, Jun 12:** A woman Naxalite was killed in a gun battle with security personnel in the forests of Kanker district on Monday, a police official said.

The gunfight took place at around 7 am in the forest near Binagunda village under Chhotethiya police station limits when security personnel were out on an anti-Naxalite operation, Inspector General of Police (Bastar range) Sundarraj P said.

"The operation was launched on Sunday based on inputs about the presence of Naxalite leaders belonging to Rajnandgaon-Kanker border division (RKB) and 20 to 25 armed cadres.

### About the encounter

The gunfight took place at around 7 am in the forest near Binagunda village under Chhotethiya police station limits when security personnel were out on an anti-Naxalite operation. After the exchange of fire stopped, the body of an unidentified woman Naxalite clad in 'uniform' was found along with a .303 rifle close by.

ence of Naxalite leaders belonging to Rajnandgaon-Kanker border division (RKB) and 20 to 25 armed cadres.

## Farmers gather on the road to hold Mahapanchayat over their demand for the minimum support price for sunflower seed, in Kurukshetra, Monday.



Bachao mahapanchayat", called by Bharatiya Kisan Union (Charuni), was being held at a grain market in Pipli close to National Highway-44 which was blocked by farmers a few days ago demanding that the government procure sunflower seed at MSP. After the mahapanchayat the farmers started marching towards the highway. Farmers led by Bharatiya Kisan Union (Charuni) chief Gurnam Singh Charuni had June 6 blocked the national highway near Shahabad for over six hours demanding

that the government procure sunflower seeds at minimum support price (MSP). Police used water cannons and resorted to lathicharge to disperse the protesters. Later, nine BKU (Charuni) leaders, including its president, were arrested over various charges, including rioting and unlawful assembly.

Addressing the mahapanchayat, some farm leaders criticised the government for its "anti-farmers" policies and police actions against their leaders. They demanded that the government procure sunflower seeds at MSP and that the protesters arrested in Shahabad recently be released.

### CYCLONE BIPARJOY

## Evacuate people from low-lying areas: PM

**New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said rescue teams were ensuring the safe evacuation of people living in vulnerable locations in the path of Cyclone Biparjoy, which is likely to make landfall in Gujarat's Kutch. The prime minister chaired a high-level meeting here to review the preparedness of the Centre as well as the Gujarat government to deal with the situation arising out of the impending cyclone, which is also expected to impact Pakistan. "Our teams are ensuring safe evacuations from vulnerable areas and ensuring maintenance of essential services. Praying for everyone's safety and well-being," Modi tweeted after the meeting. According to a statement by



**PM Modi holds a meeting to review the situation related to Cyclone Biparjoy, in New Delhi, Monday.**

the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Modi has directed senior officers to take every possible measure to ensure that people living in vulnerable locations are safely evacuated by the state government. He also

directed to ensure maintenance of all essential services such as power, telecommunications, health and drinking water, and restore them immediately in the event of any damage caused to them. The prime minister further said the safety of animals should be ensured and ordered the setting up of 24x7 control rooms. The meeting was attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister P K Mishra, Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, Earth Sciences Secretary M Ravichandran, Member Secretary of National Disaster Management Authority Kamal Kishore, and India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra among others.

## WELCOME RAINS



People cover themselves with umbrella during rainfall, in Kochi, Monday.

## Five railway employees under scanner

**Bhubaneswar, Jun 12:**

Five railway employees, including the station master of Bahanaga Bazar, are being investigated in connection with the three-train accident in Odisha's Balasore district that claimed 288 lives, official sources said on Monday.

The four other employees perform signalling-related job and were on duty at the time of the accident earlier this month, they said.

### For Balasore triple train crash

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is conducting a separate probe into alleged criminal negligence leading to the accident at Bahanaga Bazar station on June 2.

Railway ministry officials have indicated a possible manual tampering of the interlocking system which turned the signal for the Coromandel Express to green and guided it to the loop line where it collided with a stationary goods train.

An interference with the interlocking system, which is an automated signalling system, is being

seen as the major cause of the incident. "Five railway personnel are currently at the centre of the probe. A final report from the CRS is expected soon," a senior rail official, who did not wish to be named, said.

Three possible scenarios are being probed — whether the tampering of the system was intentional or by mistake or a consequence of maintenance work underway in the area — the sources said.

Meanwhile, two rail workers' unions have come out in support of the national transporter amidst harsh criticism from the Opposition parties over the accident in which more than 1,000 people were injured.

## Govt seeks report from CERT-In

**New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):** Amid reports of alleged breach of data on the CoWIN platform, Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Monday asserted that it does not appear that Cowin app or database has been directly breached, and added that Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) immediately responded and reviewed the matter.

The Minister of State for IT further said the National Data Governance policy has been finalised that will create a common framework of data storage, access and security standards in the country.

**Official home page of Co-WIN.**

"The data being accessed by bot from a threat actor database, which seems to have been populated with previously breached/stolen data stolen from past. It does not appear that Cowin app or database has been directly breached," the minister said clearing the air.

### Govt refutes claims

The government on Monday said reports claiming a breach of data of beneficiaries registered on the CoWIN platform were "mischievous" and "without any basis", and that the matter has been reviewed by the country's nodal cyber security agency CERT-In.

The clarification came after reports earlier in the day suggested CoWIN (Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network) data breach, which reportedly allowed access to certain personal information that an individual gave on the government's portal for vaccination.



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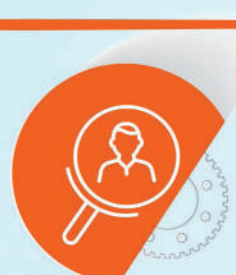
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# SEFI pays courtesy call on SAIL Chairman

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 12:** SEFI office bearers met the newly appointed SAIL President Amalendu Prakash in Delhi and congratulated him on assuming the post. SEFI office bearers expressed hope that under the leadership of Amalendu Prakash, SAIL would scale new heights in production, productivity and profitability.

In this meeting, SEFI President Narendra Kumar Banthore discussed with SAIL President the challenges and their possible solutions as well as smart working and leadership development.

For the welfare and well-being of the employees, SEFI had a detailed discussion with the SAIL President on many pending issues of the personnel,

mainly the issues of Special Allowance (DASA), House Allowance, Incremental PRP, SAIL Pension, Company Quarters for Mines Officers, work life balance and optimum use of resources.

It needs to be mentioned here that the personnel in SAIL are still waiting for the resolution of many issues, including the special allowance of mines officers which was stopped from 29 September 2022. In the second pay revision, 10 percent of the basic salary was given as special allowance to the employees working in SAIL mines by declaring SAIL mines as inaccessible areas.

This allowance is currently stopped in SAIL. In the report of the Third Pay Revision Committee, it has been recommended to continue the same provision

for service in remote and far-flung areas. The special allowance has been continued with reference to the previous orders issued by the Ministry of Steel.

In a recently issued order dated 29 September 2022, SAIL has been directed to stop the special allowance received for service in remote areas. SAIL mines are mostly located in remote locations and affected by Naxalism with lack of basic facilities like medical, education and township.

At present, the officers working in the mines are demoralized due to non-reinstatement of special allowances, which may have an impact on the perform-



ance of the company. Therefore, 'DASA' is very necessary to increase the morale of the officers of the mines to maintain the company's performance better, SEFI officials stated.

SEFI Chairman requested an adjustment of incre-

mental benefit in the calculation of DPE as per DPE guidelines. He said that in the financial year 2017-18, SAIL declared a total loss before tax of Rs 759 crore and in the year 2018-19 declared a total profit before tax of Rs 3338 crore.

They demanded a calculation of PRP based on incremental profit, which is the profit of turnover in SAIL. All the officers can be encouraged by giving incremental PRP.

SEFI Chairman urged SAIL Chairman to give necessary guidelines for implementation of Uniform HRA Policy in SAIL. In the year 2013, by a disputed order by the then SAIL management, with immediate effect, the management had stopped taking new applications for HRA, as a result of which discrepancy has arisen in the HRA eligibility of the personnel.

The employees who have shifted to their private

houses after 2013 are not being given HRA. BSP houses are more than 50 years old which are not suitable for living. Under these circumstances, those workers who have constructed and shifted to their own houses, are feeling cheated.

Due to non-receipt of HRA, these personnel are facing inconvenience in repaying the housing loan. SAIL Chairman has been requested to implement a uniform HRA policy across the company.

SEFI President raised objections to the 'Fast Track' promotion being given in the new promotion policy and said that no officer has been given grades that fulfill the qualifications of 'Fast Track' in any of the plants of SAIL.

The benefits of such schemes will be available

only to the people posted near the main offices and power centers and the officers working hard for the company will not be benefited. Therefore, 'fast track' should be removed from the promotion policy with immediate effect and attention should be paid to making the leadership in the company advanced and effective.

SEFI held a detailed discussion on renovation of company quarters in all the units of SAIL, plans to construct new houses in a systematic manner, maintenance of city services etc.

SEFI discussed necessary improvements in medical services in all units of SAIL and MoUs etc with big medical institutions. SEFI President Narendra Kumar Banthore and General Secretary Akshay Malik were present.

# ED nets Liquor Transporter from crematorium

### Absconding transporter had come to perform last rites of his mother

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 12:** On Monday, a team of Enforcement Directorate reached Ramnagar Muktidham in search for an absconding transporter involved in the transportation of liquor. He had come to the crematorium to perform the last rites of his mother.

The ED team allowed him to perform the last rites and thereafter took him to the ED office in Raipur. ED had conducted raids at his residence last month in connection with the alleged liquor scam

worth Rs 2000 crores. Since then, the transporter was absconding.

According to information, Kalavati Devi, mother of the transporter Arvind Singh, had left for heavenly abode on June 11. Arvind Singh was performing the last rites of his mother on Monday at Ramnagar Muktidham.

Meanwhile, some officers of the Enforcement Directorate along with 15 jawans of CRPF reached



Ramnagar Muktidham. They stayed there till the conclusion of the last rites and thereafter asked Arvind Singh to come with them.

They took Arvind Singh to his residence in Khursipar and thereafter to the ED Office in Raipur. Some elected representatives and local dignitaries were also present at the Muktidham.

It needs to be mentioned here that ED had conducted raids at the res-

idence of liquor trader Trilok Singh Dhillon, liquor transporter Arvind Singh and others on May 09. Since then, Arvind Singh was at large.

According to information, Arvind Singh is an employee of Bhilai Steel Plant and was posted as Master Operator in the Transport and Diesel Department.

He came in contact with the top officials of Excise Department after which in the year 2020, he took a leave of three years for doing business and got involved in liquor transportation.

# Ruffians arrested for attempt to murder

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 12:** Police arrested three ruffians for allegedly attempting to kill a man in Anjora. AI Pawan Dewangan (SHO, Anjora Chowki) informed that the victim is Vishwamitra Yadav (53) son of Late Lalu Yadav a resident of Abadipara, Anjora Chowki.

On June 7, he entered into an altercation with three others of the same locality. Later in the evening, the accused attacked him with sticks when he was returning home. He suffered head injuries and was rushed to a private hospital in Durg.

The victim is undergoing treatment in the ICU of the hospital. On the



basis of the medical report, police lodged an FIR under sections 294, 506 (B), 323, 307 of IPC against the accused identified as Visto Yadav (37) son of Bittu Yadav, Shrawan Yadav (33) son of Bengali Yadav and Kishan Yadav (22) son of Shankar Yadav,

all residents of Abadipara, Anjora.

Police arrested all the three accused and during interrogation, they confessed to the crime. They were produced before the court and have been sent to the jail on judicial remand. ASI Yodha

Deshmukh, Head Constable Gulab Sahu, Ashish Rajput, Bihari Dhruv, Lata Suman, Constable Brijmohan Singh, Toman Deshmukh, Yogesh Chandrakar and Suresh Sahu played a vital role in arresting the accused.

# Free medical camp organised at Village Katro

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 12:** Bhilai Steel Plant conducts several public welfare activities as part of its organizational social responsibility towards the community in and around its areas of operations. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department of the Plant organized a one-day free Health Camp, at Village Katro, on June 10.

The Medical Team from CSR department comprising of Dr Isha Kujur, Pharmacist, Shashi Bhushan Rai, Rekha Dev for Blood-Sugar and BP examination, Shambhu for registration, volunteered their services for the camp. Rajni Rajak, Development Assistant,



from the CSR department was also present during the Health Camp.

A total of 41 villagers from village Katro, including 11 men, 28 women and 02 Children, availed free health services at the day long Health Camp and free medicines were distributed to them.

It is noteworthy that Health Camp is one of the prime initiatives, through

which BSP's CSR Department has contributed substantially towards Public Health & Medicine. The CSR Department of Bhilai Steel Plant, conducts health camps on regular basis in the adjoining areas or mines, with the aim of ensuring adequate medical & Health facilities to the communities within which it works.

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 12:** With the arrest of three persons including a juvenile, police claimed to have solved a case of theft which occurred at a locked house in Deobaloda Charoda. The accused committed the crime in the state of intoxication. Gold and silver jewellery, LPG cylinder, LED TV, Mixer Grinder and some household utensils were recovered from them.

DSP (Crime) Rajeev Sharma informed that on June 05, the victim Indrajit Ratre, a resident of Deobaloda Charoda, filed an FIR at Police Station Old Bhilai regarding theft at his locked house. On May 21, he went to his house in Raipur and when he returned on June 04, he found the channel gate of the house was broken. Some unidentified thieves had stolen gold and silver ornaments, LPG

# Three held for theft at locked house



cylinder, LED TV, mixer and some household items.

Police launched investigations and activated the network of informers. Cops maintained vigil on the suspects and interrogated the

habitual criminals. Meanwhile, police received a tip off about Deobaloda residents Bhopendra Kumar Tandon and Sandeep Chauhan who were trying to sell LPG

cylinder in hotels.

They were taken into custody and during interrogation, they confessed to committing the theft. They disclosed the name of a minor accomplice. Later, the

minor accused was also taken into custody. Police recovered the stolen booty worth Rs 01 lakh from them. Advance action is being taken from the old Bhilai police station.

The accused Bhopendra Tandon alias Bulledo (20) son of Mahendra Kumar Tandon a resident of Satnami Basti Deobaloda Charoda Bhilai; Sandeep Chauhan alias Jhoda (21) son of Manharan Chauhan a resident of Deobaloda Charoda and the juvenile have been arrested and produced before the court.

ASI Shomit Mishra, Head Constable Satyendra Madharia, Chandrashekhar Banjir, Constable Rinku Soni, Nitin Singh, Rakesh Chaudhary, Gunit Kumar, D Prakash, Bhavesh Patel, Amit Dubey, Ramesh Pandey, Meghraj Chelak, Vikrant Kumar and ASI Subhash Sahu played a vital role in arresting the accused.

