

### BRIEF



A packet containing narcotics suspected to have been airdropped by a drone after it was recovered by BSF personnel, in Tam Taran district, Punjab.

### Extend

**Guwahati:** The Assam government on Tuesday extended the term of an expert committee formed to examine the legislative competence of the state legislature to enact a law to end polygamy. In an official release, the state government said the term of the committee has been extended by a month with effect from July 13 to August 12.

### Rescued

**Vidisha:** A little girl who slipped into a borewell at a village in Madhya Pradesh's Vidisha district on Tuesday was rescued and rushed to a hospital in Sironj town, an official said. The girl, aged about two years, was being taken to the hospital to examine her condition, said sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) Harshal Choudhary.

### Resignation

**New Delhi:** National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) chairperson Vijay Sampla is believed to have resigned from his post as he is likely to be given organisational responsibility in the BJP in the upcoming elections, sources said on Tuesday.

### EC

**New Delhi:** The allotment of air time to political parties for campaigning on All India Radio and Doordarshan will now be done online to enhance efficiency, the Election Commission said on Tuesday. The poll body has amended the existing scheme for the use of government-owned electronic media by political parties.

**Weather**  
High 29 Low 25

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 19,749.25  
SENSEX 66,795.14

**BULLION**  
GOLD 59,849  
SILVER 76,256

### MORAL VICTORY FOR STATE

## SC halts ED action in 'liquor scam case' in Chh'garh

After state alleges harassment of officials  
New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTI):



The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to "stay their hand in all manner" in a money laundering case linked to the alleged Rs 2,000 crore liquor scam in Chhattisgarh. A bench of justices S K Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia passed the order while hearing the pleas, including the one filed by two Chhattisgarh-based persons, challenging the proceedings initiated against them by the anti-money laundering agency. "Apart from the order already passed of no coercive action, the concerned respondent authorities

(ED) must stay their hand in all manner," the bench said. While hearing the matter on May 16, the top court had told the ED not to create an "atmosphere of fear", after the Chhattisgarh government had alleged that the probe agency was "running amok" and was trying to implicate Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in a money laundering case linked to liquor scam in

### What SC says....

While hearing the matter on May 16, the top court had told the ED not to create an "atmosphere of fear", after the Chhattisgarh government had alleged that the probe agency was "running amok" and was trying to implicate Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in a money laundering case linked to liquor scam in the state. "Apart from the order already passed of no coercive action, the concerned respondent authorities (ED) must stay their hand in all manner," the bench said.

### State Govt stand...

The state alleged the investigation being carried out by the ED is wholly without jurisdiction and illegal in as much as there is no underlying predicate offence. The Chhattisgarh government alleged in the apex court that several state excise department officials have complained that the ED was threatening them and their family members with arrest. The state has filed an application seeking implementation in one of the petitions, claiming that 52 officers of the excise department have complained in writing alleging "mental and physical torture" by ED officers during the course of the investigation.

the state. During the hearing on Tuesday, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who appeared for the Chhattisgarh government, alleged that the officers of

the state were harassed by the probe agency and they were being told to give details of their properties, which were being attached.

### Govt calls all-party meeting

Ahead of monsoon session of Parl  
New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTI):

The government has convened an all-party meeting on Wednesday to deliberate on a host of issues related to Parliament's monsoon session, which will begin from July 20.

It's a customary get-together on the eve of a session's start as various parties put across their issues at the meeting attended by senior government ministers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also participated in many such meetings.

A similar all-party meeting called on Tuesday by Rajya Sabha Chairperson Jagdeep Dhankhar has been deferred due to non-availability of leaders of many parties. While opposition parties are holding a meeting in Bengaluru, the ruling National Democratic Alliance is meeting in the national capital.

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## Three workers killed in oxygen cylinder blast

At cement factory  
Balodabazar, Jul 18:

### About the incident

The incident took place at UltraTech Cement's plant in Hirmi area. Lakash Kumar Gayakwad (21), Shatruhan Lal Verma (27) and Umesh Kumar Verma (26), all contractual workers, were killed in the explosion. The exact cause of the explosion was yet to be ascertained and investigation was underway.

