



BRIEF



Badminton player Saina Nehwal with others during the Amar Nath Yatra at Baital, in Ganderbal district, Wednesday.

Watery grave

■ Dehradun: Three people died when their car fell into the swollen Kohli river at Kotdwar in Uttarakhand's Pauri district, police said on Wednesday. A police official said the vehicle was headed for Kotdwar from Dugadda with five occupants on Tuesday night when the incident took place.

Injured

■ Chailbasa: A deputy commandant of CoBRA battalion sustained injuries during an encounter with the outlawed CPI(Maoist) in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district on Wednesday, police said. The deputy commandant sustained injuries when security forces including 209 CoBRA Battalion personnel and district armed police force were on a combing operation in Naxal-hit areas, officials said. Deputy commandant Deepak Kumar was injured in an encounter with the Maoists at Relu Talai Pahad under Gailkera police station, DIG (Kolhan) Ajay Linda told PTI.

Nomination

■ Ahmedabad: Two more BJP candidates from Gujarat on Wednesday filed their nomination papers for Rajya Sabha polls, two days after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar submitted his form. Elections for three Rajya Sabha seats, scheduled to be held on July 24, will mostly be a one-sided affair in Gujarat as the Congress has decided not to field any candidate saying it doesn't have the numbers to put up a fight. The BJP on Wednesday announced the names of Keesrisinh Zala and Babubhai Desai as its remaining two candidates for polls to the Upper House of Parliament.

Evacuate

■ Sultanpur Lodhi: Army and NDRF teams evacuated over 200 people from flood-affected Mand areas in Sultanpur Lodhi city of Punjab on Wednesday, officials said. Kapurthala Deputy Commissioner Karnail Singh said the district administration shifted the rescued 223 people to relief camps, where they are being provided with ration, drinking water and other items of need. "NDRF, Punjab Police and Army personnel have been working round the clock to evacuate people from flood-affected areas. Yesterday, the NDRF rescued 59 people," he said.

Weather
High 31 Low 25

MARKET
NIFTY 19,384.30
SENSEX 65,393.90

BULLION
GOLD 61,100
SILVER 72,500

Bengal poll results subject to our order: HC

Kolkata, Jul 12 (PTD):

The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday said that the panchayat elections in West Bengal and the declaration of results will be subject to its final orders in connection with matters which it is hearing over allegations of electoral malpractices on the day of polling.

The court directed the State Election Commission (SEC), the state government and the central government to file affidavits dealing with all the allegations made in three petitions alleging malpractices.

"When the court is seized of the matter, it goes without saying that whatever has been done thus far, i.e. the conduct of the elections and the declaration of re-

sults, will be subject to the ultimate orders that may be passed in this writ petition," he said. The court directed that the SEC should inform this aspect to all the candidates who have been declared elected.

Alleging large-scale violence and electoral malpractice during the panchayat election on July 8, the petitioners prayed for a direction to the SEC to conduct repolling in around 50,000 booths. Repolling was done in 696 booths and counting of ballots began on July 11.

One petitioner who displayed videos showing alleged rampant malpractices on the day of the election was directed to furnish a copy of the videos to the lawyers of the SEC, the state and the central gov-

ernments by Wednesday.

The court directed that the matter will be taken up for hearing on July 19.

Taking a dim view of the SEC, the bench said it is of prima facie view that the response from the Commission is not adequate and that even on Wednesday, none of its officers was present in the court to give necessary instructions to its counsel.

"It is not clear why the commission is not proactive especially when the court had been monitoring the entire process and the first judgement was delivered on June 13," the court said. The court had passed a series of orders for the conduct of the three-tier rural elections in West Bengal in a free and fair manner. The court said

that it is surprised to note that even after the declaration of results, the state is not able to control the violence which has erupted in several places.

"The responsibility to ensure that there is no breach of peace lies with the state government. If the state government is not in a position to safeguard its citizens, then it is a very serious matter to be taken note of," the court said.

The petitioner also sought direction to the CBI to register an FIR and conduct investigation into the violence and electoral malpractice and a forensic audit of the video footage of the polling booths and a forensic audit of the ballot papers by an independent agency.

Oppn meet in Bengaluru

New Delhi, Jul 12 (PTD):

Leaders of 24 opposition parties have been invited for the second unity meeting being convened by the Congress next week in Bengaluru, which would see them further strategise plans to take on the BJP in the next Lok Sabha polls.

Nepal citizen abuses cabin crew in AI flight

■ Breaks lavatory door

New Delhi, Jul 12 (PTD):

A male passenger assaulted crew and some other passengers, and damaged the lavatory door onboard an Air India flight from Toronto to the national capital on July 8, the airline said on Wednesday.

The passenger, a Nepalese citizen, was

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handed over to security agencies on arrival at the airport here. "A passenger on flight AI188 of 08 July 2023 operating Toronto-Delhi displayed unacceptable aggression during flight. He smoked in the lavatory, damaged the lavatory door and assaulted crew and passengers, leaving them with minor injuries," an Air India spokesperson said in a statement. According to the spokesperson, the passenger was warned several times by the crew and finally had to be restrained on his seat.

On arrival, the passenger was handed over to the security agencies for further course of action as per regulatory requirement and the matter has been reported to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the spokesperson said.

Cabinet approve amendments to Jan Vishwas Bill

■ To decriminalise minor offences

New Delhi, Jul 12 (PTD):

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday believed to have approved amendments to the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023, which seeks to decriminalise minor offences by amending 183 provisions in 42 Acts with a view to promote ease of business, sources said. It proposes to amend 183 provisions across 42 Acts administered by 19 ministries. The bill came up for discussions in the cabinet meeting today, they said.

The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill was introduced by

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in the Lok Sabha on December 22 last year. After that, the bill was referred to a joint committee of parliament.

The committee has held detailed discussions with all the 19 ministries or departments along with the legislative department and department of legal affairs. It adopted its report in March this year, which was laid before Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha that month.

The parliamentary panel had suggested the Centre to encourage states and Union Territories to undertake the exercise for decriminalising minor offences on the lines of Jan Vishwas Bill, with a view to promoting ease of doing business and living.

Tribal man thrashed over suspicion of theft

■ Three held

Surajpur, Jul 12:

A tribal man was allegedly tied to an excavator machine and beaten up over the suspicion of mobile phone theft in Surajpur district, police said on Wednesday.

Three persons have been arrested in connection with the incident, said an official.

The incident took place near Mayapur village under Pratappur police station limits on Tuesday, said Kishore Kerketta, Station House Officer (SHO), Pratappur.

Kalindar Ram Shandilya, the complainant, was walking towards his village Sarhari from Mayapur along the



Victim thrashed after tied to JCB.

under-construction road when he was stopped by the accused at a spot where a JCB excavator was parked, he said.

The trio accused Shandilya of stealing a mobile phone and abused him. Then they allegedly tied his hands to the excavator machine with a rope and brutally thrashed him, the police official said. The accused were identified as Abhishek

About the incident

The incident took place near Mayapur village under Pratappur police station limits on Tuesday. Kalindar Ram Shandilya, the complainant, was walking towards his village Sarhari from Mayapur along the under-construction road when he was stopped by the accused at a spot where a JCB excavator was parked. The trio accused Shandilya of stealing a mobile phone and abused him. Then they allegedly tied his hands to the excavator machine with a rope and brutally thrashed him

Patel, Krishna Kumar Patel and Sonu Rathore. All of them were engaged in the road construction work. They finally released Shandilya when his family reached the spot.

IN SEARCH OF SHELTER



People from low-lying areas around the Yamuna river move a tractor stuck in floodwaters, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

CBI arrests Delhi Police head constable

■ For receiving 'bribe' of Rs 50,000

New Delhi, Jul 12 (PTD):

The CBI has arrested a Delhi Police head constable for allegedly receiving a bribe of Rs 50,000 for letting an e-rickshaw charging shop operate in the Mangolpuri area here, officials said on Wednesday.

The agency had laid a trap to nab two police head constables who were allegedly demanding the bribe from the shop owner for letting him continue with the e-rickshaw charging business. Head Constable Akshay, attached to the Mangolpuri police station, was arrested while he was receiving the bribe amount, while the other accused policeman, Bhim, is absconding, the officials

said. According to the FIR, Bhim had asked for the bribe from the shop owner. He had threatened the complainant that he would call up a Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) official named Sumit and the e-rickshaw charging operation at the shop would be disrupted and the e-rickshaws taken away. The FIR alleged that Bhim had demanded Rs 50,000 from the complainant for allowing the parking and charging of e-rickshaws at his shop.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) carried out a covert operation during which conversations between the complainant and police officials regarding the bribe amount were recorded. During the recording of the conversations, it emerged that Head Constable Akshay was also part of the racket.

For first time Centre will sell tomatoes in metros

New Delhi, Jul 12 (PTD):

In a first, the Centre will start selling tomatoes at discounted rates in retail markets in the national capital and few other cities from Friday to provide relief to the consumers as the price of the kitchen staple is ruling high at over Rs 200 per kilogram in some parts of the country.

Announcing the decision, the Consumer Affairs Ministry on Wednesday said the sale of tomatoes will be undertaken by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF). Tomatoes will be sold at discounted rates in Delhi-NCR (National Capital Region), Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West



A vendor sorts tomatoes at Azadpur Mandi, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

Bengal. It will be available in cities, including Patna, Varanasi, Kanpur and Kolkata, Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh told PTI. "Tomatoes will be sold at a considerably lesser rate than the prevailing price in that area. It will be at least 30 per cent lower than the prevailing market rate on that given day. The idea is

to give relief to consumers," he said. Both NAFED and NCCF will procure the perishable commodity from key producing centres of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, and sell it in major consumption centres, where retail prices have recorded maximum increase in the last one month, the ministry said in a statement.

Singh said, "it will be for the first time, we are going to procure and sell tomatoes in retail markets. We have done that for onion. It is going to be a challenging task as tomato is a highly perishable commodity."

In Delhi-NCR, NCCF will sell tomatoes through its own outlets, mobile vans, Mother Dairy's Safal and Kendriya Bhandar outlets.

Either way I don't care: Kerala Prof whose hand was severed

Kochi, Jul 12 (PTD):

Professor T J Joseph whose palm was chopped off by alleged activists of the now banned PFI 13 years ago over a college question paper insists he bears no ill-will against his attackers, although the incident had a fallout on his life including that of his spouse's suicide.

He lost his job for a while that in turn resulted in his wife's suicide.

A special NIA court on Wednesday convicted six persons, who are allegedly members of the banned Popular Front of India, in the sensational hand-chopping case of 2010 in the second phase of the trial in the matter. Five others were acquitted by the court.



Najeeb, a convict in the 2010 hand-chopping case of college professor T J Joseph, being taken to jail, in Kochi, Wednesday.

Joseph firmly believes his life was not destroyed by what happened 13 years ago, but admitted it did undergo some changes and he did suffer some losses. He also sympathised with his alleged attackers, saying they were mere "weapons" and

"victims of their beliefs." "Losses are inevitable in any battle. Even for those who are victorious, like me. But I will keep fighting," he told reporters after the court verdict.

In the first phase of the trial in the case, 13 persons were convicted for various offences ranging from those under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) to the Explosives Substances Act and the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Joseph said he was unmoved by the verdict as he has never believed that punishing an accused means delivery of justice to the victim.

"It only means that the law of the land has been im-

plemented, according to me. So, actually, whether they are convicted or acquitted, personally I do not care either way," he said.

He further said those caught and convicted in the case "were only the weapons" and the real culprits who engineered the attack are still out there. "It is against them that my battle continues," Joseph said.

The professor said that just like him, the accused in the case were also victims.

"They are victims of their beliefs which led them to attack me and now they are facing the consequences for the same," he said and added that if this belief system does not change, such incidents might occur in the future.

India eyes rare feat as ISRO gears up for 3rd lunar mission

Sriharikota, (AP), Jul 12 (PTD):

Four years after it broke many hearts, ISRO's Chandrayaan is all set to soar towards the moon in its third expedition on Friday in an attempt to put the country in an elite club of nations that accomplished lunar missions with a soft landing.

'Fat boy' LVM3-M4 rocket will carry Chandrayaan-3 as part of the country's ambitious moon mission as the Indian Space Research Organisation is gearing up for the hugely anticipated launch from this spacecraft on July 14. The soft landing on moon's surface is planned for late August.

Chandrayaan-2 failed to achieve the desired soft landing on the moon surface in 2019, leaving the ISRO team dejected. Images of an emotional then ISRO chief K Sivan

being consoled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who was here to achieve the rare feat, remains vivid in the memory of many.

Scientists at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre here, after investing many hours of hardwork, now aim at mastering the technology of soft-landing on the surface of the moon. A success would make India only the fourth country to achieve the feat after the United States, China and the former Soviet Union.

Chandrayaan-3, is the third lunar exploration mission ready for take off in the fourth operational mission (M4) of LVM3 launcher. ISRO is crossing new frontiers by demonstrating soft-landing on the lunar surface by its lunar module and demonstrating roving on the lunar terrain, the space agency said.



सुराजी गांव योजना से संवर रही ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था

बारी

पौध और बीज उपलब्ध
कराकर घरेलू व सामुदायिक
बाड़ियों को बढ़ावा



पोषण के साथ अतिरिक्त आय

4 लाख

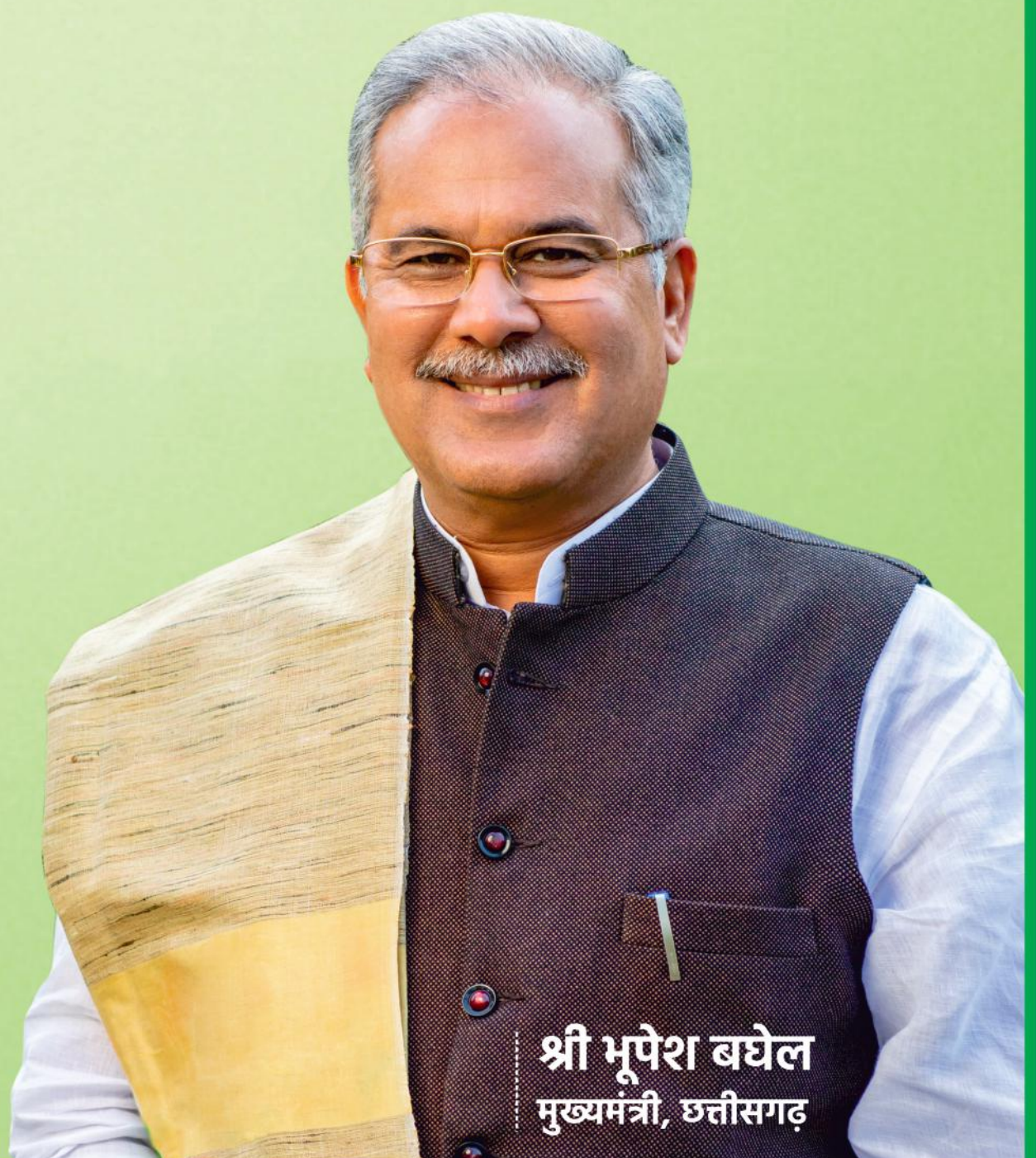
घरेलू बाड़ियों में सब्जियों
का उत्पादन

4,392 गौठानों

में संचालित बाड़ियों से
अतिरिक्त आय

छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार

भरोसे की सरकार



श्री भूपेश बघेल
मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़

BJP first helps corrupts to escape, put those disclosing truth behind witness box: Cong

Congmen in large number take part in 'Moun Satyagrah' at Gandhi Maidan

Raipur, Jul 12: To show solidarity towards Rahul Gandhi and to protest against the conspiracy to cancel his LS membership, the Congmen in large number staged 'Moun Satyagrah' here at Gandhi Maidan on Wednesday. In this 'Satyagrah', AICC general secy and PCC State in-charge Kumari Selja, CM Bhupesh Baghel, PCC Chief Mohan Markam, Dy. CM TS Singh Deo, AICC secretary and State in-charge Dr Chandan Yadav, AICC joint secy cum in-charge Vijay Jangid, all the Ministers, MLAs and party office



bearers and thousands of Congmen were present.