# Workshop on Capacity Building Programme inaugurated

## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 12:** DAV group of institutions not only strives for excellence but also tries to touch the future they teach. A three-day workshop for Capacity Building Program on various subjects Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Social science, Computer science, Accountancy & Business Studies, Economics and EEDP was inaugurated at DAV Hudco on Monday.

Around 281 teacher delegates from 21 DAV schools were present in the inauguration ceremony and will be attending the three-day seminar. The inaugural ceremony started with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp by SK Mishra (ARO) along with BP Sahu (ARO cum Principal of DAV Public School ISPAT Nandini), SK Pandey, CM Pandey,



Mallika Mukherjee, Anamika Bharti, Priyanka Shukla, HK Pathak.

The resource persons were Geeta Singh, Subhashis Basak, Neelsh Shrivastava (Physics senior secondary), Naveen Kumar Sharma, Nisha Nair, Suparna Bose (chemistry senior secondary), Omprakash Katre, Prakash Chandra Sahu,

Sreeja Praveen (biology senior secondary), Shiv Kumar Pandey (mathematics primary), AK Choubey, Moses Das (mathematics middle) SP Dwidivedi, A Vasantha (mathematics secondary), Santosh Kumar Panigrahi, BR Panda, Ravi Prakash Verma (mathematics senior secondary), DR Sahu, Sita Sharma (social studies primary),

Harmit Singh, Rajesh Kashyap, Jolly Thomas (social studies middle), DK Panda, BK Mallick (social studies secondary), PP Ram, Mamta Singh, Santosh Verma (computer science primary), Aparna Mazumdar, RK Soni, Kamendra Kumar Singh (computer science middle), Ajaya Innes, Pramod Nayak (computer science sr.sec.), Dhananjay Panda,

Narayan Agrawal (accountancy and business studies Sr. secondary), Laxmi Sinha, Ruchira Mukherjee, PS Amritya (economics senior secondary), Indrani Mahadik (EEDP LKG & UKG), Meetu Tiwari and Shahnaz Begum (EEDP- 1 & 2).

SK Mishra (ARO) while delivering the inaugural speech addressed the delegate that our education system is the oldest education system of the world. With time teachers must be updated so teachers' training is most important. Through the last few years lots of emphasis has been given to the teachers' training with updated tools and techniques. Our sole target is to improve our students' career. Through this three-day Capacity Building Program our teachers will be benefited, he said.

# Electrical Zone employees felicitated with Shiromani Awards



## Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, June 12:** Bhilai Steel Plant employees of Electrical Zone were awarded with the 'Pali Shiromani' and 'Karm Shiromani' Awards under the 'Shiromani Puraskar Yojana' of Bhilai Steel Plant, for displaying exemplary work performance. The award ceremony was organised on June 09, where the awardees were felicitated by the dignitary guests. TK Krishna Kumar, CGM (Electrical) was the chief guest on this occasion.

Hariom Pandey, Assistant Manager (ETL) was awarded the 'Pali Shiromani Award' for his exemplary performance at the

workplace, while the 'Karm Shiromani Award' awardees included Prem Bahadur, MOC (ERS) and Veer Bahadur Sharma, C/Man Cum Senior Technician (CRME). Senior officials of the department were also present on this occasion, including General Managers, Prakash, GM (Telecomm), Uma Shankar Barwal, GM (ETL), Prabeer Kumar Padhy, GM (ERS), Akshaya Kumar Nayak, GM (CRME), Md Ashraf Siddique, GM (HME), S Lakshmi, GM (TPIE), Subhash Rathore, GM (ETL) and Kamini Gupta, GM (ETL). The main objective of felicitating the employees under the 'Shiromani Puraskar Yojana' is to

acknowledge the sincere efforts of plant's hardworking employees and motivate them to work with same spirit while maintaining healthy competition as well as innovation for better utilization of resources and maintaining the highest level of safety standards at the workplace.

Mementoes and Certificates were presented to the awardees, along with Letter of Appreciation to their respective Spouses. During the programme, the awardees were appreciated for their achievements and contributions at the workplace. D Belsar of Personnel Office (P&E Zone), conducted the programme.



## 'Long queue of unemployed outside PO'

- For submitting offline application for govt jobs
- Lack of drinking water, shade posing lots of problems to youth

### Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, June 12: For recruitment in government departments in the state many vacancies have been advertised and for which the unemployed youth in the state are submitting applications in large number in the district employment office in the district. Hundreds of youth are reaching post office to get registry done and it is accepted either through speed-post and registered post.

With only one counter in the Post office, there is long queue of the unemployed youth there and with no drinking water facility and shade the youth are made to face scorching



heat and wondering in search of water for hours.

The unemployed youths viz. Rishiraj, Ajit, Vinod, Basant and others reaching the Head post office informed that there was break in the recruitment procedure in various government departments in the state for long and due to which they were not getting any chance to apply. But now vacancies have

been declared and for which they have come to submit applications in the post office. Among many vacancies at the state-level, they are hopeful that they will get chance this time.

In majority of the posts, the government has sought applications offline only and therefore there is so much of rush of unemployed youth in the POs. The youth are applying for

different posts in the govt department through speed-post or registered envelope.

At present, many vacancies have been announced in the health department, Collectorate, Education and Ayurveda Department and others. Taking the forms of all the applicants, it is being forwarded through speed-post and registered post.

But since there is only one counter in the head post office, the unemployed youth are facing lots of problems. With less of staff and few on leave, there is generally long queue seen outside the counter for hours and in view of the summer season and lack of shade, there is demand to open one more counter for speed-post in the PO soon.

Set aside this with no drinking water facility in PO, the youth are made to wander in search of drinking water daily. But so far no arrangements have been made in the PO and this shows the concern on part of Postal department.

There is need for one more sub post-office in the city, so as to meet the increasing requirement. The head post office in city is already with less of staff and in such conditions opening another sub post-office can prove to be handy and for speed-post and registered post and other services.

## Pandey expresses gratitude towards Modi govt

### For hike on MSP on paddy for farmers

#### Central Chronicle News

Saja, June 12: For increase in the MSP on paddy by the Modi government, media in-charge Saja VS Rakesh Pandey has expressed gratitude towards PM Modi and said that that Modi government is working for the poor, farmer and happiness and prosperity of the villages. Hike of Rs 143 on MSP on paddy has led to increase in MSP on paddy to Rs 2182 and expressing happiness on the same, Rakesh Pandey has welcomed this decision.

In a statement made to the press, Santosh Pandey held the Modi government as pro-farmer and said that in last 9 yrs of its rule at the Centre, PM Modi has



Rakesh Pandey

ther said the Central cabinet ha increased the MSP on 'Udat dal' from Rs 350 per quintal to Rs 69.50 per quintal; MSP on 'makka' to Rs 128 per quintal and MSP on paddy to Rs 143 per quintal, making it Rs 2183 per quintal as on date.

He said that this is pro-farmer policy of Modi-led central government and they would continue to get benefit in the near future. Pandey said that we should express gratitude towards PM Modi as following pro-farmer policy, the rice that of farmers from entire Chhattisgarh is being purchased by Modi-government on MSP and is making payment for this entire expenditure to the state government.

deposited an amount of Rs 6000 into the account of each farmer under PM Samman Nidhi; provide 'pucca' houses to poor under PMAY; and provided facility like free of cost gas Chullah under Swachh PM Yojana. Pandey fur-

## Badminton Tourney to conclude on June 13th

### Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, June 12: 40th ITBF Dongargarh is organising inter-battalion Badminton tournament from June 10-13 at Nehru College's Badminton Court. In this Regional Hq's Bengaluru, ITBP, four Battalions (27th, 39th, 40th and 44th) are taking part and it is selecting the players from these contestants that players for inter-Border Badminton tournament will be finalised, so that a strong participation of ITBP regional Hq's Bengaluru can be presented in the future Badminton tournaments. This tournament

was inaugurated at the hands of Second Command 40th Battalion ITBP Tarun Kumar Banjari. This particular tourney is being organised under guidance of OP Yadav-Dy IG Regional Hq's Bengaluru and Anand Narayan Dutta, Commandant 40th Battalion ITBP. At the inauguration of the tournament, the enthusiasm of the players was very much visible. For conduct of this tournament, there was presence of highly trained trainers and top-quality administrative management. The programme was conducted by Dy. Commandant (Vet) Dr Amit Pandey.

## DFO sidelining CCF's order issues cheques worth cr !

- By handing over charge to a Dy. Ranger in Biharpur and Manendragarh circle
- Eyebrows raised on why DFO so favourable to a controversial Dy. Ranger prior to transfer list

### Central Chronicle News

Manendragarh, June 12: The newly formed MCB district has become a centre of irregularities and it always remain in limelight due to some or the other controversial issues, be it an inquiry or the action taken, it always remains a mystery. One such surprising issue took place in Manendragarh Forest Mandal of Biharpur and Manendragarh forest circle. Here the DFO



Manendragarh on leaving of two rangers posted here on official leave, sidelining the order issued by senior officer of CCF Surguja Forest circle and made the Dy. Ranger, who is known for his works and payment, as in-charge of Manendragarh and Biharpur range.

It is on his appointment as in-charge, in just a month's time, cheques worth crore have been released in three ranges. Whereas prior to this a capable Dy. Ranger posted in Biharpur and as in-charge got the works worth Rs 3 crore done and created a record of the sort

and achievement. Now once again a cheque of Rs 70 lakh for Manendragarh range and that of Rs 87 lakh in Biharpur range has been issued and for its payment, two Dy. Rangers have been given responsibility by the DFO. With this prior to discussions about the transfer of DFO, there are rumours of some irregularity in the above two payments made, as the cheques have been issued after giving charge to a controversial Dy. Rangers.

Prior to this also the district has been in news about the payments in the department and all this is being

### Where the funds were spent in one month by Dy. Ranger

The most surprising thing here is that when the Dy. Ranger is asked to where such a big amount has been spent and what all has been done he loses his temper and puts the entire blame or issue on DFP and SDO. This clearly proves as to how honestly the department is working! But as to when the Dy. Ranger in-charge would provide details of the expenditure worth Rs 3 crore made to the two Rangers coming back on leave, would be known only after looking at the documents.

saved courtesy a senior Forest officer in Korea district. Now once again a Dy. Ranger gets payment worth lakhs, are trying their level best to be appointed as Ranger in Manendragarh. It is worthwhile to mention here that in-charge Dy. Ranger Sankhumi Pandey

### What is order of senior officer

As per letter No. 2023/2888 Ambikapur, dated 04/01/2023-3, by CCF Surguja Forest circle Ambikapur to DFO Manendragarh During the period of sanction earned leave, it has been mentioned that suggestion has been sought for management of work in the circle during the leave period. In this the senior officer has said that with fire-season at present, prior to sanction of the leave, he (DFO) should ensure that the works related to Forestry/ Tendupatta collection/ and other administrative work is not affected and then only the leave be sanctioned and then only think of handing over the charge to Ranger level officer. But the DFO made the Dy. Ranger as in-charge and there is no objective of this order by CCF, as all the decisions are to be taken by DFO only.

prior to this was given the charge of Biharpur range on 30 Nov 2021. It generally takes a month to understand about the Range's work and immediately after this in December a payment of Rs 3.50 cr is made. Despite knowing the fact that this type of cases have come up in Baharasi and Kuvarpur range of Manendragarh Forest division and in the inquiry conducted it was proved and action was also

taken on former officer; but as to what action was taken is limited only on papers!

So once again the same person gets the charge of the District and payment worth lakhs have been released in Biharpur and Kelhari range of Manendragarh district and it has become centre of discussion among all and the question surrounding all is as to why the IFS is so favourable to a particular Dy. Ranger only?

## Three candidates selected for post of councilor

- In Ward 6 Mohbhattha
- Allotment of symbols to the candidates

### Central Chronicle News

Bemetara, June 12: As per the order of the State Election Commission, a total of 7 applications were received till the last date of submission of nomination form for the election of vacant councilor post in Ward No. 6 Mohbhattha under Municipal Council, Bemetara area.

The time for withdrawal of names of the candidates was fixed till 03.00 pm on June 12, 2023. Today, on June 12, in the presence of District Election Officer Padium Singh Elma, 4 applications were received for withdrawal of nominations in the said period, in which Sulekh Verma from Indian National Congress, Shiv Patil, Shiv Kumar

Sahu, Nand Kishore Sahu from Bharatiya Janata Party.

After the withdrawal of nominations, election symbols were allotted to the candidates, out of which Dharam Verma was given the symbol of the Indian National Congress (paw print), Laxman Yadav of the Bharatiya Janata Party (lotus print) and Ramendra Kumar Verma, an independent candidate.

Collector Padium Singh Elma has appealed to the three candidates to conduct the elections in a peaceful environment, he appealed to the three candidates that special attention should be paid to the fact that there should be no fighting, quarrels or riots during the campaign.

Keep and get the election done peacefully, fairly and transparently. On this occasion, Sub-Divisional Officer (R) Suruchi Singh, Chief Municipal Officer Bhubendra Upadhyay and candidates of various parties were present.

## Mohile holds meeting with party workers of 4 mandals

- Handed over responsibility for various programmes

### Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, June 12: MLA Punnulal Mohile by convening a meeting in 4 BJP mandals of Mungeli Vidhan Sabha, reviewed about the programmes to be held in the coming days and handed over responsibility to the concerned.

In the meeting held at Atal Parisar, district BJP office, the party workers from four Mandals of BJP viz. Mungeli (urban), Mungeli (Rural), Setganga and Jahargaon Mandal, Mohile informed that under the completion of 9 yrs of PM Narendra Modi the 'special contact campaign' launched from May 30 would continue till June



30. This will be followed with Beneficiary sammelan in Setganga on June 16; sammelan of senior BJP leader at Jhulelal Dhaam from June 18; 'Sanyukt Morcha sammelan' in the chief presence of BJP co-in-charge Nitin Nabin on June 20; International Yoga day on June 21; Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee martyrdom day on June 23; 'Prabudh Karyakarta sammelan' in

Sakari of Takathpur on June 25; BJP National President J.P. Nadda's programme in Bilaspur on June 30. Discussions were also held in context of revision of voter list, adding or deletion of names and on other subjects. On this occasion, BJP working committee member Girish Shukla, District BJP President Shailesh Pathak also addressed the party workers.

