

NSA Doval to his British counterpart

Take public action against extremist elements'

Threatening Indian officers in UK

New Delhi, Jul 7 (PTI)

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Friday urged his British counterpart Sir Tim Barrow to take strong public action such as deportation against extremist elements threatening officers of Indian High Commission in the UK, official sources said.

Doval raised the issue during his wide-ranging talks with Barrow, who is currently on a visit to India.

The two NSAs held one-on-one talks that was followed by delegation level dialogue.

Pro-Khalistan groups

**National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval and his UK counterpart Tim Barrow during a meeting, in New Delhi, Friday.**

have issued posters inciting violence against senior Indian diplomats in the UK as well as in the US, Canada and Australia.

India has already asked all these countries to ensure safety and security of Indian diplomats and its missions.

"The Indian side raised the issue of the extremist

elements in the UK threatening individual officers of the Indian High Commission and urged the UK government to take strong public action against these elements such as deportation or legal prosecution," said a source. Both the sides agreed to work closely to counter terrorism and terror financing.

My Gorakhpur visit exemplifies both development and heritage: PM

Gorakhpur (UP), Jul 7 (PTI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said his Gorakhpur trip, which includes a visit to Gita Press and the launch of modern trains, exemplified his government's policy of combining development with heritage.

He was addressing a gathering during the closing ceremony of the centenary celebrations of Gita Press.

"The Gorakhpur visit this time is a unique example of 'Virasat bhi, Vikas bhi (heritage and development)' policy," Modi said.

He said the dream of a grand Ram temple in Ayodhya is going to be fulfilled after centuries. He also referred to the redesigned navy insignia based on a flag of Maratha ruler Shivaji.

Highlighting the contributions of Gita Press, the prime minister said Mahatma Gandhi had an association with it and used to write for Kalyan magazine.

"He (Gandhiji) had advised Gita Press not to take advertisements for Kalyan magazine

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during the closing ceremony of centenary celebrations of Gita Press, in Gorakhpur.**

and it is still following that advice," Modi said.

Speaking on Vande Bharat trains, two of which he will flag off from Gorakhpur, the prime minister said, "There is a craze for the train."

"Earlier, leaders used to write about getting trains to halt in their areas. Now, I get letters from every part of the country requesting to run Vande Bharat trains," he said, adding that Vande Bharat has provided both facilities and convenience to middle-class citizens.

PENSION STRUGGLE

**Rajasthan Old Pension Joint Struggle committee members take part in a protest demanding OPS, at Shahid Smarak in Jaipur, Friday.**

Ministerial aspirants are sad, it has become 'crowded' now: Gadkari

Nagpur, Jul 7 (PTI)

In an apparent comment on the current political situation in Maharashtra, Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday said those who were aspiring to become ministers are now sad as the field has got "crowded", and they do not know what to do with their "stitched suits".

Speaking at a programme organised by the Nagpur Vidyapeeth Shikshan Manch here, the senior BJP leader referred to the concept of "domestic happy human index" proposed by Bhutan's prime minister, and said that most people are never happy. "If a person accepts that I have received more than what I deserved then that person can be

happy and contented," the Road Transport and Highways minister said. Otherwise, corporators are unhappy that they did not become MLAs, MLAs are unhappy because they did not become ministers and ministers remain discontented because they did not get a good ministry, Gadkari said.

"...and now those who were going to become (ministers) are unhappy, thinking whether their turn would ever come, so much crowded it has become," he said, drawing laughter and applause from the audience.

"They were ready with suits stitched (for swearing-in ceremony). Now the

question is what is to be done with that suit, (as) there is a crowd (of aspirants)," he added, continuing in the lighter vein. The capacity of the hall where the program was being held was 2200 and it can accommodate a lot of people, but a ministry's size can not be increased, Gadkari further said.

Since the NCP faction led by Ajit Pawar joined the Maharashtra government on July 2, opposition leaders have been claiming that there is simmering discontent among the MLAs of the Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and its ally BJP as their ministerial ambitions have been thwarted.

Pankaja takes break for couple of months

BJP leader jibes BJP colleagues over silence on NCP developments

Mumbai, Jul 7 (PTI)

Maharashtra Bharatiya Janata Party leader Pankaja Munde on Friday said she was planning to take a break for "one or two months" as she was anguished at her integrity being questioned time and again. She said her party would have to answer if she had merit and asserted that only time will tell if

she was treated unfairly. Munde also panned the media for taking some of her statements out of context or misquoting her, adding that she planned to sue one channel which reported on her meeting Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

In a swipe, the former Parli MLA also said her party colleagues had worked hard on the campaign to highlight nine years of the Narendra Modi government but were not mustering courage to speak on recent developments in

Maharashtra, a reference to the NCP split and a faction joining the Eknath Shinde government.

The former state minister and daughter of party stalwart late Gopinath Munde said she wanted the BJP's ideology of Deendayal Upadhyaya and Atal Bihari Vajpayee to remain as she had grown up on that sentiment.

Addressing a press conference, Munde said post her defeat in the 2019 Assembly polls from Parli, her name came up for nomination to the Rajya Sabha and two times for the Maharashtra

Legislative Council but she was asked to not go ahead at the last moment.

"I have never commented on this in public and have obeyed the party directive. I have never worked against the party's interest. Where is politics going...nobody is interested in what people think, I am going to introspect," she said.

Speaking about the split in the Shiv Sena (in June last year) and the NCP (on July 2 this year), Munde said, "I am a BJP worker who believes in the ideology of Deendayal Upadhyaya and Atal Bihari Vajpayee. I

want that ideology to remain as I have grown up with that sentiment," she asserted.

Munde claimed portions of her speeches were sometimes taken out of context and speculations were made on what she had said, because of which she had decided to take a break "not from my work but from you (media)".

Munde said she would sue the media channel that reported that she met Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi and that a politician from Sangli was playing mediator.

McDonald's north and east franchisee puts tomato off the menu as price soars

**Customers at a tomato vendor in a vegetable market, in Gurugram, Friday.**

New Delhi, July 7 (PTI)

Fast food chain McDonald's has stopped using tomato in its food preparations at most of the stores in northern and eastern parts of the country citing the non-availability of quality products, amid the price of the commodity surging up to Rs 200 per kg.

McDonald's India - North and East said it is constrained to "hold tomatoes for the time being" and is trying to re-

solve this issue by employing sustainable agriculture practices.

"Due to seasonal crop issues arising out of farm fields in a few regions, there are not enough quantities meeting our quality specifications available.

To ensure our customers get the best quality we are known to serve, we are constrained to hold tomatoes for the time being," said a McDonald's India - North and East spokesperson.

There is also a buzz going on in the social media over the absence of tomatoes on some of the top-selling products of McDonald's such as burgers.

Social media users are sharing pictures of burgers without tomatoes. Some of them also shared the notices put out by some of McDonald's stores informing the walk-in customer about the temporary unavailability of tomatoes.

Assuring the customers, McDonald's India - North and East spokesperson said: "We reiterate that it is not due to the surge in the prices. It is only due to the non-availability of tomatoes meeting our quality specifications."

However, he also added restaurants mostly in the Punjab-Chandigarh area where it is able to source the commodity in adequate quantities, McDonald's continues to serve tomatoes in its menu.

Govt to launch portal to monitor schemes for children in difficult circumstances

New Delhi, Jul 7 (PTI): The government will soon launch a portal to provide a unified digital platform for various programmes related to children in difficult circumstances, a senior official said on Friday. The National Informatics Centre (NIC) will be integrating the portals of 'TrackChild' meant for missing children, 'CARINGS' meant for adoption, Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) and Khoya-Paya, a citizen-centric application for missing and sighted children, into a single platform, he said.

The Mission Vatsalya portal will also be used to monitor childcare institutions, the official said, adding all such homes are getting geo-tagged. Registration of all childcare institutions on the portal will be ensured along with all relevant details, including those about children coming in contact with the juvenile

justice system, he said. "These vulnerable children need to be mapped with government institutions or services so that their care and development can be ensured," the official said. The Mission Vatsalya portal will facilitate better monitoring, avoid duplication of work at the grassroots level and provide a single platform for all the stakeholders, leading to better decision or policy-making, optimum use of re-

sources, availability of child protection resource directory and better citizen participation among others.

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Jasleen Royal's 'Sang Rahiyo' shoots to Chart-Topping success

Renowned singer and composer, Jasleen Royal, experiences overwhelming joy as her heartfelt creation 'Sang Rahiyo' skyrockets to the top of music charts. Originally released in 2020, the song has now resurfaced, captivating listeners with its melodious charm. What makes this achievement even more remarkable is that the accompanying music video was shot in the comfort of Jasleen's own home, featuring a close-knit group of friends. In a refreshing departure from conventional promotional tactics, the track relied solely on its artistic merit and the power of word-of-mouth. In a remarkably short span of time, 'Sang

Rahiyo' has ascended the ranks, firmly establishing itself among the top 100 songs. This soulful composition has emerged as a social media sensation, particularly gaining popularity among creators of romantic reels. Its poignant blend of love and yearning has elevated it beyond a

mere song, transforming it into an anthem for long-distance relationships. Overflowing with gratitude and elation, Jasleen took to Instagram to express her emotions. Accompanied by a video clip, she penned a heartfelt message: "Ranveer Allahbadia and I are overwhelmed to witness #SangRahiyo unexpectedly soar to the top of the charts. It was an intimate shoot at my home with cherished friends. No marketing, no frills—just pure love. This incredible achievement, nearly three years after its release, holds immense significance as I prepare to unveil the biggest single of my career in a few

days. I extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every listener." Jasleen Royal has solidified her position as a versatile artist, known for her captivating renditions such as 'Din Shagna Da' and 'Ranjha,' among many others. Her distinct musical style resonates with audiences, and 'Sang Rahiyo' exemplifies her unwavering ability to create enchanting compositions that leave an indelible mark on listeners' hearts. As this extraordinary success story continues to unfold, Jasleen Royal remains a beacon of inspiration for aspiring musicians, proving that genuine talent, coupled with genuine connections, can propel one's artistry to unprecedented heights.



Saif Ali Khan reflects on 'Vikram Vedha': Challenging perspectives

Saif Ali Khan, the popular Bollywood actor, gained immense love and appreciation from audiences for his portrayal of a determined cop in the action drama 'Vikram Vedha'. According to Saif, the film beautifully illustrates the difficulties of altering one's perspective on the concepts of good and evil. To bring authenticity to his character, Saif dedicated himself to rigorous preparation. He engaged in intense training with real guns, meticulously studying the sounds and mechanics of firing a weapon. He even adopted the mannerisms of law enforcement agents, including their grip on firearms and their approach to raiding gangster-infested buildings. The audience was captivated by the powerful performance of Hrithik Roshan as Vedha, while Saif's charismatic portrayal of the cool cop Vikram left a lasting impression.

Expressing his excitement about the television premiere of 'Vikram Vedha', Saif shared, "The film was adored by the audience for presenting contrasting perspectives of right and wrong. Fueled by moral dilemmas, intense action, and unexpected twists, this movie will now reach viewers worldwide, providing a wide range of perspectives. It demonstrates the challenges one faces when attempting to shift their viewpoint on the concepts of good and evil." Rohan Lavsi, Business Head of the Hindi Movies Cluster at Viacom18, commented, "Vikram Vedha tells the story of a celebrated cop who sees the world in black and white, and a dreaded criminal who compels him to question his own worldview." Produced by Jio Studios, Friday Filmworks, Reliance Entertainment, T-Series Films, and YNOT Studios, the gripping action thriller 'Vikram Vedha' brings together a star-studded cast including Hrithik, Saif, Radhika Apte, and others. Directed by Pushkar-Gayathri, the film delves into the tense confrontation between an upright police officer and a feared gangster, who voluntarily surrenders but possesses a riveting story to share. The movie is set to air on COLORS Cineplex this Sunday, promising viewers a thought-provoking exploration of shifting perspectives and the complexities of morality.



&pictures to premiere 'Karthikeya 2' today

Apni jaan khate me daal kar, sabko bachana chahte ho? &pictures premiere of "Karthikeya 2" starring Nikhil Siddhartha and Anupam Kher in pivotal roles that takes viewers on a thrilling adventure that tests the courage and resilience of the protagonist at every turn. Join Dr. Karthikeya, in his pursuit for Lord Krishna's Mysterious Kada, that could help save the world. Come and be a part of this quest this Saturday at 8pm on &pictures. The film takes the audience on a rollercoaster ride, through traitorous treks in uncharted territories to heart-pounding chase sequences, Karthikeya 2 delivers an immersive and adrenaline-fueled cinematic experience. The movie is seasoned with larger than life sets, visual effects and brings in the mystical aura of lord Krishna all together. Karthikeya 2 revolves around the intriguing journey of Dr Karthikeya as he discovers the secret of Lord Krishna's lost Kada. On his way he conquers the most enchanting and deep dark secrets of the past. Anupam Kher, a seasoned actor known for his captivating performances, takes on a special role in Karthikeya 2, bringing his talent and charisma to the screen. His character adds depth and gravitas to the narrative, further enhancing the overall impact of the film. Ek Rahasyamayi Kada, Ek Ansunii kahaani aur #10on10 epic drama. Tune in to &pictures this Saturday at 8pm.

Stars shares their fondest memories and moments associated with monsoon

In celebration of the enchanting season of love, the leading ladies of Star Bharat shows express their profound admiration for the allure and romance that the monsoon season brings. Reflecting on their childhoods and the present, their narratives vividly depict the delight and nostalgia that accompany the arrival of rain-soaked days. From cherished family escapades to savoring local delicacies and personal traditions, actors share the essence of the monsoon experience.

Ayushi Khurana from 'Ajooni' reveals, "The rainy season holds a special place in my heart; it is one of my favorite times of the year. The weather becomes cozy and enticing. Being in Mumbai during the monsoon enhances its beauty, and one simply cannot resist its allure. I take pleasure in indulging in local treats like Vada Pav, Samosa Pav, and especially relishing Maggie, which I typically avoid. One fascinating ritual I uphold every year is ensuring that, once the season begins, I get drenched in the first rainfall. It has



become a cherished tradition for me."

Deepshikha Nagpal from 'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho' exclaims, "I am enamored with the monsoon; after all, I am a monsoon baby myself, born in August. I am the first to lead my friends in embracing the downpour. For me, the monsoon is a season of romance, although I find myself single. Nonetheless, I cher-

ish my own company and revel in the pleasure of soft music, delectable pakoras, and a comforting cup of chai. I always make it a point to visit Lonavala during the monsoon, where I enjoy the picturesque Tiger Point and savor corn pakoras."

Stay tuned to watch Star Bharat from every Monday-Friday from 7:30pm onwards.

Pooja Bhatt shuns rat race, woman card on 'Bigg Boss OTT 2'



Pooja Bhatt, renowned filmmaker and actress, took a stand against the rat race and the notion of playing the woman card during her stint on 'Bigg Boss OTT 2'. During a task in the show, where contestants were required to rank each other, Pooja made it clear that she has never relied on such tactics.

Addressing her fellow housemates, Pooja emphasized her belief in direct communication, maintaining eye contact while engaging with others. She asserted, "I have never resorted to playing the woman card, nor do I partake in the rat race. It is my individuality and opinions that led me to be a part of Bigg Boss OTT, even after having a successful career for many years."

Respecting authority and following instructions have always been paramount to Pooja. She expressed, "I don't believe in ranking myself; it's not something I have ever done. When I

entered the Bigg Boss OTT house, I did not consider myself to be at the top, but viewers positioned me there. I am content with any rank assigned to me by my fellow housemates, and I refuse to let these initial rankings define my entire experience."