PCC informed that the objective of holding this 'Satyagrah' is to disclose the lies of BJP, as Rahul Gandhi stands with the truth and is least afraid about his path of truth. Congress said that Modi government is perturbed over the disclosure made and in order to shift the attention from issues is making conspiracy against Rahul Gandhi.

Congress strongly believes that the victory will be that of truth in the Court of law and the ruling party with too much of selfishness and ego will get befitting reply.

Congmen said that Rahul has always followed on the path of truth and would continue in the near future. The other side of the truth is that defaulters escaping from India viz. Lalit

Modi, Neerav Modi, Mehul 'Bhai', Vijay Mallya, Jatin Mehta and others have run away abroad with public money in front of Modi government. On one hand, where under BJP's rule they have been liberated and following on path of lie, under a conspiracy, they have put Rahul behind witness box and got his suspended of LS membership. So it is aptly clear that

under BJP's rule, it is the corrupts who escapes and on the other, the other accused of corruption worth lakh from other political parties are put into the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' and washed in the washing machine and play the game of capturing power with all manipulations. Congmen said that the people of India have come to know about the dual policy of saving the corrupt by the Modi government and not a single leader or party worker of Congress is afraid of such political conspiracies. Congress would continue to fight its political and legal battle and Rahul Gandhi would continue like a true patriot and would never give up the efforts to raise issues and pain of common men.

'Centre scared of Rahul, trying to suppress his voice'

Raipur, Jul 12: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Wednesday said the BJP-led government at the Centre was scared of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi because of the enthusiastic response his nationwide foot march has generated and was therefore trying to "suppress" his voice. He said the BJP-led government was under pressure following the Congress performance in some of the recent state polls.

Baghel was talking to reporters after participating in a silent protest, organised as part of the Congress's country-wide 'maun satyagrah' programme, along with party leaders and activists at Gandhi Maidan here.

The agitation was held to express solidarity with Gandhi after the Gujarat High Court dismissed his plea seeking a stay on his conviction in a criminal defamation case over his Modi surname remark. The former Congress president,

elected from Wayanad in Kerala in 2019, was disqualified from the Lok Sabha after his conviction in the 2019 case.

"An attempt is being made to crush democracy and suppress voices of those raising pro-people issues. The agitation was held to protest the way Rahul ji's (Lok Sabha) membership was terminated and he had to vacate his (government-allotted) bungalow," Baghel said. The Congress will continue to fight to protect democracy, he asserted.

Replying to a query, the Congress CM said, "The central government is under pressure and scared after Rahul ji's padyatra (referring to his Bharat Jodo Yatra). Recent (election) results from states have made the Centre even more nervous. Therefore, it was trying to suppress his voice."

The Congress came back to power in Karnataka in May and formed its government in Himachal Pradesh late last year. Asked about

Chhattisgarh BJP chief Arun Sao's statement that the Congress's silent protest defending Gandhi's 'Modi surname' remark was an insult to other backward classes (OBC), Baghel said the surname is used by people belonging to different social groups, including upper castes.

"What this has to do with OBC? The Modi surname it is also used by Muslims and Parsis. Do they belong to the OBC category? Agrawals and upper castes also write the Modi surname? It is not that only OBCs use the Modi surname. It is used by people of different castes and religions. Arun Sao should learn a little about it," said the Congress leader.

Baghel, AICC's Chhattisgarh in-charge Kumari Selja, state Congress chief Mohan Markam and senior party leaders were seen wearing black masks during the silent protest which went on for more than four hours.

Film 'Dulhin Uhi Jaun Piya Maan Bhaay' to be released on July 14

Raipur, Jul 12: In the history of Chhollywood, there was a film which has collected more than 5 percent revenue than Bollywood, I will not take the name of that film, but I feel proud to inform that the people of Chhattisgarh have given a lot of love to this film. It is also sad that three OTT platforms have come up in Chhattisgarh, including one international, but totally failed to achieve success. People watch Chhollywood film songs or albums on youtube, but when it comes to watching movies in theater, they don't want to spend even Rs 100. Apart from this, there is also a dearth of theaters in



Chhattisgarh, there are only 33 screens in which there is a struggle to screen Chhollywood films as the requirement is of more than 70 screens, said Actor Maan Qureshi of Chhollywood film 'Dulhin Uhi Jaun Piya Maan Bhaay' made under the banner of Oscar Entertainment while speaking to the scribes here. Producer of the film Pawan Tated was also present on the

occasion. He said that this film is being released simultaneously in all the theaters of Chhattisgarh on July 14. The film has been made in a family environment so that it can get a lot of love from the people of Chhattisgarh. The songs of the movies released on youtube are already a hit, he added. There are 7 songs in the film. Maan Qureshi and Sonali Sahare's has earlier paired in BA First Year after five years, the people of Chhattisgarh will get to see once again on the screen as this pair was liked by the people. The film is of 2 hours 32 minutes.

Ch'garh govt issues order

Raipur, Jul 12: The Home Department under the Chhattisgarh Government has issued an order prohibiting employees of the Health and Family Welfare Department from refusing to work in essential health services. The order, which comes into force immediately, will be applied to all doctors, nurses, and health workers across all government and private health institutions. The state government has issued this order through the powers vested in sub-sections 1 and 2 of Section 4 of the Chhattisgarh Atyavashyak Seva Sandharan Tatha Vichchinnata Nivaran Adhiniyam, 1979.

DGP directs for strict action against criminals

● Holds review meeting with SPs and Range IGs

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jul 12: Director General of Police (DGP) Ashok Juneja convened a meeting with all the SPs and Range IGs through video-conferencing here on Wednesday. In the meeting the action taken against different crimes was reviewed and the police officers were directed to take strict legal action and prohibitory action against the criminals involved in any of the crime including online gambling, gambling, 'satta', illicit sale of liquor and ille-



gal business of sale of intoxicants/ drugs etc.

DGP also reviewed about the action being taken against the default Chief Fund Companies. He directed the SPs that

the cases in which the orders for attachment or auction of properties of the Companies have been directed by the Court, the procedure for auction or sale of their properties be

started, so that the funds of the investors can be repaid. In this case he asked for strict action against all those involved.

In view of the forthcoming Vidhan Sabha polls, he gave instruction to enlist the active criminals and anti-social elements and known criminals and take action under NSS, 'jila badar', and other legal action and by launching campaign against absconding criminals and warrantees, due action be taken against them. DGP directed all the SPs that in the coming days weekly review of districts will be done at police headquarters and therefore the SPs should take effective action taking personal interest in it.

CATTLE MENACE



The main roads in capital city are presenting a different picture with cattle in the middle, posing threat to accidents and hindrance in traffic movement.

COA seeks National Games in Chhattisgarh

● Delegation calls on IOA CEO

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jul 12: Chhattisgarh Olympic Association (COA) delegation on Wednesday called on Joint Secretary and CEO of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) Kalyan Chaubey in New Delhi over organising National Games in Chhattisgarh.

According to the information received, the COA General Secretary and MLA, Bhillai Devendra Yadav, COA Vice President and COA Bashir Ahmed Khan and Durg Olympic Association President Sumit Pawar discussed various issues related to



the development of sports in Chhattisgarh. COA Office-bearers laid special emphasis on the issue of allotment of National Games to Chhattisgarh. After the meeting, the IOA CEO Kalyan Chaubey assured the delegation about all the possible assistance to host National Games in

Chhattisgarh after the planned Goa, Uttaranchal and Assam National Games.

COA delegation also briefed him about the activities of Games in Chhattisgarh and the steps taken for the development of sports in Chhattisgarh.

Centre approves two Integrated Sports Academies in Ch'garh

● Basketball Centre to be established at Rajnandgaon under Khelo India

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jul 12: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President Arun Sao on Wednesday extended gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Sports Anurag Thakur for approval to establish two Academies of Khelo India in Chhattisgarh. Sao said that the

Integrated Sports Academies would be established at Delhi Public School (DPS) Rajnandgaon and Yugantar Public School Rajnandgaon and added that Centre would be providing financial assistance of Rs 6.28 lakhs to the selected players annually at both the above Academies. He said that new openings have been provided to the talented players from Chhattisgarh.

Member of Parliament Santosh Pandey too has congratulated the players for the above facility.

Deshbandhu School celebrates Golden Jubilee

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, July 12: Deshbandhu English Medium Higher Secondary School, a prominent educational institution in Raipur, commemorated its 50th anniversary in a splendid manner, culminating in an inspiring oath-taking ceremony for the newly elected Student Council. The campus was abuzz with excitement and pride as students, faculty, and distinguished guests gathered to celebrate this momentous occasion.

Led by the Head Boy, Kushal Singhania, and Head Girl, Anikta Vishwakarma, the Student Council members, including Pratiksha Sethi (Literary Head), Bhargavi Padhye (Cultural Head), Shikhar Thakur and Sudhanshu Mandal (Discipline Heads), Sarvesh Das and Bhumika Dhankar (Sports Head) and Jatin Lalwani (Assembly

Oath-taking ceremony for the newly elected Student Council also held



Head), assumed their roles and responsibilities with a strong sense of duty and dedication.

The ceremony commenced with the administration of the oath by the Head Boy and Head Girl, symbolizing their commitment to upholding the school's values and fostering a conducive learning environment. The newly appointed Senior and Junior Prefects, Harsh Pandey, also pledged their unwavering support in maintaining discipline and fostering ca-

maraderie among students.

Mr. Shishir Das, the esteemed Principal of the School, and In-charge Honey Lalwani graced the occasion with their presence, further emphasizing the significance of this milestone. Their unwavering guidance and relentless pursuit of excellence have played a pivotal role in shaping the school's journey over the past five decades. The Student Council members, in unison with the entire school community,

vowed to fulfill their duties diligently, striving for academic excellence, promoting extracurricular activities, and nurturing a vibrant and inclusive school spirit.

The Golden Jubilee celebration and Student Council oath-taking ceremony at Deshbandhu Higher Secondary School showcased not only the rich legacy of the institution but also its unwavering commitment to empowering future generations of leaders, scholars, and change-makers.

ITM University launches BBA Retail Management program

● In association with Maruti Suzuki

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jul 12: Nava Raipur based ITM University Raipur has launched a new degree program BBA Retail Management from this academic session in partnership with Maruti Suzuki Training Academy (MSTA). The objective of this degree program is to provide prestigious exposure from subject expert faculty of the University as well as industry experts from Maruti Suzuki. Class 12th pass students in any discipline can take admission in this course. The first year of the three year BBA undergraduate course will include theory classes and from the second year students will start working as trainees with authorized dealers of Maruti Suzuki and will earn monthly stipend as well as incentives. This program of BBA Retail



Management will enable the students to start their career as trainees in their career path; they can reach positions ranging from Relationship Manager to Team Leader, Sales Manager and General Manager.

Professor Dr. Sumer Singh, Vice-Chancellor, ITM University, said that the curriculum has been designed to meet the requirements of the industry and to be in sync with the contemporary needs of the job market. The BBA Retail Management program offers a dual

benefit to the students, as they can obtain a university-accredited degree as well as an industry-integrated exposure that meets the demands of employers. The program emphasizes a balance of 60% skill development and 40% classroom teaching, ensuring that graduates are ready to perform in managerial roles with multiple skill sets at industry standards.

In this regard, Director General, ITM University, Ms. Lakshmi Murthy said that the BBA Retail program has been developed in line with the new education policy to equip students with industry-ready and multiple skills. This integrated degree program from Maruti Suzuki operates only in a select few reputed universities in India, including Tata Institute of Soil Sciences (TISS), Delhi Kaushal and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU), Savitribai Phule Pune University and ITM University in Chhattisgarh.

SECL plans to develop solar power projects of 600 MW

State Level SVEEP Core Committee meeting to be held on July 14

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Jul 12: More than Rs.1000 crore investment is to be made in Renewable Energy SECL, one of the largest coal-producing subsidiaries of Coal India has planned to develop roof-top and ground mounted solar power projects of more than 600 MW capacity in the coming years. This is part of the company's strategy to expand and diversify its business and achieve the "Net Zero Energy" goal.

The strategy is in line with the larger goal of "Panchamrita" announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at COP-26 to achieve the feat of Net Zero Emissions by 2070. The Miniratna PSU is planning to develop these projects at a cost of more than 1000 crores. Some of these projects would be implemented in RESCO (Renewable Energy Service Company)/BOO (Build-Own-Operate) mode.



The company official stated that solar power projects of more than 180 MW are already in various phases of development in its operational areas spread in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. It has recently commissioned roof-top solar projects of 580 kWp capacity in Johilla, Jamuna-Kotma, and Kusmunda Areas. "At Johilla Area, the commissioned capacity is about 280 kWp which is the highest capacity rooftop solar project in the entire company. Solar panels have been installed

at Administrative Building GM office, SECL-run Kendriya Vidyalaya, Regional Hospital, and at Area's Guest house. The project will generate about 4,20,000 units of electricity throughout the year, saving about Rs 21 lakh annually in power expenditure.", an official from the area located in Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh stated. The largest two solar projects under implementation are of 40MW capacity each. A 40 MW ground mounted, grid connected solar PV plant is being de-

veloped on company's own land in Bhatgaon and Bishrampur areas located in Chhattisgarh's Surajpur district under tribal dominated Surguja region of the state.

The project is at execution stage and is expected to be commissioned in this fiscal. The management is also working on a project report for installation of another 40 MW ground mounted solar PV plant in Johilla area in Madhya Pradesh. SECL has also floated a tender for a 4 MW rooftop solar project which will cover all Areas. While feasibility of installation of a floating solar power plant at Sharda OC mine in Sohagpur Area in Madhya Pradesh is also being explored.

It may be noted that Coal India, the largest coal behemoth in the world, has set an ambitious target of achieving net-zero status by installing 3000 MW capacity renewable energy projects by 2026.

This is a part of a broader plan to reduce the company's carbon footprint and move towards a more sustainable future.

Recently Coal India has teamed up with Sutej Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVNL) to explore potential sites for pumped storage power (PSP) projects within its abandoned mines. The company plans to use mine voids filled with water and OB dumps for solar installation as well as implementation of hydro pump storage. SECL contributed around one-fourth of CIL's total coal production in FY 2022-23.

It is promoting renewable energy to reduce the carbon footprint of coal mining and move towards the goal of net zero carbon emissions. With the power generated from these projects, the company is striving to balance its power needs related to coal mining and allied activities. Company will also save on electricity expenditure with these solar projects.