On t his occasion ex-MLA Vikram Mohile, Dwarika Jaiswal, Rajani Sonwani, Shivpratap Singh, Deenanath Kesharvani, Ramkamal Parihar, Jaithu Singh, Vinay Pandey, Mani Singh, Ranapratap Singh, Shankar Singh Thakur, Som Vaishnav, Umashankar Sahu, Nitesh Bharadwaj, Rajiv Sriwas, Ramsharan Yadav and others were present.

## DEO holds meeting with officers, Principal readers

### Central Chronicle News

Bemetara, June 12: Even before the commencement of the new session 2023-24, on Monday, Block Education Officer, Assistant Development Block Education Officer, Development Block Resource Coordinator, at the Government Boys Higher Secondary School Bemetara of Block Bemetara were issued instructions by the District Education Officer (DEO) Bemetara Arvind Mishra here on Monday.

Holding a meeting of the cluster academic coordinator and head readers DEO discussed the major issues including necessary maintenance, repair, student admission, distribu-

tion of textbooks and uniforms, proper implementation of mid-day meals etc., building construction work, presence of teachers, painting of buildings with cow dung paint. Elaborate discussions were held on 100% enrollment of children in schools, attendance of teachers, etc. Along with this, he gave necessary guidance regarding G-20, Sugghar Padhwaiya, School Entrance Festival, preparations before the new session. Mr. Narendra Verma, District Mission Coordinator, Samagra Shiksha informed about the Shala Siddhi Yojana portal, as well as directed the headmasters about the online entry of text books and uniforms.

## Workers participate in the divisional level conference



### Central Chronicle News

Kareli badi, June 12: Veteran leaders of Magarlod block, Kurud block, sub-tehsil Kareli Badi area participated in Congress's divisional level workers conference held in Raipur. Taking a pledge to work for the party in an en-

thusiastic manner, the workers agreed to the message given by the Chief Minister.

District Congress Committee Vice President Hemant Sahu, Congress leader Laxmikanta Sahu said that district, tehsil and block and booth level workers participated in the divi-

sion level conference.

The Chief Minister has given responsibility to all the workers to work towards the party. He said that the 2018 elections, 'I have fulfilled the resolution with which I worked'. It will now be the turn of the office bearers of the organization who have got

the responsibility for the upcoming elections. He said that the Chief Minister has asked all the party workers to work hard and do well, those who have been left out will be given a chance in the next government. The enthusiastic speech by Chief Minister's sought full support and resolve to work in the interest of the party.

A large number of workers including Block President Kurud Ashish Sharma, District Panchayat members Kusumlata Sahu, Kanti Kanwar, Raju Sahu, Toshana Sahu, Uttam Sahu, Chandrasah Sahu were present on this occasion.

CHANGE OF NAME	CHANGE OF NAME
IT IS INFORMED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT I SAYED KASIM S/O SAYED GULAM DASTGIR RESIDENT OF WARD NO. 61, BEHIND GANPATI HOSPITAL NEW SARKANDA BILASPUR (CG)-495001, HAVE CHANGED MY OLD NAMED SAYED KASIM S/O SAYED GULAM DASTGIR SO IN FUTURE I SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY MY NEW NAME SAYED MOHAMMAD KASIM S/O SAYED GULAM DASTGIR IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS. SAYED MOHAMMAD KASIM WARD NO-61, BEHIND GANPATI HOSPITAL NEW SARKANDA BILASPUR (CG)-495001	IT IS INFORMED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT I VEDULA JAYASHREE W/O VEDULA NARSINGH RAO RESIDENT OF MIG-37, BAJPAYEE CASTLE, BEHIND MINOCHA COLONY BILASPUR (C.G.)- 495001 HAVE CHANGED MY OLD NAME VEDULA JAYASHREE W/O VEDULA NARSINGH RAO, SO IN FUTURE I SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY MY NEW NAME VEDULA JAYASHREE RAO W/O VEDULA NARSINGH RAO IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS. VEDULA JAYASHREE RAO MAG-37 BAJPAYEE CASTLE, BEHIND MINOCHA COLONY BALASPUR (CG)-495001

**CHHATTISGARH RAJYA SAHAKARI BANK MYDT. (APEX BANK)**  
Sahakar Bhavan, Plot no.74, Sector-24, Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar  
Date: 13/06/2023

**Advertisement of RFP for PACS Hardware Procurement**  
Chhattisgarh Rajya Sahakari Bank Mydt., Raipur (Nodal Agency of Chhattisgarh State Government for PACS Computerisation Project) invites RFP for Supply, Installation, Configuration, Commissioning, Maintenance and Support of Computer Hardware Equipment for PACS Computerisation Project of Chhattisgarh State. RFP Document, Terms and Conditions, Eligibility criteria etc. shall be downloaded from www.gem.gov.in, document copy is also available at Bank's website www.cgapebank.com.  
Last date of submission of RFP document is 13/07/2023. RFP document and other details are available on Gem and bank website. **Managing Director**

**PREMISES REQUIRED**  
Punjab National Bank requires suitable ready built and well-constructed hall type building having Carpet Area including space for ATM (800 sqft to 1000sqft) on lease/ rental basis premises should be preferably in Ground Floor and if in first floor, with lift facility at following locations:

S. No.	Location	Address
1.	Marwahi	Marwahi, Gaurella-Pendra-Marwahi, Chhattisgarh

Premises offered should have all clearance certificates from statutory authorities. Interested owners / registered Power of attorney Holders of such premises in the desired locality who are ready to lease out their readily available premises on long term lease basis preferably for 15 years or more may send their offers in the prescribed format available on Bank's Web Site www.pnbindia.in or the same may be obtained from PNB, Circle Office, Gaurav Path, Ring Road-2 Bilaspur during office hours. The complete offer duly sealed & signed and should reach the undersigned on or before 28.06.2023, 5:00 PM at the above address. No brokerage will be paid by the Bank. Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion without assigning any reasons whatsoever. **CIRCLE HEAD**

## CM inaugurates 'Jal Mitan-Yuva Udyami' EDP

Organized under the aegis of Jal-Jeevan Mission and UNICEF

**Raipur, June 12:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the 'Jal Mitan-Yuva Udyami' (Young Entrepreneur) Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP) at his official residence here on Monday. This programme was organized under the aegis of Jal-Jeevan Mission and UNICEF.

Public Health Engineering Minister Guru Rudrakumar presided over the program. Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain, Secretary to Chief Minister Dr. S. Bharatidasan, Mission Director of Jal Jeevan Mission Chhattisgarh Alok Katiyar, UNICEF WASH specialist Shweta Patnaik were also present in the programme.

On the occasion, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, PHE Minister Guru Rudrakumar and the prominent guests of the program distributed tool



kits to 90 Jal Mitans and young entrepreneurs. The tool kit contained safety shoes, helmets etc.

A number of youngsters of the state have been provided skill development training as 'Jal Mitan' and 'Young Entrepreneur', with the objective to provide employment opportunities and to ensure permanent maintenance of the infrastructure being developed for water supply through pipeline to every

household in rural areas of Chhattisgarh under Jal Jeevan Mission.

Under the joint aegis of Jal Jeevan Mission and UNICEF, 540 youth and 90 young entrepreneurs of the state have been provided residential training for 21 days in permanent maintenance of drinking water supply infrastructure. This includes training in plumbing, Electrical, Solar Panel Repairing, RO repairing

etc. Jal Mitan will provide various services such as Water Quality Testing Services, Tap / Pipe Fitting Repairing, RO Fitting / Repairing, Electrical Fitting / Repairing, Solar Panel Fitting / Repairing, Pump Operator Service. In his address at the inaugural program, CM Bhupesh Baghel said that Chhattisgarh is the first state of the country, where a large number of youngsters are being trained for the operation and maintenance of drinking water schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission. As Mitan, young entrepreneur and Jal Didi, they are being groomed for maintenance and operation of the schemes.

CM further said that the State Government is making consistent efforts to engage the youth in various self-employment and employment activities. Besides the unemployment allowance, the government is also providing skill development training to youth. Chief Minister said that so far, 540 young people have been given the

high-level training under Jal Jeevan Mission and they have been provided free tool kits today. CM congratulated the trained Jal Mitans and Jal Didis for the new opportunities of self-employment.

Chief Minister said that under Jal Jeevan Mission, a target has been set to provide tap water connections to 50 lakh households in rural areas of Chhattisgarh. So far, 24 lakh households have been equipped with the tap connections. And for operation and maintenance of such large number of connections, skilled manpower is required. Hence, these trained youngsters will always have employment opportunities and there will be no dearth of work. Chief Minister said that during his recent stay at Kondagaon, appointment letters were distributed to around 550 youths who were trained in skill development there. In this way, more and more employment and self-employment opportunities are being created for the youth of the state.

## CM Baghel releases a book titled 'Adha Adhyay'

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, June 12:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel released the book 'Adha Adhyay', written by the senior journalist and editor of Navbharat Bilaspur, Arun Upadhyay, at his residential office today. He congratulated and expressed his best wishes to Upadhyay for his new creation. Swarna Upadhyay and Om Upadhyay were also present on the occasion.

It is noteworthy that Upadhyay has written the book based on 35 years of his experience in journal-



ism. He has documented his experiences of seeing, understanding, and publishing the changes in this era's social, educational, political, and eco-

nomical public life from the viewpoint of a reporter to an editor, which will prove to be quite useful for new journalists.

## Car manufacturing co recruitment fair today

To be held at Arang

**Raipur, Jun 12:** A recruitment fair has been organized by India's largest car manufacturing company Gujarat at Raipur Government Devnarayan Agarwal ITI Arang on June 13, 2023 at 9:30 am. In

which interested students can participate in this recruitment fair. For this, 10th ITI pass, age 18 to 24 years have been kept and those who have passed ITI from 2017 to 2022.

Principal Homan Nagre said that this recruitment camp has been organized by Suzuki Motor

Company, in which other qualifications and attractive pay scales have been kept, this recruitment is only for male students. These students should have school certificate, ITI certificate and 5 copies of photocopies and it is compulsory to bring all original documents.

## Develop skills as a means of livelihood: Collector

**Jagdalpur, Jun 12:** Collector Dayaram K. said one should develop skills and talents as a means of livelihood. Increase employment opportunities by further enhancing skills in trainings. He said that according to the intention of the government and the Chief Minister, to remove unemployment, a provision of unemployment allowance has been made for the youth to get employment. Beneficiaries receiving unemployment allowance are to be given training by counseling according to their interest and the beneficiaries should learn with enthusiasm the training being given. Enthusiasm for work should remain from the beginning till the end of the training and even after getting employment so that the future can be safe.

Collector Vijay discussed with the beneficiaries after observing the registration work for skill training of the beneficiaries approved for unem-



ployment allowance at Livelihood College Adawal here on Monday.

The Collector informed that 2464 applicants were given the benefit of the scheme in the district under the Unemployment Allowance Scheme. Employment-oriented training for the eligible beneficiaries of unemployment allowance has been started at Livelihood College, Adawal Jagdalpur. At present, 90 youths are getting trained in the courses of Solar Pump Technician, Unarmed Security Guard and Front Office Associate

in three batches. This livelihood organization has prepared children for training in Security Guard, Assistant Electrician, Solar Pump Technician, Tailor, Desktop Publishing, Front Office Associate, Welder and Plumber trades. Along with the Livelihood College, another site has also been selected by the administration for training facilities. The course will be started on the basis of demand for skill training. Biometric attendance of the trainees will be recorded during the training, as well as an employ-

ment fair will also be organized after the training.

It should be known that the applicants who have been approved unemployment allowance. Those beneficiaries are being offered skill development training in a time period of one year. As per the instructions of the government, they will be helped to get employment after skill development training and if they refuse to participate in skill development training or do not accept the offered employment, their unemployment allowance will be stopped. In the application of unemployment allowance by the applicant, it has been mentioned to provide skill development training free of cost in any one of the mentioned trades.

On this occasion, in-charge of Livelihood College Sharadchandra Gaun, Employment Officer Netam and other officers and beneficiaries of unemployment allowance were present.

## Kotamsar cave entrance will remain open till June 30

**Jagdalpur, Jun 12:** Due to the delay in arrival of monsoon in Bastar, the entrance of Kotamsar cave located in Kangerghati National Park will remain open till June 30 this time. Due to the delay in arrival of rains, the park management has decided to close the Kutumsar cave on June 30 instead of June 15.

This will be the second time that due to delay in pre-monsoon showers in Bastar, additional time of 15 days has been given to keep the cave open. Last year also the Kotamsar cave was closed on June 30, which was reopened on September 1.

Kangerghati National



SDO Kamal Tiwari said that due to the delay in monsoon, preparations are being made to close the entrance of the Kotamsar cave in Kangerghati on June 30 instead of June 15. The Kotamsar cave is closed for safety for four months during the rainy

season. There has been no monsoon rain in Bastar this year yet. The closure of the Kotamsar cave limits the number of tourists reaching here. Due to the closure of the cave here during the rains, the crowd gathers only to see Tirathgarh waterfall. Local

youth will be benefited by increasing the duration of visiting the Kutumsar cave. Along with this, the nearby businessmen, guides and gypsy vehicle operators are also benefited by the arrival of tourists here. According to the park management, apart from the Kotamsar cave, other adventures including Babu Rattling going on inside the Kangerghati National Park will continue till the onset of rains. It is noteworthy that to promote tourism in Bastar, many adventure programmes are being run in the garden area, including Babu Rattling, Kayaking and trekking for tourists.

## Ch'garh football women's team struck gold

In the first Khelo India Tribal Sports National Championship Defeated Jharkhand team 2-0 in a tiebreaker Kiran Pisda and Muskan scored one goal each



**Raipur, Jun 12:** Performing brilliantly in the first Khelo India Tribal Games National Competition held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, Chhattisgarh's women football team has struck 'Gold' and brought laurels to the state. In the final match held today between the teams of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh's team won the gold medal by 2-0 in the tiebreaker. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Sports Minister Umesh Patel have congratulated the members of Chhattisgarh's women football team for the

achievement and extended best wishes for their future endeavours.

During the final match held in Bhubaneswar, both the teams i.e. of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand played with all their might but none of the teams could score any goal in the stipulated time. The outcome of the match was decided with a tiebreaker, when both the teams were given a chance to score five goals each.

In the tiebreaker round, Kiran Pisda, a practicing player at the Girls Football Academy, Raipur, performed brilliantly and did not give a single chance to the opposing team to score,

whereas she and Muskan of Bastar scored one goal each and won the gold medal. Chhattisgarh's women football team had entered the finals after beating Tripura by 4-0 in the semi-final held on June 11. In the semi-final, Kiran Pisda scored three goals, while Pinky Kashyap of Bastar scored one goal. Sports Secretary Mr. Neelam Namdev Ekka, Sports Director Mrs. Shweta Srivastava Sinha and officials and sports lovers have congratulated all the members of the team for their tremendous performance.