Pooja highlighted that her approach is not about projecting a saintly attitude but rather about not seeking validation through rankings. She made it clear that she does not have an addiction to the spotlight, camera, or attention. Being born into the industry, she understands that her life does not revolve around Bigg Boss or any competition within it.

Consequently, Pooja affirmed her commitment to not engage in activities solely for attention or to disappoint her fans. She reminded everyone that successful careers are not built on chance or talent alone but on the strength of one's character and resilience.

Actress-dancer Heli Daruwala attributes her journey to the enchanting dance moves of Madhuri Dixit Nene, particularly in the upcoming track 'Mere Sanam Ke Khwaab'. Heli draws inspiration from the iconic actress, channeling her classical dance prowess for this music video. Overflowing with excitement about showcasing her classical dance skills, Heli expressed, "Madhuri Dixit Ji has had a tremendous influence on my path as an actor and dancer. Like countless other girls, I grew up watching her on screen, and it was with her as my source of inspiration that I embarked on my journey into dance and drama during my childhood." Heli aimed to capture some of the magic that Madhuri Ji brings to the screen, infusing it with her own artistic expression. By combining her admiration for the iconic actress with her unique style, Heli aspires to create a captivating performance in 'Mere Sanam Ke Khwaab'. The song, sung by Kavita Seth and Kanishk Seth, features Heli Daruwala alongside Nishank Bhatt, delivering a mesmerizing visual and auditory experience for the audience. Heli's dedication to honing her dance skills and incorporating the influence of Madhuri Dixit serves as a testament to the lasting impact of renowned artists on aspiring performers. Through her performance in 'Mere Sanam Ke Khwaab', Heli showcases her talent while paying homage to the legendary Madhuri Dixit, leaving viewers enthralled by her artistic expression and graceful movements.



Heli Daruwala finds inspiration in Madhuri Dixit's magic

Kanika Dhillon announces maiden project 'Do Patti'

Renowned writer turned producer Kanika Dhillon is all set to make her mark in the world of filmmaking with her maiden production venture under her banner, Kathha Pictures. Titled "Do Patti," the much-anticipated film has secured the talented Bollywood divas Kajol and Kriti Sanon as its leading stars. After taking the world on adventurous trips with her stories in much-loved movies like "Kedarnath", "Manmarziyaan", "Haseen Dilruba", "Rashmi Rocket", and "Guilty", amongst others, Kanika Dhillon sharing her excitement says, "I am absolutely thrilled to embark on this new journey as a producer. Do Patti is a compelling



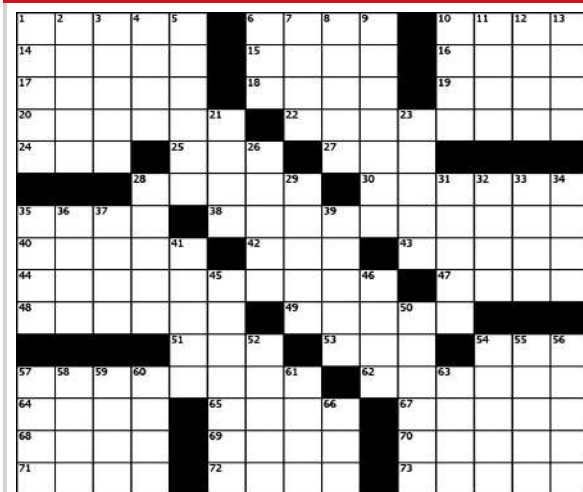
story, very close to my heart as a writer. And am thrilled to start my journey as a producer with Do Patti. And such tal-

ented actors like kriti and Kajol and of course Netflix. The writer in me feels empowered today that apart from creating

the world on paper, I can curate my vision into reality. I hope to work towards building a production house that truly empowers stories and storytellers!" Known for writing memorable screen characters and strong narratives that connect deeply, Kanika through her production house Kathha - aims to create a platform for writers that empowers them and entertains the audiences with fresh and powerful narratives. The writer-turned-producer is also currently gearing for her upcoming releases including Rajkumar Hirani directorial Dunki starring Shah Rukh Khan and Phir Aayi Haseen Dilruba after the success of Haseen Dilruba, amongst others.

CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

- Toboggans
- Phi _____ Kappa
- Drooping
- Christmas song
- Range part
- Albany's canal
- Reside
- Curve
- Naught
- Gun motion
- Thinker

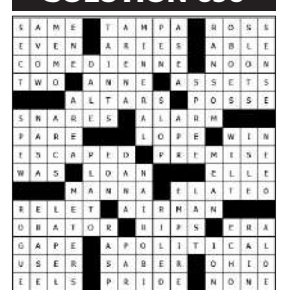
DOWN

- Frighten
- Name tag
- Roberts and Clapton
- Extinct creature
- Snow vehicle
- Comedian _____ Hope
- Always
- Doctrine
- Moderately slow, in music
- Letterman's rival
- Remove wrinkles
- Coal source
- Nobleman
- Animal's den
- Beatle Ringo _____
- Shine
- Panama _____
- Does nothing
- More faithful
- Cash drawer

- Clean thoroughly
- Shooter's group (abbr.)
- Hearing organ
- Light touch
- Deliberately damage
- Harm
- _____ Fitzgerald of jazz
- Flooring square
- Of the smelling organ
- Much (2 wds.)
- Misfortunes
- Up to the time of
- Legendary story
- Average grades
- Penn and Connerly

- Dollar bills
- Fairy-tale fiend
- Dalai _____
- OPEC member
- Shipped
- For this reason
- Contract negotiator
- Irregular
- Warty amphibian
- Seventh planet
- Spry
- Macaroni, e.g.
- One more time
- Narrates
- Stitched line
- Friend
- Ink stain
- Promise
- Model _____ Macpherson
- Horse's hair
- 19th letter

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BRIEF

Finance Commission



Puducherry Chief Minister N Rangasamy on Friday urged the Union government to include the Union Territory in the terms of reference (ToR) of the 16th Finance Commission...

Appointment

New Delhi: Former METRO Cash & Carry MD and CEO Arvind Mediratta has joined as CEO of Hippo Stores Technology...

Deteriorating economy



Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday slammed the Centre for "failing to control steep price rise"...

Govt likely to come out with a mandate on usage of green hydrogen: Bhalla

New Delhi, Jul 07:



In order to aggregate demand, the government is likely to come out with a mandate on usage of green hydrogen in the country...

usage of green hydrogen. The government is first trying to figure out whether it can collate demand, aggregate and make it more clear for the industry to set up production facilities...

Forex reserves rise by USD 1.85 billion to USD 595.05 billion

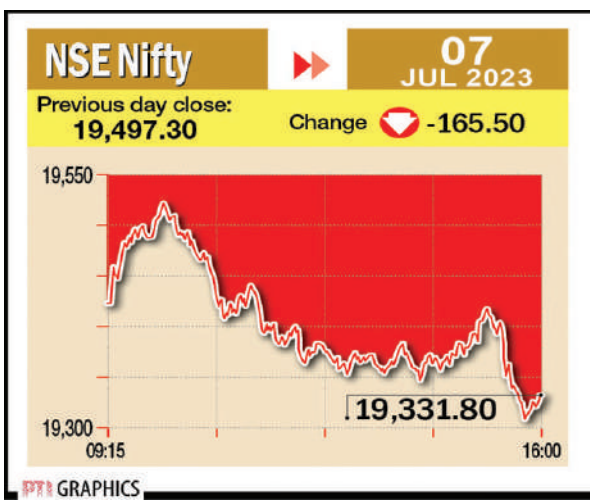
Mumbai, Jul 07:

India's foreign exchange reserves rose by USD 1.853 billion in the week ended on June 30, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday...

creased by USD 2.539 billion to USD 527.979 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI on Friday...

Sensex tanks 505 points, Nifty closes lower at 19,330 on profit-taking after record rally

Mumbai, Jul 07: Benchmark stock indices Sensex declined by 505 points at close while Nifty settled lower at the 19,330 level...



while six gained. Among major Sensex shares, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, PowerGrid fell the most by 2.76 per cent...

E20 fuel outlets will have pan-India presence by 2025: Hardeep Singh Puri

Mumbai, Jul 07:



Petroleum minister Hardeep Singh Puri said by 2025, the entire country will have special fuel stations retailing E20 petrol...

ing biofuels has increased three-fold from over 29,890 in 2016-17, to more than 67,640. The government aims to achieve a 20 per cent ethanol blending target by 2025...

India is not 'extractive economy' and is not pursuing 'narrow economic activities' in Africa: Jaishankar

Dar es Salaam, Jul 07: In a veiled attack on China, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said that, unlike some other countries, India is not "an extractive economy"...



Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar speaks during a visit to the water project in Kibamba built with Indian support, in Dar es Salaam, Friday, July 7.

Tanzania's friendship is making a difference in the lives of the average Tanzanian. Our water projects will benefit 8 million; With 750 slots annually, he tweeted...

economies grow. And our approach to Africa today is to trade more with Africa, invest in Africa, work with Africa...

those of its military, into Africa. China established its first overseas military support base in Djibouti in Africa in 2015...

Plastic industry should focus on manufacturing quality, sustainable products and increasing exports: Goyal

Mumbai, Jul 07:



Commerce and Industry minister Piyush Goyal on Friday urged the plastic industry players to focus on manufacturing quality and sustainable products...

for Growth of Plastic Industry' organised by industry body AIPMA. Goyal said, the government is very sensitive to the potential of the industry...

global average rate of recycling is just 9 per cent. Some of the developed economy is as low as 4 per cent. In this India outshines, as 13 per cent of our plastic is being recycled...

India has highest tariffs on inputs in electronic segment: ICEA study

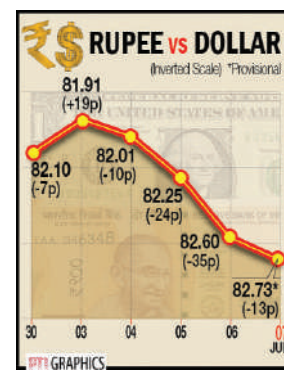
New Delhi, Jul 07:

India has the highest tariffs on inputs in electronic segment among competing economies such as Vietnam and Thailand, ICEA said on Thursday...

ness to reach the USD 300-billion electronics production goal by 2025-26, including USD 120 billion of exports...

Rupee falls 13 paise to close at 82.73 against US dollar

Mumbai, Jul 07:



The rupee depreciated further by 13 paise to close at 82.73 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, weighed down by losses in domestic markets...

witnessed a marginal decline of 0.10 per cent to 103.05. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.59 per cent to USD 76.97 per barrel...

in the US and the UK amid a hawkish tone of the central banks also put pressure on the rupee, said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas...

Construction market exhibits positive outlook: Survey

New Delhi, Jul 07:

Tech enabling handsome return on investment

The Indian construction market exhibits a positive outlook with 84 per cent of respondents feeling optimistic about the sector compared to 66 per cent globally...

facturing incentives and private sector commitments. This is reflected in a significant proportion of our participants, indicating 20 per cent revenue growth or increase in capital investments in the next 12 months...

Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) with a potential of USD 70 billion of asset creation during FY20-25 has provided impetus for stepping up infra investment.

enced a schedule delay or cost impact of more than 20 per cent due to Covid. "The industry continues to struggle with poor project performance with 39 per cent of respondent reporting that they have missed the budget/schedule performance targets by 20 per cent, over the past year due to lack of effective risk management..."



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Since 1974 Volume 11 No. 98

Unwavering Stance

The virtual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) hosted by India has once again highlighted the principled stance taken by New Delhi regarding China's controversial Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). While fellow SCO members reaffirmed their support for the multi-billion-dollar Chinese project, India refused to endorse it, exposing the collusion between Pakistan and China. This firm position on the BRI stems from India's legitimate concerns regarding the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which infringes upon India's sovereignty by passing through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). China's double standards and hypocrisy are glaringly evident. Just months ago, Beijing boycotted a G20 meeting in Srinagar, claiming that Jammu and Kashmir is a "disputed territory." Yet, it shamelessly proceeds with business as usual in PoK, a region that rightfully belongs to India. This selective approach not only undermines China's credibility but also reveals its disregard for the principles of international law. During the SCO summit, India skillfully used the platform to expose Pakistan and China's role in cross-border terrorism. Prime Minister Narendra Modi called on member states to condemn countries that shelter terrorists and employ terrorism as a political tool. While Pakistan's Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, acknowledged the need to combat terrorism, he cautioned against using the issue for diplomatic point-scoring. However, it is worth noting that China has consistently shielded Pakistan-based terrorists from international censure, obstructing proposals by India and the United States at the United Nations. By shedding light on this Pakistan-China nexus, India, as the current SCO chair, has effectively exposed their complicity. India's unwavering commitment to combating terrorism is commendable. It is a nation that has borne the brunt of terrorist activities and understands the urgency of a united front against this global menace. By refusing to shy away from discussing this critical issue, India has demonstrated its leadership and determination to address the root causes of terrorism. Furthermore, India's strong stance on the BRI aligns with its unwavering commitment to upholding its territorial integrity and national sovereignty. The CPEC's encroachment into PoK is not only a violation of India's rights but also a disregard for the principles of peaceful coexistence and respect for international borders. New Delhi's refusal to endorse the BRI sends a clear message that it will not compromise on matters of national interest and territorial integrity. As the host of the SCO summit, India has effectively utilized this platform to showcase its diplomatic finesse and articulate its concerns. It has successfully put Pakistan and China on the defensive, forcing them to confront uncomfortable truths. This approach reflects India's proactive and assertive foreign policy, emphasizing its commitment to regional stability and the fight against terrorism. India's principled stand on the BRI and its determination to expose the collusion between Pakistan and China are essential steps in safeguarding its national interests. It sends a strong message to the international community that India will not be swayed by political pressure or disregard for international norms. The SCO summit has provided a crucial opportunity for India to assert its position and galvanize support from like-minded nations in addressing the challenges posed by terrorism and territorial disputes. In the face of geopolitical challenges and changing dynamics, India's principled stand at the SCO summit is a testament to its diplomatic prowess and its role as a responsible global player.

Political Quandary

Yash Pal Raihan

The developments in Maharashtra have brought the Anti-Defection Law to the forefront, testing its effectiveness and highlighting the need for reform. With the Supreme Court's directive, the state assembly speaker is under pressure to deliver a verdict on the disqualification of 16 Shiv Sena MLAs within a specified timeframe. However, the absence of a clear time limit in the law has resulted in cases stretching on for years, making a mockery of our democratic system. One striking example is the pending disqualification petition against Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and 15 other Shiv Sena MLAs, which has been awaiting the speaker's decision for almost a year. Such delays not only erode public trust but also undermine the purpose of the Anti-Defection Law, which was introduced to curb political opportunism and defections. It is essential to shed light on the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, commonly known as the Anti-Defection Law. Enacted in 1985, it aimed to combat the menace of defections driven by inducements and offers of office. However, the law's implementation has fallen short, as evident in the protracted proceedings and partisan behavior of speakers. The Supreme Court, in its ruling on the Shiv Sena split, clarified that the law applies even when a faction splits within a party. The speaker's role in deciding disqualification matters was emphasized. Given the current scenario, this precedent is likely to apply to the ongoing issue within the NCP as well. Unfortunately, speakers, often aligned with ruling coalitions or political parties, have been criticized for using delay tactics and acting more as party members than impartial arbiters. This compromises the sanctity of defection trials and raises questions about their commitment to upholding the Constitution. The judiciary's intervention, urging the speaker to decide the Shiv Sena case within three months, highlights the urgency for timely resolutions. However, a broader reform mandating time limits for future cases would be a welcome step. Experts increasingly argue that the Anti-Defection Law has failed to achieve its intended objective. Attempting to address a political problem through legal means has proven ineffective. It is time to reassess the law's provisions and ensure that it serves its purpose without compromising the democratic values we hold dear. As the fate of the Maharashtra MLAs hangs in the balance, it is imperative to reform the Anti-Defection Law to restore public confidence, expedite proceedings, and safeguard the principles of our democracy. The time for change is now.