- To discuss better implementation and supervision of voter awareness programs
- The meeting will be chaired by Chief Electoral Officer Reena Babasaheb Kangale

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jul 12: State level sweep core committee meeting has been organized on July 14 under the chairmanship of Chief Electoral Officer Reena Babasaheb Kangale. In the meeting, a detailed action plan related to better operation and implementation of various SVEEP (well-organized voter education and electoral participation) activities related to voter awareness will be discussed to increase the voting percentage in the upcoming assembly general elections to be held in the state.

As per the instructions of the Election Commission of



India, for better implementation and supervision of various programs of voter awareness under the "Sweep Voter Education and Electoral Participation" (SVEEP) program, to bring awareness among voters, to get participation in the election process and under the SVEEP action plan. State level SVEEP Core Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Electoral Officer of the state.

Chief Executive Officer of CHIPS (Chhattisgarh Infotech Promotion Society), School Education Department, Women and

Child Development Department, Social Welfare Department, Panchayat and Rural Development Department and Director of Public Relations Department, Additional Director General of PIB, including senior officers of the Chief Electoral Officer's Office State Liaison Officer of National Service Scheme, Director of Doordarshan and All India Radio, Director of State Literacy Mission Authority, Divisional Director of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Director General of National Cadet Corps, State Secretary of Bharat Scout Guide, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla Vishwavidyalaya Raipur, Registrar of Chhattisgarh Swami Vivekananda Technical University Bilai and Indira Arts and Music University Khairagarh, Representatives of women self-help groups and civil society organizations are members of this state level sweep core committee.

No nation became great by exploitation: Governor

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jul 12: Governor Harichandan, an alumnus of Janata High School, in his address, said to go ahead and work with dignity for the country. Do not make your life an object of pity and hatred, but dedicate it to the service of the country, motherland and humanity. He said that mother tongue and mankind should not be oppressed. Exploitation is not the tradition of any community.

No nation became great by exploitation. The welfare of the poor of the country will happen only when exploitation is abandoned. On this occasion, Bhubaneswar MP Ms. Aparajita Shadangi was present as a special guest at the function. Vidhubhushan Patnaik, for-



mer principal of the school, Balwant Rai, social worker, parents and teachers, present and former students of the school were present in large numbers in the programme. Governor Vishwabhusan

Harichandan during his stay in Odisha State attended the 68th Foundation Day Celebrations of Janta High School, Kuhudi in Khordha District. On this occasion, he said that the pride of the nation is destroyed by doing bad deeds.

Adani Foundation transforms Lives in Jamul

- Through milk collection center

Central Chronicle News

Jamul, Jul 12: In Jamul, Durg district of Chhattisgarh, the Adani Foundation team encouraged individuals to participate in the milk collection center initiated by Self Help Groups (SHGs). The foundation is also providing training on fundamental aspects of milk business management and maintaining records of milk collection at the center.

Prema Kashyap, from the village of Medesra in Jamul's Dhamdha Block, is a remarkable example of courage and success despite being physically challenged. She lives with her father, Bhuman Singh Kashyap, and sister. After facing numerous struggles

in her life, she has emerged as a successful team leader today. She is also inspiring rural residents to join the dairy project. Thanks to her efforts, villagers have started bringing milk to the collection center, and this business is flourishing.

In 2002, after the death of her mother due to cancer, Prema faced many difficult circumstances at a young age. As the eldest daughter, she had to shoulder many important responsibilities, which she managed exceptionally well. Due to these responsibilities, Prema had to leave school even before taking the 10th-grade exams.

One day, Prema learned about the SHG (Self-Help Group) through collaboration with a local women's empowerment foundation in her own village. She immediately became a mem-



ber of that group. After becoming a member of the SHG, she started contributing to various income-generating activities, one of which was making pickles and papads. This gradually boosted her self-confidence and

brought about a positive change in her life. Today, Prema has become an exemplar of women's empowerment in her village. She has transformed her social and economic status. Prema has also purchased a battery-

operated hand-cycle for herself. Now, she comes to the office daily and manages all the registers herself.

People even come to her for advice and guidance. She is the pride of her village. She has proven that if a person truly desires, they can achieve anything. According to her, "A person is not disabled physically but mentally." She also said, "I don't work solely for myself, I want to work for everyone."

Skilled workforce is highly demanded in dairy centers, and the Adani Foundation is fully committed to meeting this need. In the future, people will have better opportunities for employment in these centers through appropriate training, and there will be a growth of new small-scale industries as well, with the foundation's support.

'Massive irregularities come to fore in Devbhog milk plant Semra'



■ Tanker driver's plant operation putting life and health of people at high-risk

Nizam Rahman

Jagdulpur, Jul 12: More than two decades have passed when a milk plant was established in village Semra, just 12 km from the district headquarters. Earlier this milk plant was operated in the name of Sanchi Milk. After the formation of Chhattisgarh state, it's name was changed to Devbhag.

Presently we know it by the name of Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Milk Federation Limited Devbhog Milk. The villagers of Semra village are very upset and angry due to the ongoing Devbhog milk plant in village Semra. Information was re-

ceived from the villagers regarding the irregularities taking place here. According to the information received, 15,000 liters of milk is produced in Devbhog Dairy Plant Semra for two days. But about 18 to 20 thousand liters of milk is supplied from here.

Now how this three to five thousand liters of milk is completed, it will be known after investigation. However, the villagers working there told that extra milk is made here. Seeing the godown of Devbhog milk plant, it was found that it is full of milk powder.

It should be known that milk is supplied from here to Dantewada, Sukma, Bijapur etc. districts. Along with this, Devbhog milk is also being sold in the entire market. Apart from this, the employees there have given information about the supply at places like hospitals, CRPF camps, jails, hostels etc.

Tanker driver has become operator of Devbhog milk plant



When we went to Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Milk Federation Maryadit Devbhog milk plant and talked to the employees there, the employees told that the manager of this plant is Ashwini Yadav. The employees informed that Ashwini Yadav has been working as a manager in the plant for the last one or two years. He also informed that Ashwini Yadav was posted here as a driver of a tanker vehicle before becoming the manager of the plant. It is a very serious matter that the entire responsibility of such a big plant has been entrusted to a driver: Children, old people and young people of all classes are drinking the milk supplied from here. It is very unfortunate to rely on a tanker driver to operate such a sensitive site. We waited for him in the plant for a long time and tried to talk to him through phone as well but he did not respond. Curd and paneer is also prepared in this plant under the supervision of the driver Ashwini Yadav. They also check the quality of milk and all other ingredients. The complete packing of the 15000 liters of milk that comes is also done in the same way and all this work is being done on the trust of the tanker driver.

The condition of this plant has deteriorated to such an extent that even breathing has become difficult here. The filthiness of the entire plant is that the walls are covered with moss. The floor has been completely uprooted, the drain is broken at many places inside the plant itself. The entire filth is drained and deposited in an open pit outside the plant.

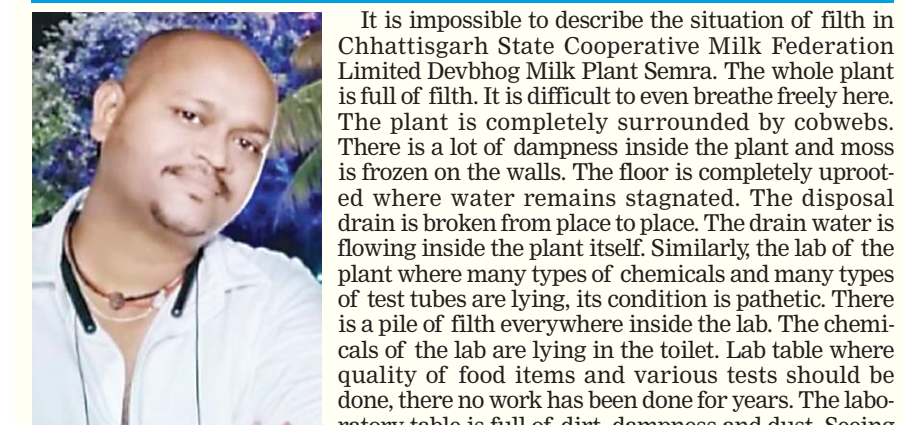
Not a single responsible person was found in the entire plant, the entire work is being done on the basis of labour work. The labourers are running the entire plant without any supervision. Gram Panchayat Semra's deputy sarpanch Rameshwar Bisai has

made serious allegations. He has alleged huge irregularities in the entire plant. He told that the whole plant is running on God's mercy, playing with the people's health and lives. The entire plant is being run on the trust of a driver who has no knowledge. He has also being accused of misappropriation of thousands of liters of milk.

The entire operation of Baharhal Devbhog milk plant Semra remains controversial. Milk and other food items supplied from here are being consumed in the entire city through dealers. Apart from this, supply is being done in the entire division.

Piles of filth inside the plant, poisoning of milk is natural

The condition of the lab of the milk plant is bad, dust and dirt are frozen in the lab table



the scene here, it is clear that the work by concerned authorities to cross-check quality of milk and its by-products has not been done here for years. The scene here also make it clear that no officer has visited this place for years.

Dy Sarpanch Rameshwar Bisai made serious allegations, exposed irregularities

The deputy sarpanch of village Semra told that operating the plant on the basis of a tanker driver is the biggest irregularity in itself. Apart from this, there is no lab technician in the plant. For two days, 15 thousand liters of milk comes and 18 to 20 thousand liters of milk is supplied. He also said that the sewage and water coming out of the plant is also being dumped out in the open. Due to which the surrounding environment is also deteriorating. He told that earlier also complaints were made on behalf of the villagers regarding all the irregularities, but no action was taken. The situation is getting worse day by day. Packing of milk and other ingredients is being done in very bad conditions. The milk here stinks, so the villagers have stopped drinking or using it. The villagers wanted to raise their voice against them many times but their voice was suppressed. He has demanded an inquiry into the entire matter and said that if it is investigated, many irregularities will come to the fore.



Information was re-

Combined 'Rudrabhishekh' performed by BSS

In Kurud by 251 couples jointly

Kurud, Jul 11: On the first Monday of 'Shravan Maas', a total of 251 couples performed 'Rudrabhishekh' and 'Anusthan' jointly in the programme organised by Bolbum Sewa Samiti (BSS) in the presence of Pradhacharya from Triambakeshwar Nasik Rahul Kige and his entire team of 'Purohits', citing 'Vedic Mantras' and performing all the rituals seriously. The 23 yr old institution of Kurud has been organising 'Kanwar Yatra' and variety of programmes including 'Bhajan', discourses and



others. This year the Bolbum Sewa Samiti (BSS), under guidance of Patron Ajay Chandrakar, MLA Kurud, celebrated the auspicious occasion of two 'Sawans' and eight Monday's as highly beneficial and it was decided to organise combined 'Rudrabhishekh' for all the

coming eight Monday's. So as per the decision, on Monday, all the 251 couples gathered at Krishi Upaj Mandi (KUM) and avail the benefits of 'Rudrabhishekh' and sought blessings for peace and prosperity of all by 'Devadhivev Mahadev'. The Samiti provided the

'pujan thali' and all other puja materials to the couples. In this combined 'Rudrabhishekh' and 'Maha-arti', Patron BSS Ajay Chandrakar, Pratihba Chandrakar, President Bhanu Chandrakar, Subhash Agrawal, Malakram Sahu, Jyoti Chandrakar, Suresh Agrawal, Trilok Chand Jain, Basant Sinha, Suresh Mahawar, Bharti Panchayan, Shekhar Chandrakar, Prabhath Bais, Krishakant Sahu, Mulchand Sinha, Bharat Panchayan, Bhola Sahu, Sriram Sahu, Sankar Sahu, Bhukhan Sen, Chaman Sonwani, Pushpendra Sahu and other devotees were present in large number.

125 mts tall chimney of Thermal Plant demolished

Korba, Jul 12:

During the period of undivided MP, one unit No. 5 of 120 MW in Korba (E) Power Thermal Plant and another unit No. 5 was established in 1981 by MP Electricity Board (MPEB) with help of BHEL. Korba continued its identity as the 'Urja Dhan'. But due to objections by National Green Tribunal (NGT) about more pollution from the plant, they made a recommendation to close it down. In order to continue these two units, its renewal was started in 2005 at an investment of Rs 500 crore and again the power generation started with full capacity.

Later with strict rules of Pollution standards, it started posing problem in running of these units and



finally the company closed it down on 31 Dec 2020 at 12:00 midnight. Along with the scrap of the unit was also sold and the company purchasing the scrap is taking out the same and is also dismantling the old building of the Plant. In

this the 120 mts high Chimney of the 120 MW plant too has been demolished. First the Company cut the Chimney from down below and since it started inclining on one side, it was demolished. The scrap of this 120

MW Power Plant is being purchased by a Company from Kolkata at the cost of Rs 175 cr. Now only 120 Mts Chimney of 50-50 MW units of the plant are there in the premises and the work of dismantling it has also being started.

Form teams of youth, women, elders at Polling booth



Pithora, Jul 12:

As per instructions from PCC, an important meeting of all the Booth sectors zone in-charges by BCC Pithora was held in rest house on Tuesday and in this discussions were held about forming of team of youths, women and elders at polling Booth. Apart from this the members who were appointed earlier and not

doing their work would be replaced with new team. Discussions were also held on revision or amendments into booth sector and Zone Committees. All the sector in-charges were asked to submit the list by July 14 and this meeting was attended by all the sector in-charges and zone in-charges.

Among those who were present included BCC President KaranDiwan,

Meeting of Sector and Zone in-charges held

Nagar Panchayat President Atma Ram Yadav, Zone President Bundeli, Poonam Manikpuri, Bhur Koni, Zone President OP Chakradhari, Zone President Kohakuda Zone Budheshwar Dadsena, Sector in-charge Kishore Sonwani, Atma Ram Yadav, Kulwant Khanuja, Devraj Thakur, Kamal Sahu, Khemraj Sahu, Kamlesh Barik, Ganga Bhar Bariha, Lekh Rama Diwan and the Booth President Tek Ram Sahu, Ghanshyam Ghanghi and Raju Sinha, Sagar Nishad were present.

Tikeshwar Sahu gets selected in BSF



41 army jawans serving in defense forces bringing laurels to Mandroud

Kurud, Jul 12: A total of 41 army jawans from Mandroud of Kurud district are serving in different forces including the

Indian Army, Police and Air Force and bringing laurels to their village. In this series, Tikeshwar Sahu and Mrs Kamleshwari Sahu's son Bharat Sahu from Mandroud block of Kurud has also got selected in BSF and it has brought laurels to the village.

Collector reviews Godhan Nyaya Yojana

Korea, Jul 12: Under the chairmanship of District Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh, a weekly deadline meeting, in which an in-depth review of the government's ambitious Godhan Nyaya Yojana and instructed to take strict action against the AREO and Secretary of the Gothans in which there is less than 20 percent conversion. Reviewing the applications received through Jan Choupal, Public Grievance, PG portal department-wise, he asked to redress them within the time limit and submit timely reply claims in High Court cases. In the meeting, while reviewing the purchase of cow dung in the Gothan, the collector asked to ensure the purchase of cow dung in all the gothans and instruct the officials of Forest,



Agricultural Horticulture, Silk Department and Krishi Vigyan Kendra to send the demand letter for vermicompost fertilizer to ensure lifting as per the demand.

He also instructed the officials concerned to plant fruit and shade trees in all Gothans, schools, hostels, Anganwadi centers and Ripa centres.

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. In the

meeting, the Collector said that 'Roka Chheka' practice is prevalent in the state to control the animals grazing in the open before the sowing of Kharif crops; he also directed to ensure the participation of the villagers by running Roka-Chheka campaign. District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. Ashutosh Chaturvedi, Joint Collector and Deputy District Election Officer Anil Sidar, Additional Collector Nandani Sahu, Joint Collector Akinta Som, Sub-Divisional Officer and other officers-employees were present.