Excellent performance of sportspersons from

Chhattisgarh continues of Chhattisgarh are performing impressively well in 'Khelo India Tribal Games National Championship'. Kuber Singh of Residential Archery Academy, Bilaspur won the silver medal in 30 meters category and secured second position in the overall championship. Similarly, Kumari Tarnika Teta, a player of Residential Athletic Academy Bilaspur, won a silver medal in the 100 meter women's category. It is noteworthy that 5000 athletes from 18 states are participating in this competition being organized in Bhubaneswar.

## BJP's Gudadhur Purkhauti Samman Yatra reached Bhanpuri, tribal society welcomed

**Jagdalpur, Jun 12:** Martyr Veer Gudadhur Purkhauti Samman Yatra was accorded grand welcome in various villages by BJP Mandal Bhanpuri of the district. Shaheed Veer Gudadhur's Jamasthan Gram Panchayat was duly inaugurated at Netanar. Purkhauti Saman Yatra reached Alnar, Seoni, Bade Amabal, Mundagaon, Kavdgaon, Mandlapal and Kungarpal under BJP Mandal Bhanpuri of Narayanpur assembly constituency here on Monday, the third day today. Here the people of the tribal society took the yatra forward by giving a grand welcome in a traditional way.



BJP SC/ST Morcha National Treasurer Dinesh Kashyap, who is leading the Yatra like Shaheed Veer Gudadhur Purkhauti, said that tribal leaders have been fighting for the independence of the country in various tribal areas. The tribal heroes responded to the battle of ammunition of the British with arrows and bows. But it is the

country's misfortune that the Congress government, which was in power for the longest time, suppressed the glorious history of the tribals. Even at present, the Congress government of the state is leaving no stone unturned to humiliate the pride of the tribals. Kashyap said that the Shaheed Veer Gudadhur Purkhauti Samman Yatra

has been taken out with the aim of taking the history of the martyrs to everyone.

During this Dr. Subhau Kashyap, Nandlal Mudami, Rup Singh Mandavi, Mahesh Kashyap, Maniram Kashyap, Santosh Baghel, Khitesh Maurya, Khuleshwar Kashyap, Fakir Kashyap, Nilkumari Baghel, Chalemi Maurya, Tulusu Kashyap, Ramprasad A large number of rural and BJP workers including Maurya, Jhadu Maurya, Neeraj Dewan, Khalim Kashyap, Manish Vaidh, Khageshwar Thakur were present.

## GNY empowering rural communities and fostering self-reliance

Rani Durgavati women SHG flourishes in vermicompost production, generates an income of Rs 5 lakh

**Raipur, Jun 12:** The Chhattisgarh Government's ambitious Godhan NYAY Yojana (GNY) is proving to be instrumental in bringing about positive changes in lives of rural population and fostering self-reliance. This scheme has successfully brought prosperity to rural communities by providing them with an additional source of income and creating employment opportunities,



especially for local women.

Regular cow dung procurement is being conducted at Gauthan in Bhendri village of Gariyaband district under the Godhan NYAY Yojana. The 15-membered Rani Durgavati Women Self-Help Group, associated with the Gauthan, is

actively involved in vermicompost production using the thus procured cow dung. The group has sold nearly 1,252 quintals of vermicompost, generating an income of about Rs 5 lakh thus far.

The group members have stated that the establishment

of Gauthan has provided them with employment opportunities and an additional source of income in their village itself. They have also expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Chhattisgarh Government for the commencement of this ambitious scheme. They have mentioned that schemes including 'Narva, Garuwa, Ghurwa, Badi' and 'Godhan NYAY Yojana', have proved to be highly beneficial for rural communities and played a vital role in improving livelihoods for people residing in villages. The operation of various livelihood-based activities in Gauthans has created new employment opportunities for the local population.

## Cafes operating under the Millets Mission are setting new records of success

**Koriya, Jun 12:** In accordance with the instructions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the Millet Mission was started with the aim of promoting traditional crops in Chhattisgarh and decreasing the rate of malnutrition in the state. The United Nations has decided to celebrate 2023 as the 'International Year of Millets'. Moreover, the Chhattisgarh Government has endeavored to set up millet cafes in all districts of the state to make millet dishes accessible to everyone. Under the Mission Millets Scheme, Millets Café was launched in the Koriya district on May 10. Within a month of its operation, the



Koriya Millets Café has set a new record of success. It has provided employment to 18 people, including 12 women. With their collective efforts, the café has earned a net profit of Rs. 2 lakh within a month. One can enjoy the taste of delicacies like Dosa, Cheela, Idli, Kheer,

Gulabjamun, and cookies prepared from Jowar, Bajra, Ragi, Jhangora, Bairi, Kangni, Kutki, Kodo, Chena (Cheena), Sama, and barley in the Koriya Millets Café. The café has emerged as a popular attraction for people right from the first day of its launch. The café provides facilities to con-

sumers like excellent seating arrangements, superior service, and a selfie point, along with delicious food. A music night program is organized every Saturday to entertain people visiting the café.

The Roshni Women's Self-Help Group runs the Millet Café in Koriya. The group has opened new avenues for the future by earning a net income of Rs. 2 lakh in the last month. Additionally, the café has provided an opportunity for farmers producing millets to sell their products. It has also transformed the lives of the people working in the café by empowering them economically.

## State govt procures farmers' paddy, takes loan and pays: Akbar

**Says Centre does not give any grant, aid or loan for the paddy procurement**  
**State govt estimates 125 lakh MT of paddy procurement in Kharif year 2023-24**



so far paddy was being procured from farmers at the rate of 15 quintals per acre, which the state government decided to increase to 20 quintals per acre.

The state government takes a loan of 20 to 25 thousand crore rupees every year for the paddy procurement. This loan is taken from banks and NABARD etc. through Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Marketing Federation (MARKFED), said Akbar, adding that no assistance is given by the Central Government to the Government of Chhattisgarh for the procurement of paddy, nor is any grant or loan given.

Farmers of Chhattisgarh are becoming prosperous due to the policies and decisions of the state government,

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Akbar said. Fulfilling the promise state government paid to the farmers Rs 2500 per quintal of paddy. Apart from the support price, farmers selling paddy in cooperative societies are being provided Rs 9000 per acre in 04 installments. Akbar informed that the state government increased the number of Seva Sahkari Samitis from 1333 to 2058 for the convenience of paddy producing farmers. The cheque for the amount of paddy is given to the farmers selling paddy through Sahkari Samitis (cooperative societies) under the cooperative department of Chhattisgarh government. Registration of farmers selling paddy is done in Chhattisgarh Integrated Farmer Portal of Government.

## Heat wave prevails in several districts of Ch'garh



Light rains in the evening brings relief

### ● Monsoon likely to enter by 19th

#### Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jun 12: People are reeling under severe heat wave condition before entry of monsoon in Chhattisgarh. The IMD has issued yellow alert for heat wave at isolated pockets of Central Chhattisgarh for the next four days. The IMD also predicted thunderstorm accompanied with light-

ning and gusty winds with wind speed 30-40 kmph at isolated places over Chhattisgarh in the next two days.

Raipur remained hottest on Monday with maximum temperature of 44 degree Celsius. The intermittent showers in the afternoon and evening hours came as a big respite from scorching heat for the residents of the city and changed the evening atmosphere with many flocking the eating joints and enjoying the

change in weather.

Rajnandgaon recorded maximum temperature of 43 degree Celsius whereas Durg recorded maximum temperature of 41.6 degree Celsius and Bilaspur recorded maximum temperature of 41.3 degree Celsius. This year the pace of monsoon is faster than last year. Monsoon is moving forward covering the entire south western part including Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh. Entry of monsoon has also started from

the Bay of Bengal. In such a situation, it may rain early in Bihar as well. This is the reason that this time monsoon is entering both the south and north regions of Chhattisgarh. It is expected to reach the northern and southern parts of Chhattisgarh around June 19-20. At the same time, the impact of the storm in Gujarat will also be seen in Chhattisgarh and there is a possibility of thunderstorms in the south-western regions from June 14.

## SK Singh appointed DG NTA, Amit Agrawal CEO-UIDAI

**Both are senior IAS officers from Ch'garh cadre**  
**Four IPS of state also empanelled as IG**



Abhishekh Singh, Sanjeev Shukla, Neha Champawat and Ajay Kumar Yadav. Ajay Kumar Yadav was at present posted as IG Raipur and as Intelligence Chief. A total of 41 IPS officers have been empanelled by the Central Government and out of which four are from Chhattisgarh.

### JP Pathak given additional charge

Meanwhile in the state, the State Government has issued fresh posting to one IAS officers and under this Janak Prasad Pathak has been given additional charge of Excise Commissioner. On the other hand, with Lalitaditya Neelam on getting transferred to TN cadre, has been released by the state government.

Raipur, Jun 12: Holding major post in the Centre, two IAS from state have been given important responsibility. Senior IAS Subodh Kumar Singh has been appointed as Director General of National Testing Agency (NTA). Another senior IAS officer Amit Agrawal has been appointed as CEO of Aadhar card making agency UIDAI. Agrawal is 1993 batch IAS officer and Singh is that of 1997 batch. Both are officers of Chhattisgarh cadre. The appointment committee of cabinet central has made this appointment.

Four IPS of 2004 from the state have been empanelled as IG by the central government. This include

## AE from PHE deptt loses gold ornaments worth Rs 5 lakh

### ● Stolen in Bhopal-Durg Amarkantak Express

Bilaspur, Jun 12: The gold ornaments worth Rs 5 lakh of wife of a retired assistant engineer from PHE department of MP were stolen from AC-2 coach of Bhopal-Durg Amarkantak Express on Monday morning. The thieves have smartly cut the bag of PHE officer's

wife and stolen the ornaments. They were supposed to get down at Uslapur station and in hurry they did not checked the bag. But when they reached their daughter's house, they found cut in the bag and ornaments missing. They lost a gold chain and bangles worth Rs 5 lakhs. He lodged complaint with GRP and in turn investigation has been started.

LR Soni, R/o Bhopal (MP) is a retired Assistant

Engineer of PHE and he was travelling along with his family in A-2 coach of Bhopal-Durg Amarkantak Express on Sunday. They were to get down at Uslapur station and go and meet their daughter in Minocha Colony. When the train reached Uslapur station, they took their bags and reached their daughter's home. They were taken aback when they opened the bag and found the ornaments missing. The thieves have smartly

cut the bag with a blade and taken out the box with gold chain and bangles worth Rs 5 lakh.

On seeing the bag, Soni came to know that the ornaments have been stolen and after which he went along with his daughter's husband to GRP thana and lodged a complaint. GRP has filed a report in this case and started the investigation and are checking CCTV footages from Kargiroad to Usalapur station.

## 23 vehicles illegally transporting minerals seized

Mahasamund, Jun 12: The Mineral Department has taken action against illegal transportation of coal, 'gitti' and sand by the mafia and seized 23 vehicles and imposed fine on them. The action was taken in the vehicle from Birkoni, Ghodari, Tungaon and Pithora area.

It is notable here that action is being taken against illegal transportation of building materials from



mines in the region under section 21 of Mine and Mineral Development Act 1957 and also under Chhattisgarh 'Gaun' Khanij Adhiniyam 2015.

All the hywas seized are not from Mahasamund district and all are from outside. The mineral department is collecting information about the own-

ers of these trucks / Hywas.

As per information in this regard from departmental officers, this type of action would continue in the near future as well. All these vehicles were illegally transporting mineral without valid documents and it was during checking of the vehicles in Birkoni, Ghodari, Pithora and Tungaon that the 23 vehicles were seized and action was taken.

## Effective steps should be taken to prevent road accidents: Minister

**Fast work on security measures at black spots**  
**Meeting of Chhattisgarh State Road Safety Council concludes**



Raipur, Jun 12: Transport Minister Mohammad Akbar said that all necessary effective measures should be taken to reduce road accidents in the state. Chairing a meeting of the State Road Safety Council, held today at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhavan Akbar instructed the officers to take effective action for safe traffic system including prevention of road accidents.

The Transport Minister instructed the officials to act expeditiously on measures to prevent accidents at black spots identified on various national highways and other roads of the state. He took detailed information from the officials about the action taken on the black spots and expressed his displeasure to the officials of the Public Works Department for the delay in the

improvement works of the black spots, and urged the departmental officers to take necessary action on it expeditiously.

He instructed to make arrangements for immediate treatment of the victims of road accidents. Detailed guidelines were given to the officers regarding the status of trauma centers in various districts of the state, challan proceedings for violation of traffic rules and ensuring compliance of traffic rules. He instructed to take action in the direction of installation of speed governors to check the vehicles and control the speed and to

take immediate action against those who drive vehicles after intake of alcohol or some narcotic substance and those stunting on the road. Akbar laid special emphasis on regular meeting of District Road Safety Committees.

Chhattisgarh State Housing Board Chairman and MLA Kuldeep Juneja also gave his suggestions to reduce accidents on national highways and other roads. Similarly, Chhattisgarh State Warehousing Corporation Chairman and MLA Arun Vora while discussing the road accidents in Durg district asked to take appropriate action to

reduce road accidents there. Parliamentary Secretary and MLA Chandradev Prasad Rai, present in the meeting, also put forward his important suggestions related to road safety and reducing road accidents. S. Prakash from Transport Department informed about the various works being done for road safety. Chairman of Inter-Departmental Lead Agency Road Safety Sanjay Sharma said that prompt action was being taken in compliance of the guidelines made by the Transport Minister in the previous meetings. He informed that 73 works of black spot improvement, 197 of junction improvement, 5 works of bus levy have been completed. He told that the police department was continuously taking measures for public awareness and road accident control to control road accidents. He said that under the public awareness programme, about 3 thousand 882 programs were organized at various places in the state, in which more than 15 lakh people participated.

## Rotary Club of Raipur Royal installs Water Cooler machine



Raipur, Jun 12: Rotary Club of Raipur Royal has installed a water cooler machine for general public at the inter-state New Bus Stand in Bhatagaon here on Sunday. With the help of this 400 lts water cooler, the hundreds of passenger arriving here at the Bus Stand will be benefited in this scorching heat.