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.

KANWAR YATRA



Lord Shiva devotees or Kanwariyas during the 'Kanwar Yatra' pilgrimage in the holy month of 'Shravan', in Haridwar, Friday, July 7.

Ending Criminalization: Common Tests for Political Entry



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH



Why not organize an examination for contesting all kinds of elections in the country and their character should be properly verified for entering politics like government jobs? What is the harm in having a common political test on a smaller scale and the Indian Political Service exam for MPs? After all, if there is a government job and politics, then only service to the country? Why should politicians be given special powers? Can a charge-sheeted person become an IAS officer? Can he hold any civil service posts? Then why should politicians be given this undue privilege which is against the very spirit of our democracy? Changes in this matter can only be brought about by the Parliament. Only then the increasing criminalization of politics can stop.

The criminalization of politics is a situation where criminals have a significant presence in politics itself. Due to the criminalization of politics, a large number of criminals are contesting and contesting elections to Parliament and State Assemblies. When criminals become elected representatives and lawmakers, they pose a serious threat to the functioning of the democratic system. According to ADR data, the number of candidates with criminal charges elected to Parliament in India has been increasing since 2004. In 2004, 24% of MPs had pending criminal cases, which increased to 43% in 2019. In the Lok Sabha elections, 159 MPs had declared serious criminal cases against themselves, including rape, murder, attempt to murder, kidnapping, and crimes against women.

Why should politicians be given special powers? Can a charge-sheeted person become

an IAS officer? Can he hold any civil service posts? Then why should politicians be given this undue privilege which is against the very spirit of our democracy? Changes in this matter can only be brought about by the Parliament. The Election Commission has been turned into a toothless institution. Only political will can bring about change." According to a recently published report, nearly 45 percent of candidates of the Congress, BJP, and JD(S) who participated in the recently held Karnataka elections had criminal cases against them. What is worrying is that nearly 30 percent of these candidates were accused of serious crimes, including rape and murder. India is one of the few countries where criminals are allowed to participate freely in elections and emerge as winners.

Let us take the example of the United States of America. If someone has a case of murder or

rape, they will never be considered for a political ticket. Such persons will be barred from contesting elections. However, this is not the case in India. This is a serious threat to our democratic process. A democracy with criminals is not a healthy democracy. It is important to raise awareness among people about the issue of criminalization of politics. They need to understand that if they vote for such persons, they are harming not only the country but also themselves. For example, if you are a person from an economically disadvantaged background and you vote for such candidates, your children's education will be affected as schools will not function properly. Similarly, when you need medical help, the hospitals will not function effectively due to the rampant corruption done by these criminals. You will be deprived of basic facilities and services.

According to Gopal Sankaranarayanan, a senior advocate of the Supreme Court of India, many politicians are well aware of the significant power and influence they have as lawmakers. They believe that their positions give them the ability not only to block laws that could hold them accountable but also to exert influence over government officials, ensuring that cases are not filed against them. go and they are safe. There is a growing nexus between criminals and politicians to intimidate voters using fear and violence. Criminals resort to illicit spending to buy votes and promote a culture of freebies. Criminal politicians use their influence in the posting and transfer of bureaucrats and thus influence the governance of the state. They exploit divisions in society based on caste, class, and religion and portray themselves as protectors of their communities. Thus they harm the social fabric of the nation.

Criminals as politicians are not trained parliamentarians and often resort to unparliamentary

practices to create disruptions in Parliament and State Legislatures that affect the functioning of the representative institution. As politicians with criminal pasts become ministers and lawmakers, it becomes difficult for state agencies to prosecute them, increasing the number of criminal cases in the judiciary. This will curb money and muscle power and help serious candidates contest elections. Now is the time to strengthen the role of the Election Commission in regulating the electoral process and establish a framework for disqualifying candidates with criminal records. Parliament should put in place a strong legal framework that mandates all political parties to cancel the membership of persons against whom charges were framed in heinous and serious crimes and not to field such persons in elections to Parliament and State Assemblies. Voters should be aware of the misuse of money and muscle power in elections. They should refrain from accepting gifts, inducements, and freebies and use the option of NOTA to express their displeasure against the candidate.

Combating the criminalization of politics requires a multi-pronged strategy, encompassing legal, institutional, and social measures, to protect the integrity of democratic systems and advance ethical and responsible political leadership. Why not organize an examination for contesting all kinds of elections in the country and their character should be properly verified for entering politics like a government job? What is the harm in having a common political test on a smaller scale and the Indian Political Service exam for MPs? After all, if there is a government job and politics, then only service to the country? Only then the increasing criminalization of politics can stop.

(Writer is a Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, All India Radio and TV panelist. Views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Are disabled Aliens?

The decision to exclude disabled individuals from the National Family Health Survey-6 is a regressive step that contradicts the government's professed commitment to the upliftment of persons with disabilities. While the Prime Minister and other government officials commend disabled individuals for their remarkable achievements, it is crucial not to overlook the pressing issues they face daily. Terms like "differently abled" and "divinely abled" should not serve as an excuse to disregard the need for state assistance and policy support for persons with disabilities. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasized that it is the government's responsibility to ensure justice and benefits for all citizens, forming the foundation of "sabka saath, sabka vikas, and sabka vishwas." However, the exclusion of disabled individuals from NFHS-6 raises questions about the government's commitment to this vision. By neglecting to include disability-related questions in the survey, an opportunity to gather crucial data and address the needs of persons with disabilities has been lost. It is imperative that the government rectifies this omission and takes proactive measures to support and empower disabled individuals, fulfilling its promise of inclusive development.

Yash Pal Raihan, Jalandhar

Party Split

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), founded by Sharad Pawar in 1999, suffered a split as his nephew Ajit Pawar joined the Shiv Sena-BJP government as Deputy Chief Minister. Eight other NCP MLAs, including loyalists Chhagan Bhujbal and Dilip Walse Patil, became ministers. Reports reveal that four of the nine NCP MLAs who switched sides to join the Shiv Sena government in Maharashtra are under investigation by the Enforcement Directorate or the Anti-Corruption Bureau. This raises concerns about the BJP's ideology as it welcomes defectors without regard for its principles. PM Modi's hunger for power seems to prioritize corrupt leaders, undermining the phrase "Mera Bharat Mahan" (My India is Great).

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Uniform Civil Code

To ensure a fair and uniform legal framework, it is crucial that the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is first implemented for all constitutionally defined Hindus in India. Once this step is taken, a draft for the proposed UCC can be presented to the public for suggestions through the Law Commission of India. It is impractical to seek suggestions on something that does not yet exist; it is akin to muddying the water when there are no fish to catch or firing shots in the air for mere showmanship and entertainment.

Afazuddin Kazi Qasmi (Assam)

West Indies: The Rise and Fall of a Cricketing Powerhouse

Kajal Chatterjee

As a 12-year old boy, just introduced to the world of cricket; came to know that under the new captain Kapil Dev, India is going to visit a group of sovereign islands - collectively known as West Indies - for a 5 Test series and 3 ODI series. Also came to know that Clive Lyod-led West Indies is the most feared team of the world - be at home or abroad - and excel in both versions of cricket. Defeating this team is almost next to impossible. Indian team, though not exactly demolished in the Test series, yet got defeated by the margin of 2-0. Despite passage of 40 years, vividly do I remember the brilliant batting and centuries of Desmond Haynes, Gordon Greenidge, Vivian Richards, Larry Gomes, Gus Logie, Clive Lyod, Geoffrey Dujon (wicket keeper) and devastating pace bowling of Malcolm Marshall, Andy Roberts, Michael Holding

and Joel Garner. However in the ODI series, India won the second match at Berbice with the series lost by the margin of 2-1. But the Berbice victory was celebrated with much fanfare as beating the mighty Caribbeans even in a single match (that too at their own backyard) was not a matter of joke on those days. After the completion of the Caribbean tour, the 3rd edition of Prudential World Cup was scheduled to start in England. Came to know that both the previous versions of the World Cup (1975-1979) were comprehensively won by the Clive Lyod-led West Indies only by registering victory in all the matches! So no prizes for guessing who would be the Champion in 1983 version too. However to the utmost surprise of the world, India had beaten the Caribbeans in the first league match itself with Yashpal Sharma leading the show with a majestic innings of

89. However, in the return league match, most unsurprisingly West Indies did take revenge by defeating India. Indians met the West Indians for the third time in the tournament - now in the final. While the West Indian march to the final was given, India's success in reaching way up to the final was a revelation of sorts. Hardly anybody gave any chance to the Indians to win the final match, specially after they got all out for a "handsome" total of 183 runs! But "Kapil's Devils" thought otherwise and defeated the numero uno team of the world by as many as 43 runs. Despite that rarest of rare defeat in the World Cup final, West Indies still continued to dominate world cricket. And so at the fag end of 1983 only, West Indies defeated the Indians by a margin of 3-0 and 5-0 in Test and ODI series respectively right at the backyard of the latter; thereby proving their mettle.

But with passage of time and successive retirement of the great cricketers of early 1980s, the graph of West Indies cricket indeed started to dip. Far from winning another version of ODI World Cup, West Indies could never reach even the final of the tournament in successive versions with the sole semi-final appearance coming in 1996 despite presence of illustrious cricketers of next generation like Courtney Walsh, Curtley Ambrose, Carl Hooper, Brian Lara or Shivnarain Chandra-paul. With retirement of this generation, the fortunes of West Indies took further dip in Tests and ODIs with stray success only in T20 (winning two World Cup in the shortest version of the game)! Caribbeans started to lose Tests /ODI matches against newcomers like Bangladesh and Ireland Afghanistan too.

As a matter of fact, West Indies could manage to play the 2019 ODI World Cup by somehow scraping through the qualifiers! But in the qualifiers for 2023 World Cup, the mightiest team of the world till mid-1980s, simply got booted out by losing against Zimbabwe and even getting defeated by the non-Test playing minnows like Netherlands and Scotland also. Undoubtedly the cricket of the Caribbean simply lies in tatters today with "old timers" like us being left to express horror on witnessing the downfall of cricket of such a region which was simply synonymous to cricket itself as many people, possessing hardly any idea of Antigua Guyana or Jamaica, knew about the cricketing genius of Richards Lyod or Holding by heart. It is high time the Caribbean cricket authorities indulge in a sincere introspection and revive the glory of West Indies region, cricketers of which had enthralled various generation through decades by virtue of their excellence and skills.

'Kotawars' act as bridge between admn-government: SP

'Kotawars' play important role in ensuring peace in villages

'Kotawars Sammelan' held in Basna

Basna, Jul 07: In order to spread government's words to the villages and to maintain peace in the villages or for declarations related to villagers, the 'Kotawars' play an important role, says SP Dharmendra Singh Chavai in the 'Kotawar Sammelan' of three blocks held at Basna Mandi premises of Mahasamund district, here on Thursday.

Speaking as the Chief Guest of the function he further said that 'Kotawars' are like the eyes and ears of the government and extend all possible assistance to the police in maintaining law & order in the villages. They act as bridge between the government-administration and villages. As & when any incident takes place in the villages or to pass on any information related to the government schemes or if any information if required by the government from the village of any problem existing there, it is exchanged with the 'Kotawars'.

The 'Kotawars' have all the information about the villages and unless & until there is peace in the vil-



lage, development is not possible. Apart from ensuring peace in the villages, they Kotawars also play an important role in its development.

SP Dharmendra Singh further said that through this Sammelan, he got an opportunity to get face-to-face with 'Kotawars' of Basna, Saraipali, Pithora sub-division and came to know about their problems and share information about the villages and provided him chance to understand them in a better manner and it is for which that this Sammelan has been organised.

SP Dharmendra Singh said that earlier it was 'Kotawars' who used to pass on the information about any incident or problems in the villages, but now it is the social media through which one can pass on the informa-

tion quickly through mobile phones and due to which police is now able to control any sensitive situation or any crime easily and well on time.

SP asked the 'Kotawars' to maintain coordination with the Thana in-charge of their region and help in ensuring peace and harmony in the villages and inform about any illegal activities or arson or any crime to the police on time. During this Presidents of Kotawar samaj and Kotawars hailed the organisation of this sammelan. Saraipali Thana in-Charge Ashish Vasnik proposed vote of thanks and in his address said that with this Kotawar sammelan, the relations between police and Kotawars will be more cordial and would bring positive results.

During this Nayab

Tehsildar Ramesh Mehta, TI Saraipali Ashish Vasnik, TI Sankara Gopal Dhurve, TI Basna Shivanand Tiwari, TI Singhouda Keshav Kosale, TI Patewa Shailendra Nag, Chowki in-charge Bhanwarpur Jitendra Vijaywar, SI Anil Pareshwar and other police officers and employees were present in large number.

Kotwari registration likely to re-start

In the address it was informed that it is for the first time that Police-Kotawar sammelan has been organised.

In this during talks of Kotawars with SP, they informed him that the work of Kotwari register for death and birth of a person was done by Kotawars before 2008 and to which the SP assured to take it forward.

Devotees in large number throug 'Aghor Raj'

To seek blessings of 'Puja Aghoreshwar'

Sheorinarayan, Jul 07: On occasion of 'Guru Purnima', the followers of 'Aghorpanthi' spread all over the country right from Odisha, Bihar, UP, MP, WB, Maharashtra, Delhi, Jharkhand, and other state and from local Raigarh, Janjgir, Jashpur, Koriya, Korba, Bilaspur, Mungeli, Sakti, Sarangarh, Balodabazar, Rajnandgaon, Gourela, Pendra, Marwahi, reached to take blessings of their Guru Aghoreshwar -Sant Shri Priyadarshi Ramji in Gram Banora of Sheorinarayan.

As per the scheduled programme, after 'Shaktipujan' at 'Shri Ganesh Peeth', 'safaloni paath', 'Guru Paduka Pujan', group Aarti, 'Guru Gita Paath', 'Gurudarshan', 'prasad' distribution in group and



he delivered his preachings. In his address, 'Puja Aghoreshwar Sant Shri Priyadarshi Ramji' put forth his views on the problems wide-spread in the society and spirituality and gave instructions to be always ready to render help for welfare and development of nation.

On this occasion, 'Aghorpeeth' trust Banora expressed its gratitude towards the police administration, electricity, health department and youths of Banora for their dedicated services.

Newly admitted students welcomed with flower petals



On occasion of 'Shala Pravesh utsav' in all Schools of Sankul Ghiwara

Kharora, Jul 07: The newly appointed students in all 7 Primary, 3 Middle and High School coingi under Sankul Kendra Ghiwara, of Tilda Block, were welcomed amidst showering of flower petals on occasion of 'Shala Pravesh Utsav' here on Thursday. On this occasion public representa-

tives, office bearers of Shala Prabandhan Samiti; all teachers and students were found with special enthusiasm and smile on their faces.

Sankul in-charge of Sankul Kendra Ghiwara-Deepak Gupta, Sankul coordinator Kailash Baghel expressed gratitude towards all the heads of the Primary and Middle Schools and the teachers for successfully organising the 'Shala pravesh Utsav' with great fanfare and in an organised manner.

As temperature soars agricultural land starts drying

Mungeli, Jul 07: The rise in temperature has increased as soon as the rain stopped and it has resulted in drying of agricultural land. Meanwhile due to humidity the need for coolers and ACs has started again. On the other hand, the water filled in the fields is decreasing rapidly, due to which the land of the farm is getting dry continuously, which is cause of worry for the farmers as sowing season is all set to commence in a week.