Collector conducts surprise inspection of Anganwadi and PDS Centers

Manendragarh, Jul 12:

District Collector Narendra Kumar Dugga conducted a surprise inspection of government offices of Khadgawan development block here, which included Baghorapara Anganwadi center of Khadgawan development block. He observed various registers at the centre, and gave instructions to provide quality nutritious food to the children. In Gram Panchayat Koda, he inspected the panchayat building, PDS building and co-operative society under construction. He instructed to install paver blocks in the panchayat building and to plant trees in the premises. Seeing the paucity of space, Collector



Mr. Dugga instructed to build a godown and install an ATM for the convenience of the farmers. Gothan of Gram Panchayat Mendra was also reviewed where he directed the officers to speed

up the lifting of vermicompost being made in Gothan. Devdand girls' hostel under construction was also inspected, where he directed the officers for quality construction work. The Collector also reached

Primary Health Center Salka and inquired about the daily OPD and availability of medicines. After this the collector reached the primary school, Sakda and inquired about the studies of the students. Collector Mr. Dugga had mid-day meal with the children in the school. He directed the concerned authorities to construct an additional room, shed and ground in the campus. SDM Nayantara Tomar, District Education Officer Ajay Mishra, District CEO CS Sharma, Block Education Officer Jitendra Gupta, Sports Officer Gopal Singh, public representatives and other officers and employees were present during the inspection.

Collector expresses displeasure over power supply system



Korba, Jul 12:

District Collector Sanjeev Kumar Jha expressed strong displeasure over the repeated interruption of power supply in the district and has instructed the officials of the Electricity Department to repair the electricity system. He said that complaints about the negligence of the Electricity Department are continuously coming to the fore, appropriate steps should be taken in this direction so that the atmosphere of anger does not spread among the general public.

Collector Jha reviewed the pending cases in the time-limit meeting also instructed to make WiFi operational in Ripa centre's soon. The Collector gave instructions to solve the cases on priority under the Rajiv Gandhi Landless Farmers Justice Scheme and while reviewing the ponds constructed under the Amrit Sarovar scheme, the Collector gave instructions to plant saplings and instructed the officials of the Sports Department to open the bank accounts of Rajiv Yuva Mitra Club and submit the utility certificate, completion certificate,

cate of the expenditure incurred. The Collector also gave instructions to ensure comprehensive preparations for the Chhattisgarh Olympics starting from July 17. The Collector directed the District CEO to provide lease to the leaseless ponds in the district through Gram Panchayats, so that livelihood activities could be encouraged and directed to attach any teacher to the BEO and other offices including the District Education

teachers. He instructed the teachers to get the teaching work done and to ensure timely attendance in the schools. For this, he instructed to make the duty of master's tanners, make Tehsildar and Naib Tehsildar level officers nodal, ensure the responsibility of transporting EVMs, make strong room in SDM office and mark time through logbook.

He instructed to execute the work as per the instructions of the Election Commission of India.

Kisan Congress launches 'Gothbath' with farmers



Dongargaon, Jul 12:

In village Penderwani of Dongargaon assembly constituency, District Kisan Congress organized 'Gothbat', interaction program with farmers, along with honoring successful farmers. On this occasion, Kisan Rath was flagged off in the presence of State Kisan Congress President Ram Vilas Sahu and District Kisan Congress President Padam Kothari. This chariot will tour the villages of the

Vidhansabha constituency and spread the publicity of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel government's farmer friendly schemes and other meaningful schemes. More than a dozen villagers of the area participated in this event, apart of a large number of Congressmen and citizens. District Kisan Congress President Madan Sahu said that the purpose of this program is to raise support for the upcoming elections by conveying the meaningful schemes of

the Congress government led by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to the people. State Kisan Congress President Ram Vilas Sahu appreciated this event of District Kisan Congress and said that after 15 years of difficult time, the Congress government took over the reins as a farmer friendly government and its results are in front of everyone. State Kisan Congress General Secretary Gaurishankar Pandey said that it is Bhupesh's

turn again, this slogan is everywhere. Member Mahendra Yadav, Madan Mohan Sahu, Sarpanch Jeevan Patel also addressed this event. The journey of the kisan rath on day one ended at Seoni Khurd via village Machanpar, Khairi, Kopedih, Bodela, Peteshree, Dhaba, Kohka, Odarbandh, Penderwani, Jarwahi, Margaon, Girgaon, Bijabhantha, Tilagaon, Diwan Jhitia, Diwanbhedhi and Tumdidob.

न्यायालय कोलेक्टर, दुर्ग जिला - दुर्ग (छत्तीसगढ़) व्यवसाय उद्योगिकी सलज
 प्र.क्र. 49 / व - 121 / वर्ष 2022-23

प्राधिकृत अधिकारी, एच.डी.एच.सी., शाखा- अलास्का टोवर्स, आरोग्य हॉस्पिटल के सामने, लोधी पारा रोड, संकर नगर, रायपुर तहसील व जिला रायपुर (छ.ग.)

प्रेरित

1. श्रीमति बंधन बर्मा पति पंच. योगेश कुमार वर्मा, 2. श्री योगेश कुमार वर्मा (दिवंगत) दोनों निवासी- नं.-113 टटा टाउन गुलबन किराना स्टोर के पास कोडका वार्ड क्र.- 08 दुर्ग तहसील व जिला दुर्ग (छ.ग.)

अनावेकका उपरोक्त बन्दी द्वारा इस न्यायालय में विवाह अतिरिक्त प्रमाणित और पुनर्गठन और प्रतिभूतिगत प्रवर्तन अभियान, 2002 की धारा 14 के अन्तर्गत अनावेककी द्वारा आवेक बैंक से गृह अथवा की सुरक्षा हेतु बैंक के पत्र में रबी गाँव बंधक सर्विस- अचल संपत्ति, भूमि एवं उस पर विगत ख.नं.- 724/26 एवं ख.नं.- 724/3 का भाग जो ग्राम कोडका, प.ह.नं.- 14/19 तहसील व जिला दुर्ग में स्थित है को बकाया राशि की अदायगी नहीं करने के कारण रिवाज भौतिक अधिपत्य में प्राप्त करने हेतु प्रस्तुत आवेदन पत्र पर प्रकरण स्थित कर प्राकृतिक न्याय सिद्धि के अन्तर्गत अनावेक की इस न्यायालय द्वारा समुचित सुनवाई किये जाने हेतु सूचना पत्र जारी कर आहूत किया गया था। जारी नोटिस पत्र पर आया।

चुकि अनावेकको को प्रकरण में समुचित सुनवाई का बुकिपुस्तक अवसर प्रदान किया जाना है। अतएव इस समन के जरिये अनावेकको को आदेश दिया जाता है कि आप इस मामले की आपकी पेशी दिनांक 13/7/2023 को कोलेक्टर, दुर्ग के न्यायालय में जलितान कर के अनिवार्यक उपस्थित होकर अपना पक्ष प्रस्तुत करें। यदि आप निर्धारित सुनवाई तिथि को अनुपस्थित पाये गये तो मामले की सुनवाई आपके अभाव में जारी की जाकर आपके विरुद्ध एकपक्षीय कार्यवाही की जावेगी। (कोलेक्टर, रायपुर द्वारा आदेशित) अपर कोलेक्टर दुर्ग

NAME CHANGE

Declaration / Undertaking

We, **CHANDRAKAL SHIVRATAN RATHI** aged 52 years and **PRAHLAD RAI PERIWAL** aged 56 years, both Indian Inhabitants, currently residing at B/01, Shiv Complex, Kapa Mowa, Raipur Chhattisgarh - 492004 hereby solemnly declare and affirm as follows:

- That, we are married on 06.06.1991 according to the Hindu Laws and are living together as married couple since then.
- That, **CHANDRAKALA SHIVRATAN RATHI** (maiden name of wife) would henceforth be known as **KARUNA PERIWAL** (name of wife after marriage) by virtue of our marriage.
- Our joint photograph is affixed hereunder.

Verified that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief, nothing has been concealed therein.

Place: Raipur
Date: 07/07/2023

KARUNA PERIWAL
B/01, Shiv Complex, Kapa Mowa, Raipur Chhattisgarh - 492004

न्यायालय-भूपेश कुमार बसंत, द्वितीय व्यवहार न्यायाधीश वर्ग-1, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

प्रकरण क्रमांक- 97बी./2022
 प्रोसेस क्रमांक- 561
 पेशी तारीख- 27.07.2023

वादी केन्द्र बैंक विरुद्ध क्रिस्टल फर्नीचर वर्ग.

प्रतिवादीगण बनाम-

- क्रिस्टल फर्नीचर प्रो. निसेस गायत्री द्विवेदी, डी-30 सदाणी दरवार सदाराम मार्केट, तहसील व जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.) पिनकोड-492015.
- अमित द्विवेदी क्रिस्टल फर्नीचर, संचालक का पता- एल.आई.जी. 95, ब्लॉक नं- 06, बनिद्यान हाउसिंग बोर्ड कॉलोनी, बोरियाकला रायपुर (छ.ग.) पिनकोड-492015.

वादी केन्द्र बैंक ने आप क्रिस्टल फर्नीचर अन्य के विरुद्ध दावा वास्ते ऋण राशि वसूली प्रदान किये जाने संस्थित किया है, आपको न्यायालय में तारीख 27.07.2023 को दिन में 11.00 बजे उत्तर देने के लिये उपसजात (हाजिर) होने के लिये समन किया जाता है आप स्वयं न्यायालय में या ऐसे किसी प्लीडर द्वारा उपसजात हो सकते हैं, जिसे सम्यक अनूदेश दिये गये हों और जो इस वाद से संबंधित सारवान प्रश्नों का उत्तर दे सके। आपको यह निर्देश दिया जा रहा है कि आप उस दिन अपनी प्रतिरक्षा का लिखित कथन दाखिल करें और उस दिन ऐसी सब दस्तावेजों को जो आपके कब्जे या शक्ति में है पेश करें जिन पर आपको प्रतिरक्षा या मुजराई दावा या दावा आधारित है और यदि आप किसी अन्य दस्तावेज पर चाहे वह आपके कब्जे में हो या अपना प्रतिरक्षा या मुजराई को दावे या प्रतिवादे के समर्थन में साक्ष्य के रूप में निर्भरता करते हैं तो आप ऐसे दस्तावेज को लिखित कथन के साथ उपलब्ध की जाने वाली सूची में प्रविष्टि करें।

आपको सूचित किया जाता है कि आप तारीख 27.07.2023 को इस न्यायालय में उपसजात नहीं होंगे तो प्रकरण की सुनवाई और उसका निपटारा आपके अनुपस्थिति में किया जावेगा।

नोट:- यदि कारणवश दिनांक 27.07.2023 को अवकाश हो जाता है या कार्य स्थगित हो जाता है या पीठासीन अधिकारी अवकाश पर हो तो प्रकरण की सुनवाई अगले कार्य दिवस पर किया जावेगा।

आज तारीख 30.06.2023 को मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं न्यायालय की मुद्रा लगाकर किया गया है।

(भूपेश कुमार बसंत)
 द्वितीय व्यवहार न्यायाधीश वर्ग-1
 रायपुर छ.ग.

राजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.-33004/99

REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99



भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India

सौ.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-01052023-245549 CG-DL-E-01052023-245549

असाधारण

EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II-खण्ड 3-उप-खण्ड (ii)

PART-II-Section 3-Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 1867] नई दिल्ली, शुक्रवार, अप्रैल 28, 2023/वैशाख 8, 1945

No. 1867] NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023/VAISAKHA 8, 1945

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 28th April, 2023

S.O. 1955(E).—In—Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, S.O. No. 2125(E) dated-06.05.2022, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for construction of Toll Plaza Maintenance, management and operation of NH-43 on the stretch of land from Km 562.600 to Km 598.000 in the District of Jashpur in the state of Chhattisgarh.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "Jashpuranchal" and "Nai Duniya" both dated 02/06/2022; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas objections have been received and the same have been considered and disallowed by the competent Authority;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the in the stretch of land from Km. 562.600 to Km. 598.000 NH-43 in the District of Jashpur in the state of Chhattisgarh.

State: CHHATTISGARH District: JASHPUR

Table with 6 columns: Sl. No., Survey Number, Type of Land, Nature of Land, Area in Hectare, Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person Part Survey No.

Taluk: Jashpur

Village: Balachhapar

Table with 6 columns: Sl. No., Survey Number, Type of Land, Nature of Land, Area in Hectare, Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person Part Survey No.

Village: Bhalmanda

Table with 6 columns: Sl. No., Survey Number, Type of Land, Nature of Land, Area in Hectare, Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person Part Survey No.

Village: Dipatholi

Table with 6 columns: Sl. No., Survey Number, Type of Land, Nature of Land, Area in Hectare, Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person Part Survey No.

Village: Dohatoli

Table with 6 columns: Sl. No., Survey Number, Type of Land, Nature of Land, Area in Hectare, Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person Part Survey No.

Table with 6 columns: Sl. No., Survey Number, Type of Land, Nature of Land, Area in Hectare, Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person Part Survey No.

Village: Gholeng

Table with 6 columns: Sl. No., Survey Number, Type of Land, Nature of Land, Area in Hectare, Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person Part Survey No.

Village: Ghutri

Table with 6 columns: Sl. No., Survey Number, Type of Land, Nature of Land, Area in Hectare, Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person Part Survey No.

Village: Jakba

Table with 6 columns: Sl. No., Survey Number, Type of Land, Nature of Land, Area in Hectare, Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person Part Survey No.

Village: Jhargaoan

Table with 6 columns: Sl. No., Survey Number, Type of Land, Nature of Land, Area in Hectare, Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person Part Survey No.

Table with 6 columns: Sl. No., Survey Number, Type of Land, Nature of Land, Area in Hectare, Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person Part Survey No.

Village: Kanmora

Table with 6 columns: Sl. No., Survey Number, Type of Land, Nature of Land, Area in Hectare, Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person Part Survey No.

Village: Lodam

Table with 6 columns: Sl. No., Survey Number, Type of Land, Nature of Land, Area in Hectare, Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person Part Survey No.

Russia may exit UN-brokered grain deal

London, Jul 12 (AP): Concerns are growing that Russia will not extend a United Nations-brokered deal that allows grain to flow from Ukraine to parts of the world struggling with hunger...

insists it's still facing hurdles, though data shows it has been exporting record amounts of wheat. Russian officials repeatedly say there are no grounds for extending the Black Sea Grain Initiative...

vegetable oil and other food products that countries in Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia rely on. It has allowed Ukraine to ship 32.8 million metric tons (36.2 million tons) of grain...

famine, including Somalia, Ethiopia and Afghanistan, and compound food security problems in vulnerable places struggling with conflict, economic crisis and drought.

Sri Lanka to support Pakistan's resolution over Quran burning at UNHRC

Colombo, Jul 12 (PTI): Sri Lanka has said it will back a proposed resolution by Pakistan at the UN human rights council condemning the Sweden government's action to allow the burning of the Quran last month.

tempt by the West to change it," he said. Noting that Pakistan will move the resolution on the Quran burning issue in Geneva on Thursday, Wickremesinghe said religious freedom should not be allowed to be affected by the freedom of expression.

side the Swedish capital Stockholm's main mosque on the first day of Eid al-Adha last month. The protest was authorised by the police. Several countries across the world condemned the incident. Rallies were held in all major cities of

Pakistan and local religious leaders, in their addresses, condemned the act of desecration and demanded action against the culprit. The flag of Sweden was also burnt in a protest in Islamabad where protesters chanted: The holy Quran is our red line.

6 killed, 4 wounded in mass shooting in South Africa

Johannesburg, Jul 12 (AP): A mass shooting in South Africa left six people dead and four wounded when three men entered the yard of a home and opened fire, police said Wednesday.

were killed in Tuesday's shooting and a woman was among the wounded. "It is alleged that...three unknown males entered the yard and opened fire at people who were in the property or nearby to the house," said police spokesperson Col. Priscilla Naidu.

Militants attack army garrison in Pakistan's Balochistan

4 soldiers killed, 5 others injured Islamabad, Jul 12 (PTI): Heavily-armed militants attacked an army garrison in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province in the early hours of Wednesday, killing at least four soldiers and wounding five others, the army said.

A group of terrorists launched a "dastardly attack" on Zhob Garrison in the north of the province, leading to clashes in which three militants were also killed, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) - the media wing of the army - said in a statement.

passerby and left five other civilians injured, it added. A little known militant group - Tehreek-e-Jihad Pakistan - claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement, without providing any details.