Three workers were killed when an oxygen cylinder exploded at a cement factory in Balodabazar district on Tuesday, police said. The incident took place at UltraTech Cement's plant in Hirmi area, a senior police official said. Lakash Kumar Gayakwad (21), Shatruhan Lal Verma (27) and Umesh Kumar Verma (26), all contractual workers, were killed in the explosion, he said.

The exact cause of the explosion was yet to be ascertained and investigation was underway, the official said.

### 38 NDA ALLIES MEET

## Time-tested alliance: PM

New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTI):



PM Modi being garlanded by NDA leaders before the meeting of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) ahead of the next year's Lok Sabha polls, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

Leaders of 38 parties joined a meeting of the BJP-led NDA here on Tuesday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserting that the bloc is a time-tested alliance that seeks to further national progress and fulfil regional aspirations.

Prime Minister Modi was welcomed by BJP president J P Nadda, Shiv Sena leader and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, former Tamil Nadu chief minister and AIADMK leader K Palaniswami and Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio.

The meeting coincides with the mega opposition conclave in Bengaluru and

is seen as a show of strength by the ruling party.

Prime Minister Modi said the coming together of NDA allies is a matter of "immense joy". He tweeted, "It is a matter of immense joy that our valued NDA partners from across India will be attending the meeting in Delhi today. Ours is a time-tested alliance which seeks to further national progress and fulfil regional aspirations."

Union minister Pralhad Joshi and BJP general secretary Vinod Tawde welcomed the leaders, from the BJP as well as allies, who arrived at the venue of the meeting.

This will be the first such meeting of the National Democratic Alliance during the second term of the Modi government.

## Oppn alliance to be called INDIA

Bengaluru, Jul 18 (PTI):



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren at a joint press conference after the opposition parties meeting, in Bengaluru, Tuesday.

### 'It is 'Modi vs INDIA' fight'

Addressing the joint press conference with other leaders, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said they have decided to prepare an action plan where they will talk about their ideology and programmes. "The fight is against the ideology of the BJP and their thinking, they are attacking the country, unemployment is rampant, and the country's wealth is being taken away from millions and handed over to a few of the friends of the BJP and the Prime Minister," Gandhi said.

### 11-member coordination committee to be set up

The Congress president said an 11-member coordination committee will be set up and its composition will be finalised in the next meeting in Mumbai. The dates for the Mumbai meeting will be announced soon. Kharge also said a secretariat will also be set up in Delhi for campaign management of the alliance and specific committees will be formed for separate issues. He said the dates for the Mumbai meeting will be announced soon.

are attacking the country, unemployment is rampant, and the country's wealth is being taken away from millions and handed over in the hands of a few," Gandhi said.

## Chhattisgarh Mahila Congress chief Phulodevi Netam resigns

Raipur, Jul 18:

Rajya Sabha MP Phulodevi Netam on Tuesday resigned as president of the Chhattisgarh Mahila Congress, saying she wants to make way for other women colleagues in the party to be considered for the organisational post in the poll-bound state. Netam has been holding the top state post in the Congress women's wing for the last seven years. The development comes nearly a week after Chhattisgarh Congress president Mohan Markam was replaced with Lok

Sabha MP Deepak Bajj in an organisational reshuffle ahead of the assembly elections due by the year-end.

Markam was later inducted into the Bhupesh Baghel cabinet. Netam posted the resignation letter on her Twitter handle and wrote she has discharged her duty as chief of the Pradesh Mahila Congress Committee with full dedication, and requested that the job be given to some other woman colleague. Netam, a prominent tribal leader from the Bastar region, was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2020 from Chhattisgarh.



### RUN FOR SAFETY



A woman and a child wade through the floodwaters, in Morigaon district, Tuesday.

## Court grants interim bail to Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh

In wrestlers' sexual harassment case  
New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTI):



A Delhi court Tuesday granted two-day interim bail to embattled Wrestling Federation of India chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in the sexual harassment case lodged by women wrestlers, noting that he was not arrested during the investigation and appeared before it "without any coercive process". Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Harjeet Singh Jaspal, who also granted interim bail

to Vinod Tomar, the suspended WFI assistant secretary, granted relief to both of them on a personal bond of Rs 25,000 each. The court passed the order after the public prosecutor representing Delhi police submitted even though the charge sheet has been filed without arrest he was still opposed to the bail applications.