The district has record-



ed an average rainfall of 237.3 mm since June 1. Since June 1, an average rainfall of 171.5 mm has been recorded in Mungeli tehsil, 304.3 mm in Patharia tehsil, and 248.5 mm in Lormi tehsil and 225 mm in Lalpur police

station tehsil. If we look at the record of rains of ten years, this year in the last week of June, maximum rains have been received in the last ten years. Between June 23 and 30, the district recorded 237.3 mm of rain and despite

torrential and then intermittent rains for three days, the situation of water logging in the major reservoirs of the district did not change.

According to officials of the Water Resources Department, three to four days of rain after the scorching heat is nothing special for the dam's water storage unit. Now it is likely to rain from next week, due to which the maximum temperature has increased by 9 degrees, in a total of 39 degrees.

Collector reviews Godhan Nyaya Yojana



Korea, Jul 06: Under the chairmanship of District Collector Vinay Kumar Langleh, a weekly time-limit meeting was held here, in which the Collector did an in-depth review of the government's ambitious Godhan Nyaya Yojana.

Instructing the officials of Forest, Agricultural Horticulture and Krishi Vigyan Kendra to send the demand letter for vermicompost fertilizer soon, he asked them to ensure lifting as per the demand. In

the meeting, the Collector instructed to take action to remove the Gothan Committees which are not active and issue notices to the AREO, SADO and Secretary after identifying those Gothans which have less than 20 percent conversion.

The Collector also instructed to plant shady trees in all Gothans and took information from the Forest Department officer regarding the availability of saplings and preparation for tree

plantation. The Collector inquired about the progress of the renovation works of the schools under the Mukhyamantri School Jatan Yojana and asked to update all the completed works in the portal.

Taking information about the implementation of the announcements made by the Chief Minister during the meeting with the Chief Minister, Collector Mr. Langleh gave instructions to complete the approved construction works within the time limit. District Panchayat's Chief Executive Officer Dr. Ashutosh Chaturvedi, Joint Collector and Deputy District Election Officer Mr. Anil Sidar, Joint Collector Mrs. Akinta Som, Sub-Divisional Officer and other officers-employees were present.



One nabbed with illicit liquor worth 12,000

Simga, Jul 07: It was on instructions by the senior police officers, that a person was nabbed with 25 quarter bottles of country liquor 'Mashal' of 4.5 bulk lts packed in side two white plastic buckets worth Rs 2750 and another 3.06 bulk lts of liquor with 17 quarters of CG Fine English Whiskey worth Rs 2210 and 9 bottles of Beer worth Rs 6940. It was in the presence of witnesses that

seizure letter was prepared and the accused was booked under section 34 (2) of Excise Act. The accused is Nohar Banjare, S/o Late Lakhnan Banjare, (30), R/o Musawadh Thana Simga and sent to jail. In the above action, Head Constable Chandrabhan Pandey, Ramnarayan Verma, constable Birendra Sinham, Lokesh Dadsena played an important role.

Stranded Elephant creates chaos

Balod, Jul 07: An elephant separated from its herd, created havoc in the region, as it went out looking for its herd. It reached office of the District Police Control Room and Cyber Cell after entering from the Tandur reservoir. The police personnel kept hiding in their respective offices, whereas a video has come to the fore in the same office where all the personnel are waiting for the elephant to come out while pacifying each other. Later it moved towards Jurri Para area, where simultaneously, the forest department's team was also waiting for the elephant to come out, which created a stir in the whole city throughout the night.

As per information, the present location of the elephant is being told as Room No. 288 RF Complex Jatadah Assistant Circle Ganji Circle Lohara



Jiskolekar Village. Villages Baihakua, Jatadah, Shivni, Poptalola, Sahagaon, Ganji, Bhalukonha, Kamta, Ureta, Gurami, Bharda, Pingal, Maraitola and Boirdih has been kept on alert while

the Forest Department team is also continuously patrolling. According to the information received from the forest department, the elephant is traveling fast and it is not staying at one place.

Contract workers protest against non-fulfillment of regularization



Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Jul 07: The contractual employees working here in the region have gone on an indefinite strike due to non-fulfillment of the promise of regularization in the public manifesto. The work in the government office was affected due to the strike of contract em-

ployees and District convenor of Chhattisgarh All Departmental Contract Employees Federation, Takeshwar Sahu said that the government had promised regularization to us contract employees in point number 11 of the public manifesto for the 2018 elections, but it is undemocratic for the government not to fulfill its

promise even after lapse of 4 years and 6 months.

The government should fulfill its promise by regularizing all the contractual employees of the state by including them in the upcoming supplementary budget, he said. District Secretary Ajay Singh Kshatriya said that in these four and a half

years, there is a situation of lack of communication from the government and even after giving memorandum to 33 District Collectors and many Congress Ministers, MLAs and people's representatives, dialogue was not established.

Federation's patron Uday Bhanu Banjare and treasurer Manish Tamboli told that the crowd of contract workers will decide which party will form the government in Chhattisgarh in the 2024 elections.

Kaleshwar Sahu, Avi Sahu, Pawan Nirmalkar, Dhananjay, Parmeshwar Yadav, Chandras, Sandeep participated in this program. Ajay, Manisha Banjare, Bina Dhritalhare, Gayatri, Bhagwati, Nishi Masih, Sumit Jaiswal, all the contract employees of the district including the chief officers were present in the strike.

Thousands of Asian Bill Storks arrive in Lachkera

Covering thousands of miles for breeding here

Elders says that they are coming for last many decades

Fingeshwar, Jul 07: The arrival of Asian Bill Stork covering thousands of kilometers of journey from other countries to Gram Lachkera under Fingeshwar block has started prior to arrival of monsoon here on Thursday. Many elders of village informed that it is prior to their birth, that flock of these birds viz. Asian Bill Stork arrive here from other countries to Lachkera for breeding season as guests. They informed that these birds are coming prior to their fathers, grand-fathers and fore-fathers as well and even they do not know as to for how many decades back these birds are coming to Lachkera for their nests and breeding.

Farmers informed that these Asian Bill Stork are



purely non-vegetarian and eat insects, 'ghongha' and fishes in the river and ponds as their diet. It is due to their presence, the farming of Khariff crop is safe due to their eating away of all the insects during this season. Set aside this the waste from these birds acts as good source of manure for the farms. Even the villagers are aware of importance of presence of these birds and therefore none have killed any of these birds and had issued a forewarning that anyone killing these birds will

have to pay penalty. Those informing about the killing or poaching of these birds is even paid prize in the form of cash.

Acting as enemy to insects for the Khariff crop and as friends of the farmers, the surrounding of the Gram Lachkera has started resonance with the chirpingness of these Asian Bill Stork. The villagers of Gram Lachkera even treat the arrival of these great birds as auspicious for them.

Can cover upto 1000 kms
The Asian Bill Stork are

capable of covering distance of 850 kms to upto 1000 kms, as it is the period of their breeding. Therefore they fly in group and reside in the place where they find the atmosphere comfortable. What is unique about these birds is that the place where they reside for the first time, they continue it for the second time as well always.

The guest birds are treated as centre of love and commitment and finally after breeding, they return to their homeland.

WARM FAREWELL



Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan and CM Bhupesh Baghel bid warm farewell to PM Narendra Modi at the Science College ground helipad.

Research should be such as to benefit the society and the nation: Vice-Chancellor

■ Induction prog for PhD researchers organized in Department of Commerce

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Jul 07: The induction program for the newly admitted Ph.D. researchers of the Commerce Department of Guru Ghasidas University (Central University) was organized on July 06, 2023 at 11 am with Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal as the Chief Guest. The Registrar, Prof. Manish Srivastava was present as a special guest.

The Chief Guest of the induction program, Professor Chakrawal, while congratulating the newly admitted Ph.D. scholars, said that the youth should do research which is useful to the society and the nation. He said, "New facts, principles, methods or objects are discovered in research and in such a situation, we must carry out such research work whose references become standard in the whole world. A researcher should choose such subjects which contain the solutions to the problems of the society and the nation".

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Chakrawal gave the researchers the basic



mantras of success along with the nuances of start-ups, business discipline and of business models through various live examples. He said that apart from being a good researcher, or a good teacher, one should also keep in mind the first priority, that of being a good human being. By being disciplined with dedication, practice, restraint and coor-

ditionation, researchers can produce better results with limited resources. He called upon the researchers to do such research that the name of the university is established at the national and international level.

Before this, at the beginning of the program, the guests on the stage were welcomed with saplings. Thereafter, the welcome ad-

dress was given by Dr. Bhuvana Venkataraman, Head of the Department of Commerce. The Special Guest, the Registrar, Prof. Manish Srivastava and Dean, School of Commerce and Management expressed their views. The guests on the stage were honored by presenting shawl, shreephal, and mementoes. The program was conducted by Dr. Shailesh Dwivedi and the vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Buddheshwar Singraul. Heads of departments, teaching staff, and research scholars of the Department of Commerce and Management Studies were present on the occasion.

IIM Raipur achieves exceptional investment education standards

By joining CFA Institute's university affiliation prog to offer CFA program scholarships

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jul 07: Toward the accomplishment of a new step in completing CFA, three exceptional students from IIM Raipur have successfully passed the CFA Level-1 examination in May 2023. We extend our wholehearted congratulations to these outstanding students for their exceptional accomplishments.

Their dedication, perseverance, and profound understanding of investment management professionals have been exemplified through their successful completion of the demanding CFA Level 1 exam. This significant milestone propels them to achieve the prestigious Chartered Financial Analyst® (CFA®) designation.

By joining CFA Institute of



Management Raipur (IIM-R), a premier business school in India renowned for developing competent and ethical business leaders, has partnered with CFA Institute's University Affiliation Program (UAP). This collaboration demonstrates IIM Raipur's unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional education and professional development in investment management, meeting the highest global standards.

By joining CFA Institute's University



Affiliation Program, IIM Raipur demonstrates its commitment to providing a world-class education that prepares students for exceptional careers in investment management. This collaboration fosters the development of future leaders in the investment profession, equipping them with the highest standards of knowledge, ethics, and skills required to thrive in the dynamic global financial industry. The CFA Program, renowned world-wide for setting the gold



standard in developing investment professionals' skills, competence, and integrity, is the pinnacle of achievement in the finance industry.

Completing the program and earning the esteemed Chartered Financial Analyst® (CFA®) charter is a distinction reserved for only the most accomplished candidates. Being an affiliate of the CFA Institute, selected students of IIM, Raipur, secured student scholarships for the CFA program.

Two students of Chouksey Group selected on 7.25 LPA package

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Jul 07: Intellipaate Online Campus Placement Drivewas conducted in ChoukseyGroup of Colleges, Bilaspur (C.G) in recent days. As the result of several stages of recruitment drive, 2 students Shivani Chitturi of Engineering (CSE) and Samridhhi Singh of MBA branch finally got selected and were offered 7.25 Lakh per annum package and soon will be joining the Bangalore Office in coming days.

Intellipaatis one of the leading IT Sector company working globally with thousands of employees in the field of education sector and research. It had marked its continuous growth in the field of Education, Technology and Research. Dr. Ashish Jaiswal, the Managing



Samridhhi Singh



Shivani Chitturi

Director of Chouksey Group wished a very bright future to the selected students. Principal Dr. Sanjay Pandey, Administrative Officer Dr. Nitin Jain, TPO Prof. Vinod S Kharsan, also congratulated the selected students and wished them a successful career. Prof. V. S. Kharsan, TPO, of Chouksey Group informed that this was the 35th Campus Recruitment

Drive so far for the final year students of 2022-23 session and in near future more Companies are in pipeline for recruitment.

The Company has chosen Chouksey Engineering College seeing the Quality of Education and Work Culture. It is remarkable to note that Chouksey Group of College, Bilaspur (C.G) is the only academic institute which is provid-

ing the best quality education and engaged in student's future creating activities through T&P cell and other departments. Chouksey Group of college is well known for its campus drives in this zone and state. In the group the campus interviews process is conducted all-round the year.

Chouksey Group of Colleges is determined to give the quality education &with overall exposure to his students. College has NSS Wing and NCC Wing for students overall development and to serve the society and nation. Chouksey Group has tie ups with industries, MoUs with professional bodies to give their best to their students. The Alumni are serving in various Govt. and Private sectors in different Companies of National and International repute.

Tata Power to implement smart metering project in CSPDCL

● To cost Rs 1744 cr

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jul 07: Tata Power has received Letter of Award 'LOA' to implement smart metering project in Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Limited. It is a testament to our execution expertise in delivering high value and specialized projects which are aimed at transforming the power distribution domain."

The Project shall include Design, Supply, Installation, Commissioning followed by Operation and Maintenance of smart meters at consumer end and at Distribution Transformers level. The project will be executed under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) and is expected to improve the AT&C losses in the designated area and increase revenue collection for CSPDCL. CSPDCL is a state-owned electricity distribution company responsible for providing electricity to consumers across the state of Chhattisgarh.

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IIT Bhilai holds panel discussion on G20 and Indian Economy

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jul 07: The Ministry of Education, Government of India is observing India's Presidency of the G20 with an ambitious outreach programme under the title of "Jan Bhagidari". This programme aims to make India's G20 Presidency a people's movement, centred on people's participation.

Academic symposia, sporting events, swachhata campaigns, and students' competitions are being organised in educational institutions and universities across India in pursuance of this aim. In keeping with the vision of Jan Bhagidari, the Department of Liberal Arts at IIT Bhilai organised a panel discussion on the topic "G20 and Indian Economy" on 4 July 2023. Dr Sitakanta Panda,



Assistant Professor, School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Management IIT Bhubaneswar and Dr Shreya Biswas, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Finance, BITS Pilani Hyderabad were discussants for the event, which was moderated by Dr Rekha Ravindran, Assistant Professor, Department of Liberal Arts, IIT Bhilai.

The discussion was presided by Prof Rajiv Prakash, Director, IIT Bhilai, who offered insightful comments on the potential for innovation in agriculture and education sectors respectively towards building a resilient and strong economy.

The panellists discussed that the Indian economy is on an upward growth path, highlighting that the three geopolitical shocks-



the pandemic-induced contraction in global output, a global surge in inflation owing to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and coordinated policy rate hikes by central banks have shown signs of dissipating and getting spaced out.

The US Fed rate hike led to a capital inflight into the US which caused an appreciation of the dollar against most currencies. This has led to widening

Current Account Deficits and increased inflationary pressures in net importing economies, slowing global growth, tightening monetary policy, and persistent inflation in advanced economies pose downside risks to the global economic outlook.

Despite these downside risks, India is poised to be the fastest-growing major economy clocking at 6.5 to 7 per cent in FY23. Figures

for farm production, services sector exports, rural demand, human capital, and employment numbers have seen an impressive rise whereas a narrowing CAD with sufficient import cover, easing commodity prices, good harvest and credit growth picking up across sectors have contributed to very positive medium-term prospects for India.

The discussion proved enlightening for the scholars and faculty who attended the event, allowing them a pertinent opportunity to gain deep insights into the workings of the Indian economy from both macroeconomic and microeconomic perspectives. IIT Bhilai remains committed to upholding the principles of Jan Bhagidari as envisioned by the Government of India in observing and celebrating India's Presidency of the G20.

Collector met patients and villagers of Sosanpal

- Bacteria not found in water test
- Instructions given to provide better health services to diarrhea patients

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Jul 07: Collector Vijay Dayaram visited Sosanpal on Wednesday and met the patients and villagers suffering from diarrheal disease and inquired about their well-being. He took cognizance from the villagers about the cause of diarrhea in the village.

The villagers told that some people of the village who had returned from Allahabad started diarrhea. Due to interruption in power supply in the vil-



lage, water was being arranged from the solar powered pump located in Gauthan, while the villagers were using water from the Gauthan pump even before.