An initial attempt of terrorists to sneak into the facility was countered by soldiers on duty and in the ensuing heavy exchange of fire, terrorists were contained into a small area at the boundary.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भिलाई (छ.ग.) ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना क्रमांक/लो.क.वि./जोन-2/2023/528/202

कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता, लो.नि.वि., राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग परिक्षेत्र, रायपुर (छ.ग.) दिनांक: 05.07.2023 एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

Public Works Department OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD, BILASPUR CIRCLE BILASPUR (C.G.) REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) (4th Call) Bilaspur, Dated. 10.07.2023

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भिलाई (छ.ग.) निविदा क्र. 03/न.पा.नि./प्रकाश विभाग/2023-24 भिलाईपुर दिनांक 10/07/2023 नगर पालिक निगम भिलाईपुर के नवीन श्रेणी एवं शहरी क्षेत्रों के विद्युत खंभों में स्टीट लाइट लगाई गयी है।

सभापति, चयन समिति, कुटुंब न्यायालय, भिलाईपुर (छ.ग.)

सूचना पत्र // क्रमांक. /चयन समिति/ 2023. भिलाईपुर दिनांक 10 जुलाई 2023 कुटुंब न्यायालय, भिलाईपुर (छ.ग.) के अन्तर्गत रिक्त आकस्मिका निधि से वेतन पाने वाले कर्मचारी (फर्श, वाटरमैन, चौकीदार माली एवं स्वीपर) के प्रत्येक पदों पर सीधी भर्ती किये जाने हेतु अर्द्ध प्रायः भारतीय नागरिक और भारत शासन द्वारा मान्य अन्य श्रेणी के उम्मीदवारों से आवेदन आमंत्रित किया गया था।

Table with multiple columns containing land records, including owner names, addresses, and land details. Includes sections for Village: Rupsera, Village: Sayi Tangartoli, and Village: Turi lodam.



CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 48 No. 277

India Overtakes China

A New Investment Frontier

India has surpassed China to become the most attractive emerging market for investing in emerging market (EM) debt. This significant shift is attributed to the country's improved stability, favorable demographics, and proactive regulatory initiatives. As stated in the 'Invesco Global Sovereign Asset Management Study', India exemplifies the qualities sought by sovereign investors, and its debt market is increasingly viewed positively. The report, which gathered insights from 85 sovereign wealth funds and 57 central banks representing a total of \$21 trillion in assets, highlights India's rise as an investment powerhouse. The country's business and political stability, along with its robust demographic profile, have positioned it favorably in the eyes of sovereign investors. Moreover, India's regulatory initiatives and investor-friendly environment further contribute to its attractiveness. A sovereign wealth fund based in the Middle East acknowledged India's improved narrative, stating, "India is a better story now in terms of business and political stability. Demographics are growing fast, and they also have interesting companies, good regulation initiatives, and a very friendly environment for sovereign investors." This sentiment echoes the broader perception of India as a promising investment destination. India is not alone in reaping the benefits of increased foreign corporate investment. Countries like Mexico and Brazil are also witnessing enhanced investor interest, driven by "friend-shoring" and "near-shoring" strategies aimed at meeting both domestic and international demand. Such investments are helping these nations fund current account deficits, support currencies, and boost domestic assets, including debt. Additionally, expectations of peaking inflation and the completion of the tightening cycle in emerging markets contribute to this trend. The report also highlights the potential diversification opportunities offered by important commodity countries like Brazil and Indonesia. These nations, seen as well-positioned for the green transition and the electric vehicle revolution, present an attractive investment avenue for sovereigns with concentrated commodity revenue streams. As a result, India, Brazil, and other emerging markets with solid demographics, political stability, and proactive regulation have emerged as prime investment destinations for sovereign wealth funds. Furthermore, the survey conducted as part of the study reveals interesting insights. A significant portion of central banks expressed concerns about the precedent set by recent events, leading almost 60% of respondents to find gold more attractive. Additionally, 68% of central banks have opted to keep reserves at home, an increase from 50% in 2020. India's ascent as the most attractive emerging market for investing in EM debt not only highlights the country's economic potential but also reinforces its position as a global investment hub. The government's commitment to stability, favorable demographics, and regulatory reforms have instilled confidence in sovereign investors. As India continues to attract foreign capital, it is crucial for the country to sustain its proactive measures and capitalize on this momentum. India's journey towards economic prominence is underway, and the world is taking notice. It is now incumbent upon the nation to leverage this momentum, embrace the responsibilities that come with it, and shape its future as a global investment powerhouse.

Ruling on IWT

The recent developments surrounding the Kishenganga and Ratle hydropower projects have reignited tensions between India and Pakistan. The Permanent Court of Arbitration, based in The Hague, ruled that it has the authority to consider the dispute between the two nations. However, India has categorically refused to participate in what it deems as "illegal" proceedings. Instead, it maintains that the dispute is already being examined by a neutral expert under the framework of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). Pakistan's foreign policy towards India has been disastrous, marked by consistent denial and shifting goals. The obstruction of the Kishenganga and Ratle Hydroelectric Projects is the latest example. Despite the IWT favoring Pakistan, India has consistently honored the treaty, acting as the bigger brother even in the face of losses. The IWT, signed in 1960 with the World Bank as a third party, establishes a procedure for resolving disputes. Both countries are obligated to address concerns amicably, with the World Bank stepping in if the issues remain unresolved. Neutral observers and arbitration proceedings can be appointed if needed. However, Pakistan deviated from this process when it came to the Kishenganga and Ratle projects. It initially rejected Indian clarifications, requested neutral observers from the World Bank, withdrew the application, and then demanded arbitration proceedings. The World Bank, for reasons known only to them, granted Pakistan's request, initiating both neutral observer and arbitration proceedings. Pakistan's breach of the IWT prompted India to issue a ninety-day notice for Pakistan to respond. Over the past sixty-two years, India's experience with the IWT has been bitter, with Pakistan consistently refusing to comply with the treaty's dispute resolution mechanism. Many experts and international panels have criticized the one-sided nature of the IWT, which lacks any rationale. Instead of focusing on its internal problems, Pakistan's rulers tend to adopt a hostile attitude towards India. Pakistan finds itself isolated on the international stage due to concerns related to terrorism, seeking aid, struggling with foreign reserves for oil imports, and facing challenges in meeting international debt obligations. Yet, it continues to complain about non-existent issues. Pakistan's inability to construct dams or canals to harness its designated water resources is hindering its own development. Meanwhile, India, a rapidly growing economy, urgently requires renewable power to support its progress and uplift its population. Pakistan's attempts to impede India's advancement are unnecessary and are holding back its own growth. From the perspective of Jammu, the Chenab River traverses the entire Jammu Division, yet its water cannot be utilized for drinking or irrigation purposes. The excessive utilization of the Tawi River has led to its depletion, making it unable to meet the water requirements of Jammu. The entire Kandi belt in Jammu is grappling with acute water scarcity, with available land but no irrigation source apart from relying on rainfall. India must actively engage at various levels to counter what it perceives as Pakistan's false propaganda and challenge the World Bank's initiation of illegal arbitrary proceedings. It is within India's rights to assert its position and protect its interests based on international treaties. Exploring all available options and pursuing the matter to a favorable resolution is a legitimate course of action for India. Allocating necessary resources to find a way forward and avoid being hindered by a failed state is crucial. The World Bank should recognize the rationality and hidden motives behind Pakistan's attempts to impede India, and it should not be complicit in delivering injustice to India. India stands firm in its rejection of the ruling on the IWT dispute, and it is incumbent upon the nation to safeguard its interests and ensure a just resolution. The need for open dialogue, diplomatic efforts, and a focus on the rationality of India's position cannot be understated. It is only through fair and unbiased engagement that a lasting solution can be reached, benefiting both nations and promoting peace in the region.

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 emailtoeditorcentralchronicle@gmail.com.

HEROIC RESCUE EFFORTS



Army personnel rescue residents from a flood-affected area following monsoon rains, in Lohian area of Jalandhar district, Wednesday, July 12.

The Future of India depends on quality of its education system

GIRISH LINGANNA



Narendra Modi, India's Prime Minister, recently visited the White House representing one of the world's rapidly growing major economies. With an annual growth rate of 6%, India is currently the fifth-largest economy globally. The country's technology industry is thriving, and there is a significant focus on renewable energy with widespread installation of solar panels. India's attractiveness to multinational companies is evident as Goldman Sachs recently held a board meeting there. As developed countries and China face aging populations, India's substantial youth population, with around 500 million individuals under the age of 20, should serve as an additional driving force. However, despite India's highly educated elite who excel academically, the majority of the population still lacks quality education. This situation poses a risk to India's economic progress as unskilled and unemployed young people may hinder its

development.

India has made progress in enhancing services for its impoverished population. The government has implemented digital initiatives that simplify banking access and the distribution of welfare payments. In terms of education, significant investments have been made in infrastructure. Previously, only a third of government schools had handwashing facilities, and electricity was available in only about half of them. However, these numbers have improved, with approximately 90% of government schools now equipped with both. Additionally, India has established close to 400 universities since 2014, resulting in a 20% increase in enrolment in higher education.

However, despite efforts to improve school infrastructure and increase enrolment, India is struggling to ensure that its students acquire essential skills. Prior to the pandemic, less than half of India's ten-year-olds were able to read a simple story, even though they had spent several years attending school. In comparison, the literacy rate among ten-year-olds in America was 96%. The situation has worsened due to prolonged school closures lasting over two years.

There are various reasons for this situation. The overcrowded curriculum leaves insufficient time for teaching fundamental subjects like math and literacy. As a result, children who struggle with

these basics often struggle to learn other subjects. Teachers are inadequately trained and lack proper supervision, as evidenced by a significant absence rate among staff in rural schools, according to a large-scale survey. Additionally, officials occasionally assign teachers unrelated tasks, such as conducting elections or enforcing social-distancing rules during the pandemic.

Due to these challenges, a significant number of families have opted to enroll their children in private schools, which educate approximately 50% of all Indian children. Although these private schools are cost-effective, they often do not deliver improved outcomes. There have been optimistic expectations that India's technology industry could bring about an educational revolution. However, relying solely on technology for education poses risks. In recent weeks, Byju's, India's largest ed-tech firm that claims to educate over 150 million individuals globally and was previously valued at \$22 billion, has experienced a significant decline in valuation due to financial difficulties and statutory issues.

It is increasingly crucial to address the issues in government schools, making it imperative for India to allocate more funds towards education. The previous year witnessed education outlays at a mere 2.9% of GDP, which falls below international benchmarks. Simultaneously, there

is a need to revamp the education system by drawing inspiration from successful models in other developing Asian countries.

According to our findings, Vietnamese students have consistently outperformed their counterparts from wealthier nations in international exams for the past decade. Surprisingly, despite spending less time in formal classroom lessons, including homework and additional study, Vietnamese students excel. Furthermore, they also contend with larger class sizes. The key distinction lies in the better preparation, experience, and accountability of Vietnamese teachers, who face consequences if their students fail to meet expectations.

India can make progress by improving its education system, but this requires strong leadership. First, it should focus on accurately assessing students' learning outcomes, which means politicians must stop disregarding data that doesn't reflect well on their policies. Additionally, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party should refrain from removing concepts like evolution from textbooks or distorting historical facts to appease Hindu nationalists. These distractions only hinder progress. While India is investing in infrastructure like roads, technology campuses, airports, and factories, it must also prioritize developing its human capital.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Debating UCC

The Law Commission of India (LCI) has initiated a public consultation on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), seeking input from the general public and recognized religious organizations. The subject raises crucial questions that deserve attention. If the aim is to establish a "uniform" code, why are certain groups, such as Christians, Scheduled Tribes, North East states, and others reportedly being exempted from the proposed UCC? Furthermore, if exemptions are allowed, why aren't Muslims and Sikhs also exempted? What about Article 371 (A-J) of our Constitution? And what about the state of Goa, which still follows Portuguese civil laws under Article 371 (I)? It becomes necessary to address these concerns and seek clarification. Should all the exemptions outlined in Article 371 (A-J) be brought within the scope of the UCC? It is imperative that the Law Commission of India provides clear definitions of the terms "uniform" and "civil" as used in the Indian Constitution in relation to the extensively debated Uniform Civil Code.

Tauqueer Rahmani, Chennai
Positive Move

The Railway Minister has taken a commendable step by reducing the fares of AC chair cars, executive classes, and select coaches on various trains, including Vande Bharat, Anubhuti, and Vistadome. This reduction, up to 25 percent, will particularly benefit the middle-class passengers. It is a positive move that aims to make train travel more affordable and accessible. However, it is crucial that safety measures are also prioritized alongside fare reductions. We hope the Railway Minister will continue to address the safety concerns and ensure a secure and enjoyable travel experience for all passengers.

K Mazhar, Hyderabad
Chandrayan-3

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is gearing up for its next lunar exploration mission, scheduled for launch at 2.35 PM on Friday, July 14. Set to take place at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, this mission marks another significant stride for ISRO. With improvements over Chandrayaan-2, Chandrayan-3 LDV features a newly installed lander and increased fuel capacity. The mission boasts multiple contingency systems and enhanced structural rigidity to ensure a safe and gentle landing on the moon's surface. This time, India is determined to achieve a smooth mission and reach another milestone. Doubters and those who mocked ISRO and Indian space programs will soon find themselves in dismay.

Jahangeer Shaikh, Mumbai

Battling Monsoon Challenges

India's Struggle with Floods and Landslides

Monsoon rains are a lifeline for the people of India, providing crucial water for agriculture and industries. However, the unpredictable nature of the monsoons brings both blessings and disasters. In a densely populated country like India, the summer monsoon contributes 70-80% of the annual rainfall, but it also brings death and destruction through flooding and landslides. Recent events, such as the record-breaking rainfall in Delhi, highlight the urgent need for preparedness and improved civic infrastructure. This article delves into the challenges faced by India during the monsoon season and explores the consequences of unpreparedness on the lives of ordinary citizens.

The Impact of Inadequate Monsoon Rains

For Indians, monsoon rains hold immense significance as they determine the success of agriculture and the overall economy. When monsoon rains fall short of the expected amount, it disrupts the agricultural cycle, leading to crop failures, water scarcity, and subsequent food shortages. Industries that rely on water resources also suffer, causing economic setbacks and job losses. In a densely populated country like India, the dependency on the summer monsoon for a significant portion of the annual rainfall is a double-edged sword. While the rainfall is necessary, it also poses a threat due to the magnitude of water it brings. Flooding and landslides are common occurrences during the monsoon season, resulting in loss of life, damage to infrastructure, and displacement of communities.

Record-Breaking Rainfall in Delhi

Delhi, India's capital, recently experienced a deluge that shattered a 41-year-old record. In just 24 hours, the city received a staggering 153 mm of rain, followed by 260 mm within 36 hours. The consequences were immediate and severe. Roads in several parts of Delhi turned into knee-deep water bodies, making transportation nearly impossible. The lives of ordinary citizens were disrupted as they waded through the submerged streets.

Delhi was not the only affected region. Heavy rainfall triggered landslides in Himachal Pradesh, blocking approximately 700 roads. Flash floods ravaged various parts of the northern region, leaving buildings and roads submerged. The situation was dire, with residents in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand being warned against venturing outside.

The Toll on Lives and Infrastructure

When heavy monsoon rains strike, the impact on lives and infrastructure is devastating. People are at risk of losing their homes, livelihoods, and even their lives. Floods and landslides

claim numerous casualties each year, leaving families shattered and communities in mourning. The loss of property, crops, and livestock adds to the economic burden faced by affected individuals and regions.

One of the most disheartening aspects of these disasters is the unpreparedness of civic infrastructure. Despite knowing the recurring challenges posed by the monsoon, the lack of adequate measures and infrastructure upgrades remains a persistent problem. As political parties engage in blame games, the ordinary citizen continues to suffer the consequences.

Hope for the Future

The recent flooding in Delhi, which even affected the homes of central ministers, serves as a wake-up call for improved civic infrastructure and disaster management. It highlights the need for investment in robust drainage systems, early warning systems, and emergency shelters to mitigate the impact of monsoon-related disasters.

Local authorities must prioritize the safety and well-being of

vulnerable communities and establish effective contingency plans. Moreover, the issue extends beyond immediate response and recovery. Long-term solutions, such as climate-resilient infrastructure, sustainable water management, and afforestation efforts, are essential to mitigate the impact of climate change on monsoon patterns.

India's struggle with monsoon-related challenges, including floods and landslides, requires urgent attention and action. The recent record-breaking rainfall in Delhi highlights the vulnerabilities of civic infrastructure and the hardships faced by ordinary citizens. It is crucial for the government, local authorities, and communities to come together to prioritize preparedness, invest in infrastructure upgrades, and implement effective disaster management strategies. By doing so, India can enhance its resilience to monsoon-related disasters and safeguard the lives and livelihoods of its people in the face of an increasingly unpredictable climate.