On this occasion, Rotary Club of Raipur Royal President Somnath Agrawal, Secretary Rajiv Mundara, Bus Association President Anwar Bhai, and members of Rotary Club of Raipur Royal-Vishnu Sarda, Anoop Mundara, Sunil Agrawal, Vineet Yadav, Dr Vijay Tiwari, Sandeep Agrawal, Vijay Chugani, Vivek Arora, and Dr Naveen Bagrecha were prominently present.

## First zonal level Nirankari Bal Sant Samagam held



Raipur Jun 12: Sant Nirankari Mission's Raipur zone organised its first Bal-Sant Samagam at Sindh Dharamshala, Telibandha at Raipur. Thousands of devotees had reached the program. Young Saints from all branches of Raipur Zone participated in the Samagam, in which

Rajim, Tilda, Bhatapara, Raigarh, Dhamtari, Raveli, Mungeli, Kabirdham, Bhumka, Mahasamund, Lormi etc. cities participated. Saint Shri Shyam Sundarji from Bilaspur served as the chief guest in the program. While Children in the program gave the message of

spiritual awareness along with how to live life like a civilized person in the society, they taught it through dance and short plays.

In the end, the chief guest Reverend Shyam Sundar ji gave the holy message of Nirankari Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj to the devotees and said that earlier pregnant women used to listen to the teachings of saints and sages, which had an effect on the child. Also after birth of child the Stories of Saints and warriors were narrated by the elders of the house, due to which the children used to be cultured, but in today's time, the use of mobiles has

left behind this practice. That is why it is necessary to motivate children to attend Spiritual Congregations (satsangs).

Gurubakhsh Singh, Zonal Incharge of Raipur said that character is formed by the education received in childhood and these children can be helpful in building a beautiful era when they grow up, so it is necessary to connect children with Spiritual Congregations (satsang). It is necessary to give them good manners. It is the duty of every parent to make their children cultured, informs media in-charge Prem Singh Dhama, in a press release.

## Major meeting of police officers held



### ● In context G-20 summit to be organized in Sept

Raipur, Jun 12: A major meeting of police administration was held here on Monday in context of preparations for the G-20 summit scheduled in capital city by September this year. The officers are

being imparted training for G-20 Sammelan. It is notable here that G-20 Summit is going to be held in Raipur from Sept 18-20.

In this Summit, the member delegates and organizations from different countries will be participating. It is in view of the forum that training of the police officers is being organized and they will be deputed on duty.

**इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय जनजातीय विश्वविद्यालय**  
**Indira Gandhi National Tribal University**  
 अमरकंटक (म.प्र.) | Amarkantak (MP)  
 (A National University established by an Act of Parliament)

Adv.No.IGNTU/Rec.Cell/2023/NT-01 Date 29.05.2023  
**Advertisement for recruitment in Non-teaching posts**  
 Applications are invited from eligible Indian Citizens for the post of Registrar (UR-1) and Finance Officer (UR-1) on tenure basis at IGNTU Amarkantak. Interested candidates are required to apply online in the prescribed format through [www.igntu.ac.in](http://www.igntu.ac.in). Minimum Qualification, Experience, Pay scale and other terms and conditions, etc. are available in University website ([www.igntu.ac.in](http://www.igntu.ac.in)). Amendments (if any) shall be published in the University website only.  
 > Date of start of online application : 29.05.2023  
 > Last date for submission of online application: 27.06.2023  
 > Last date for receiving of hardcopy of application: 10.07.2023  
**CBC 21345/12/0001/2324 Registrar**

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CURAJ/R/F.148/2023/749 Date: 09.06.2023  
**PG AND INTEGRATED PG ADMISSION 2023-24**  
 Online applications are invited for admission to PG and Integrated PG Programmes for the Session 2023-24.  
**Admission on the Basis of :**  
**CUET/JOSAA/ CSAB/ GAT-B/ CCMT**  
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 KONI, BILASPUR-495 009 (C.G.) INDIA, Tel. - +91-7752-260342, Fax - +91-7752-260154,  
 Ref. No. 140/Admission /Academic/23 **ADMISSION NOTICE (2023-24)** Bilaspur, Date- 12.06.2023  
 Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur invites applications for admission to following courses in Academic Session 2023-24 -  
**M.Pharm, B.Pharm. III Sem. (Lateral Entry), M.Tech.,**  
**For admission procedure, eligibility, number of seats, reservation policy, fees, scholarship, closing dates and how to apply, please visit university website [www.ggu.ac.in/admissions](http://www.ggu.ac.in/admissions)**  
 1. Starting date of Application Process : 12.06.2023  
 2. Last date for submission of application form : 18.07.2023  
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# CENTRAL Chronicle

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## US-India Alliance

### Strengthening Security and Countering China's Threat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the US holds the potential to be a game-changer, as the Joe Biden administration has committed to bolstering India's resilience in key technologies and supporting its indigenous capabilities to manufacture advanced fighter aircraft, artillery systems, and armored infantry vehicles. This move is part of the Biden administration's broader plan to address the vast technological and military asymmetry between India and China, help New Delhi counter the Beijing threat, and play a more prominent role as a regional security provider. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, Ely Ratner, emphasized the benefits of a stronger India, stating that it is "good for the US" when India can defend its interests and sovereignty. In recent months, the US-China relationship has significantly deteriorated, with China not only defying the US but also openly challenging its security apparatus. Provocative actions, such as collecting intelligence over sensitive military installations and engaging in threatening maneuvers near American military planes and naval warships, demonstrate China's brazen disregard for international norms. China's ultimate goal appears to be pressuring the US to retreat from East Asia, thereby expanding its own regional hegemony. Similarly, India-China relations have experienced setbacks, with Beijing refusing to withdraw troops from certain areas and making incursions into Indian territory. Chinese delegates have expressed dismissive views about India's defense capabilities and its commitment to independent diplomacy, indicating China's intention to assert dominance in the region as it pleases. India's restrained response to Chinese incursions can be attributed to the economic and military asymmetry between the two countries. India urgently needs to strengthen its domestic defense manufacturing capabilities, especially in fighter aircraft production, to replace damaged assets and reduce dependence on imports. Furthermore, there is a significant gap between India and China in various critical technologies, including drones, cyber warfare capabilities, and space warfare, which must be addressed. The US-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology, announced by President Biden and PM Modi in May 2022, laid the foundation for enhanced cooperation. The collaboration includes the manufacturing of the GE F-414 jet engine to power India's new Tejas fighter aircraft, a significant milestone as this technology has been closely guarded by the US, UK, France, and Russia. During the recent visit of the US Defense Secretary, both countries finalized a roadmap for defense industrial cooperation, focusing on air combat, land mobility systems, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, smart munitions, undersea domain, and cooperation in space, cyberspace, and artificial intelligence. The forthcoming visit of Prime Minister Modi is expected to bring substantial announcements, further supporting India's military modernization and fostering integration between the defense industries of both nations through co-production and co-development. It is likely that India will procure additional MQ-9B Predator drones from the US, enhancing its surveillance capabilities along the Line of Actual Control and in the Indian Ocean, monitoring Chinese troops and warships. India has realized that China's aggression and hostility have only escalated, despite numerous rounds of talks. China is preparing for a prolonged confrontation with India, while Russia's ability to support India's military equipment needs has weakened due to its involvement in the Ukraine conflict. Strengthening ties with the US becomes imperative for India to secure political support, attract investments, access new markets and supply chains, acquire critical technologies, and develop its indigenous defense industry.

## Bridging the Gap

### Big Tech and News Publishers

The introduction of new draft legislation aimed at ensuring that Big Tech platforms pay news publishers for the content they utilize is a step in the right direction. Many countries have already initiated a fair revenue sharing model between content creators and aggregators, with Australia leading the way. Under Australian law, Facebook and Google are required to negotiate fees with media organizations to host their content, resulting in a substantial \$140 million injection into the Australian news industry last year. This influx of revenue has been crucial in enabling news outlets to invest in high-quality journalism and credible content. The forthcoming Digital India Bill, slated for public consultations this month, seeks to redress the imbalance between content creation and monetization by empowering news publishers with negotiating power. Advertising has long been the financial backbone of the news industry, but publishers have experienced a decline in their share within the digital realm, as social media companies garner a significant portion of revenue without generating original content. While both tech giants and publishers rely on each other, the contentious issue revolves around the disproportionate share of revenue acquired by Big Tech, leaving content creators with little control over the rates for their digital space sold by these platforms. India currently boasts an online population of approximately 850 million people, a number projected to reach 1.2 billion by 2025. Within this digital landscape, ensuring online safety becomes paramount. The draft Bill addresses critical issues such as child sexual abuse material, incitement of religious hatred, patent violations, and misinformation disseminated through social media platforms. This legislation aims to provide the government with the necessary legal tools to hold platforms accountable for hosting such content. Additionally, the regulation of artificial intelligence is also on the agenda. As the minister rightly stated, safeguarding the digital citizen must be the top priority. Beyond the revenue sharing aspect, the Digital India Bill presents an opportunity to foster a more equitable digital ecosystem. It is essential to recognize the transformative power of social media platforms as crucial channels for news distribution. However, their dominance in the digital landscape must not come at the expense of original content creators. The draft Bill aims to level the playing field by empowering news publishers with the ability to negotiate fair compensation for their content. Moreover, this legislation provides an opportune moment to address the broader challenges posed by the digital era. As the Indian online population continues to expand, it is crucial to enact measures that protect users from harmful and misleading content. By holding platforms accountable for facilitating the spread of misinformation, incitement to hatred, and other illegal activities, the draft Bill takes a proactive stance on safeguarding the digital space. In addition to online safety, the regulation of artificial intelligence is a critical consideration. As AI technologies advance, it is necessary to establish a framework that ensures responsible and ethical AI deployment. The draft Bill offers an opportunity to define guidelines and parameters for the development and utilization of AI, ensuring that it serves the best interests of Indian society. The forthcoming public consultations on the Digital India Bill provide an important avenue for stakeholders to contribute their insights and perspectives. By engaging in a robust and inclusive dialogue, policymakers can refine the legislation to best serve the interests of both news publishers and the digital citizenry.

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## INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY PRACTICE



Team R11 personnel do yoga on INS Vikrant ahead of the International Yoga Day, at sea, Monday, June 12.

## Alarming Rise: Student Suicides Reflect Deep Concerns

EVERY YEAR AROUND EIGHT LAKH PEOPLE WORLDWIDE END THEIR LIFE BY SUICIDE



PROF. SUNIL GOYAL



The increasing trend of suicide among the youth of the country, especially among children below the age of eighteen years, is very worrying. Frustrated with life, the increasing trend of suicide has become a cause of serious concern. In Kota, Rajasthan, which has become the country's leading coaching centre, there is a lot of mental stress regarding the preparation of competitive exams. Due to pressure, incidents of suicide by the students keep coming to the fore. Now in India, cases of student suicides in best engineering institutes like IIT and also in some other reputed higher educational institutes have started shaking the society. Between May 8 and 25, news of four CBSE students committing suicide came to the fore in Kota. In the past the news of the suicide of three students in Delhi alone after the result of the Class XII examination was also shocking. These are the three such cases which came to media headlines from the nation's capital. But don't know how many has happened in the past in other parts of the country. The worrisome situation is becoming that during the examinations, in spite of not having proper preparation, the students are not able to solve the question paper properly and, in some cases, now some students have started killing themselves out of desperation. Be it class tenth or XII exam results or medical and engineering en-

trance exams, due to not being successful in such exams there, some students are now taking heart-wrenching steps like suicide. This increasing trend of suicide among the youth is now enough to force everyone to think seriously. If we look at the statistics of student suicides, a very worrying picture emerges. According to an information given in the Rajya Sabha, in a period of five years between 2018 and 2023, Sixty-one students committed suicide in higher educational institutions of the country like IIT, NIT, IIMS, of which thirty-three students were from IITs. This increasing trend of suicide among the youth of the country and especially among the children below the age of eighteen years is very alarming. This is worrying for the parents of the country as a whole due to fierce competition in education and career. The biggest reason for this is the rising expectations of parents and teachers that unnecessary creates pressure of studies on the students. Many children cannot handle this pressure, due to which depression develops in them. Many studies have shown that anxiety and depression increase in students as the examinations approach. It seems and, in some cases, this growing depression becomes the reason for them to commit suicide. Due to the limited availability of seats in engineering and medical colleges, there is a lot of competition now. For example, for admission to general graduate

courses in educational institutions of the University of Delhi, there is now a fierce fight. In such a situation, students are deeply confused about their education and future, some are worried about career or job as they are also struggling with family financial crisis. Some children commit suicide after getting less than expected or rank in the examination. They choose the path of B.A. because they feel that their future is bleak due to being left behind in the race for marks.

If we look at the statistics of the National Crime Records Bureau, where in 2020, a total of 12,526 students committed suicide across the country. Whereas in 2021 this figure increased to 13,089. Among the students who committed suicide, 56.54 percent were boys and 43.49 percent were girls. Of the 10,732 adolescents under the age of eighteen, 864 had failed the examination. It is becoming a cause of serious concern for the entire society. According to the World Health Organisation, one person in every forty in the world commits suicide in seconds. That means every year around eight lakh people worldwide end their life by suicide, with the vast majority of suicides occurring between the ages of 15 and 29. According to WHO statistics, 79 percent of suicides in the world are committed by people from low-and middle-class countries. And in this, a large number of such youths are there, on whose shoulders the future of any country rests. Over the years, the incidents of suicide have increased rapidly all over the world, but the number of suicides in India is quite worrying.

Depression is continuously increasing among people, due to which some such people take heartbreaking steps like suicide. Frustrated with life, the increasing trend of suicide is becoming a cause of serious concern. According to psychiatrists whenever a person or youth is suffering from deep mental stress, then there is some change in his behaviour than before can be seen. In

such a situation, it is a great responsibility of the people and family members present around them to protect such a person or youth. Support emotionally, mentally or physically, whatever is needed, try to boost his morale, so that he should not feel alone. According to psychiatrists, suicide is a very serious problem and depression is mostly held responsible for committing suicide, which accounts for about nine-tenth percent of such cases. The thought of committing suicide develops inside a person when he is in a difficult situation. As far as the students are concerned, somewhere the parents are also guilty for the increasing suicide cases among them.