### JOINT RESOLUTION

## 26 opposition parties demand caste census

Vow to fight 'crimes against minorities, women, Dalits, tribals'

Bengaluru, Jul 18 (PTI):

A group of 26 opposition parties on Tuesday demanded the implementation of the caste census while asserting that they have come together to defeat the "hatred and violence being manufactured against minorities" as well as "rising crimes against women, Dalits, tribals and Kashmiri Pandits".

The opposition alliance that will take on the ruling NDA in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections will be called Indian National

Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) and an 11-member committee will be set up for coordination, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge announced after a meeting of the parties here.

In their 'Samuhik Sankalp (joint resolution)' released after the meeting, the parties expressed their steadfast resolve to safeguard the idea of India as enshrined in the Constitution.

"The character of our republic is being severely assaulted in a systematic manner by the BJP. We are at a most crucial juncture in our nation's history. The foundational pillars of the Indian Constitution secular democracy, economic sovereignty, social justice

and federalism are being methodically and menacingly undermined," they alleged. The opposition parties also expressed "grave concern" over the "humanitarian tragedy" that has "destroyed" Manipur. The parties said they are determined to combat and confront the continuing assault on the Constitution and on constitutional rights of democratically elected state governments. "There is a deliberate attempt to weaken the federal structure of our polity. The role of governors and LGs (lieutenant governor) in non-BJP ruled states has exceeded all constitutional norms," the opposition parties said in the resolution.

### JOURNEY OF FAITH

## Priest walks over 700 kms to reach Amarnath cave shrine

Pulwama (J-K), Jul 18 (PTI):

A priest from Uttar Pradesh walked over 700 kilometres to pay obeisance at the holy cave shrine of Amarnath in the south Kashmir Himalayas.

Rahul Sharma, a resident of Badhoo village in Saharanpur district, said he will visit Kedarnath in Uttarakhand on his way back home.

He started his journey on May 30 and reached the cave shrine on July 11.

Sharma said he also paid obeisance at the revered Mata Vaishnodevi shrine in Jammu region before embarking on the arduous trek to the cave

shrine via the Pahalgam route of the yatra.

"I first went to Mata Vaishnodevi and from there to Amarnath cave shrine. I started the yatra from the Pahalgam side," Sharma, while walking and carrying the tricolour, told PTI here.

It takes two days to reach the cave shrine via the route in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Sharma, however, took the Baltal axis, in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, to come back from the cave shrine.

He has now set out to walk to the other Lord Shiva temple - Kedarnath - in Uttarakhand.

## Centre starts process to refund Rs 5,000 crore to investors

Of 4 Sahara Group cooperative societies  
New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTI):

The Centre on Tuesday started the process to refund Rs 5,000 crore of depositors whose funds are stuck in four cooperative societies of Sahara Group, a move that is likely to help crores of small investors awaiting return of their hard-earned savings.

On March 29, the government had said money will be returned to 10 crore investors of the four cooperative societies within 9 months. The announcement followed a Supreme Court order directing transfer of Rs 5,000 crore from Sahara-Sebi refund account to the



Sahara investors outside Atal Akshaya Urja Bhawan during the launch of 'CRCS- Sahara Refund Portal', in New Delhi, Tuesday.

Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS). Launching a 'CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal' to facilitate the refund, Cooperation Minister Amit Shah said: "The process of

returning the amount of Rs 5,000 crore to the investors is starting today in a transparent manner on a trial basis. This is beginning of refund of monies to the depositors (of Sahara Group)".