BRIEF

Office inauguration



Kuala Lumpur: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the regional office of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Kuala Lumpur to facilitate close defence industrial collaboration between India and Malaysia. "In a major defence export outreach activity, the HAL's first ever Regional Marketing Office was opened in the presence of RM Shri @rajnathsingh at Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. This regional office will cater to the South East Asian region and will also assist other Defence PSUs in getting orders," his office tweeted. HAL is an Indian Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DSPU), akin to GLC in Malaysia. HAL will assume the role of a one-stop agency to facilitate collaboration between Indian and Malaysian companies.

Extra vigilant



Mumbai: Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das asked banks to be extra careful and vigilant in view of the adverse global developments while strengthening corporate governance. The governor held meetings with the MD and CEOs of public sector banks and select private sector banks here. Das in his introductory remarks, while noting the good performance of the Indian banking system despite various adverse global developments, stressed that it is in times like these, banks need to be extra careful and vigilant, the RBI said in a statement.

Spotlight priorities



New Delhi: Union Minister V Muraleedharan on Tuesday shared India's commitment to spotlight the priorities, perspectives and concerns of the developing nations, including the Arab world, during its G20 Presidency. The minister of State for External Affairs said despite the challenging global context, trade between India and the Arab world has escalated, currently standing at over USD 240 billion. He emphasised the Arab world's significant contributions to India's energy and food security, providing approximately 60 per cent of India's crude oil imports and over 50 per cent of its fertiliser needs.

Anil Agarwal says partners lined up for semiconductor plans

New Delhi, Jul 12:



Days after Vedanta group's Taiwanese partner pulled out of a USD 19.5 billion semiconductor-making project, company chairman Anil Agarwal on Wednesday said partners have been lined up for the venture and Vedanta will begin foray into chip making this year.

Agarwal however did not identify the partner. Hon Hai Technology Group, also known as Foxconn, earlier this week pulled out of the chipmaking joint venture with Vedanta and said it intends to apply for incentives under the government's semiconductor production plan.

Just last week, Vedanta had said it will acquire semiconductor and display glass units from a group company. Most of

the world's chips are manufactured in a handful of countries and India, which expects its semiconductor market to be worth USD 63 billion by 2026, is a late entrant. Semiconductors find wide applications and are used in devices such as mobile phones to refrigerators and in cars. Speaking at Vedanta's annual shareholder meeting, Agarwal said there was a huge opportunity in the electronics sector as India imports USD 100 billion worth of electronics every year. This includes USD 30 billion worth of semiconductor and display glass. "We have lined up partners for our semiconductor venture," he said without mentioning of the Foxconn pullout. "This year, subject to govern-

ment approvals, your company will begin a historic foray into semiconductor fab and display fab." Soon after Foxconn announced pulling out of the venture on Monday, Vedanta had said it was fully committed to its semiconductor project and has lined up other partners to set up India's first foundry.

"We have the licence for production-grade technology for 40 nm from a prominent integrated device manufacturer," it had said in a statement, without identifying the firm supplying the technology. "We will shortly acquire a licence for production-grade 28 nm as well."

On Wednesday, Agarwal said a foray into semiconductor manufacturing will open an entirely new avenue of rapid growth for the company in a sector that is strategic for the country.

Cinema industry welcomes lowering GST rates to 5 pc on food served in movie theatres

New Delhi, Jul 12:

Multiplex operators on Tuesday welcomed the GST Council's decision to lower the tax rates on the food and beverages sold in cinema halls, saying it will help in the revival of the theatre business post-Covid and avoid litigations.

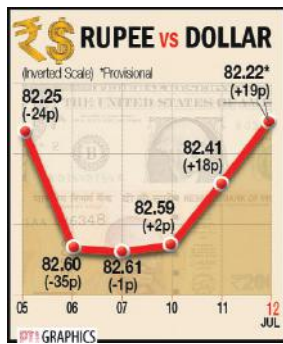
The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, headed by the Union finance minister and comprising of representatives of all states and UTs, on Tuesday decided to lower the service tax levied on food and beverages consumed in cinema halls to 5 per cent from 18 per cent. F&B (food & beverages) are an important source of earnings for the cinema exhibition industry, specially for the multiplexes that earn up to 35 per cent of their revenues from this segment. PVR INOX Ltd CFO Nitin Sood said: "The entire cinema industry welcomes the clarification issued by the GST Council today that food and beverages sold at the cinemas will get covered under the definition of 'restaurant service' and would be liable to GST @5 per cent (without availing input tax credit)." "The above clarification will help resolve the industry-wide issue for the sector which includes more than 9,000 cinemas across the country in avoiding disputes/litigation from a GST standpoint, giving tax certainty and help in revival of the theatre business post-pandemic," he added.

The film exhibition industry was having a tough time after the pandemic as they were closed in 2020 and were opened with some restrictions. Finally from March 2022, they were allowed to be 100 per cent open at full capacity and content pipelines started flowing. Karan Taurani, SVP of Elara Capital, said: "From the financial perspective, it will have zero impact but from a litigation perspective, there is a relief. Now there is clarity for the sector, which has emerged now that for any food products you have, GST would remain at 5 per cent. "Various states were asking the GST Council to imply a higher GST and there was no clarity and cinema operators were in litigation with state governments," he said, adding, "Now this notification brings everyone on the same track and now all food items whether its samosa or popcorn or else, will be charged at 5 per cent."

Now in the cinema business, F&B variety is increasing immensely because of the premium food offerings, he said. Nuvema Group Executive Director, Institutional Equities, Abneesh Roy said some of the leading exhibitors like PVR were already booking at 5 per cent GST on F&B.

Rupee rises 19 paise to close at 82.22 against US dollar

New Delhi, Jul 12:



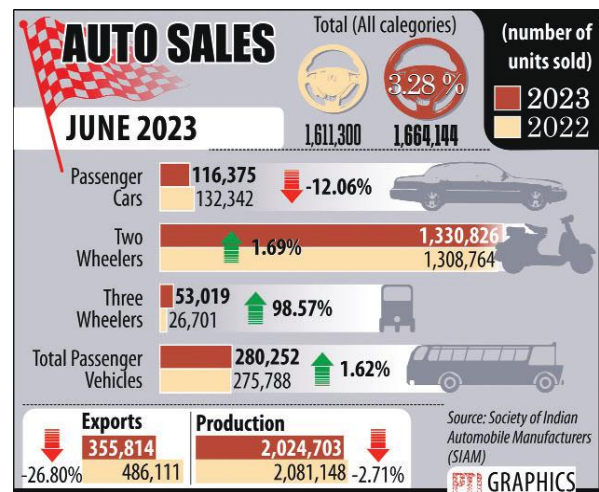
Rising for the third straight session, the rupee gained 19 paise to 82.22 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, as weakness in the American currency overseas and steady foreign fund inflows boosted investor sentiment. However, a surge in crude oil prices capped the gains in the local unit, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.29 against the US dollar and settled 19 paise lower at 82.22 (provisional) against the previous close. During the day, the domestic unit witnessed an intra-day high of 82.23 and a low of 82.32.

This is the third straight day of rise for the rupee, during which it has gained 44 paise. On Tuesday, the rupee had closed at 82.41 against the dollar. The US dollar declined on expectations that a slowdown in inflation may lead to a slower pace of rate hike by the US Federal Reserve, said Anuj Choudhary -

Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. Though the US central bank may hike rates in July, a further rate rise in September may be data dependent, Choudhary said. "We expect the rupee to trade with a slight positive bias, weakness in the US dollar and improved global risk sentiments. Sustained foreign inflows may also support the rupee while a rise in crude oil prices may cap a sharp upside," Choudhary said. Market participants may remain cautious ahead of India's inflation and IIP data and US inflation data. "We expect USD/INR spot to trade in between 81.80 to 82.80 in the near-term," Choudhary added.

Domestic passenger vehicle sales rise 2 pc in June; up 9 pc in Jun qtr: SIAM

New Delhi, Jul 12:



Domestic passenger vehicle wholesales witnessed a 2 per cent year-on-year rise to 3,27,487 units in June, as demand remained strong, especially for the entry-level utility vehicles, industry body SIAM said on Wednesday.

Passenger vehicle dispatches to dealers in June 2022 stood at 3,20,985 units. The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers President Vinod Aggarwal said the passenger vehicle segment continues to perform well on the back of strong demand. The only weak spot is the drop in sales of hatchbacks, where buyers are migrating to entry-

level sports utility vehicles, he said. "There is no concern whatsoever with the overall PV segment as it is holistically doing well.

Demand has also picked up in rural areas and that should further aid it... going forward it looks like a very positive scenario as

far as PV sales are concerned," Aggarwal said. The total two-wheeler sales rose by 2 per cent to 13,30,826 units last month, as against 13,08,764 units in the year-ago period. Commenting on the performance of the segment, Aggarwal said the sales have started to pick up but it still remains below the previous peak level.

Last fiscal, the total two-wheeler sales stood at 1.56 crore units, which remains low as compared to the peak level of 2.1 crore units a few years back, he added. "We expect the rural economy to pick up and it would also be positive for the overall two-wheeler segment," Aggarwal said.

FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATIONS



Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation Amit Shah with Union MoS for Finance Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad and Cooperation Secretary Gyanesh Kumar during the 42nd Foundation Day celebrations of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), in New Delhi, Wednesday, July 12.

Special package for Omkareshwar and Mahakaleshwar pilgrimage

Mumbai, Jul 12:

The month of Shravan holds great significance for Jyotirlinga darshan (pilgrimage). Keeping this in mind, Sheraton Grand Palace Hotel has launched its special package, 'Sacred Journey Divine Destination', which takes pilgrims to the nearby Jyotirlingas, Omkareshwar and Mahakaleshwar, from Indore. This 2-day and 3-night package offers travelers an excellent five-star accommodation, along with pure vegetarian breakfast and dinner. The offer, which started in July, will continue until September 30, and includes pick-up and drop-off facility from the

airport. Speaking about the package, Mr. Rohit Vajpayee, General Manager of Sheraton Grand Palace, elaborated, "Omkareshwar and Mahakaleshwar are not only sacred destinations but the journey itself will provide pilgrims with a unique and extraordinary experience. The importance of visiting these two places during the month of Shravan and the additional month of Adhik Maas is even more significant. Indore, which is also part of this journey, is a perfect city for food and sightseeing. We have received great appreciation from our previous travelers who have undertaken this package with us."

Retail inflation in June rises to three-month high of 4.81 pc

New Delhi, Jul 12:

Retail inflation rose to a three-month high of 4.81 per cent in June, mainly on account of hardening prices of food, according to the government data. Inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 4.31 per cent (revised upward from 4.25 per cent) in May and 7 per cent in June 2022. The inflation, however, remains within the RBI's comfort level of below 6 per cent. The previous high CPI was in March at 5.66 per cent. The government has tasked the central bank to ensure retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. The central bank mainly factors in the CPI to arrive at its bi-monthly monetary policy decision. The next policy review is scheduled early next month. Inflation for the food basket was at 4.49 per cent in June, higher than 2.96 per cent in May.

'Chanajor' provides opportunities for new talent

Mumbai, Jul 12:

A recently launched OTT platform called "Chanajor" is offering an unparalleled comedy experience. The platform features fresh faces in all of its shows, providing a stage for talented actors who have yet to make it big on the silver screen or in the digital world. Despite their relative anonymity, these actors possess tremendous acting skills and have the ability to tickle anyone's funny bone with their unique styles. One of the shows on Chanajor is "Bhutiya", starring Prateek Shukla, Dev Joshi, and Kripa Mishra. All three of them are Gujarati theater artists, but their performances and dialogues in this show are guaranteed to make you burst into

laughter. Similarly, in "Nahi Aaj Nahi," Sanjit Dhuri, Niharika Sharma, and Bhavesh Prajapati deliver outstanding performances. Another web series, titled "Hum Nikamma Banate Hain," takes place in Kakadev, Kanpur, and follows the lives of boys living in hostels who have lost all hope and are simply passing their time. However, an incident occurs that teaches them a valuable lesson and sets them on the right path. Less known television actors Harveer Singh, Ashutosh Semwal, Alisha Praveen, Ruchi Tripathi, Rakesh Srivastava, Sanjay Chowdhary, and Prateek Singh have done an excellent job in this series. Chanajor offers several other noteworthy shows that are worth watching, including "Kebab Mein

Bone," "Electric Piya," "Shaadi Ki Photos," "Shubh Ghadi," "Bai Se Pitai," "Yoga Teacher," and "Andhaviswas," among others. In total, there are around 60-65 shows available, with new ones being added regularly. These shows are available only on Chanajor and not on any other video platforms. In addition to the shows, Chanajor has also provided opportunities for stand-up comedians. Notable names include Zuber, Rafiq, Amol Soni, Sufiyan, Satyapal, and Prateek Shukla, all of whom have put forth their best efforts to make audiences laugh in their own unique styles. The shows on Chanajor revolve around stories from the lives of ordinary people, making them relatable to everyone.

Equity markets settle lower after three days of rally

Mumbai, Jul 12:



Benchmark equity indices ended lower on Wednesday after three days of gain amid profit-taking ahead of key macroeconomic data announcements due later in the day along with the first quarter earnings from TCS and HCL Technologies. Fag-end selling pulled down the 30-share BSE Sensex lower, which declined 223.94 points or 0.34 per cent to settle at 65,393.90. During the day, it hit a low of 65,320.25 and a high of 65,811.64. The NSE Nifty fell by 55.10 points or 0.28 per cent to end at 19,384.30. Industrial production data for the month of June will be announced later in the day.

From the Sensex pack, Infosys, Tata Motors, UltraTech Cement, HDFC Bank, NTPC, IndusInd Bank, Larsen & Toubro, HCL Technologies, Power Grid, Maruti, HDFC and Tata Steel were the major laggards. Kotak Mahindra Bank, Asian Paints, Nestle, Titan, State Bank of India and Reliance

Industries were the gainers. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) continued their buying momentum as they bought equities worth Rs 1,197.38 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. In Asian markets, Seoul and Hong Kong settled in the green while Tokyo and Shanghai ended lower. Equity markets in Europe were trading in the green.

The US markets ended in the positive territory on Tuesday. "The range-bound movement in the Indian indices was influenced by the likelihood of subdued IT earnings," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.23 per cent to USD 79.58 a barrel.

Amazon India announces Prime Day 2023 deals

Mumbai, Jul 12:

Amazon India is all set to host its 2-day celebration of the year to help Prime members 'Discover Joy' with Prime Day 2023. The shopping event kicks off on July 15, 12:00 am and runs through till July 16, 11:59 am. It's time to sit back, relax, and enjoy blockbuster entertainment and shop to your heart's content because Amazon enables its Prime members the great deals and big savings across categories. Members can avail deals across Smartphones, Consumer Electronics, TVs, Appliances, Amazon Devices, Fashion & Beauty, Home & Kitchen, Furniture, Everyday Essentials and more with free one-day delivery on eligible items. This Prime Day, customers will enjoy our fastest speeds ever in India.

MLA and Mayor witness first registry of lease deed

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jul 12: The registry of lease deeds of Bhilai Township houses has started from Wednesday. On the very first day, hundreds of township residents arrived to get their lease deeds registered.

Jaswant Singh was the first person who got the lease deed of his quarter registered. As soon as the first registry was done, a wave of enthusiasm was visible among the residents of the township.

The people were so happy that they started exchanging greetings and distributing sweets. People also offered sweets to Bhilai Nagar MLA Devendra Yadav and Mayor Neeraj Pal and thanked them for their support.

People said that they



had been waiting for this day for years. They were feeling that this golden moment would never come in their life. Everyone had given up hope. But MLA Yadav and Mayor Pal made sustained efforts to get this issue resolved.

A large number of people had reached the District Registry Office on Wednesday morning to get the registry done. The process of registry commenced as soon as the office opened at 10 am.

Devendra Yadav and Mayor Neeraj Pal congratulated everyone and said that no work is impossible under the rule of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. It was under his guidance that the people of Bhilai have achieved this great success.