The Collector instructed the Public Health Engineering Department officer to give the water quality test report soon,

no symptoms of E. Coli bacteria were found in the test report. He has given instructions to conduct a complete investigation into the root cause of the increase in diarrheal patients in the village.

Along with this, in the survey work being done in the village, the person who is being identified

with diarrheal disease was asked to provide immediate health facilities. Along with giving information about prevention and treatment of seasonal diseases to the common people through awareness camp, asked to provide health education.

Before this, the Collector inspected the temporary health center operated in the Panchayat Bhawan. He instructed to make basic arrangements for the patients and provide better health services through the health center.

On this occasion, Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat Prakash Sarve, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Tokapal Rituraj Bisen, CMHO Dr RK Chaturvedi and other officers were present.

National Deworming Day to be celebrated in state on August 10

- Filaria eradication program to be organized in seven districts from August 10-17

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jul 07: National Deworming Day will be celebrated in the state on August 10. Mass drug intake program (MDA) will be organized in seven districts of the state Durg, Balod, Bemetara, Janjgir-Champa, Sakti, Mungeli and Mahasamund from August 10 to August 17 under the Filaria Eradication Program. Additional Chief Secretary of Health and Family Welfare Department



Mrs. Renu G. Pillai took a meeting of the State Level Steering Committee at Mantralaya on Wednesday and gave necessary guidelines regarding both the campaigns. She told the officials of Health Department and other departments present in the meeting to achieve 100 percent target in both the campaigns. The outline and effective implementation of both the campaigns were discussed in the district level steering committee meeting.

In the meeting, Director of National Health Mission Mr. Bhoskar Vilas Sandipan, Deputy Director of Health Department Dr. V.R. Bhagat and Dr. Mahendra Singh along with officials from Health Department, School Education Department, Panchayat and Rural Development Department, Women and Child Development Department, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)

Evidence Action and other organizations were present. During the National Deworming Day, on August 10, deworming medicine will be given to all the children and teenagers in the state from one year to 19 years. Children and adolescents who have been left out of taking medicine on August 10 will be given medicine on the mop-up day on August 17. Children will be given deworming medicine in Anganwadis, government schools, health centers, aided private schools and technical education institutions. Half a tablet of Albendazole will be given to children of one year to two years. Children above two years of age should be given D.E.C. with Albendazole.

Modi inaugurates, lays stone of projects worth around Rs 7,600 cr

● In Chhattisgarh

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jul 07 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated and laid foundation stones of eight projects worth around Rs 7,600 cr in Chhattisgarh capital Raipur. During an event held at the Science College ground here, PM Modi also virtually flagged off a new train between Antagarh in Kanker district of the state and Raipur. He kick-started the distribution of cards of the Centre's Ayushman Bharat scheme to beneficiaries in the state. Assembly elections in Chhattisgarh are due by the end of this year.

Speaking on the occasion, PM Modi said these new projects will open up ample employment opportunities for the people of the state and ease their lives. The projects will start a new journey of facilities and development in tribal-dominated areas, he said.

"In the last 9 years, the Centre sanctioned



PM Narendra Modi during the inauguration and foundation stone laying ceremony of several developmental projects, in Raipur, Friday. Chhattisgarh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan and Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel are also seen.

National Highway projects of 3,500 km length in Chhattisgarh, of which projects of 3,000 km length have been completed," he said. "We have been developing infrastructure in the areas which have been lagging in the race of development," the prime minister added. Another benefit of infrastructure which is seldom discussed is that it is related to injustice, he said.

"The Centre has been providing modern facilities to those who have

been facing injustice and lack of facilities for the last several decades," the Prime Minister said. At the event, the PM dedicated to the nation four-laning of the 33-km-long Raipur-Kodebod section of the National Highway 30, the 53-km-long four-lane Bilaspur-Pathrapali stretch of NH-130.

He laid the foundation stone for construction of three sections (Jhanki-Sargi (43 km), Sargi Basanwahi (57 km) and Basanwahi-Marangpuri

(25 km) as a part of the six-lane Raipur-Visakhapatnam economic corridor NH-130 CD.

He also dedicated to the nation the doubling of the 103-km-long Raipur-Khariar Road Rail Line, built at a cost of Rs 750 cr; a 17-km-long new railway line connecting Keoti-Antagarh, and a bottling plant of the Indian Oil Corporation with a capacity of 60,000 metric ton per annum in Korba constructed at a cost of over Rs 130 cr.

HUGE CROWD



There was huge crowd of BJP workers and supporters on the road leading to the venue of huge public meeting addressed by PM Narendra Modi at Science College Ground here on Friday.

Health workers continue strike on 4th day

● Take out rally, shout slogans in front of CMHO office

Raipur, Jul 07: The indefinite strike of Chhattisgarh Pradesh Swasthya Karmachari Sangh entered 4th day on Friday after talks between Sangh delegation and Health Minister TS

Singhdeo over demands of health workers failed yesterday. Health Minister's indifferent attitude towards the demands caused resentment among the members of Sangh delegation. The health workers are on indefinite strike from 4th July in support of 24-point demand.

Meanwhile Sangh President Alok Mishra

and General Secretary Ashwini Gurdekar said that strike would be intensified. Due to Prime Minister's Raipur visit the health workers were not allowed to sit on dharna at Tuta area. The agitating health workers then assembled outside the office of Chief Medical and Health Officer and shouted slogans. The Sangh of

office bearers said that option to halt emergency services was also being considered. The Sangh is demanding steps to sort out pay anomaly of health workers, regularize all NHM contract, daily wage, DMF and JDS workers, run OPD in hospitals only in one shift from 8 am to 2 pm, salary of 13 months to health workers in a year.

Jewellery worth 3 lakh stolen from house, two arrested



Raipur, Jul 07: Police have arrested two persons in connection with the incident of theft of jewellery in an empty house in Urkura area falling under jurisdiction of Khamtarai Police Station in Raipur district. They allegedly committed theft in an empty house on the night of 24 June when all the family members of the house had gone to Uttar Pradesh to attend the wedding ceremony.

According to information available, one Prabhat Mishra told police that his brother-in-law Ashok Kumar Pandey had gone

to Uttar Pradesh on June 24 to attend a wedding ceremony. He had asked to take care of the house. On the morning of June 26, when they reached they saw main gate locked but the door of the hall inside the house open. Moreover locks of 3 rooms inside the house were seen broken and the household items were lying scattered.

The cupboard lockers kept inside these rooms were found broken. Thieves had stolen jewellery worth about Rs 3 lakh. After this, complaint was lodged with the Khamtarai police station. During investigation, the police suspected two history sheeters. When they were taken into custody and interrogated, they confessed to their crime. Stolen ornaments have also been recovered from the accused.

New polling centres approved for upcoming election



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jul 07: Additional Collector Arvind Ekka chaired a meeting of district level representatives of recognized political parties in the Collectorate hall on Friday. Rationalization of polling stations, name change etc were discussed in the meeting. 1356 proposed polling stations were approved. In the meeting, the

district administration appealed to the representatives of political parties to cooperate in the work of revision of the voter list. They were asked to inform the District Election Office about the assembly-wise BLA appointment. In the meeting, Deputy Electoral Officer BK Dubey, Joint Collector Gokul Raote and representatives of recognized political parties were present.

Modi's speech a pack of lies: Congress

Raipur, Jul 07: Congress today termed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech in Raipur today as pack of lies. "Modi ji is refraining from saying 'Mata Kaushalya Ki Jai' and he forgot Mata Kaushalya after coming to Lord Ram's maternal home. Modi and BJP neither remembered Ram, nor did they remember Mata Kaushalya and this exposes their fake devotion to Ram", Pradesh Congress Committee President Mohan Markam and in-charge Secretary Dr Chandan Yadav said at a press conference at Rajiv Bhavan here today.

The PCC office bearers said that Prime Minister did not answer any of 21 questions raised before him before his arrival. They said that Prime Minister did not say anything on the list of corrup-



tion against Raman Singh's government.

They alleged that Modi once again tarnished the dignity of the post of Prime Minister by lying and making false and fabricated allegations against the people-friendly government of the state. All the allegations leveled by him are meaningless, said the PCC office bearers.

The Congress party had taken an oath of Gangajal to give the benefit of loan waiver to farmers within 10 days and Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel made 20

lakh farmers of the state debt free within 2 hours of taking oath, they said, adding that Congress government fulfilled 95 percent of the promises made in the 2018 manifesto. The Congress government has moved forward in the direction of liquor ban and more than 150 liquor shops have been closed, they said, adding that public awareness campaigns are being run for liquor ban so that there is no loss of life.

They also said that Chhattisgarh progressed rapidly after the formation

of the Congress government whereas 15 years of BJP government led by Dr Raman Singh was full of embezzlement, corruption and scams. In those 15 years of BJP rule, Chhattisgarh had gone back 30 years, they added. It is unfortunate that the Modi government has failed to tell the achievements of its government and as usual kept on misleading the public, the PCC office bearers said. Like other BJP leaders, the Prime Minister also lied that 80 percent contribution of Chhattisgarh's paddy procurement is from the central government, while the reality is that the central government's contribution in paddy procurement is negligible, they said and added that state government procures paddy on its own.

Congress leaders sit on dharna in support of Rahul



All programs of the party cancelled

Baghel, Singhdeo, Markam join protest

Raipur, Jul 07: Congress leaders in Chhattisgarh have canceled all the programs and sat on dharna in support of Rahul Gandhi after the Gujarat High Court pronounced its verdict on Friday on his plea seeking a stay on his conviction in a criminal defamation case over his Modi surname remark. All Congress leaders in-

cluding Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Deputy CM TS Singhdeo and PCC President Mohan Markam staged a sit-in demonstration at Ambedkar Chowk in Raipur.

Attacking the Modi government, Chief Minister Baghel said that the British were only afraid of Mahatma Gandhi but BJP is afraid of Rahul Gandhi.

Both British and BJP are following the policy of divide and rule, he said, adding that people of BJP are scared and they cannot face the truth. Rahul Gandhi talks about truth, talks about honesty, he said. Even

after cancellation of Lok Sabha membership of Rahul Gandhi, BJP people are afraid of him, Baghel said.

Baghel further said, Rahul Gandhi did the work of uniting India and fought with the truth. People were with Rahul Gandhi everywhere from Kanyakumari to Srinagar during 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', he said and added that Rahul Gandhi became the most popular leader across the country and the most loved leader in Kashmir. He said that Rahul Gandhi will not bow down despite being harassed by BJP people.

Kala Sahitya Akademi: Shaktipad elected as president, Vibhash is General Secretary

Bhilai, Jul 07: A meeting of the Sahitya Kala Akademi an organization active for the last five months was held the other day at Bhilai Niwas. The organization has as members the heads of various organizations. At the meeting election was held to elect office bearers for the organization where Shaktipad Chakraborty was unanimously elected as the president. Vibhash Upadhyay was elected as the General Secretary. Most active members Suresh Gondale, Manimay Mukherjee and Shravan Kumar were elected for the post of Vice President. Ghulam Haider and Nitesh Kedia were selected for the post of Joint Secretary. Dr Manoj Khanna and director Bablu Biswas were elected as Treasurer. Varun Chakraborty, Vijay



Sharma, Charu Srivastava, Mithun Das and RC Sawant were elected to the Board of Directors. Sonali Sen, Manisha Malhotra, PP Vishwas, Bhanuji Rao and Manisha Malhotra were selected for the executive members. The literature body will be handled by Vijay Varthaman, Mumtaz Bharti and Sharad Kokas. Internationally renowned rhythmist Dipankar Das will take charge of the music field. The work area

of Kala Sahitya Akademi is entire Chhattisgarh. For this, Minhas Asad from Raipur, Munna Babu from Rajnandgaon, Mukesh Patel from Balod, Mukesh Wasnik from Jagdalpur, Bharat Nishad from Raigarh and Yogendra Choubey from Khairagarh have been given the responsibility of the organization. The women's cell will be handled by Anita Upadhyay, Suchita Mukherjee and Sumita Patil.

SSTC nukkad team bags first place in competition

Bhilai, Jul 07: Members of Swaang-Drama Club, under the banner of Shri Shankaracharya Technical Campus, participated in the "Naya Bharat Utsav" program organized at Kendriya Vidyalaya WRS Colony, Raipur on July 04, 2023. They brought laurels to the college by bagging first position in the competition. They performed a street play on the topic "Online Payment" which featured the concept of easy payment at home.

The chief guest of the program MP Sunil Kumar Soni, honoured the students by giving them trophies and certificates. IP Mishra, Chairman SGES, President SGES Jaya Mishra, Dr PB Deshmukh,

Director SSTC, congratulated the students and inspired determination and integrity for future events. SSTC Cultural Head Namrata Bhargava, appreciated the hard work of the students on their performance.

The nukkad team includes Abhinav, Adrian, Bhumika Sahu, Bhumika Deshmukh, Abhishek, Saurabh, Adwitiya, Dogendra, Vaibhav, Shishir and Rajyavardhan who were highly appreciated for their excellent performance in the play.

Tree plantation programme organised in Kailash Nagar



also requested the people to plant under "One

home one tree"- one plant in the name of the nation

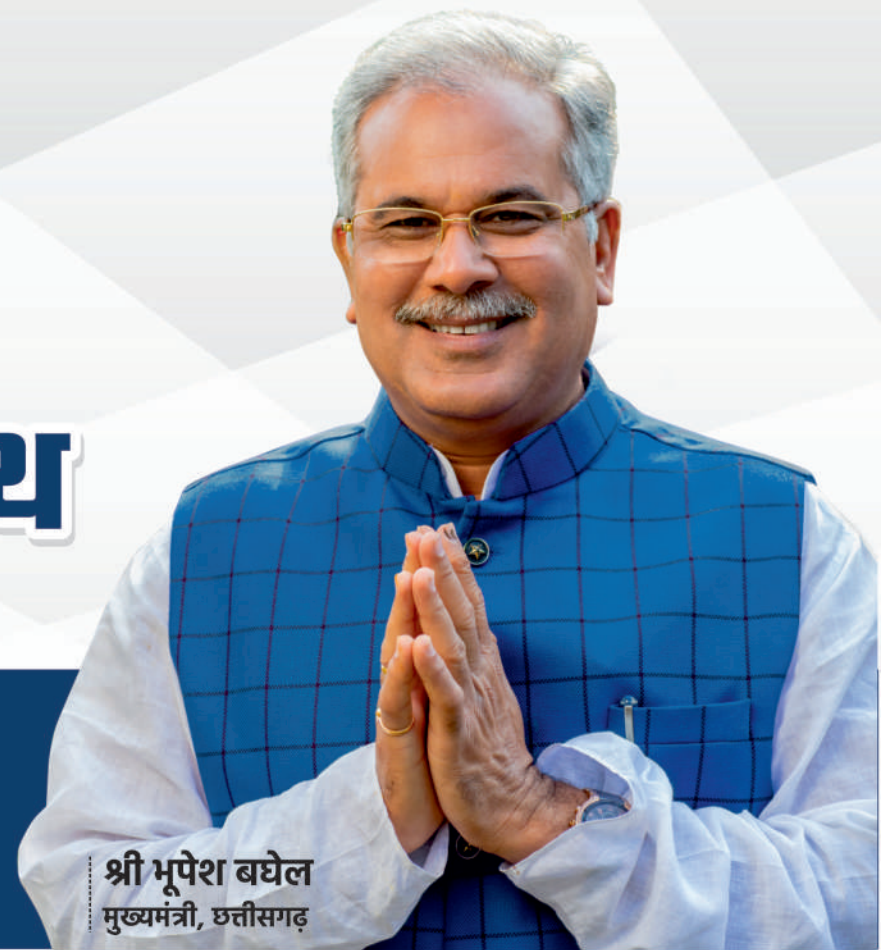
in every courtyard. In the future too, by calling the nursery in Russian Complex Sector 7 Bhilai Nagar on phone number 9301014365, the plant will be made available for this pious work.