# Naxal Deputy Commander carrying Rs 3 lakh bounty surrenders in Kanker

● The armed naxal was involved in Madanwada ambush in which SP Vinod Choube and 28 other cops martyred

Bhilai, Jul 18:

A naxal cadre, carrying a reward of Rs 3 lakh on his head and wanted in several cases of attack on security forces including the Maoist ambush in Madanwada in which SP Vinod Choube and 28 others were martyred, surrendered before BSF at Kanker on Tuesday. The naxal who surrendered is identified as Sannu Madvi alias Shivaji (32) a resident of village Chhindpara, Bijapur. He was working as Deputy Commander of Section 'A' of Maoist Military Platoon - 05. He was active in this banned organisation since 2005.

Influenced with the policies of the state government, he surrendered in-



front of IG Indraj Singh (BSF) Frontier Headquarters, Special Operations, Chhattisgarh, DIG (BSF) Ajay Agrawal, DIG (BSF) Harender Pal Singh Sohi, BSF 135 Battalion Commandant Naval Singh and ASP Khoman Sinha. SP (Kanker) Divyang Patel immediately provided Rs 25000 monetary aid to the surrendered red rebel.

Sannu Madvi joined the banned Baal Sangham in the year 2005 and worked in Company Number 02 for three months. In the year 2006, he was promoted in the Maoist Organisation and he worked as Section Deputy Commander of Platoon Number 05 of Partapur Area Committee of North Bastar Division. He was armed with an Insas and

SLR rifle. In the year 2015, he was demoted in the organisation as he married a naxal girl Jeeto Jurri. Thereafter in 2016, he was again reinstated and sent to Gangaloor Area Committee where he worked as Janmilitia Commander of Mankeli. He was involved in the attack on CISF jawans at NMDC in Hiroli, Dantewada in the month

of February 2006. Eight jawans of CISF were killed and the naxal had looted 17 weapons from them. He was in the group of 300 naxals led by Sudhakar and Ramedar, who laid ambush at Madanwada Camp in July 2009. SP Vinod Choube and 28 other cops were martyred in this incident.

He was also involved in the encounter at Durgkondal in August 2010 in which 05 jawans of BSF laid down their lives in the line of duty. The naxal had looted arms and ammunition in this incident.

He was also involved in an IED explosion at village Gorna of Bijapur in which a DRG Jawan was injured in August 2019. In April 2023, while working as Janmilitia Commander, he led the naxals in blocking the road by cutting trees to protest the establishment of a new camp and road construction.

# Notorious thief nabbed with Rs 5 lakh booty



Bhilai, Jul 18:

With the arrest of a notorious thief, police claimed to have solved two cases of thefts which occurred in the limits of Mohan Nagar Police Station. Mobile phones, iPad and other items worth Rs 5 lakh were seized from him.

While addressing media persons on Tuesday, ASP (City) Sanjay Dhruv informed that on the instructions of SP Shalabh Sinha, a joint team of Mohan Nagar Police Station and ACCU launched investigation on the cases of thefts. The team maintained vigil on the suspects,

habitual criminals and criminals released from jail. The network of informers was also activated. CCTV footage of the places near the crime scenes was examined in which the cops found a suspicious person near two crime scenes. His photo was spread on social media and soon the cops identified him as Manish Yadav alias Sagar of New Deepak Nagar. He was taken into custody and during interrogation, he confessed to committing thefts at Arya Nagar and Deepak Nagar. Police recovered stolen mobile phones, iPads, camera and cash from

his possession. Police booked Manish Yadav alias Sagar (23) son of Dilip Yadav a resident of Ward No 24, New Deepak Nagar, Durg under section 457, 380 of IPC.

ASI Rajesh Pandey, Purna Bahadur Karki, Constable Shiv Tiwari, Kapil Yadav, Chandrashekhar Banjir, Constable Pradeep Singh, Jagjit Singh, Khurram Baksh, Tisheshwar Rathore, Chitrasen Sahu, Shobhit Sinha, Narendra Sahare and others from the Anti-Crime Cyber Unit and Mohan Nagar Police Station played a vital role in arresting the accused.

# BoB organises blood donation camp on 116th foundation day



Bhilai, Jul 18: Bank of Baroda is going to celebrate its 116th Foundation Day on July 20, 2023. On this occasion, various programs are being organized by the Durg Regional Office of Bank of Baroda. Bank of Baroda has always been contributing towards Corporate Social Responsibility and following this tradition, Regional Office, Durg organized a Blood Donation Camp on July 17, 2023 on the eve of 116th Foundation Day of the

Bank. A total of 51 units of blood were donated in the camp.