Actually, in most of the cases it is seen that parents or guardians do not understand the ability and interest properly and keep more expectations from them than necessary. In many cases, such students take wrong steps due to excessive mental pressure. Parents, close people and teachers play the biggest role in getting students out of mental pressure. There can only be someone who can sympathetically explain to them that their life is not determined by any failure. And this life of ours is the only thing that we cannot get again. We should encourage them to say that they can touch the heights of success even by working hard according to their capacity with positive thinking. In recent years counselling has also helped students to take up their studies. Efforts are being made to provide medical consultation, but these efforts need to be intensified. Cases like students' suicide can also be reduced by bringing awareness about mental health.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Global Disparity

Despite India, Europe, and the US sharing a similar agricultural model, Indian farmers find themselves trapped in a distressing reality of suicides and hardships. In stark contrast, both Europe and the US have implemented diverse measures to safeguard and bolster their farming communities. These initiatives aim to tackle the challenges faced by farmers, ensuring the stability and sustainability of the agricultural sector. Through subsidies and direct payments, financial assistance is extended to farmers, stabilizing their incomes, supporting agricultural production, and mitigating the adverse impacts of market fluctuations and price volatility. The disparity between these regions highlights the urgent need for India to learn from successful international models and adopt comprehensive measures to alleviate farmer distress and create a more secure and prosperous farming sector.

MK Nair, Raipur

### Exploited Annadatas

Farmers, known as annadatas or food providers, tragically face numerous challenges when it comes to selling their agricultural produce in the market. They are often at the mercy of middlemen and intermediaries who take advantage of their vulnerabilities, offering unjustifiably low prices and unfair deals. Moreover, inadequate infrastructure, including subpar transportation and storage facilities, further hampers the farmers' ability to access markets and sell their produce at profitable rates. Recently, farmers in Haryana were compelled to sell their sunflower seeds to private buyers at meager prices as low as Rs 4,000 per quintal, as the government failed to procure their produce at Minimum Support Price (MSP). While customers pay exorbitant prices, farmers continue to suffer, selling their hard-earned produce for a mere pittance.

Vinod Kumar, Chennai

### Empower Farmers

To truly empower farmers and foster their prosperity, the pressing need of the hour is to provide them with a legal guarantee of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their agricultural produce. It is unfortunate that farmers are frequently forced to protest and endure police backlash just to secure fair prices for their crops. These hardworking individuals, who form the backbone of the agricultural sector and contribute significantly to food security, should naturally receive a fair and just compensation for their labor. Recognizing and appreciating the pivotal role farmers play in society is of utmost importance. Let us prioritize their well-being and work towards creating a system that supports and uplifts our farmers, ensuring their rightful place in society.

Rakesh Kumar Mishra, Korba.

## Ukraine-Russia conflict

# The world accepts India rather than China, as a mediator

DC Pathak

Soon after the launch of military operations by Russia in Ukraine in February 2022, which resulted in an escalating armed confrontation between the two countries, Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first world leader to call for an immediate cessation of hostilities and recourse to peace negotiations. Modi reached out to both Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky as a universally acceptable 'wise counsel.' The US-led West had by then already become involved in supporting the Ukrainian fight against Russia.

India took the stand from the very beginning of the conflict that the concerns of both warring countries had to be taken note of. Those who loudly advocated for NATO support for Ukraine implicitly upheld the Cold War approach in a situation where the dismemberment of the USSR had already reduced that superpower to a much shrunken Russia. As the prolonged war entered its second year, the emergence of China as an active stakeholder in the Ukraine-Russia conflict

has drawn the attention of the world and led to intense speculation among strategic analysts about China's President Xi Jinping's moves in regard to this ongoing military confrontation.

China first talked of 'principled neutrality' but as the conflict got prolonged and showed signs of escalation, it started putting emphasis on a 'political solution' of the Ukraine crisis while standing firmly with Russia. Xi Jinping's meeting with President Putin in Moscow on March 21, 2023, underscored the Chinese stance of 'facilitating talks for peace' - China at the same time made moves to check the adverse geopolitical fallout of the deepening Cold War kind of polarization between the US and Russia, on its own interests.

Interestingly, China's proclaimed 12-point stand on 'The Ukraine crisis' made public on the completion of one year of the conflict, etched what India's strategic analysts had already been spelling out by way of a framework for negotiations for peace. In China's presentation 'respect for the sovereignty of all countries' is meant to uphold the cause of Ukraine while criticism of 'unilateral sanctions' is designed to express

support for Russia. The call for ceasing hostilities to resume peace talks is directed more at Russia but the advice to 'abandon 'cold War mentality' was clearly meant for the US-led West. Like India, China was totally opposed to any use of nuclear weapons. Favouring the movement of grains and maintenance of industrial supply chains is aimed at containing the geopolitical repercussions of the conflict from the Chinese viewpoint.

'Post-war reconstruction' favoured by India, was an important element of the Chinese framework for peace talks too - India on its part would even expect Russia to contribute to that exercise in Ukraine as a goodwill gesture. India would like Ukraine to reaffirm its democratic polity based on the principle of 'one man one vote' to assuage its Russian-speaking minority and also to make it clear that it was not seeking NATO membership - these were the prerequisites for the negotiators before they could broach the subject of withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine. Prime Minister Modi continues to receive endorsement universally of the idea of India taking the initiative for bringing about a

peace settlement - the US, Europe, Ukraine and Russia are all in line with this proposition - and it would be quite appropriate for India not to let go of this strategic advantage over China. A track-II initiative under the aegis of NSAs of India, Russia and Ukraine could be a good starting point in this regard.

China's world strategy including its stand on the Ukraine-Russia military confrontation is not difficult to fathom. Xi Jinping is still pursuing the economic path to making China a superpower and while building the country's military strength, he would like geopolitical stability to continue to enable China to push ahead with 'economic expansion'. China's Belt & Roads Initiative (BRI) is in full swing as its strategic extension to Afghanistan and Iran proves. China continues to follow the Maoist doctrine of 'two steps forward, one step backwards' as was evident on the Sino-Indian border on one hand and the Indo-Pacific on the other - all it's being in line with Sun Tzu's dictum of 'winning a war without fighting'. China's ambition of becoming the second superpower after the US matches the rise of Xi Jinping to the status of Mao Zedong with the

Communist Party Congress last year voting for enshrining Xi's thoughts on 'Socialism with Chinese characteristics for the new era' in the party's constitution'.

In any case going by what is happening in the present, cessation of hostilities between Ukraine and Russia is in the best interests of the world at large. It is hence never too late for launching the peace effort. India would be on the high moral ground in taking the initiative to start the process even if its progress appeared uncertain. Working for a humane cause is rewarding in itself. India has nothing to lose even if talks get prolonged and move in an uncertain direction for its standing as an advocate of world peace will remain undiminished. The biggest geopolitical advantage for India in all of this is that the Indo-US strategic friendship is growing unhindered notwithstanding India's independent stand on the Ukraine-Russia conflict and our deep bonds with Russia; and that Prime Minister Modi's influence as a world leader on various international platforms has constantly risen in recent years.

(The writer is a former Director Intelligence Bureau)

**BRIEF**
**Promotion**


**Singapore:** Singapore Airlines on Monday announced the promotion of Tan Kai Ping, a senior officer extensively involved in the proposed merger of Air India and Vistara, to Executive Vice President of Operations and Chief Operations Officer. The merger between Air India and full-service carrier Vistara is a key plank of SIA's multi-hub strategy, the Singapore flag carrier said in a release on Monday.

**Loan**

**New Delhi:** Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a USD 130 million loan agreement to increase agricultural productivity, improve access to irrigation and promote horticulture agribusinesses to raise farmers' income in Himachal Pradesh, a release said on Monday. The project interventions will help increase the income and resilience to the effects of climate change of at least 15,000 farm households across seven districts of the state namely Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Sirmour, Solan, and Una, the release said.

**Partnership**

**Mumbai:** SpiceJet Ltd's cargo arm SpiceXpress and Logistics has partnered with supply chain services providers Ekart in the first and last-mile delivery space, the company said on Monday. As part of this partnership, Ekart will provide first-mile pickup of cargo shipments and will also help deliver them through last-mile connectivity across all serviceable pin codes in the country, SpiceXpress said in a statement.

**Ambassador**

**New Delhi:** Hyundai Motor India Ltd on Monday said it has roped in cricketer Hardik Pandya as brand ambassador for its upcoming compact SUV Exter. The company will launch next month the Exter, which will compete with the likes of Tata Motors' Punch and Citroen C3. Pandya will be the brand ambassador exclusively for Hyundai Exter, Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) said in a statement.

**Inflation**

**New Delhi:** Retail inflation declined to a 25-month low of 4.25 per cent in May mainly on account of softening prices of food and fuel items. Inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 4.7 per cent in April and 7.04 per cent in May 2022. This is the fourth straight month when retail inflation has declined and the third month in a row that Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation remained within the RBI's comfort zone of below 6 per cent.

## Patanjali Foods aims Rs 5K cr profit at EBIDTA level

Over Rs 50K cr in 5 yrs

**New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):**

Edible oil firm Patanjali Foods has chalked out an aggressive growth plan to reach Rs 5,000 crore operational profit and over Rs 50,000 crore turnover in the next five years, banking on huge opportunity that it sees in FMCG business and oil palm plantations.

Patanjali Foods Ltd, erstwhile Ruchi Soya Industries, was acquired in September 2019 by Baba Ramdev-led Patanjali Group through a corporate insolvency resolution process.

In an interview with PTI, Ramdev said the company would like to grow its food and FMCG business as well as oil palm plantation vertical in a big way.

Patanjali Foods has prepared a vision document for the next five years to

become the largest player in the food-FMCG business, he highlighted.

"Our target is to achieve more than Rs 5,000 crore profitability at EBIDTA level and over Rs 50,000 crore turnover in the next five years," Ramdev said.

During the full 2022-23 fiscal, the net profit rose to Rs 886.44 crore from Rs 806.30 crore in the preceding fiscal. The EBIDTA (earnings before interest, depreciation, tax and amortisation) stood at Rs 1,577 crore last fiscal.

Its total income increased to Rs 31,821.45 crore in the last fiscal, against Rs 24,284.38 crore in 2021-22.

Out of the total revenue, the turnover of the edible oil segment rose to Rs 25,253.33 crore last fiscal from Rs 22,468.64 crore in the previous year. Food & FMCG segment revenue

jumped nearly four-fold to Rs 6,218.08 crore in the 2022-23 fiscal, from Rs 1,683.24 crore in the previous year.

To achieve the five-year growth vision, Ramdev said the company has lined up the launch of many new products this fiscal.

"We will be launching white buffalo ghee, premium biscuits and cookies, premium dry fruits, spices and more nutraceutical products in the coming months," he outlined.

Ramdev highlighted that the share of food-FMCG business in overall revenues grew exponentially to 20 per cent last fiscal against 7 per cent in the previous year.

The food-FMCG business contributed 72 per cent of the total EBIDTA posted by the company, he said.

## OYO to add 300 hill station hotels to portfolio

By Aug

**New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):**

Hospitality and travel-tech firm OYO on Monday said it will onboard and add 300 hill station hotels to its portfolio by August 2023 to cash in on the summer vacation rush.

In north India, the new hotels will be in places such as Manali, Mussoorie, Nainital, Srinagar, Shimla, Dalhousie, and Haridwar while in the South, it will be Ooty, Munnar, and Kodaikanal, the company said in a statement.

Gangtok, Darjeeling, and Shillong in the East; and Lonavala and Mahabaleshwar in the

West will also see new OYO hotels, it added.

The company is witnessing a surge in demand for hill stations and the trend will continue throughout the next three months, an OYO spokesperson said.

"With our expansion across key hill stations in India, we aim to provide a wide range of options for travellers, while also contributing to the growth of domestic tourism," the spokesperson added.

In addition to expansion across hill destinations, OYO is also aiming to add 1,800 new hotels to its portfolio in 2023 as part of its ongoing bid for premiumisation.

## Jaguar Land Rover plans annual investment of 3 billion pounds

By FY26

**New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):**

Tata Motors' owned Jaguar Land Rover plans an annual investment of 3 billion pounds while targeting revenue of over 30 billion pounds by FY26, according to an investor presentation by the company.

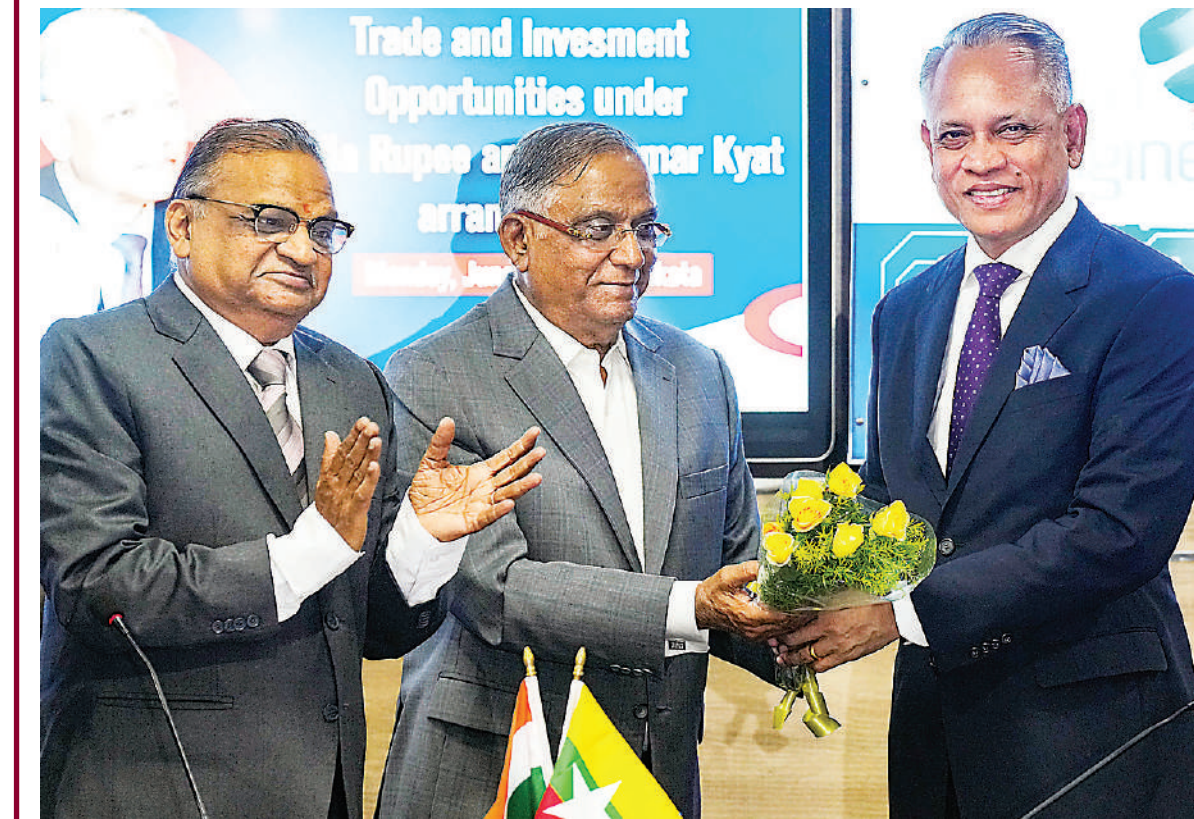
Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), which makes SUVs such as Range Rover, Defender and Discovery under the Land Rover brand and Jaguar luxury cars, expects to have revenue of over 28 billion pounds in FY24. Tata Motors shared the presentation to be made by JLR on stock exchanges. Under its 'Reimagine' strategy, which was designed to address the key challenges

facing its business, JLR had aimed to become a more agile business, with a simplified manufacturing operation and an ambition to achieve positive cash net-of-debt by 2025.