Mainly Raja Gill, Manmad Rao, Rajendra Mishra, Pritam Dewangan, Anshuman

Jaiswal, Jagdish Rao, Ajit Pillai, Nilkamal Sahu, Sachin Jain, Arun Singh, Prabhakar Panchkhande, Mantu Roy, Sarang Joshi, Shyam Aggarwal, Prakash Lahare, Kumar Gaikwad, Jaya, Tarun Sharma, Poshan Sahu, Rajendra Tandon, RK Sahu etc helped in conducting the drive.



तन-मन-धन की बात बेहतर स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं के साथ



श्री भूपेश बघेल
मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़

2.5 करोड़ लाभार्थी

डॉ खूबचंद बघेल स्वास्थ्य सहायता योजना

50 हजार से 5 लाख रु तक की स्वास्थ्य सहायता

24 लाख लोगों का उपचार

दुर्गम क्षेत्रों और शहरी बस्तियों में
579 मोबाइल अस्पतालों से
1.69 करोड़ लोगों
का मुफ्त इलाज



मुख्यमंत्री विशेष स्वास्थ्य सहायता योजना
2643 मरीजों को गंभीर बीमारियों पर
20 लाख रु
तक के इलाज की सुविधा



श्री धन्वंतरी जेनेरिक मेडिकल स्टोरों से
66 लाख लोगों ने खरीदी
71% तक सस्ती दवाइयां



मुख्यमंत्री सुपोषण अभियान
2.65 लाख बच्चे सुपोषित
1.65 लाख महिलाएं एनीमिया मुक्त

मलेरिया मुक्त छत्तीसगढ़ अभियान
घर-घर जांच से मलेरिया के मामलों में **65%** से ज्यादा की कमी

छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार-भरोसे की सरकार



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Three killed as bus on way to Modi's rally in Raipur hits truck

Bilaspur, Jul 07 (PTI):

Three persons were killed and six others injured when a bus ferrying people to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public rally in Raipur, rammed into a stationary truck in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district on Friday, police said.

The accident occurred near Beltara village when the bus with around 40 people on board was heading to Raipur from Ambikapur, Bilaspur Superintendent of Police Santosh Singh said. Prima facie, the bus driver could not clearly see the stationary truck parked on the roadside due to heavy rainfall, as a result of which the bus rammed into it from the rear side, he said. "Three people died in the accident while six others sustained injuries, two of them critically," he said. The deceased were identified as Sajan (30),

Rukdev (45), both natives of Surajpur district, and bus driver Akram Raza (28), a resident of Balrampur district, he said.

Of the injured, the condition of two - Lilu Gupta, who is BJP's Latori unit mandal president in Surajpur and Vishambhar Yadav, the party's mandal general secretary in Surajpur, is said to be critical and they have been shifted to a private hospital in Bilaspur, he said. Four other injured were admitted to Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences (CMS) Bilaspur, he said. Investigation into the incident is underway, Singh said. The PM's rally is scheduled to be held at Science College ground in Raipur. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel expressed grief over the incident and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh to the kin of each victim, an official said.

'Corruption biggest ideology of Congress'

■ Chhattisgarh is its ATM, alleges PM Modi

Raipur, Jul 07 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched a scathing attack on the Congress, alleging that corruption was its biggest ideology, and accused the grand old party of stalling the development of Chhattisgarh, where elections are due by the year-end. Chhattisgarh has become an ATM for the Congress, the PM alleged while addressing a rally at the Science College ground in Raipur, where he inaugurated and laid foundation stones of eight projects worth around Rs 7,600 crore.

In his first visit to the Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh after being elected as the prime minister for the second term in 2019, Modi said if the Congress was a guarantee for corruption, he himself was a guarantee for action against graft. The scam-ridden Congress government in Chhattisgarh has become a model of misrule and people have decided to root it out in the upcoming Assembly elections, he said. "...The next 25 years will be crucial for the development of Chhattisgarh, but a big 'panja' (Congress's poll symbol) is standing like a tall wall against it. Congress's panja had decided to snatch your rights and it will loot and destroy the state," he said. The PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses during the public meeting in Raipur, Friday.

further said in order to expose the ruling party's lies, he would like to remind people of the state about the promises made by the Congress during the 2018 assembly polls.

Liquor ban was among 36 promises made by Congress. They had said they will give prohibition rights to gram sabha in scheduled areas. Instead of fulfilling these promises in the last five years, Congress indulged in crores of rupees of liquor scam. The scam money went into the Congress party's account, he alleged. The Congress government betrayed the women of Chhattisgarh. Now people say due to fights over this money, the party could not implement the two-and-a-half years formula (hinting at the CM seat sharing between Bhupesh Baghel and TS Singh Deo), he said. "Chhattisgarh has become an ATM for Congress.

Corruption is not limited to liquor. No department is left where corruption is not being committed in the Congress government in Chhattisgarh. They did not even spare schemes like Jal Jeevan Mission, PM Housing Scheme...This government has become a model of misrule," he said.

"The last four years of this government proved that corruption is at the core of Congress and it cannot breathe without it. Corruption is the biggest ideology of Congress," he said. "Some people get angry when I say Congress is a guarantee for corruption and start abusing me. This anger shows that the Centre is working in the right direction..." Modi added. Taking a dig at the opposition parties over their attempt to forge an anti-BJP front, Modi said, "Those who are stained with corruption, they are trying to come together

today. Those who once cursed each other, are trying to find excuses to come together...they think Modi will get afraid of it..."

Each corrupt person in this country should pay heed to this - if Congress is a guarantee for corruption, Modi is a guarantee for action against corruption, he said.

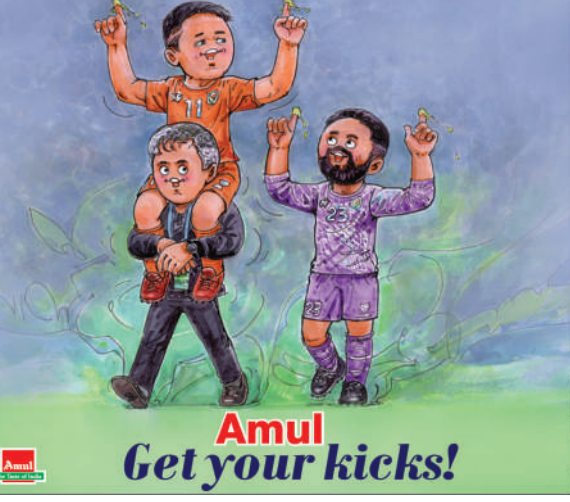
"Those who indulge in wrongdoing will not be spared. I dare to say this because whatever I have is given by you (people) and the country. Those who are trying to conspire against me and trying to dig my grave don't know that the one who gets scared cannot be Modi," he said.

Whatever tricks Congress plays, I will not back down from my resolve to take the people of Chhattisgarh forward. I hail from a poor family and understand the pain of the poor, he added.

Hailing his government's strategy against Left Wing Extremism, the PM said the Centre's efforts to free the country from the menace of Naxalism have started showing results.

"In the last few years, the number of Naxalite-affected districts declined from 126 to around 70," he added. Modi cautioned the people to stay alert against the Congress as it tries to hide its misrule through false promises and guarantees and claimed that BJP makes real guarantees and true promises and fulfils them.

Our football's in SAFF hands!



Baghel hits back at PM Modi for levelling corruption charges

CM accuses him of speaking lies

Raipur, Jul 07 (PTI):

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Friday reacted sharply to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's allegation of corruption against his government and accused him of speaking lies.

Refuting Modi's claims, Baghel tweeted, "Modi ji as you came, waves of lies started flowing. State BJP leaders have been misleading farmers that paddy is procured with the Centre's money. You are the Prime Minister, you know the truth, but you also lied."

It is the biggest lie in the name of farmers that the Centre accepts 80 per cent of the paddy procured in the state, the chief minister said. "If your government's role is so huge in paddy purchase in

the states, then why are farmers in your Lok Sabha constituency Varanasi forced to sell paddy at Rs 1,000-1,200 a quintal, Modi ji?" he asked.

Baghel further claimed that the prime minister was given wrong information by the BJP leaders in Chhattisgarh.

"Every child in Chhattisgarh knows that we had taken an oath of Gangajal to fulfil the promise of loan waiver for farmers within 10 days (of the government's formation in 2018) and we did it within two hours," he said.

Farmers remember that the BJP never fulfilled the promise of Rs 2,100 per quintal in paddy procurement and a bonus for them, the chief minister said, adding that no one can mislead the farmers of Chhattisgarh.

BRIEF



Polling officials carrying ballot boxes and other election materials leave for their respective polling centres, ahead of the West Bengal panchayat elections, in South Dinajpur district of West Bengal, Friday.

Maoists arrested

■ Ranchi: Five Maoists were arrested with a large number of arms and ammunition in Jharkhand's Lohardaga district, police said on Friday. The Maoists were arrested during a police operation in Serendag police station area, about 75 km from here on Thursday. Two carbines, a revolver, a carbine magazine, 111 live cartridges, five pamphlets of CPI (Maoist) and four android mobile phones were seized, a statement by the police said.

Madrassas sealed

■ Jammu: Authorities have sealed two madrassas for alleged violation of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, officials said on Friday. Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Khalil Ahmed Poswal said the sealing of the two madrassas was done as part of a broader initiative to investigate illegal financial transactions involving a Jammu-based group.

Weather
High 29 Low 25

MARKET
NIFTY 19,331.80
SENSEX 65,280.45

BULLION
GOLD 58,897
SILVER 71,291

HC refuses to stay Rahul Gandhi's conviction in defamation case

Ahmedabad, Jul 07 (PTI):

The Gujarat High Court on Friday dismissed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's plea seeking a stay on his conviction in a criminal defamation case over his "Modi surname" remark.

While dismissing the plea, Justice Hemant Prachchhak noted that Gandhi was already facing 10 criminal cases across India, adding that the order of the lower court was "just, proper and legal" in handing over a two year jail term to Gandhi for his remarks.

There was no reasonable ground to stay the conviction, the high court said. A stay on Gandhi's conviction in the case would have paved the way for his reinstatement as a Member of Parliament. "He (Gandhi) was trying to stay the conviction on absolutely non-existent grounds. It is a well-settled principle of law that stay-

Congress to move SC after HC's refusal

New Delhi: The Congress on Friday said it will move the Supreme Court after the Gujarat High Court refused to stay Rahul Gandhi's conviction in a defamation case, and alleged that the government is finding newer techniques to throttle his voice as it is rattled by him speaking the truth. The party said the verdict redoubles its resolve to pursue the matter further and it will fight the battle both legally and politically. Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Congress spokesperson and Gandhi's counsel in the case Abhishek Singhvi said the Gujarat High Court dismissing Rahul Gandhi's plea was "highly disappointing, but not unexpected".

ing of conviction is not a rule, but an exception, resorted only in rare cases. Disqualification is not only limited to MP, MLAs. Moreover, as many as 10 criminal cases are pending against the applicant," the HC said. "After this complaint, another complaint was filed in a court in Pune by the grandson of Veer Savarkar for Gandhi's defamatory utterance against Veer Savarkar at Cambridge. Another complaint against him was filed in

the concerned court of Lucknow," it said. In this backdrop, refusal of stay on conviction would not in any way result in injustice to the applicant, the judge said. "Impugned order passed by the appellate court is just, proper and legal, and does not call for any interference. However, it is hereby requested by the concerned learned district judge to decide the criminal appeal on its own merits and in accordance with law as expeditiously as possible.

BJP appoints Mathur and Mandaviya in-charges for Chh'garh polls

New Delhi, Jul 07 (PTI):

The BJP on Friday appointed Union ministers Pralhad Joshi and Bhupender Yadav its in-charge for assembly polls in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh respectively, stepping up the party's campaign for key state polls before the Lok Sabha contests in 2024.

Former Union minister Prakash Javadekar and another senior party leader Om Prakash Mathur was made poll in-charge for Telangana and Chhattisgarh respectively, a party statement said. Former Gujarat deputy chief minister Nitin Patel and Haryana leader Kuldeep Bishnoi will be co-incharges for the Rajasthan polls, and Union minister Mansukh Mandaviya will be the co-incharge for Chhattisgarh. Union min-

ister Ashwini Vaishnav will be the co-incharge for Madhya Pradesh while the party's national general secretary Sunil Bansal has been given the same responsibility for Telangana, the statement said.

All the four states along with Mizoram are expected to go to the polls in October-November. The BJP's main challenger in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan is the Congress and in Telangana the BRS is the party in power and a strong force. The Congress is also rallying its forces to regain its lost ground following its morale-boosting victory in the neighbouring Karnataka. The BJP is in power in Madhya Pradesh and the Congress in the other two Hindi-speaking states.

Balasore accident CBI arrests 3 railway staff

New Delhi: The CBI on Friday

took into custody three railway personnel in connection with the June 2 Balasore train accident, making its first arrests in the case, officials said. The agency arrested Senior Section Engineer (signal) Arun Kumar Mahanta, Section Engineer Mohammed Amir Khan and Technician Pappu Kumar, all posted in Balasore district, the officials said. The three have been arrested under IPC sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 201 (destruction of evidence), they said. The accident took place near the Bahanaga Bazar station in the Balasore district of Odisha in which 293 people were killed - 287 on the spot or brought dead to hospital while six succumbed to injuries in hospitals. The accident involved three trains: the Shalimar-Chennai Coromandel Express, Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express and a stationary goods train.

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NSA Doval to his British counterpart

Take public action against extremist elements'

Threatening Indian officers in UK

New Delhi, Jul 7 (PTI)

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Friday urged his British counterpart Sir Tim Barrow to take strong public action such as deportation against extremist elements threatening officers of Indian High Commission in the UK, official sources said.

Doval raised the issue during his wide-ranging talks with Barrow, who is currently on a visit to India.

The two NSAs held one-on-one talks that was followed by delegation level dialogue.

Pro-Khalistan groups



National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval and his UK counterpart Tim Barrow during a meeting, in New Delhi, Friday.

have issued posters inciting violence against senior Indian diplomats in the US, Canada and Australia.

India has already asked all these countries to ensure safety and security of Indian diplomats and its missions.

"The Indian side raised the issue of the extremist

elements in the UK threatening individual officers of the Indian High Commission and urged the UK government to take strong public action against these elements such as deportation or legal prosecution," said a source. Both the sides agreed to work closely to counter terrorism and terror financing.

Pankaja takes break for couple of months

BJP leader jibes BJP colleagues over silence on NCP developments

Mumbai, Jul 7 (PTI)

Maharashtra Bharatiya Janata Party leader Pankaja Munde on Friday said she was planning to take a break for "one or two months" as she was anguished at her integrity being questioned time and again. She said her party would have to answer if she had merit and asserted that only time will tell if

she was treated unfairly. Munde also panned the media for taking some of her statements out of context or misquoting her, adding that she planned to sue one channel which reported on her meeting Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

In a swipe, the former Parli MLA also said her party colleagues had worked hard on the campaign to highlight nine years of the Narendra Modi government but were not mustering courage to speak on recent developments in

Maharashtra, a reference to the NCP split and a faction joining the Eknath Shinde government.

The former state minister and daughter of party stalwart late Gopinath Munde said she wanted the BJP's ideology of Deendayal Upadhyaya and Atal Bihari Vajpayee to remain as she had grown up on that sentiment.