Under the Corporate Social Responsibility, officials of all the branches under the Durg region will visit schools, colleges, orphanages, old age homes and hospitals, etc to help the needy. They will also conduct tree plantation drives to keep the environment clean. Various cultural programs are also being organized by the staff members of the bank on this occasion.

# There are benefits of filing Tax Returns even if not liable: CA Minesh Jain

Bhilai, Jul 18:

The last date of filing Income Tax Return is July 31, and everyone should file the return within the stipulated time to avail about 10 main benefits even if one's income is not taxable. Also, if the return is not filed within the prescribed time frame it would invite a penalty and interest of upto Rs 5000, explained Minesh Jain, past Chairman, Bhilai CA Branch. Elaborating on the benefits, CA Minesh Jain asserted that filing your ITR can be beneficial when applying for various loans such as vehicle loans (2-wheelers or 4-wheelers) or home loans. Major banks often require a copy of your tax returns as proof of your income statement. This is a mandatory document for loan approval. Secondly, it helps in Quick Visa Processing. When applying for a visa, most embassies and consultants require copies of your tax returns from the past couple

of years. These documents are among the mandatory requirements. Therefore, it is advisable to file your ITR on time.

Third, by filing your return within the original due date, you can carry forward losses to subsequent years. These losses can be offset against the income of future years, thereby reducing your tax liability. Without filing an income tax return, this benefit would not be possible. Not to forget, timely filing helps in the Claim of Tax Refund. There may be instances where tax has been deducted (TDS) from your income, even if your total taxable income is below the basic exemption limit, or you have no tax liability for that year. In such cases, you must file an Income Tax Return to claim a refund of the TDS.

Having an Insurance cover is an important necessity now and for buying a term insurance the record of income is required. To approve term insurance plans, insur-



ance providers often require applicants to submit their Income Tax Return (ITR) records as proof of their annual income. The coverage amount is determined based on the individual's earnings, and presenting the ITR helps insurance providers assess a person's higher income level, therefore, Tax Return papers become important to get insurance cover easily. Another important benefit is that it

can be considered as a reliable proof of address. The Income Tax Return is valid as address verification. Even an Aadhaar Card can be obtained using it. Aadhar Cards, licenses, passports, and other documents like those are all required to have address proofs. Frequently, these documents do not accept common forms of identification like ID cards. Your Income Tax Return can be applied in such cases.

Minesh Jain further emphasised that the IT papers is considered an "Authentic Evidence of Your Earnings". Form 16 is typically given by employers to their employees as proof of income. The ITR Filing form serves as actual income verification for self-employed or independent contractors. It includes a thorough breakdown of a person's income and expenses for the entire fiscal year. Next most important advantage is when going for a scholarship. Various authorities view an ITR as a source of income documentation (both government and private). For instance, you can submit an ITR to claim specific institute and/or university scholarships. The ITR aids in establishing the prospective student's ability to prove their income, and insurance companies also accept them as acceptable documentation.

Most importantly, added the past Chairman of Bhilai CA branch, is that losses can be carried for-

ward. Elucidating further Minesh said that Section 70 and 71 of the Income-tax Act 1961 contains some provisions for carrying forward losses of a particular year to the subsequent year. This means that you can move your loss to the next assessment year. Citing few examples he explained that Losses from house property can be carried forward till the next 8 assessment years and can be set off from income from house property. Also, Loss from business can be carried forward and paid with the future income from the business. If you do not file an Income tax return, you cannot carry forward or set off your losses.

Last but not the least it comes in handy for accident or Other Claims. Many times Courts ask for proof of Income like in case of accident claims of Motor Insurance or cases like divorce, etc. ITR becomes valid proof of your income and can be proper evidence in a court of law.