Help desk to be opened at Sector 5



The lease holders of BSP quarters will no longer need to run pillar to post for getting the documentation works completed. On the initiatives of MA Devendra Yadav and Mayor Neeraj Pal, a help desk will be opened at the Dome Shed located near the Mayor's residence in Sector 5. All works will be done free of cost with the help of BSP management, Bhilai Municipal Corporation management and the district administration. This initiative has been taken keeping in view the facilities of the beneficiaries. Now the beneficiaries need not to visit the BSP office and registry office. People will be able to do the process of registration of houses in a very convenient and easy way. All the process will be done in the help desk to be opened at Dome Shed located in Sector 5. All the documents will be prepared here and thereafter the people will have to visit the Registry Office at the time of registry. At the Registry Office, the photographs of the beneficiaries are taken online and digital signatures are to be done. The beneficiaries will have to complete only this part of their own. Apart from this, the entire process will be completed in Sector 5 itself in a very simple and accessible manner.

Selection Trials for BSP Sub-Junior & Junior Swimming Teams on July 14

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jul 12: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's department of Sports, Cultural & Civic Amenities (SCCA) is organising Selection Trials to select players for BSP's Swimming Teams (boys and girls) in Sub-Junior and Junior category, to take part in the Chhattisgarh State Sub-Junior & Junior (Boys and Girls) Swimming Competition.

Chhattisgarh Swimming Association is organising the Chhattisgarh State Sub-Junior & Junior (Boys and Girls) Swimming Competition from July 22 to 23, 2023 in Delhi Public School (DPS), Bhilai. The

Selection Trials will be organised at Bhilai Club Swimming Pool, Civic-centre, Bhilai, on July 14, 2023 from 14:00 hrs, to select boys and girls for BSP's Sub-Junior & Junior Boys and Girls Swimming Team.

Registration for the Selection Trials may be made with the selectors for BSP's Swimming Team, Mahesh Bisai (Mob. No. 7000792890), Gopi Subhash (Mob. No. 9907917997), Rajesh and Veer Narayan, by or before July 14, 2023 at 14:00 hrs, at Bhilai Club Swimming Pool, Civic-centre, Bhilai. Abhijit Bhowmick, Asst Mgr(SCCA) will be in-charge of the Selection Trials.

Collector inspects flyovers and main roads

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jul 12: Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena reviewed the situation of Nehru Nagar Flyover during his visit to Bhilai Nagar on Wednesday. He instructed to make street lighting arrangements along with the upper divider of the overbridge.

The Collector said that the BSP management should complete the repair work of Equipment Square bridge and road construction work upto Khursipar railway gate. Apart from this, he instructed them to make speed breakers on the Utai to Patan road.

He instructed them to construct a bus stop under



the bridge of the Power House so that there is no problem in the movement of vehicles. Similarly, to organize traffic at the square of Utai to Patan road, he asked to construct a round square so that accidents can be avoided.

He also instructed them

to construct a road at Chhawani Chowk as well. Collector asked to arrange for a high mask light at Maharaja Chowk. Superintendent of Police Shalabh Sinha, DSP Traffic Satish Kumar Thakur and other officers were present during the visit.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jul 12: The women and youth of Gram Panchayat Anjora (B) are establishing their new identity with their hard work. The concept of making RIPA established in Gauthan is now bearing fruitful results. A new dimension is being achieved in the direction of employment with development under the ambitious scheme of the government.

For the first time in Anjora (B) of Durg development block, women and youth are working to make plastic jars and bakery products. Launched with the aim of making villages as the centers of production and to

make the villagers self-reliant, this scheme is now bringing a positive change in the rural scenario.

Women and youth, who are busy in domestic works, are now writing new success stories. Established at a cost of Rs 2 crore, this RIPA is becoming a source of employment for the people.

The work of making plastic bottles, plastic jars and bakery is being done by women and youth in Anjora. They are producing bread and pav as bakery items. The machine has been provided by the government for making and cutting bread. In the future, a machine will be installed to make ice cream cones.



A few days ago, the plastic jar vehicle was flagged off by Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena and sent to Bhilai. 6000 plastic jars are being produced in this industry daily and are being sold in the market at the rate

of Rs 17 per piece. This has created a good employment opportunity for the women and youth of the village at the local level itself. All the members of the women self help group are very happy with the opera-

tion of RIPA. Besides meeting their needs with the additional income, they are also helping their families financially. They no longer need to go out in search of work. The concept of setting up Rural Industrial Park (RIPA) in the Gauthans is now proving to be successful.

For the production activities, necessary machines have been made available by the district administration at RIPA site. Along with this, according to the market demand of the area, new products made of plastic will also be produced in the RIPA center. A total of 21 people from the adjoining areas have got employment in this unit.

Applications invited for Gunvatta - 2023

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jul 12: Bhilai Steel Plant's Business Excellence department is organizing Gunvatta - 2023, a workplace management Project Competition for promoting employee engagement through enhanced participation.

The four-day presentation competition will be organised in second week of August 2023 at Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC), Bhilai.

The in-house competition will be held in Six (6) different streams - three for Plant Level Quality Circles (QC), and one for Lean Quality

Circles (LQC), one for Lean Safety Circles (LSC) and one for 5-S levels. After shortlisting the qualifying teams shall be selected, for participation in various chapter conventions organized by Quality Circle Forum of India (QCFI).

BSP employees are invited to participate in teams and make it a grand success. The Interested teams may submit their duly filled nomination form and abstract comprising their projects in 250 to 500 words in hard copy to BE department, Ispat Bhawan, Bhilai by July 29, 2023.

Each Participating Team also needs to sub-

mit vide email a copy of their Step-wise Case Study project report in PDF format to qcbsp2020@gmail.com, by July 31, 2023.

Selected departments of the Plant may take part in Gunvatta - 2023, under the Plant Level Quality Circles (QC) and 5-S levels, whereas the cross-section of BSP employees from Works area, Non Works area, Medical & Health Services, Mines area etc. may take part in the competition under Lean Quality Circles (LQC) and Lean Safety Circles (LSC) respectively.

A briefing session has also been scheduled by the BE department to

help the participating teams from all departments to understand the format for Case Study & Abstract, mode of presentation and evaluation system on July 22, 2023 at Assembly Hall, HRDC.

Draw of lots will be carried out on August 07, 2023 to select the teams for various competitions. The necessary details in pursuance Gunvatta-2023 has been provided at BSP Homepage.

Every year, SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Department of Business Excellence organises similar competition at plant level to promote various quality concepts.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jul 12: Home Minister and Durg MLA (rural) Tamradhwaj Sahu paid tribute to Martyr Rajinikanth of Madanwada. On Wednesday morning, the minister reached Risali Chowk and offered a wreath in front of the statue.

On this occasion, the Home Minister honoured the martyr's wife and father. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that the role of jawans standing at the border cannot be ignored. Whatever the weather, they are always deployed for our safety.



A large number of children of Swami Atmanand English Medium School Risali had reached to pay tribute to martyr Rajinikanth. On this occasion, Mayor Shashi Sinha,

Chairman Keshav Banchor, State Congress General Secretary Jitendra Sahu, Vice Chairman, Labour Welfare Board Keshav Harmukh, MIC members

Chandrabhan Singh Thakur, Anup Dey, Chandraprakash Singh Nigam, Councillor Zaheer, Vinay Netam, Sanju Netam, Jamuna Thakur, Dharmendra Bhagat, Tikam Sahu, Dr Seema Sahu, Alderman Sangeeta Sahu, Shishir, Sandhya Verma, Ajit Yadav etc were present.

The Home Minister further said that the martyr's statue has been installed at the venue. He instructed Risali commissioner Ashish Dewangan to prepare a proposal for beautification of the square and statue site. Such places should also be named after the martyr, he added.

ICAI Income tax clinic for tax payers

Bhilai, Jul 12: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Bhilai Branch is organising a two day income tax clinic for income tax payers. While giving information, CA Payal Naveen Jain, Chairman of the branch said that the income tax payers will be guided by the Income Tax department experts in the camp.

In this camp, organised on July 13 and 14 at the CA Bhawan Civic Center, from 10:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs, guidance will be provided by the Income Tax Department and the Direct Taxes Committee of Accountants on the problems of return of income tax payers and errors in returns.

Hemchand Yadav University Durg organises PhD viva for three researchers

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jul 12: In Hemchand Yadav University, Durg, three PhD Vivas of the Faculty of Education were organized. In these three PhD research studies, an in-depth analysis was done on the academic achievement in higher secondary level students due to their personality, aggressiveness and peer pressure as well as upbringing.

Giving this information, University's PhD cell in-charge and Dean Student Welfare, Dr Prashant Srivastava said that in the first PhD Viva, Assistant Professor of Diet, Durg, Hemant Kumar Sahu, with research topic "Personality and aggression in students of higher secondary level" presented his research work and findings through power point presentation.



Sahu told that different situations like teacher's behaviour, family environment and school environment are important for the personality development and nature of aggression in Class X level students. He completed his research under Research Supervisor, Dr Lakshmi Verma of Shri Shankaracharya College, Junwani, Bhilai, Assistant Professor and Co-Research Supervisor Dr N Papa Rao, Assistant Professor, Kalyan Post Graduate College, Bhilai. The second viva was of Manisha Dubey, research student of Kalyan

Post Graduate College, Bhilai, on research topic "Teacher Effectiveness in relation to Mental Health and Administrative Behaviour". Her Research Supervisor was Dr Lakshmi Verma, Assistant Professor, Shri Shankaracharya College, Junwani, Bhilai, Co-Research Supervisor Dr. Rama Yadav, Assistant Professor, Kalyan Post Graduate College, Bhilai. Professor Ameeta Bajpai of Lucknow University was present as an external examiner for both the PhD Vivas. In her conclusion,

Manisha said that the tasks assigned from time to time by the school principal, education department and district administration have an impact on the mental health and administrative ability of the teachers. In the third PhD Viva, Sarika Sharma, research student of Kalyan Postgraduate College, Bhilai Research Center, gave her presentation on her research topic "Study of impact of peer pressure and upbringing on their academic achievement of higher secondary level students". In her research,

Sarika said that along with the family environment, the thoughts of their peers have the most impact on the school students.

Her external examiner was Dr Seema Singh, Vice-Chancellor of Uttar Pradesh Maharishi Tandon Open University, Prayagraj. She completed her research under research supervisor Dr Anita Srivastava, Assistant Professor, Kalyan Post Graduate College, Bhilai. Vice-Chancellor of the University, Dr Aruna Palta, Registrar, Bhupendra Kuldeep, all the officers of the University, professors and research scholars of various colleges and Principal of Kalyan Post Graduate College, Bhilai, Dr RKP Agarwal and senior retired professor, Dr PK Srivastava were present.

Bhilai Maitri College students excel in M Ed



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jul 12: The M Ed students of Bhilai Maitri College achieved excellent result in the exams. Tulika Harshit secured highest with 81.33% followed by Khilleshwari Sahu

with 80.61%, Priya Pannicker with 80.16%, Anshubala with 80% and Jitendra Kumar Dewangan 79.66%. Management, Principal and Faculty of Bhilai Maitri College congratulated the students for their excellent result.

OBITUARY

Rajendra Prasad Singh



Bhilai: Puraina Old Bhilai resident Rajendra Prasad Singh left for heavenly abode at the age of 75 years. Last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Harnabandha Muktidham. He was the uncle of Avadesh Kumar Singh and Sunil Kumar Singh and father-in-law of Ranvijay Singh, Mahendra Singh and Rahul Singh.

Focus on batting as Indian women eye 3-0 sweep of Bangladesh

Mirpur, Jul 12 (PTI):

With focus firmly on batting, the Indian women's cricket team will be eyeing a 3-0 sweep of Bangladesh, when the fancied visitors take on the beleaguered hosts in the final T20 International here on Thursday.

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led outfit won the first two matches without much fuss and will be looking to do an encore when it takes to the field in the third game.

However, it is easier said than done given India's mediocre outing with the bat in the second match, which they scraped through by eight runs despite being stopped at 95 in their allotted 20 overs.

The hosts were bowled out for 87 thanks to some excellent bowling by the Indians, giving them an unassailable lead in the three-match series.

Big-hitting opener Shafali Verma will, once again, be under the lens of the selectors after her twin



failures in the series.

While her 14-ball 19 eventually turned out to be the team's highest score in the unforgettable collapse, the young batter is well aware of her capabilities and expectations from her, and has another chance to get back among big runs before the ODI leg of the tour starting July 16.

Senior pro and vice-captain Smriti Mandhana too

will be keen to get going after getting dismissed for a run-a-ball 13 on Tuesday.

The Indian openers have failed to fire together in the series so far and will be gunning to make use of another opportunity that awaits them on Thursday.

So is the case of Jemimah Rodrigues, who also could not get going and struggled a lot in the middle while consuming as many as 21 balls for her

eight runs. Out for a first-ball duck two days after her match-winning knock in the series opener, skipper Harmanpreet would not look to read too much into her failure on Tuesday and would rather see it as an exception.

Even as the batters endured the kind of outing they would like to forget in a hurry, the Indian bowlers will enter the final T20I high on morale.

Weightlifter Gyaneshwari dreams of not just following Mirabai Chanu's footsteps but leave her behind

Greater Noida, Jul 12 (PTI):

Mirabai Chanu is an inspiration to many athletes but to Gyaneshwari Yadav she is also a competitor and the promising weightlifter dreams of not just scaling great heights like the Tokyo Olympic medallist but leaving her behind in competition.

Gyaneshwari competes in the same weight class as Mirabai - 49kg. In fact, the 20-year-old finished second to the former world champion during a ranking series last year.

"Mira didi is my inspiration and she is also a fighter (in the 49kg). So I always believe that one day I will leave her behind."

"Watching her is very motivating. She had created a world record in 49kg and I want to do the same," Gyaneshwari told PTI. Trying to narrate the



Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2023 gold medallist Gyaneshwari Yadav.

first time she met her idol, the 2022 junior world championship silver medallist struggled to put her feelings into words.

"I met her in 2021 in NIS Patiala during a camp. It was after the Olympics. I just felt so happy seeing her. I hugged her and then

spoke to her. That experience was just unbelievable. I can't put it into words."

Gyaneshwari trains at NIS Patiala along with Mirabai, who is currently undergoing a 65-day training camp in St Louis, USA.

"Now, I meet her every day and she always meets me so nicely. I have learned a lot from seeing her train, her professionalism, and dedication while training gives me a lot of motivation."

"She has taken Indian weightlifting to the Olympic level and it's a huge thing. I also want to create history for my country at the Olympics."

While Gyaneshwari will be seen at the junior Asian Championships later this month, she missed out on the Asian Games, where Mirabai will represent India in the 49kg weight class.

Shah, Ashraf finalise Asia Cup schedule

New Delhi, Jul 12 (PTI):

The much anticipated Asia Cup games between India and Pakistan will be held in Sri Lanka as agreed upon by the previous dispensation of host PCB, IPL chairman Arun Dhumal confirmed on Wednesday.

Dhumal, who is in Durban for the ICC Chief Executives Meet (CEC), informed that BCCI secretary Jay Shah and new PCB management committee chairman Zaka Ashraf met ahead of ICC Board meeting on Thursday to finalise the Asia Cup schedule.

Ashraf, who took charge earlier this month, had expressed his displeasure over the hybrid model accepted by the previous

regime under Najam Sethi. PCB has the hosting rights for the tournament to be held in Pakistan and Sri Lanka from August 31-September 17.

"Our secretary met PCB head Zaka Ashraf and the Asia Cup schedule was finalised and it is on course as it was discussed earlier. There will be four games of league stage in Pakistan, followed by 9 games in Sri Lanka including both India versus Pakistan game and a third game if both teams reach the final," Dhumal told PTI.

Dhumal rubbished reports emerging from Pakistan media that India will travel to the neighbouring country as its sports minister Ehsan Mazari had been claiming.

Bowlers help West Zone gain command over South Zone

Bengaluru, Jul 12 (PTI):



The relentless West Zone bowlers left South Zone on a fragile terrain at 182 for seven on the opening day of the Duleep Trophy final here on Wednesday.

Fielding by choice, West never let the advantage slip on a largely overcast day that was eventually called off a few minutes into the extended session due to poor light.

Captain Hanuma Vihari offered a lone battle while making 63 off 130 balls for South. But the conditions meant that single man heroics would not suffice.