In its 'Investor Day 2023' presentation, JLR said, "Reimagine will deliver" and its investment target is 3 billion pounds per annum. Further, the company is looking at free cash flow of 2 billion pounds by FY24 and "continuing to be significantly positive thereafter".

In terms of revenue, the company said its target is over 28 billion pounds in FY24 and over 30 billion pounds in FY26. In the fiscal ended March 31, 2023, JLR had clocked revenue of 22.81 billion pounds. The EBIT margin will

## INTERACTIVE SESSION



Aung Naing Oo (R), Union Minister, Ministry of Commerce, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar being felicitated during an interactive session, in Kolkata, Monday.

## Mahindra LMM sees over two-fold rise in electric 3-wheeler sales

At 36,816 units in FY23

**New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):**

Mahindra Last Mile Mobility on Monday reported an over two-fold rise in its electric three-wheeler sales at 36,816 units in FY23, as compared to the previous fiscal.

The company, a division of Mahindra & Mahindra, had sold 17,522 units in FY22, Mahindra Last Mile Mobility (LMM) said in a statement.

In FY23, the company introduced its new three-wheeler EV, the Zor Grand, which contributed to an order book of more than 23,000 within a year of its launch, it added. Apart from the

Zor Grand, the electric three-wheeler portfolio of the company consists of the Treo range of vehicles, and the Alfas Mini and Cargo.

"In FY23, we continued our market leadership in electric 3-wheelers with the highest market share. In June 2023, we have also reached the milestone of one lakh EV sales reflecting our deep experience and leadership in this space," LMM CEO Suman Mishra said.

The company said it has cumulatively sold one lakh 3-wheeler EVs. It has announced an additional line for its Treo auto at its Haridwar facility.

## MURTI LAB LAUNCH



S Chandrasekhar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology and others during the launch of MURTI lab in GITAM campus on June 10, in Visakhapatnam.

## 'Registration of homes in Hyd region falls 7%

**To 5,877 units in May**
**New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):**

Registration of residential properties in Hyderabad region fell 7 per cent annually to 5,877 units in May, according to property consultant Knight Frank India.

The residential market of Hyderabad region includes four districts, namely Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Rangareddy and Sangareddy.

Hyderabad recorded registrations of 5,877 residential properties in May 2023, up 31 per cent from previous month. However, it was 7 per cent lower from March last year.

The total value of properties registered stood at Rs 2,994 crore.

At a district level, the study shows Medchal-Malkajgiri district recorded 45 per cent of the home sales registrations followed by sales registrations at Rangareddy district at 39 per cent. The share of Hyderabad district in total registrations was 16 per cent during May 2023.

Knight Frank said the highest proportion of property registrations in Hyderabad region last month was in the price range of Rs 25-50 lakh, accounting for 55 per cent of the total registrations.

Registrations for properties priced below Rs 25 lakh constituted 17 per cent of the total registered properties during May.

The share of sales registrations for properties

with ticket sizes of Rs 1 crore and above increased to 9 per cent in May 2023, compared to 6 per cent in May last year.

The share of properties sized 1,000-2,000 square feet remained the highest with a total share of 70 per cent during May 2023.

The weighted average prices of transacted residential properties witnessed a YoY increase of 3 per cent during the last month.

Samson Arthur, Senior Branch Director at Knight Frank India, said, "The Hyderabad residential market remains sanguine reflecting the strong appetite of home buyers considering most of the demand has come for homes ranging within 1,000-2,000 sq.ft."

## NMDC organizes customer meet in Donimalai

**Hyderabad, Jun 12:**

India's largest iron ore producer, NMDC organized a Customer Meet in Donimalai, Karnataka on Sunday. The State Miner operates three fully mechanized iron ore mining complexes in Chhattisgarh and Karnataka and ensures a steady supply of iron ore to the steel sector.

NMDC's Director (Commercial) V Suresh, A.K. Padhy, Executive Director (Commercial), Sanjeev Sahi, Head of Project (Donimalai) and other senior officials represented the company.

Strengthening its relationship with its stakeholders, NMDC hosted over 30 customers from the Steel sector and sponge iron, pig iron, and pellet industries. Future

## Need to develop new techniques to audit 'Blue Economy': CAG

**Panjim, Jun 12 (PTI):**

Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu on Monday said that Supreme Audit Institutions should develop new techniques and capabilities to audit marine life or the Blue Economy to ensure sustainable development. In order to fulfil their commitment towards sustainability goals in consonance with SDG 14 - Life below Water —, the governments are reorienting policies and regulatory structures to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. "Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) must align themselves with na-



Girish Chandra Murmu

by delegates from SAI20-member Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of G20 countries, Guest SAIs, Invited SAIs, International Organizations and Engagement Groups. As the Blue Economy gains primacy, so will its audit, Murmu said, adding "to keep ahead of the curve, the SAI20 community must prioritise collaborations in arriving at new techniques, skills, capabilities and methods." He further said the experience and knowledge sharing that is evident in the Compendium on Blue Economy prepared by SAI India showcases 16 case studies that "will stand us in good stead as we undertake audits of the blue economy."



initiatives of NMDC to enhance iron ore production in general and from Donimalai in particular was the key agenda of the Meet. NMDC collected comprehensive feedback and engaged with the customers to improve their experience going forward.

The customers were briefed on NMDC's production, logistics, future

plans and upcoming projects, followed by an Interactive Session on the company's product quality, delivery and customer service.

Addressing the Meet, V Suresh said, "The Customer Meet has provided a great opportunity for NMDC to strengthen its relationship with its customers and increase its reach. More such in-

teractions in the future will help us develop customer-centric solutions." He also shared the company's ambitious plans to enhance its production to 67 MTPA and further to 100 MTPA keeping up with the growing demand from the domestic market. NMDC customers expressed their confidence in the company's capability to meet their needs.



## ODI World Cup

# India to play Pakistan on Oct 15 in Ahmedabad as per draft schedule

New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):

India will open their ODI World Cup campaign against Australia in Chennai on October 8 while Ahmedabad will host their much-anticipated match against arch-rivals Pakistan a week later, according to BCCI's draft schedule for the tournament.

"The BCCI shared the draft schedule with the ICC, which then sent it to the participating countries for feedback before a final schedule is put out early next week," ESPNcricinfo reported on Monday.

As per the initial draft, the tournament will begin on October 5 with reigning champions England taking on last edition's runner-up side New Zealand in Ahmedabad, which will also host the final on November 19.

The venues for the semifinals, which are likely to be played on November 15 and 16, are yet to be decided.

Hosts India, who last won the ODI World Cup in 2011 at home, will play

### India's tentative schedule:

- ◆ India vs Australia, Oct 8, Chennai
- ◆ India vs Afghanistan, Oct 11, Delhi
- ◆ India vs Pakistan, Oct 15, Ahmedabad
- ◆ India vs Bangladesh, Oct 19, Pune
- ◆ India vs New Zealand, Oct 22, Dharamsala
- ◆ India vs England, Oct 29, Lucknow
- ◆ India vs Qualifier, Nov 2, Mumbai
- ◆ India vs South Africa, Nov 5, Kolkata
- ◆ India vs Qualifier, Nov 11, Bengaluru.

their league phase matches across nine cities, including, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi and Bengaluru. They will take on Pakistan on October 15. Pakistan, meanwhile, will play their league matches across five cities.

"Pakistan are slotted to meet the two teams progressing from the Qualifier on October 6 and 12 in Hyderabad, and

then Australia in Bengaluru (October 20), Afghanistan (October 23) and South Africa (October 27) in Chennai, Bangladesh in Kolkata (October 31), New Zealand in Bengaluru (November 5, day match) and England in Kolkata (November 12)," the report read.

Australia's match against Trans-Tasman rivals New Zealand in Dharamsala on October 29 and against England in Ahmedabad on November 4 are some of the other big fixtures.

A total of 10 teams will participate in the tournament. Out of these, eight teams have already been decided and while two other teams will qualify for the main tournament via the qualifiers.

With a little over four months left for the marquee event to begin, there has been an unprecedented delay in releasing the schedule.

The schedule of the last two editions of the tournament — 2015 and 2019 — was finalised over a year in advance.

# Novak Djokovic returns to ATP No. 1 with his 23rd Slam title

Paris, Jun 12 (AP):

Novak Djokovic returned to No. 1 in the ATP rankings on Monday, replacing Carlos Alcaraz there, after winning the French Open for a men's-record 23rd Grand Slam title.

Djokovic now will add to the record he already held for the most weeks leading the tennis rankings men's or women's since the computerised system was set up a half-century ago.

"So, of course, when you talk about history, people mostly talk about the Grand Slams won or the amount of time you spent at the No. 1 rankings," Djokovic said.

"I have managed to break the records in both of these statistics, which is amazing."

Iga Swiatek, the women's champion at Roland Garros, kept her spot atop the WTA rankings, where she has been for more than a year. She could have been overtaken by No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka, depending on the results



Serbia's Novak Djokovic poses with his trophy one day after winning the French Open tennis tournament in Paris, Monday.

in Paris. Djokovic had been No. 3 going into the year's second major tournament, but winning it for the third time after exiting in the quarterfinals a year ago provided the points boost he needed to jump up to No. 1. He defeated Alcaraz 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 in the semifinals on Friday, then got past Casper Ruud 7-6 (1), 6-3, 7-5 in the final on Sunday.

It gave Djokovic three championships at Roland Garros, adding to his 10 from the Australian Open,

seven from Wimbledon and three from the US Open. He had been tied with rival Rafael Nadal with 22 major trophies. Alcaraz dropped to No. 2, Daniil Medvedev slid one place to No. 3 after a first-round exit in Paris, while Ruud remained at No. 4.

Nadal hasn't played since January because of a hip injury and so was unable to defend his title at the French Open.

The inactivity sent him out of the Top 100 on Monday, to No. 136. Swiatek earned

## Novak Djokovic has 23 Slams, so is he the GOAT?"

Paris: The query was swift and direct. Novak Djokovic's reply was slow, thoughtful and revelatory, delivered in paragraphs. "How does it feel," a reporter wanted to know, "to be the greatest male player in history?"

First, a quick bit of background: Djokovic's championship at the 2023 French Open, earned via a 7-6 (1), 6-3, 7-5 victory over Casper Ruud on Sunday that included a so-so start and then a cascade of brilliance, provided his 23rd Grand Slam title. No man has won as many. After spending his entire career trying to accumulate as much hardware as rivals Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, Djokovic now stands alone atop the list. He had been tied at 22 with Nadal; Federer, who announced his retirement last year, has 20. So, now, back to that question.

her third French Open trophy in four years and her fourth Grand Slam title overall with a 6-2, 5-7, 6-4 victory over Karolina Muchova on Saturday. Swiatek has been at No. 1 since April 2022, when she moved there after Ash Barty retired.

Sabalenka, who won the Australian Open in January, had a chance to overtake Swiatek but lost in the semifinals in Paris to Muchova after holding a match point. Muchova soared all the way from

43rd to a career-high 16th in the rankings. Reigning Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina, who withdrew before her third-round match at the French Open because of an illness, is at No. 3, and Caroline Garcia is at No. 4, with Jessica Pegula going from No. 3 to No. 5.

Beatriz Haddad Maia, who made it to the semifinals before losing to Swiatek, rose from No. 14 to No. 10, becoming the first woman from Brazil to be ranked in the Top 10.

## New faces for Windies Tour: Pujara, Umesh under threat

Rinku, Jitesh in line for T20Is

New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI): There might not be a knee-jerk reaction to India's second successive World Test Championship final defeat but senior players Cheteshwar Pujara and Umesh Yadav's places could come under the scanner before the team travels to West Indies for a two-Test series.

Yashasvi Jaiswal and Mukesh Kumar are in contention to replace the duo as the selection committee starts preparing the next batch of players for tougher assignments.

India will have a month-long tour of West Indies where they would start with two Test matches starting July 12, followed



### Rinku, Jitesh in line for T20I selection

One format where there won't be any ambiguity is T20 Internationals where Hardik Pandya will lead India, including in next year's T20 World Cup in the Americas (West Indies and USA). The T20I team would be purely based on IPL performers and one can expect the likes of Rinku Singh and Jitesh Sharma to make the cut in the final squad, as teams in the past lacked finishers. Rituraj Gaikwad's comeback and Yashasvi Jaiswal's inclusions also look imminent while Mohit Sharma could earn a well-deserved comeback after his 27 wickets in last IPL.

by three ODIs and five T20Is in which a completely new team under Hardik Pandya's captaincy will be playing its trade with IPL performers likely to be rewarded.

While another WTC final defeat will hurt the team, there is a strong feeling that the Shiv Sunder

Das-led selection committee and head coach Rahul Dravid will be looking at some options going into the next WTC cycle, which starts with the series in the Caribbean.

The two weak links as of now seem to be Pujara and Umesh, who haven't been up to the mark for a long

time. "You need to strike a balance. Selection is a process of elimination but you need that blend of youth and experience. The idea should be long-term and you have to look at two-year cycle now."

"I believe Yashasvi Jaiswal is ready for international cricket.

La Plata (Argentina), Jun 12 (AP): Uruguay beat Italy 1-0 to win its first Under-20 World Cup title. The Celeste's victory ends a streak of four consecutive wins of European teams in the tournament.

Luciano Rodr guez scored the winning goal in the 86th minute in a header from close range on Sunday, giving Uruguay a much deserved victory after an entire match of dominance against Italy.

More than 40,000 people, mostly cheering for Uruguay, attended the match at the Diego Maradona Stadium. FIFA President Gianni Infantino was also present. Uruguay barely needed to count on its steady defense, which conceded only



Uruguay's players celebrate with the trophy after winning the FIFA U-20 World Cup final soccer match against Italy at the Diego Maradona stadium in La Plata, Argentina.

three goals in the tournament, all against England in the

group stage. The South American team had clear

chances to open the scoring much earlier in a free kick taken by Rodr guez, two long distance shots by captain Fabricio D az and a header by Anderson Duarte that forced goalkeeper Sebastiano Desplanches to make one of the best saves of the tournament.