# Training on Mushroom Farming organised for women



Bhilai, Jul 18: Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department, of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, in association with Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV), Raipur is organising a three-day long 'Mushroom Farming Training' from July 18 to July 20, 2023, at CSR Department premises, Sector-5. Under this training camp, as many as 40 women from Bhilai and adjoining areas will undergo Mushroom-farming Training for three days, aimed at livelihood-generation.

Dr Chandrashekhar Shukla, Professor (IGKV, Raipur), and Dr Harvinder Kumar Singh, Asst Professor (IGKV, Raipur) were the Chief Guests on this occasion. Gagan Goyal, DGM (F&A- BSP) was the Guest of Honour

at the Camp.

Addressing the gathering Chief Guest Prof Dr Chandrashekhar Shukla, said that Mushroom Cultivation, besides being a good livelihood alternative, consumption of mushroom is equally beneficial for our dietary health, as it contains all those proteins and nutrients which are available in meat. Dr Harvinder Kumar Singh, said that Mushroom Cultivation is an extremely viable livelihood initiative for women.

In his welcome address Shivrajan, GM (CSR) said that the Mushroom Cultivation Training will add to the livelihood of women and shall certainly lead to women empowerment.

Under the three-day training camp agriculture trainers from IGKV,

Raipur will train the women trainees for cultivation of Mushroom varieties of Oyster, Paddy Stray and Milky Mushrooms. A farming shed of 50 feet x 15 feet has also been constructed for mushroom cultivation. After completion of the training the women trainees will be able to cultivate mushrooms free of cost for the coming three months.

The programme was compered by Rajni Rajak, CSR Assistant, while Sushil Kamde, Sr Mgr (CSR) proposed the Vote of Thanks. Vivek Mishra, Asst Mgr, played a significant role in organising the programme successfully along with, Sita Sinha, Vijaylakshmi, Budhelal, Ashutosh and other personnel from BSP's CSR Department.

# Free Medical Camps organised at villages Daniya & Dhaba

Bhilai, Jul 18:

SAIL- Bhilai Steel Plant, conducts several public welfare activities as part of its organizational social responsibility towards the community in and around its areas of operations. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department of the Plant organized one-day free Health Camps, at villages Dhaba and Daniya on July 15 and July 17, 2023, respectively.

A total of 33 villagers from village Dhaba, including 22 men, 07 women and 04 Children, availed

tion, and Shambhu for registration, volunteered their services for the camps.

Sita Sinha from the CSR department was present during the Health Camp at village Dhaba, while Anjani Kumar Dwivedi, CSR Assistant was present at the Daniya village Health Camp.

It is noteworthy that Health Camp is one of the prime initiatives, through which BSP's CSR Department has contributed substantially towards Public Health & Medicine. The CSR Department of Bhilai



free health services at the day long Health Camp, whereas 33 villagers, including 07 men, 22 women and 04 Children got their medical examination done at the Health Camp at village Daniya on July 17, 2023. Free medicines were also distributed to villagers attending the camps at both villages.

The Medical Team from CSR department, comprising, Dr Isha Kujur, Pharmacist, AS Gaur, Rekha Dev for Blood-Sugar and BP examina-



Steel Plant, conducts health camps on a regular basis in the adjoining areas or mines, with the aim of ensuring adequate Medical & Health facilities to the communities within which it works.

# GBM of BSP EX-OA held, completes 10 years of its creation



Bhilai, Jul 18:

The 53rd General Body Meeting of BSP Ex-Officers' Association was held on July 18, 2023 at Pragati Bhavan (OA Bldg.), presided over by Saroj Ranjan Das, President of BSP Ex-OA. Narendra Banchhor, President BSP OA & Chairman SEFI, Parvinder Singh, General Secretary OA and Ankur Mishra, Treasurer OA graced the meeting & spoke on EPS 95 Pension and the other important issues. Ex-OA office bearers' Dilip Verma, RB Gupta, JB Patil, and many senior retired officers Naresh Vishwakarma, YP Aggarwal, R Kale, SK Tiwari, Pravin Gupta, AB Arnold, SE Ahmed & others attended the meeting.

Ex-OA President SR Das spoke about completion of 10 years of formation of Ex-OA on August 11, 2023 & briefly outlined Ex-OA's decade long journey after its inception on August 11, 2013 with the full support of the then President & General Secretary of OA.