Addressing a press conference, Munde said post her defeat in the 2019 Assembly polls from Parli, her name came up for nomination to the Rajya Sabha and two times for the Maharashtra

My Gorakhpur visit exemplifies both development and heritage: PM

Gorakhpur (UP), Jul 7 (PTI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said his Gorakhpur trip, which includes a visit to Gita Press and the launch of modern trains, exemplified his government's policy of combining development with heritage.

He was addressing a gathering during the closing ceremony of the centenary celebrations of Gita Press.

"The Gorakhpur visit this time is a unique example of 'Virasat bhi, Vikas bhi (heritage and development)' policy," Modi said.

He said the dream of a grand Ram temple in Ayodhya is going to be fulfilled after centuries. He also referred to the redesigned navy insignia based on a flag of Maratha ruler Shivaji.

Highlighting the contributions of Gita Press, the prime minister said Mahatma Gandhi had an association with it and used to write for Kalyan magazine.

"He (Gandhiji) had advised Gita Press not to take advertisements for Kalyan magazine



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during the closing ceremony of centenary celebrations of Gita Press, in Gorakhpur.

and it is still following that advice," Modi said.

Speaking on Vande Bharat trains, two of which he will flag off from Gorakhpur, the prime minister said, "There is a craze for the train."

"Earlier, leaders used to write about getting trains to halt in their areas. Now, I get letters from every part of the country requesting to run Vande Bharat trains," he said, adding that Vande Bharat has provided both facilities and convenience to middle-class citizens.

PENSION STRUGGLE



Rajasthan Old Pension Joint Struggle committee members take part in a protest demanding OPS, at Shahid Smarak in Jaipur, Friday.

Ministerial aspirants are sad, it has become 'crowded' now: Gadkari

Nagpur, Jul 7 (PTI)

In an apparent comment on the current political situation in Maharashtra, Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday said those who were aspiring to become ministers are now sad as the field has got "crowded", and they do not know what to do with their "stitched suits".

Speaking at a programme organised by the Nagpur Vidyapeeth Shikshan Manch here, the senior BJP leader referred to the concept of "domestic happy human index" proposed by Bhutan's prime minister, and said that most people are never happy. "If a person accepts that I have received more than what I deserved then that person can be

happy and contented," the Road Transport and Highways minister said. Otherwise, corporators are unhappy that they did not become MLAs, MLAs are unhappy because they did not become ministers and ministers remain discontented because they did not get a good ministry, Gadkari said.

"...and now those who were going to become (ministers) are unhappy, thinking whether their turn would ever come, so much crowded it has become," he said, drawing laughter and applause from the audience.

"They were ready with suits stitched (for swearing-in ceremony). Now the

question is what is to be done with that suit, (as) there is a crowd (of aspirants)," he added, continuing in the lighter vein. The capacity of the hall where the program was being held was 2200 and it can accommodate a lot of people, but a ministry's size can not be increased, Gadkari further said.

Since the NCP faction led by Ajit Pawar joined the Maharashtra government on July 2, opposition leaders have been claiming that there is simmering discontent among the MLAs of the Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and its ally BJP as their ministerial ambitions have been thwarted.

McDonald's north and east franchisee puts tomato off the menu as price soars



Customers at a tomato vendor in a vegetable market, in Gurugram, Friday.

New Delhi, July 7 (PTI)

Fast food chain McDonald's has stopped using tomato in its food preparations at most of the stores in northern and eastern parts of the country citing the non-availability of quality products, amid the price of the commodity surging up to Rs 200 per kg.

McDonald's India - North and East said it is constrained to "hold tomatoes for the time being" and is trying to re-

solve this issue by employing sustainable agriculture practices.

"Due to seasonal crop issues arising out of farm fields in a few regions, there are not enough quantities meeting our quality specifications available.

To ensure our customers get the best quality we are known to serve, we are constrained to hold tomatoes for the time being," said a McDonald's India - North and East spokesperson.

There is also a buzz going on in the social media over the absence of tomatoes on some of the top-selling products of McDonald's such as burgers.

Social media users are sharing pictures of burgers without tomatoes. Some of them also shared the notices put out by some of McDonald's stores informing the walk-in customer about the temporary unavailability of tomatoes.

Assuring the customers, McDonald's India - North and East spokesperson said: "We reiterate that it is not due to the surge in the prices. It is only due to the non-availability of tomatoes meeting our quality specifications."

However, he also added restaurants mostly in the Punjab-Chandigarh area where it is able to source the commodity in adequate quantities, McDonald's continues to serve tomatoes in its menu.

Govt to launch portal to monitor schemes for children in difficult circumstances

New Delhi, Jul 7 (PTI): The government will soon launch a portal to provide a unified digital platform for various programmes related to children in difficult circumstances, a senior official said on Friday. The National Informatics Centre (NIC) will be integrating the portals of 'TrackChild' meant for missing children, 'CARINGS' meant for adoption, Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) and Khoya-Paya, a citizen-centric application for missing and sighted children, into a single platform, he said.

The Mission Vatsalya portal will also be used to monitor childcare institutions, the official said, adding all such homes are getting geo-tagged. Registration of all childcare institutions on the portal will be ensured along with all relevant details, including those about children coming in contact with the juvenile

justice system, he said. "These vulnerable children need to be mapped with government institutions or services so that their care and development can be ensured," the official said. The Mission Vatsalya portal will facilitate better monitoring, avoid duplication of work at the grassroots level and provide a single platform for all the stakeholders, leading to better decision or policy-making, optimum use of re-

sources, availability of child protection resource directory and better citizen participation among others.

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Jasleen Royal's 'Sang Rahiyo' shoots to Chart-Topping success

Renowned singer and composer, Jasleen Royal, experiences overwhelming joy as her heartfelt creation 'Sang Rahiyo' skyrockets to the top of music charts. Originally released in 2020, the song has now resurfaced, captivating listeners with its melodious charm. What makes this achievement even more remarkable is that the accompanying music video was shot in the comfort of Jasleen's own home, featuring a close-knit group of friends. In a refreshing departure from conventional promotional tactics, the track relied solely on its artistic merit and the power of word-of-mouth. In a remarkably short span of time, 'Sang

Rahiyo' has ascended the ranks, firmly establishing itself among the top 100 songs. This soulful composition has emerged as a social media sensation, particularly gaining popularity among creators of romantic reels. Its poignant blend of love and yearning has elevated it beyond a

mere song, transforming it into an anthem for long-distance relationships. Overflowing with gratitude and elation, Jasleen took to Instagram to express her emotions. Accompanied by a video clip, she penned a heartfelt message: "Ranveer Allahbadia and I are overwhelmed to witness #SangRahiyo unexpectedly soar to the top of the charts. It was an intimate shoot at my home with cherished friends. No marketing, no frills—just pure love. This incredible achievement, nearly three years after its release, holds immense significance as I prepare to unveil the biggest single of my career in a few

days. I extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every listener." Jasleen Royal has solidified her position as a versatile artist, known for her captivating renditions such as 'Din Shagna Da' and 'Ranjha,' among many others. Her distinct musical style resonates with audiences, and 'Sang Rahiyo' exemplifies her unwavering ability to create enchanting compositions that leave an indelible mark on listeners' hearts. As this extraordinary success story continues to unfold, Jasleen Royal remains a beacon of inspiration for aspiring musicians, proving that genuine talent, coupled with genuine connections, can propel one's artistry to unprecedented heights.



Saif Ali Khan reflects on 'Vikram Vedha': Challenging perspectives

Saif Ali Khan, the popular Bollywood actor, gained immense love and appreciation from audiences for his portrayal of a determined cop in the action drama 'Vikram Vedha'. According to Saif, the film beautifully illustrates the difficulties of altering one's perspective on the concepts of good and evil. To bring authenticity to his character, Saif dedicated himself to rigorous preparation. He engaged in intense training with real guns, meticulously studying the sounds and mechanics of firing a weapon. He even adopted the mannerisms of law enforcement agents, including their grip on firearms and their approach to raiding gangster-infested buildings. The audience was captivated by the powerful performance of Hrithik Roshan as Vedha, while Saif's charismatic portrayal of the cool cop Vikram left a lasting impression.

Expressing his excitement about the television premiere of 'Vikram Vedha', Saif shared, "The film was adored by the audience for presenting contrasting perspectives of right and wrong. Fueled by moral dilemmas, intense action, and unexpected twists, this movie will now reach viewers worldwide, providing a wide range of perspectives. It demonstrates the challenges one faces when attempting to shift their viewpoint on the concepts of good and evil." Rohan Lavsi, Business Head of the Hindi Movies Cluster at Viacom18, commented, "Vikram Vedha tells the story of a celebrated cop who sees the world in black and white, and a dreaded criminal who compels him to question his own worldview." Produced by Jio Studios, Friday Filmworks, Reliance Entertainment, T-Series Films, and YNOT Studios, the gripping action thriller 'Vikram Vedha' brings together a star-studded cast including Hrithik, Saif, Radhika Apte, and others. Directed by Pushkar-Gayathri, the film delves into the tense confrontation between an upright police officer and a feared gangster, who voluntarily surrenders but possesses a riveting story to share. The movie is set to air on COLORS Cineplex this Sunday, promising viewers a thought-provoking exploration of shifting perspectives and the complexities of morality.



&pictures to premiere 'Karthikeya 2' today

Apni jaan khate me daal kar, sabko bachana chahte ho? &ictures premiere of "Karthikeya 2" starring Nikhil Siddhartha and Anupam Kher in pivotal roles that takes viewers on a thrilling adventure that tests the courage and resilience of the protagonist at every turn. Join Dr. Karthikeya, in his pursuit for Lord Krishna's Mysterious Kada, that could help save the world. Come and be a part of this quest this Saturday at 8pm on &ictures. The film takes the audience on a rollercoaster ride, through traitorous treks in uncharted territories to heart-pounding chase sequences, Karthikeya 2 delivers an immersive and adrenaline-fueled cinematic experience. The movie is seasoned with larger than life sets, visual effects and brings in the mystical aura of lord Krishna all together. Karthikeya 2 revolves around the intriguing journey of Dr Karthikeya as he discovers the secret of Lord Krishna's lost Kada. On his way he conquers the most enchanting and deep dark secrets of the past. Anupam Kher, a seasoned actor known for his captivating performances, takes on a special role in Karthikeya 2, bringing his talent and charisma to the screen. His character adds depth and gravitas to the narrative, further enhancing the overall impact of the film. Ek Rahasyamayi Kada, Ek Ansunii kahaani aur #10on10 epic drama. Tune in to &ictures this Saturday at 8pm.

Stars shares their fondest memories and moments associated with monsoon

In celebration of the enchanting season of love, the leading ladies of Star Bharat shows express their profound admiration for the allure and romance that the monsoon season brings. Reflecting on their childhoods and the present, their narratives vividly depict the delight and nostalgia that accompany the arrival of rain-soaked days. From cherished family escapades to savoring local delicacies and personal traditions, actors share the essence of the monsoon experience.

Ayushi Khurana from 'Ajooni' reveals, "The rainy season holds a special place in my heart; it is one of my favorite times of the year. The weather becomes cozy and enticing. Being in Mumbai during the monsoon enhances its beauty, and one simply cannot resist its allure. I take pleasure in indulging in local treats like Vada Pav, Samosa Pav, and especially relishing Maggie, which I typically avoid. One fascinating ritual I uphold every year is ensuring that, once the season begins, I get drenched in the first rainfall. It has



become a cherished tradition for me."

Deepshikha Nagpal from 'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho' exclaims, "I am enamored with the monsoon; after all, I am a monsoon baby myself, born in August. I am the first to lead my friends in embracing the downpour. For me, the monsoon is a season of romance, although I find myself single. Nonetheless, I cher-

ish my own company and revel in the pleasure of soft music, delectable pakoras, and a comforting cup of chai. I always make it a point to visit Lonavala during the monsoon, where I enjoy the picturesque Tiger Point and savor corn pakoras."

Stay tuned to watch Star Bharat from every Monday-Friday from 7:30pm onwards.

Pooja Bhatt shuns rat race, woman card on 'Bigg Boss OTT 2'



Pooja Bhatt, renowned filmmaker and actress, took a stand against the rat race and the notion of playing the woman card during her stint on 'Bigg Boss OTT 2'. During a task in the show, where contestants were required to rank each other, Pooja made it clear that she has never relied on such tactics.

Addressing her fellow housemates, Pooja emphasized her belief in direct communication, maintaining eye contact while engaging with others. She asserted, "I have never resorted to playing the woman card, nor do I partake in the rat race. It is my individuality and opinions that led me to be a part of Bigg Boss OTT, even after having a successful career for many years."

Respecting authority and following instructions have always been paramount to Pooja. She expressed, "I don't believe in ranking myself; it's not something I have ever done. When I

entered the Bigg Boss OTT house, I did not consider myself to be at the top, but viewers positioned me there. I am content with any rank assigned to me by my fellow housemates, and I refuse to let these initial rankings define my entire experience."

Pooja highlighted that her approach is not about projecting a saintly attitude but rather about not seeking validation through rankings. She made it clear that she does not have an addiction to the spotlight, camera, or attention. Being born into the industry, she understands that her life does not revolve around Bigg Boss or any competition within it.

Consequently, Pooja affirmed her commitment to not engage in activities solely for attention or to disappoint her fans. She reminded everyone that successful careers are not built on chance or talent alone but on the strength of one's character and resilience.

Actress-dancer Heli Daruwala attributes her journey to the enchanting dance moves of Madhuri Dixit Nene, particularly in the upcoming track 'Mere Sanam Ke Khwaab'. Heli draws inspiration from the iconic actress, channeling her classical dance prowess for this music video. Overflowing with excitement about showcasing her classical dance skills, Heli expressed, "Madhuri Dixit Ji has had a tremendous influence on my path as an actor and dancer. Like countless other girls, I grew up watching her on screen, and it was with her as my source of inspiration that I embarked on my journey into dance and drama during my childhood." Heli aimed to capture some of the magic that Madhuri Ji brings to the screen, infusing it with her own artistic expression. By combining her admiration for the iconic actress with her unique style, Heli aspires to create a captivating performance in 'Mere Sanam Ke Khwaab'. The song, sung by Kavita Seth and Kanishk Seth, features Heli Daruwala alongside Nishank Bhatt, delivering a mesmerizing visual and auditory experience for the audience. Heli's dedication to honing her dance skills and incorporating the influence of Madhuri Dixit serves as a testament to the lasting impact of renowned artists on aspiring performers. Through her performance in 'Mere Sanam Ke Khwaab', Heli showcases her talent while paying homage to the legendary Madhuri Dixit, leaving viewers enthralled by her artistic expression and graceful movements.