"This is crazy, crazy, crazy and we deserve it," a tearful Rodr guez said after the match.

"We are living a dream." Uruguay was so involved with the match in La Plata that the country's soccer association suspended Sunday's round of the national championship so fans could watch the final against Italy.

## Netherlands' De Ligt ruled out of Nations League final four because of calf injury

Amsterdam, Jun 12 (AP): The Netherlands will be without Matthijs de Ligt for the Nations League final four after the Bayern Munich center-back sustained a calf injury.

The Dutch soccer federation said on Monday that De Ligt picked up the injury during a training session ahead of Wednesday's semifinal against Croatia.

Spain takes on Italy in the other semifinal.

The Netherlands is hosting the tournament, with the match for third place and the final taking place on Sunday in the cities of Enschede and Rotterdam?.

The Dutch federation said it has asked UEFA to replace De Ligt with Daley



Blind, who also plays for Bayern and is on a standby list.

The Netherlands are bidding for their first major title since winning the 1988 European Championship.

## WTC: Team India players lose 100% match fees, Gill penalised additional 15% for questioning umpire

Dubai, Jun 12 (PTI):

Indian players have been fined their entire match fees for maintaining a slow over rate while opener Shubman Gill was docked an additional 15 per cent for criticising the umpire's decision to rule him out in a debatable call during the World Test Championship final.

The Australian players were also fined 80 per cent of their fees for maintaining a slow over rate during the marquee-clash, which they won by 209 run in London on Sunday.

"It was confirmed shortly after the conclusion of the match on Sunday's final day that India will lose all of their match fees



for their slow over rate, with Australia also docked 80 percent of their match fees.

"In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, players are fined 20 per cent of their match fee for every

over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time," the ICC said in a statement on Monday.

The fines were imposed after India were ruled to be five overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration, while Australia were found to be

four overs short. Indian players, who are part of the playing XI earn Rs 15 lakh per Test while the reserve players get Rs 7.5 lakhs each.

Gill was found guilty of "breaching article 2.7 which relates to public criticism or inappropriate comment in relation to an incident occurring in an international match."

During India's second innings, television umpire Richard Kettleborough had adjudged a catch by Cameron Green to remove Gill had been taken cleanly. However after the day's play, the youngster had posted a TV screen grab of the replay in which the ball seemed to be touching the ground.

## Andy Murray wins Surbiton final to set age record ahead of Wimbledon

London, Jun 12 (AP): Andy Murray hailed his "perfect start to the grass season" as the three-time Grand Slam champion stepped up preparations for Wimbledon in style.

The 36-year-old Murray became the oldest grass-court champion at an ATP Challenger Tour event, beating Austrian Jurij Rodionov 6-3 6-2 on Sunday in the final of the Lexus Surbiton Trophy to earn a seeded position at Wimbledon next month.

It was his first singles title on grass since winning Wimbledon in 2016.

Murray withdrew from the French Open to prioritize Wimbledon, where he has won two of his majors on grass. Murray showcased a powerful shot col-



lection which dismantled Rodionov in just more than an hour. Heavy rain suspended play during the second set before Murray sent down more punishing serves to claim the win.

## IOA appoints Retd. Justice Mahesh Mittal as returning officer for WFI elections

New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Monday appointed former Jammu and Kashmir High Court Chief Justice Mahesh Mittal as the returning officer to conduct the impending Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) elections on July 4.

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur, after his meeting with protesting wrestlers on June 7, had said that WFI elections will be conducted by June 30 but it was clear that this deadline will be difficult to follow because a

21-day notice is required to call the Special General Meeting (SGM) of the WFI. The elections can be conducted either at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or SGM.

Thakur had assured the wrestlers that the government will not allow any of the family member or associates of outgoing WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh to contest elections, following which the wrestlers had halted their stir till June 15. IOA CEO Kalyan Chaubey communicated Justice Mittal Kumar about his appointment and sought his accept-

ance for the role. "IOA has to take steps forward to conduct elections of the WFI Executive Committee and we are pleased to appoint you as a returning officer to conduct the elections of the WFI. You many consider appointing one assistant returning officer and other staff to assist in conducting the elections," Chaubey wrote in the letter.

"Elections are required to be conducted in the SGM of the WFI called on 4th July and the schedule of the election will be required to be drawn accordingly.

## India beat Argentina 2-1 in Pro League Hockey, end on positive note

Eindhoven, Jun 12 (PTI):

India returned to winning ways with a 2-1 victory over Argentina in the FIH Pro League hockey tournament here on Sunday, ending the 2022-23 season on a positive note.

A day after suffering a 2-3 defeat to hosts Netherlands, the Indian team made a comeback and emerged victorious through goals from Akashdeep Singh (1st minute) and Sukhjeet Singh (13th).

India scored their two goals in first quarter itself while Argentina reduced the margin with a strike by Toscani Lucas in the 57th minute.

India opened the scoring less than two minutes from the start of the game with an unmarked Akashdeep, waiting for the ball inside the D, converting an excellent pass from the right flank.

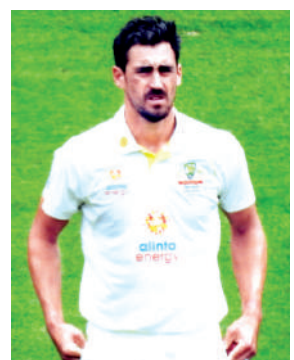
A goal so early into the match took the Argentines by surprise but they tried to put up a fight. However, they soon found themselves 0-2 down as the Indians doubled their lead when a diving Sukhjeet tapped the ball in after some excellent work by Vivek Sagar Prasad.

Not a single goal was scored in the second quarter as India went into the half-time break comfortably ahead by two goals.

## 'Playing Test cricket for Australia more important than IPL money'

London, Jun 12 (PTI):

One of the finest pacers of the current generation, Mitchell Starc keeps away from the franchise cricket, including the IPL, despite the handsome money on offer as he wants to be at his "best" playing for Australia. For Starc, playing Test cricket for Australia is paramount, a path he hopes many youngsters will follow in future. Several colleagues of Starc have appeared in various T20 leagues across the globe such as Indian Premier League (IPL), Big Bash, but the left-arm pacer has managed to stay away from the lure. "I enjoyed it (IPL), likewise I



enjoyed my time at Yorkshire 10 years ago, but Australia will always sit at the top. I don't regret any of it, money will come and go but I'm very grateful for the opportunities I've had," Starc told "The

Guardian". "Over a hundred years of Test cricket and there's been less than 500 men who have played it for Australia, that in itself makes it very special to be a part of it. "The traditionalist in me still hopes there is a generation of boys and girls who want to represent their country in Test cricket. But the easy money is in franchise cricket, it's the fast track to notoriety," he added.

The 33-year-old, who last played franchise cricket back in 2015 for the Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL, is clear in his mind that Test cricket will remain his priority for the foreseeable future.

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



# Kids take over HP assembly for mock session

**Demand stern action against drug traffickers**

Shimla, Jun 12 (PTI):

Kids took over the Himachal Pradesh Assembly for an hour and a half on Monday, participating in a mock session in which "opposition MLAs" trooped into the Well of the House, demanding action against the drug traffickers. The one-day MLAs, selected out of 1,085 applications received by the state's Education Department, also raised the issue of drug menace during the Vidhan Sabha's "Bal Satra", or the children's session. For the first time, Himachal Pradesh got a woman chief minister in



Children dressed as legislators and ministers take part in the special children session of Vidhan Sabha, in Shimla, Monday.

the make-believe session. The post was held by Jahaanvi. Stating that the drug menace situation in the state is so grave that today parents are scared to even send their children out of their homes, the MLAs of the opposition party said the state gov-

ernment is just arresting a few peddlers in the name of curbing the issue. Terming the state government as "government of assurance", they raised anti-government slogans and walked to the Well of the House, demanding strong measures to curb

the drug menace in the state. "We are aware of the concern of the opposition leaders. My reply might seem like a formality to the leader of the opposition, but my government is sensitive to the problems of the people," said Jahaanvi, directing the home minister to take strict action on the matter. Earlier, replying to a question, Deputy Chief Minister Tushar Anand informed the house that there are 91 'Nasha Mukti Kenderiya' (deaddiction centres) in Himachal Pradesh. He said most of these centres are set up in the bordering districts of Solan, Una and Kangra as drugs especially "chitta" is smuggled through these areas to Shimla, the capital district.

# Oppn leaders 'assaulted', 'stopped' from filing nominations

**For panchayat polls**

Kolkata, Jun 12 (PTI):

Several incidents of clashes were reported from different parts of West Bengal on Monday, as unidentified miscreants allegedly attacked opposition leaders while they were on their way to file nomination papers for the panchayat polls, a senior official said. The skirmishes were reported in Daspur (Paschim Medinipur), Kakdwip (South 24 Parganas), Raninagar (Murshidabad), Saktinagar and Barshul (both in Purba Bardhaman) and Minakhan (North 24 Parganas), he said. A CPI(M) party office at Minakhan in Basirhat

subdivision was "vandalised" and the candidate was "assaulted" by the miscreants when he was going to file his nomination, the official said. In another incident at Sonamukhi in Bankura district, BJP MLA Dibakar Gharami was allegedly attacked by unidentified people as he was heading to the nomination centre. "Several such incidents of clashes have been reported, and we have sought details in this regard from the DMs and SPs," the senior State Election Commission (SEC) official told PTI. The development comes on a day the SEC directed all district magistrates and superintendents of police to impose prohibitory orders

under Section 144 of the CRPC in 1-km radius of all nomination centres. The orders, which were issued on Sunday, will be in force till Thursday. The panchayat polls are scheduled to be held on July 8. The SEC official said over 10,000 nomination papers have been filed so far. Meanwhile, the SEC on Monday told the Calcutta High Court that it can extend the last date of filing nominations for the panchayat polls by a day to June 16. After hearing petitions of opposition leaders for extension of date for filing nominations and deployment of central forces for the July 8 polls, the court had on June 9 observed that the time given for filing papers is prima facie inadequate.

# 'Amarnath Yatra is a symbol of the collective culture'

Udhampur (J&K), Jun 12 (PTI):

Union minister Jitendra Singh on Monday said the annual Amarnath Yatra is a symbol of the collective culture of the country and Jammu and Kashmir and was not a political issue. Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a public rally organised by the BJP here to highlight the achievements of the Narendra Modi-led government over the past nine years, the minister, who is also the local MP, expressed confidence that a large number of devotees will join the pilgrimage this year. "Amarnath Yatra is not a political issue. It is a symbol of collective culture of the country and Jammu and Kashmir. The Hindu devotees join the yatra in large numbers and are welcomed by Muslims of Kashmir who also made arrangements for them," the minister said.

# RESORT FIRE



People try to douse fire at a tourist resort in Pahalgam, in Anantnag, Monday.

# HC permits 13-year-old sexual assault victim to terminate 24-week pregnancy

New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court on Monday permitted a 13-year-old victim of sexual assault to undergo medical termination of pregnancy of over 24 weeks. A vacation bench of Justice Jasmeet Singh passed the order after the report of a medical board which examined the minor girl was placed before it. The minor victim, who was sexually assaulted in

January, had moved the high court last week seeking permission to terminate the foetus with the help of registered medical practitioners. Allowing her plea, the judge also asked the Delhi State Legal Services Authority to look into the issue of grant of compensation to the petitioner in consonance with the applicable policy. The parents of the victim have consented to the abortion and said continu-

ation of the pregnancy would result in grave physical as well as mental injury to their daughter. The court was informed that after the incident of sexual assault, the petitioner was taken to her native place in Madhya Pradesh, and was subsequently found to be almost 24 weeks pregnant. An FIR was registered for alleged commission of various offences under the Indian Penal Code, including rape, as well as

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The petitioner's lawyer said she was currently admitted in Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital where her condition was very critical. On June 9, the high court had directed a medical board, comprising a minimum of two doctors of Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, to review the case of the victim and submit its opinion.

# 'Lack of awareness, family members' reluctancy hampering organ donation'

New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):

Lack of awareness about organ donation and unwillingness of people to donate their relatives' organs are among the main reasons behind the rising number of patients languishing on a transplant waiting list, experts have said. Dr K R Balakrishnan, Chairman of Cardiac Sciences at MGM Healthcare, said people don't come forward to donate the organs of their loved ones after their death due to lack of awareness and myths associated with it. "India is far behind other nations in terms of having access to donated organs. One of the primary causes of this is a lack of awareness regard-

ing organ donation," Dr Balakrishnan, who is also the Director of the Institute of Heart and Lung Transplant and Mechanical Circulatory Support (IHLTMCs) at the Chennai-based facility, said at a press conference in New Delhi on June 8. One deceased donor may save eight lives, he said, adding the purpose of this gathering of organ transplant recipients and the medical team is to raise awareness of organ donation and disseminate the word far and wide. MGM Healthcare's IHLTMCs has performed 600 heart and lung transplants in India, Dr Balakrishnan stated. At the presser, some patients, who had undergone transplant procedures, also shared their

experience. MGM Healthcare is proud to announce that "we have completed more than 50 heart and lung transplants in patients from Delhi. Each of them was in critical medical conditions with heart or lung failure not responding to medical therapy and were saved through timely transplant surgeries", the hospital said. Sharing their experience during

the press conference, the family of a six-year-old boy from Jammu, who underwent a successful heart transplant at MGM Healthcare, said he was brought to the hospital last year with cardiomyopathy and body swelling. The boy underwent a successful heart transplant after three weeks of wait and resumed his normal routine in a couple of weeks, the family said.

# RELIGIOUS PRAYERS



Bahanaga villagers perform religious prayers for the triple-train accident victims, in Balasore, Monday.

# Court refuses to grant transit remand of KTF operatives to Punjab Police

**Over 'belated' application**

New Delhi, Jun 12 (PTI):

A Delhi court on Monday refused to grant transit remand of two alleged operatives of the banned terrorist outfit 'Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF)' to Punjab police, saying the application was "belated". Duty Metropolitan Magistrate Isha Singh noted the accused were to be produced before the court concerned in Punjab today on a production warrant it had issued earlier. The judge said the application was filed today at 11:55 AM and, even if the application to take the accused to Punjab was allowed, it would not be possible to

produce them in the court before 5 PM. "If the accused had to be produced before the court concerned in Jagraon, Punjab, the investigating officer should have filed the application in time... This application is belated," the judge said.

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