He also gave feedback on the EPS 95 Pension, Mediclaim: 23-24 and other important issues such as revised gratuity, 11 months' perks arrears etc.

Dr Pritam Agrawal, eminent Knee & Joint Replacement Surgeon of Shree Narayana Hospital, Raipur made a detailed presentation on Robotic Knee Replacement Surgery first introduced by them in Chhattisgarh, its benefits over traditional surgery and clarified the doubts of members. Yuvraj Khemka, Head of Administration spoke about the facilities available in the hospital. Shrikant Upadhyay, Head of Administration of

Hitek Hospital, Bhilai spoke on the various facilities and advanced procedures adopted by Hitek Hospital.

Mohd Hussain, in-charge of Bhilai Unit of TPA MD India spoke on the important provisions of SAIL Mediclaim Scheme: 2023-24 and answered members' queries.

OA President & SEFI Chairman Banchhor, General Secretary Parvinder Singh and Treasurer Ankur Mishra spoke on the most important issues of EPS 95 pension, SAIL Mediclaim Scheme, 11 months' perks arrears, ongoing process of BSP house lease registration process etc.



## IT raids four groups dealing in power, steel and coal sector

Two raids in Bilaspur and two in Raipur

Raid in Raipur against Vandana Global and Ishwar TMT and in Bilaspur against Satya Power and Jharkharia Group



Satya Power



ed. IT later raided the residence, offices of Sushil Jharkharia in Jagmal Chowk and is working as Railway Contractor in Bilaspur. At both these places the raids continued till the evening hours and IT has seized many documents including stock de-

Vandana Global and Ishwar TMT Group in Raipur.

As per reports in this regard, a 100 strong IT team in more than 20 vehicles first raided residence, offices and factories of Satya Power in Bilaspur region during wee hours in the morning.

The team started the investigation before they could take any action. The owner of Satya Power are Ramawater Agrawal,



Vandana Global

Pawan Agrawal and Shrikant and at Power Factory at Bharari near Ratanpur jointly.

The House of owners is located in Hansa Vihar. The groups deals in Power production, road construction and coal beneficiation work. IT has raided this group two years back as well and it is on charges of having more than disproportionate income that this IT raid has been conduct-

tails and cross-checking it with books of accounts.

The IT raid in Raipur was conducted at the residence and office of Vandana Global Group. The team raided the Group's plant at Siltara and house in Civil Lines and office at MG Road. The raid at Ishwar TMT Group was conducted at its Urla factory and the Directors of the Group are Dhamendra Patel, Piyush Patel, Bharat Kumar Patel.

## President Murmu Confers 'Bhoomi Samman' Award on Ch'garh

For effective land administration

Surguja and Bemetara districts receive Bhoomi Samman Platinum Certificates

CM Bhupesh Baghel lauds Ch'garh's remarkable achievement



Surguja and Bemetara district administrations for their outstanding efforts. Highlighting the impact of the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), the Chief Minister stated that significant progress has been made in the state under this programme, resulting in improved accessibility of land-related information for the general public.

Notably, the state has completed 95 per cent of the tasks related to land management under the DILRMP. Surguja and Bemetara districts have achieved 100 per cent completion in four components related to land management, including the digitization of land records,

effective coordination with registration offices, and the establishment of model record rooms. These districts have emerged as leading examples of efficient land management in the country.

Neelam Namdev Ekka, Secretary of the Revenue Department, Kiran Kaushal, Inspector General of Registration and Superintendent of Stamp, and Ramesh Sharma, Director of Land Records, received the award on behalf of Chhattisgarh from the President Smt. Murmu. The President personally presented the platinum certificates to Bemetara Collector P.S. Alma and Surguja Collector Kundan Kumar.

## CHOICE IDs of 10 CSC centers and CHOICE centers deactivated

Raipur, Jul 18: Taking action on various complaints coming in relation to 10 CSC centers and CHOICE Centers of the city the district administration deactivated CHOICE IDs (related to income, caste, residence) of the said centers. All those CSC centers and CHOICE Centers have been instructed to remove the boards.