Even though they were operating in a favourable space, West Zone pacers Arzan Nagwaswalla, Chintan Gaja and Atit Sheth should be lauded for maintaining a tight leash

on South batting. They moved the ball quite appreciably to keep Mayank Agarwal and R Samarth, the South openers, cautious.

The first wicket did not take long to come, though it was more the result of the batter's callousness.

Samarth opted to cut Gaja's short and wide de-

livery outside the off-stump and Harvik Desai, who replaced Het Patel, completed a simple catch behind the stumps.

Thereafter Mayank and Tilak Varma started to move things ahead for the South. In the process, Mayank, who began the match at 6976 runs, also completed 7000 runs in

First-Class cricket from 159 innings. However, Mayank was not able to convert the start. He often tried to negate the movement while walking down the pitch, and it was bound to bring undesired results at some point.

It transpired this soon. The Karnataka right-hander's expansive drive off Sheth had fatal consequences, ending in a catch to Sarfaraz Khan at third slip. At 42 for 2, South were in some danger but the best passage of their innings followed. Tilak and Hanuma Vihari milked 79 runs for the third wicket as South inched towards a safer zone. South went to lunch at 100 for two.

Vihari was particularly impressive, neutralising the pacers in a manual-perfect way.

Happy to overcome odds and finally appear for Asian Games trials: Dipa Karmakar

Bhubaneswar, Jul 12 (PTI):



Top Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar is happy that she has overcome the hardships that have plagued her for the last few years and finally appeared for the trials of the upcoming Hangzhou Asian Games.

The Tripura gymnast, who narrowly missed out on a bronze in 2016 Rio Olympics, was making a comeback after 21 months of suspension due to a doping violation.

On Tuesday, the 29-year-old Dipa earned the maximum points to emerge on top in the all-around event during the trials to select the squad for the Asian Games at the Kalinga

Stadium here. "I am very happy that I could give the trials after the hardships I went through in the last few years," said Dipa after successfully competing in the trials.

"I think it was a big comeback for me. The performance was OK, though not 100 per cent. But moving forward, I will do my best to give more than 100 per cent," she said.

Elina Svitolina beats top-ranked Iga Swiatek to reach semifinals

Wimbledon, Jul 12 (AP):



Elina Svitolina celebrates winning against Poland's Iga Swiatek.

Three months after returning from maternity leave, Elina Svitolina reached the Wimbledon semifinals by beating top-ranked Iga Swiatek 7-5, 6-7 (5), 6-2 Tuesday.

The 28-year-old Ukrainian gave birth to her daughter in October and returned to the WTA tour in April. She received a wild-card entry to the grass-court tournament one month after reaching the quarterfinals at the French Open.

"First of all I'm going to have a beer, probably," Svitolina said on court.

"At the beginning of the tournament if someone would tell me that I will be in the semifinal

and beating world No. 1, I would just say that they're crazy." Swiatek, a four-time major champion, won her third French Open title last month but was playing in the Wimbledon quarterfinals for the first time. At one point, Svitolina won 20 of

22 points against Swiatek on Centre Court, including 16 of the final 18 points in the first set.

Svitolina will next face Marketa Vondrousova for a spot in Saturday's final. It will be the Ukrainian player's second appearance in the Wimbledon

semifinals. She lost to eventual champion Simona Halep at that stage in 2019.

"I'm just going to enjoy tonight and then get some treatment, get some massage, much needed and then just regroup and be ready for the next big battle," Svitolina said.

Svitolina has been ranked as high as No. 3 in the world and also reached the U.S. Open semifinals in 2019. She is currently ranked 76th. To reach the semifinals this year, she has beaten four Grand Slam champions Venus Williams in the first round, Sofia Kenin in the third, Victoria Azarenka in the fourth and Swiatek in the quarterfinals.

Novak Djokovic ties Roger Federer with 46 Slam semifinals

Wimbledon, Jul 12 (AP):



As Novak Djokovic pursues more history-making victories and more milestones, he is well aware that every opponent he faces would love nothing more than to stop him.

"I know they want ... to win. But it ain't happening, still," he told the crowd at Wimbledon on Tuesday after reaching a 46th Grand Slam semifinal to tie Roger Federer's record for men.

Hearing the spectators' loud reaction to that boast, Djokovic laughed and observed about himself: "Very humble."

His 4-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-3 victory over Andrey Rublev was the 33rd in a row at the All England Club for Djokovic, moving him closer to a fifth consecutive championship and eighth overall there which would pull him even with Federer on both counts.

Bopanna-Ebden enter quarterfinals

Wimbledon, Jul 12 (PTI):

The sixth-seeded pairing of India's Rohan Bopanna and Australian Matthew Ebden beat the duo of Reese Stalder and David Pel to enter the men's doubles quarterfinals at the Wimbledon Championships here on Tuesday. The Indo-Australian duo defeated the combine of American Stalder and Dutchman Pel 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (10-5) in a pre-quarterfinal match that lasted two hours and 19 minutes. Bopanna and Ebden next meet the Dutch duo of Tallon Griekspoor and Bart Stevens.

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'TMC has shamed democracy in Bengal'

Kolkata, Jul 12 (PTD):

Senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad on Wednesday criticised West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for letting loose a reign of terror during the rural polls and wondered why the central leadership of the Congress and the Left are silent on it. A four-member BJP fact-finding team to West Bengal, led by the former Union minister, said the state unit's demand for implementing Article 355 is "justifiable".

"We had immense respect for Mamataji when she defeated the 34-year-old Left regime in the state. Today, I want to gently remind Mamataji about her evolution in Bengal and national politics. She was a fighter. But unfortunately, her government has crossed even the records of the Left regarding misrule, anarchy and lawlessness in the state," he said.



Members of a BJP fact-finding team Ravi Shankar Prasad and Satyapal Singh address a press conference at party office in Kolkata, Wednesday.

The BJP leader told reporters, "Her (Mamata Banerjee) politics is now full of atrocities, which was not evident even during the Left rule."

"Why are so many people being killed? Why so much violence across the state? Is this not the responsibility of the state administration to ensure free and fair polls? This was once the scenario of Bihar, but the state, too, has moved ahead. Mamata Banerjee has shamed democracy in Bengal," he said.

Hitting out at the opposition meeting in Patna, Prasad wondered why the CPI(M) and the Congress brass are silent on the on-going violence.

"The opposition parties, including Mamata Banerjee, were vocal about BJP posing a threat to the democracy in the country. I want to ask Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and CPI (M) leader Sitaram Yechury for their silence on the killings in West Bengal. Even their party cadres are being beaten

up, so why are they silent?" he questioned.

Prasad mocked the TMC boss over her social media post regarding the party's victory in rural polls and wondered whether Banerjee is "afraid to face the media".

"She conducts press conferences at the drop of a hat. This time she has refrained from interacting with the media as she knows the truth behind the violence and blood-smear rural polls," he said.

The BJP MP from neighbouring Patna hoped that the fact-finding team would be allowed to visit the violence-hit areas of the state.

When asked to comment on demands by BJP leader to impose Article 355 in West Bengal, the former Union law minister said, "Article 355 says the Centre must convey to the state that governance is done as per the mandate of the Constitution."

TMC poised to sweep Bengal rural polls

● Bags nearly 35,000 gram panchayat seats

Kolkata, Jul 12 (PTD):

The ruling Trinamool Congress on Wednesday was poised to sweep Bengal's violence-scarred rural polls, as the overnight count of ballots gave it an unassailable lead in results declared till now by the State Election Commission.

The TMC has won 34,901 gram panchayat seats, besides leading in 613 seats, according to the SEC as of 4.30pm on Wednesday. In all elections are being held for 63,229 gram panchayat seats.

The ruling party's nearest rival BJP has won 9,719 seats and is leading in 151 seats.

The CPI(M) has won 2,938 and is leading in 67

seats. The Congress won 2,542 seats and is leading in 66.

The ruling TMC won 6,430 panchayat samiti seats while leading 193 seats. BJP has won 982 and is leading in 53 seats, while CPI(M) has won 176 seats and is leading in 14 others and Congress has won in 266 seats and is leading in 6 seats. Elections were held for 9,728 panchayat samiti seats.

TMC has also won 674 zila parishad seats so far and is leading in 149 others, with this it seems set to repeat its 2018 performance of controlling all the zila parishads, despite marginally better showing by the BJP and CPI(M)-Congress alliance in some districts.

The BJP has in contrast won 21 and is leading in 5 seats. The CPI(M) has won 2 seats, while Congress has won 6 and is leading in 5.

In all, there are 928 zila parishad seats.

In Bhongore in South 24 Parganas, three persons including two activists of the Indian Secular Front (ISF) were killed and several others injured in a clash which took place outside a counting booth late Tuesday night, police said on Wednesday.

A 24-year-old Congress worker was beaten to death while several others were injured allegedly by TMC workers in Rampur village in Malda district, police said.

It is claimed that after winning the gram panchayat election in the locality, TMC workers were bursting fire crackers in front of the Congress worker's house leading to a clash.

The elections are being seen by all parties as an indicator of which way the wind will blow in the 2024

parliamentary elections from this part of the country. The Trinamool Congress termed its win as "a victory of the people" in a tweet and followed it up by blaming the violence which has claimed some 11 of the 15 who died on election day from among its workers on the opposition. "The fire of violence, ignited by the opposition parties has continued till the tail end of the panchayat elections".

It also claimed that a TMC party worker from South 24 Parganas district's Chandpasha village was hacked to death by "BJP goons".

The violence which rocked the panchayat polls, has seen the number of deaths in poll-related incidents since the announcement of elections mount to 36, with the ruling party suffering nearly 60 per cent of the deaths.

CULTURAL PRESENTATION



Artists perform during a cultural programme on the sidelines of G20 Culture Working Group Meeting, in Hampi, Wednesday.

Focus shifts to rescue efforts as rains abate in parts of north India

New Delhi, Jul 12 (PTD):

As the weather improved in parts of north India, which was pummeled by heavy rains for days, authorities on Wednesday worked on a war footing to rescue stranded tourists, restore vehicular traffic on arterial roads and prevent floodwaters from entering new areas. In Punjab and Haryana, at least 15 people have died in rain-related incidents, according to government data. As many as 2,000 tourists stranded in Himachal Pradesh's Kasol were evacuated and more than 300 tourist vehicles stuck in Lahaul following landslides and flash floods left for their respective destinations, the state government said. In Delhi, the Yamuna swelled to 207.55 metres on Wednesday, breaching its all-time high of 207.49 metres recorded

in 1978, according to government agencies.

Delhi has recorded a rapid increase in the Yamuna water level over the last three days. It shot up from 203.14 metres at 11 am on Sunday to 205.4 metres at 5 pm on Monday, breaching the danger mark of 205.33 metres 18 hours earlier than expected. The Delhi Police has imposed Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), preventing unlawful assembly of four or more people and public movement in groups, in flood-prone areas.

Water Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj told reporters that the Delhi government is prepared to deal with the situation. "We are monitoring the situation and all possible steps are being taken," he said.

Embankments are being constructed in low-lying

areas to prevent the entry of floodwaters into other parts of the capital in case the Yamuna water level rises further.

An Irrigation and Flood Control Department official explained the sharp rise in the water level was due to continuous rainfall in the upper catchment areas and saturated soil from heavy precipitation in Delhi and nearby regions over the weekend.

People living in low-lying areas have been shifted to safer places at higher altitudes, the department said, adding that 45 boats have been deployed for evacuation and rescue work. As the Yamuna reached an all-time high, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal urged the Centre to intervene, saying news of floods in the capital will not send a good message to the world.

IIT Jodhpur, ZSI to work together to study, identify fauna in Thar eco-region

New Delhi, Jul 12 (PTD)

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Jodhpur has partnered with the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) to work together towards collecting, studying and sharing data related to faunal (animal) specimens for science.

According to officials, the collaboration will support conducting of joint fieldwork expeditions, identifying fauna of the Thar eco-region and devel-

oping models for climate change based on ecosystem phenomics.

"This collaboration will lead to this growth of science in multidisciplinary sense across the country using AI and data science as well as various aspects of engineering and technology which is going on to enhance the efforts in terms of conservation of flora and fauna of the country," said Santanu Chaudhury, Director, IIT Jodhpur. "We will work to-

wards bringing in new technologies and innovations in the space of conservation biology and try to identify and build up this kind of repository not only in physical space but also in digital space as a huge implication and positive consequences for scientific development," he added. The Zoological Survey of India is the largest repository of fauna in the entire South and Southeast Asia region. With more than 1,00,000

species of animals known to occur in India, it has brought to the knowledge of scientific communities many new and endemic species. "The association will also help in undertaking specific joint research projects and capacity-building workshops in the areas of systematic zoology and conservation to ensure the greater long-term conservation of animal genetic resources in the Thar region," Chaudhary said.

'India home to second largest population of Muslims in world'

New Delhi, Jul 12 (PTD):

India, as a multi-cultural and multi-religious society, celebrates unity in diversity and its over 200 million Muslims make the country the second largest population of the community in the world, President Droupadi Murmu said on Wednesday.

Welcoming Muslim World League Secretary General Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, who had called at the president at Rashtrapati Bhavan here, Murmu said India appreciates the role and objectives of the Muslim World League in promot-



Droupadi Murmu

ing tolerant values, moderation of consciousness and inter-faith dialogue.

She stated that India, as a multi-cultural, multi-lingual, multi-ethnic and multi-religious society, celebrates unity in diversity, a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan said.

"Our more than 200 million Indian Muslim brothers and sisters make us the country with the second largest population of Muslims in the world," the president said.

Murmu said India attaches great importance to its relationship with Saudi Arabia. She said both the countries condemn terrorism in its all forms and are calling for "zero tolerance" against terrorism.

"The two leaders agreed that there is a need for a holistic approach to counter terrorism and violent extremism, and this is possible only by engaging with moderate schools of thoughts," the statement

said. The president also appreciated Al-Issa's stand against extremism, terrorism and violence.

She expressed confidence that his visit to India would provide more avenues for collaboration with the Muslim World League. The two countries have a longstanding history of amicable relations rooted in trade and people-to-people ties, the president said.

"Both our countries have valuable teachings to share with the world," she added. Al-Issa is on his first official visit to India. He met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday.

KANWAR YATRA



'Kanwariyas' or Lord Shiva devotees gather at Har ki Pauri to collect holy water of the Ganga river during 'Kanwar Yatra' in the holy month of 'Shravan', in Haridwar, Wednesday.

'Universe could be twice as old as currently estimated to be'

New Delhi, Jul 12 (PTD):

Our universe could be twice as old as current estimates, according to a model proposed by a new study from the University of Ottawa, Canada.

"Our newly-devised model stretches the galaxy formation time by a several billion years, making the universe 26.7 billion years old, and not 13.7 as previously estimated," said study author Rajendra Gupta, adjunct professor of physics in the Faculty of Science at the university.

The research team said that their model challenges the dominant cosmological models of calculating our universe's age, which largely involve measuring the time elapsed since the Big Bang and studying the oldest stars based on the redshift of light coming from distant galaxies.

NEW RESEARCH

Redshift refers to an observed elongating of wavelength of light from distant galaxies, generally interpreted as evidence of the universe expanding.

In 2021, the current or standard cosmological model, called the Lambda-CDM concordance model, estimated the age of our universe to be 13.797 billion years old. The Lambda-CDM model assumes that the universe was created in the "Big Bang" from pure energy, and is now composed of about 5 per cent ordinary matter, 27 per cent dark matter, and 68 per cent dark energy.

However, the discovery of evidence of 'early' galaxies in advanced stages of cosmological evolution by NASA's James Webb Space Telescope and the existence

of stars like the Methuselah, one of the oldest stars known, has puzzled many scientists.

These 'early' galaxies, whilst surprisingly small in size and said to exist a mere 300 million years or so after the Big Bang, have been observed to possess a level of maturity and mass typically associated with billions of years of cosmic evolution, which the researchers of this study say is insufficiently explained by the standard model.

Tired light theory, proposed by the Swiss astronomer Fritz Zwicky in 1929, is a class of hypothetical redshift mechanisms proposed as an alternative explanation for the observed redshift of

light from distant galaxies. Zwicky suggested that the redshift came from photons losing their energy by means of interacting with matter or other photons as they travel vast distances through a 'static' universe. However, his theory too was found to conflict with observations.

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