Heli Daruwala finds inspiration in Madhuri Dixit's magic

Kanika Dhillon announces maiden project 'Do Patti'

Renowned writer turned producer Kanika Dhillon is all set to make her mark in the world of filmmaking with her maiden production venture under her banner, Kathha Pictures. Titled "Do Patti," the much-anticipated film has secured the talented Bollywood divas Kajol and Kriti Sanon as its leading stars. After taking the world on adventurous trips with her stories in much-loved movies like "Kedarnath", "Manmarziyaan", "Haseen Dilruba", "Rashmi Rocket", and "Guilty", amongst others, Kanika Dhillon sharing her excitement says, "I am absolutely thrilled to embark on this new journey as a producer. Do Patti is a compelling



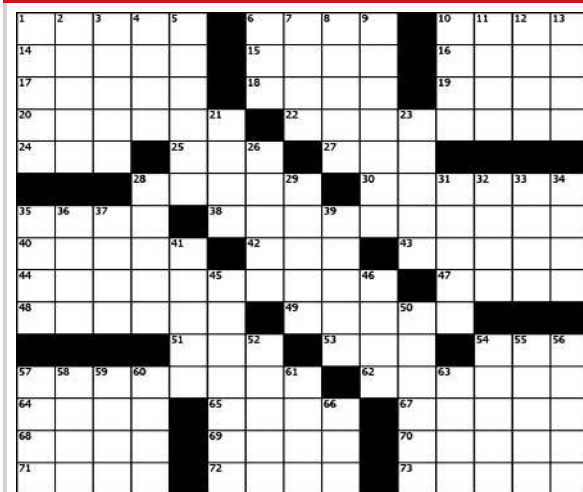
story, very close to my heart as a writer. And am thrilled to start my journey as a producer with Do Patti. And such tal-

ented actors like kriti and Kajol and of course Netflix. The writer in me feels empowered today that apart from creating

the world on paper, I can curate my vision into reality. I hope to work towards building a production house that truly empowers stories and storytellers!" Known for writing memorable screen characters and strong narratives that connect deeply, Kanika through her production house Kathha - aims to create a platform for writers that empowers them and entertains the audiences with fresh and powerful narratives. The writer-turned-producer is also currently gearing for her upcoming releases including Rajkumar Hirani directorial Dunki starring Shah Rukh Khan and Phir Aayi Haseen Dilruba after the success of Haseen Dilruba, amongst others.

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- Toboggans
- Phi _____ Kappa
- Drooping
- Christmas song
- Range part
- Albany's canal
- Reside
- Curve
- Naught
- Gun motion
- Thinker

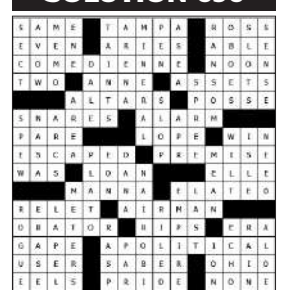
DOWN

- Frighten
- Name tag
- Roberts and Clapton
- Extinct creature
- Snow vehicle
- Comedian _____ Hope
- Always
- Doctrine
- Moderately slow, in music
- Letterman's rival
- Remove wrinkles
- Coal source
- Nobleman
- Animal's den
- Beatle Ringo _____
- Shine
- Panama _____
- Does nothing
- More faithful
- Cash drawer

- Clean thoroughly
- Shooter's group (abbr.)
- Hearing organ
- Light touch
- Deliberately damage
- Harm
- _____ Fitzgerald of jazz
- Flooring square
- Of the smelling organ
- Much (2 wds.)
- Misfortunes
- Up to the time of
- Legendary story
- Average grades
- Penn and Connerly

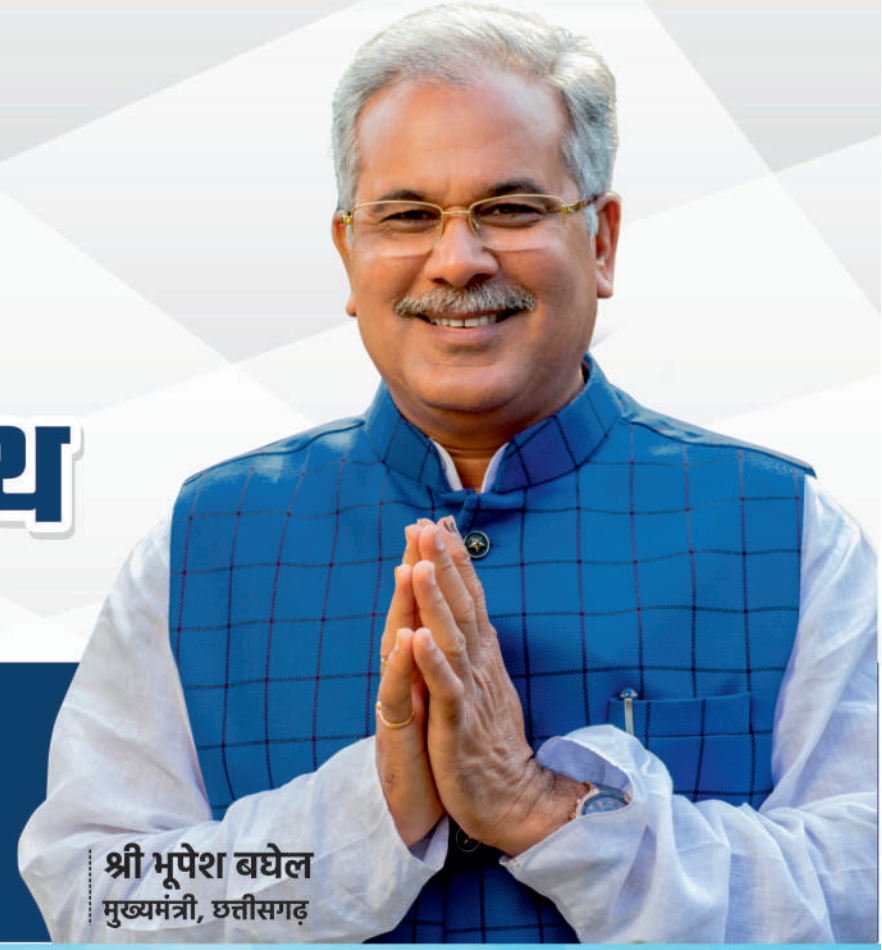
- Dollar bills
- Fairy-tale fiend
- Dalai _____
- OPEC member
- Shipped
- For this reason
- Contract negotiator
- Irregular
- Warty amphibian
- Seventh planet
- Spry
- Macaroni, e.g.
- One more time
- Narrates
- Stitched line
- Friend
- Ink stain
- Promise
- Model _____ Macpherson
- Horse's hair
- 19th letter

SOLUTION 696





तन-मन-धन की बात बेहतर स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं के साथ



श्री भूपेश बघेल
मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़

2.5 करोड़ लाभार्थी

डॉ खूबचंद बघेल स्वास्थ्य सहायता योजना

50 हजार से 5 लाख रु तक की स्वास्थ्य सहायता

24 लाख लोगों का उपचार

दुर्गम क्षेत्रों और शहरी बस्तियों में
579 मोबाइल अस्पतालों से
1.69 करोड़ लोगों
का मुफ्त इलाज



मुख्यमंत्री विशेष स्वास्थ्य सहायता योजना
2643 मरीजों को गंभीर बीमारियों पर
20 लाख रु
तक के इलाज की सुविधा



श्री धन्वंतरी जेनेरिक मेडिकल स्टोरों से
66 लाख लोगों ने खरीदी
71% तक सस्ती दवाइयां



मुख्यमंत्री सुपोषण अभियान
2.65 लाख बच्चे सुपोषित
1.65 लाख महिलाएं एनीमिया मुक्त

मलेरिया मुक्त छत्तीसगढ़ अभियान
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Three killed as bus on way to Modi's rally in Raipur hits truck

Bilaspur, Jul 07 (PTI):

Three persons were killed and six others injured when a bus ferrying people to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public rally in Raipur, rammed into a stationary truck in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district on Friday, police said.

The accident occurred near Beltara village when the bus with around 40 people on board was heading to Raipur from Ambikapur, Bilaspur Superintendent of Police Santosh Singh said.

Prima facie, the bus driver could not clearly see the stationary truck parked on the roadside due to heavy rainfall, as a result of which the bus rammed into it from the rear side, he said.

"Three people died in the accident while six others sustained injuries, two of them critically," he said. The deceased were identified as Sajan (30),

Rukdev (45), both natives of Surajpur district, and bus driver Akram Raza (28), a resident of Balrampur district, he said.

Of the injured, the condition of two - Lilu Gupta, who is BJP's Latori unit mandal president in Surajpur and Vishambhar Yadav, the party's mandal general secretary in Surajpur, is said to be critical and they have been shifted to a private hospital in Bilaspur, he said.

Four other injured were admitted to Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences (CMS) Bilaspur, he said. Investigation into the incident is underway, Singh said.

The PM's rally is scheduled to be held at Science College ground in Raipur. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel expressed grief over the incident and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh to the kin of each victim, an official said.

'Corruption biggest ideology of Congress'

Chhattisgarh is its ATM, alleges PM Modi

Raipur, Jul 07 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched a scathing attack on the Congress, alleging that corruption was its biggest ideology, and accused the grand old party of stalling the development of Chhattisgarh, where elections are due by the year-end. Chhattisgarh has become an ATM for the Congress, the PM alleged while addressing a rally at the Science College ground in Raipur, where he inaugurated and laid foundation stones of eight projects worth around Rs 7,600 crore.

In his first visit to the Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh after being elected as the prime minister for the second term in 2019, Modi said if the Congress was a guarantee for corruption, he himself was a guarantee for action against graft. The scam-ridden Congress government in Chhattisgarh has become a model of misrule and people have decided to root it out in the upcoming Assembly elections, he said. "...The next 25 years will be crucial for the development of Chhattisgarh, but a big 'panja' (Congress's poll symbol) is standing like a tall wall against it. Congress's panja had decided to snatch your rights and it will loot and destroy the state," he said. The PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses during the public meeting in Raipur, Friday.

further said in order to expose the ruling party's lies, he would like to remind people of the state about the promises made by the Congress during the 2018 assembly polls.

Liquor ban was among 36 promises made by Congress. They had said they will give prohibition rights to gram sabha in scheduled areas. Instead of fulfilling these promises in the last five years, Congress indulged in crores of rupees of liquor scam. The scam money went into the Congress party's account, he alleged. The Congress government betrayed the women of Chhattisgarh. Now people say due to fights over this money, the party could not implement the two-and-a-half years formula (hinting at the CM seat sharing between Bhupesh Baghel and TS Singh Deo), he said. "Chhattisgarh has become an ATM for Congress.

Corruption is not limited to liquor. No department is left where corruption is not being committed in the Congress government in Chhattisgarh. They did not even spare schemes like Jal Jeevan Mission, PM Housing Scheme...This government has become a model of misrule," he said.

"The last four years of this government proved that corruption is at the core of Congress and it cannot breathe without it. Corruption is the biggest ideology of Congress," he said. "Some people get angry when I say Congress is a guarantee for corruption and start abusing me. This anger shows that the Centre is working in the right direction..." Modi added. Taking a dig at the opposition parties over their attempt to forge an anti-BJP front, Modi said, "Those who are stained with corruption, they are trying to come together

today. Those who once cursed each other, are trying to find excuses to come together...they think Modi will get afraid of it..."

Each corrupt person in this country should pay heed to this - if Congress is a guarantee for corruption, Modi is a guarantee for action against corruption, he said.

"Those who indulge in wrongdoing will not be spared. I dare to say this because whatever I have is given by you (people) and the country. Those who are trying to conspire against me and trying to dig my grave don't know that the one who gets scared cannot be Modi," he said.

Whatever tricks Congress plays, I will not back down from my resolve to take the people of Chhattisgarh forward. I hail from a poor family and understand the pain of the poor, he added.

Hailing his government's strategy against Left Wing Extremism, the PM said the Centre's efforts to free the country from the menace of Naxalism have started showing results.

"In the last few years, the number of Naxalite-affected districts declined from 126 to around 70," he added. Modi cautioned the people to stay alert against the Congress as it tries to hide its misrule through false promises and guarantees and claimed that BJP makes real guarantees and true promises and fulfils them.

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Baghel hits back at PM Modi for levelling corruption charges

CM accuses him of speaking lies

Raipur, Jul 07 (PTI): Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Friday reacted sharply to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's allegation of corruption against his government and accused him of speaking lies.

Refuting Modi's claims, Baghel tweeted, "Modi ji as you came, waves of lies started flowing. State BJP leaders have been misleading farmers that paddy is procured with the Centre's money. You are the Prime Minister, you know the truth, but you also lied."

It is the biggest lie in the name of farmers that the Centre accepts 80 per cent of the paddy procured in the state, the chief minister said.

"If your government's role is so huge in paddy purchase in

the states, then why are farmers in your Lok Sabha constituency Varanasi forced to sell paddy at Rs 1,000-1,200 a quintal, Modi ji?" he asked.

Baghel further claimed that the prime minister was given wrong information by the BJP leaders in Chhattisgarh.

"Every child in Chhattisgarh knows that we had taken an oath of Gangajal to fulfil the promise of loan waiver for farmers within 10 days (of the government's formation in 2018) and we did it within two hours," he said.

Farmers remember that the BJP never fulfilled the promise of Rs 2,100 per quintal in paddy procurement and a bonus for them, the chief minister said, adding that no one can mislead the farmers of Chhattisgarh.

BRIEF

Polling officials carrying ballot boxes and other election materials leave for their respective polling centres, ahead of the West Bengal panchayat elections, in South Dinajpur district of West Bengal, Friday.

Maoists arrested

Ranchi: Five Maoists were arrested with a large number of arms and ammunition in Jharkhand's Lohardaga district, police said on Friday. The Maoists were arrested during a police operation in Serendag police station area, about 75 km from here on Thursday. Two carbines, a revolver, a carbine magazine, 111 live cartridges, five pamphlets of CPI (Maoist) and four android mobile phones were seized, a statement by the police said.

Madrassas sealed

Jammu: Authorities have sealed two madrassas for alleged violation of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, officials said on Friday. Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Khalil Ahmed Poswal said the sealing of the two madrassas was done as part of a broader initiative to investigate illegal financial transactions involving a Jammu-based group.

Weather

High 29 Low 25

MARKET

NIFTY 19,331.80

SENSEX 65,280.45

BULLION

GOLD 58,897

SILVER 71,291

HC refuses to stay Rahul Gandhi's conviction in defamation case

Ahmedabad, Jul 07 (PTI): The Gujarat High Court on Friday dismissed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's plea seeking a stay on his conviction in a criminal defamation case over his "Modi surname" remark.

While dismissing the plea, Justice Hemant Prachchhak noted that Gandhi was already facing 10 criminal cases across India, adding that the order of the lower court was "just, proper and legal" in handing over a two year jail term to Gandhi for his remarks.

There was no reasonable ground to stay the conviction, the high court said. A stay on Gandhi's conviction in the case would have paved the way for his reinstatement as a Member of Parliament.

"He (Gandhi) was trying to stay the conviction on absolutely non-existent grounds. It is a well-settled principle of law that stay-

Congress to move SC after HC's refusal

New Delhi: The Congress on Friday said it will move the Supreme Court after the Gujarat High Court refused to stay Rahul Gandhi's conviction in a defamation case, and alleged that the government is finding newer techniques to throttle his voice as it is rattled by him speaking the truth. The party said the verdict redoubles its resolve to pursue the matter further and it will fight the battle both legally and politically. Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Congress spokesperson and Gandhi's counsel in the case Abhishek Singhvi said the Gujarat High Court dismissing Rahul Gandhi's plea was "highly disappointing, but not unexpected".

ing of conviction is not a rule, but an exception, resorted only in rare cases. Disqualification is not only limited to MP, MLAs. Moreover, as many as 10 criminal cases are pending against the applicant," the HC said. "After this complaint, another complaint was filed in a court in Pune by the grandson of Veer Savarkar for Gandhi's defamatory utterance against Veer Savarkar at Cambridge. Another complaint against him was filed in

Balasore accident CBI arrests 3 railway staff

New Delhi: The CBI on Friday took into custody three railway personnel in connection with the June 2 Balasore train accident, making its first arrests in the case, officials said. The agency arrested Senior Section Engineer (signal) Arun Kumar Mahanta, Section Engineer Mohammed Amir Khan and Technician Pappu Kumar, all posted in Balasore district, the officials said. The three have been arrested under IPC sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 201 (destruction of evidence), they said. The accident took place near the Bahanaga Bazar station in the Balasore district of Odisha in which 293 people were killed - 287 on the spot or brought dead to hospital while six succumbed to injuries in hospitals. The accident involved three trains: the Shalimar-Chennai Coromandel Express, Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express and a stationary goods train.

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