The list of centres against whom the action has been taken include Nilima CHOICE Center Opposite Crystal Arcade Shankar Nagar, Dhruv CHOICE Center Opposite Crystal Arcade Shankar Nagar, Rishabh Computer Bajaj Chowk New Changorabhata, Srishti CHOICE Center Sundar Nagar, Devangan CHOICE Center Bazar Chowk New Changorabhata, Shankar Photo Studio Crystal Arcade Shankar Nagar, Patel Computer Dangania Chowk, Deepak Singh Thakur Vivekananda Ashram and Bharat Yadav Mangal Bazar Raipur.

## Men stage nude protest demanding action against govt employees

Who used fake caste certificates

Raipur, Jul 18: A group of men staged a nude protest in capital Raipur on Tuesday demanding action against people who got government jobs using fake caste certificates, officials said.

The police took more than a dozen nude protesters into custody when they were marching towards the state legislative assembly, they said. The four-day monsoon session of the state assembly began on Tuesday. The youths belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes communities stripped naked and marched towards the assembly carrying placards with messages demanding action against government employees who used fake caste certificates to get jobs. The protesters were taken into custody near Ama Seoni turn under Pandri police station area for staging

a demonstration in an obscene manner, Raipur senior superintendent of police Prashant Agrawal told PTI. Talking to reporters, one of the protesters said the state government's enquiry committee conducted a probe into fake caste certificate cases and found that 267 government employees had used forged SC/ST certificates, but no action has been taken against them so far.

"Earlier, we went on a hunger strike seeking action against them, but our demand remained unheard. Hence, we are now staging a naked protest. We demand that the fake caste certificate holders be arrested and the authorities seize property they have acquired," he said, warning of more fierce demonstrations if the demands are not met.

The protest stunned passersby who shot videos of the naked men marching and shouting slogans on the road and shared it on social media.

## VR Bhasin, Bhanu Pratap Singh paid rich tributes

Raipur, Jul 18: On the first day of the monsoon session of Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Assembly Speaker Dr. Charandas Mahant along with the members of the House paid humble tribute to Late Shri Vidya Ratan Bhasin, MLA from Vaishali Nagar (Bhilai) constituency and Late Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh, former cabinet minister of the undivided Madhya Pradesh. While paying tribute to former MLA Mr. Vidya Ratan Bhasin, Chief Minister Baghel said that late Mr. Bhasin had a simple and easy-going personality, he always worked for the welfare of common people and for the protection of a public interest. He would actively raise the issues and grievances of the area in the assembly. Despite suffering from a serious illness, he was soft spoken and had an easy-going behavior. He would remain calm and centered even during the most diffi-

cult times. Paying tribute to Mr. Bhasin, Assembly Speaker Mr. Charandas Mahant said that Mr. Bhasin dedicated his life to public service, his departure is an irreparable loss for all of us.

Paying tribute to late Bhanu Pratap Singh, a member of Raigarh royal family and former cabinet minister, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that Late Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh was the younger brother of Late Raja Chakradhar Singh. Late Shri Bhanupratap Singh actively worked for the promotion of art and culture. His contribution in public interest and social sectors has been commendable. Being the chairman of Chakradhar Samaroh, he provided a platform to the artists from across the state and the country to display their artistic talents in Raigarh. Besides being actively involved in the field of politics, sports and arts, he continued to work diligently for issues related to public interest.

## CM Baghel condoles loss of three lives

In tragic road accident in Sodma Village Announces financial aid of Rs 4 lakh each for families of deceased

Raipur, Jul 18: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel expressed deep sorrow over the loss of three lives in a road accident that took place in Sodma village in Makdi Tehsil of Kondagaon. He extended his heartfelt condolences to the grieving families and announced financial assistance of Rs 4 lakhs each for the families of the deceased. The victims of the tragic accident are Anita Nag, Rameshwar Nag, and Sonamati Nag.

## DIGGING OF ROADS



The digging of roads during peak of rainy season continues by RMC authorities for laying of water pipelines in different localities.

## BJP drafts 109-point charge sheet against Congress Govt

To present no trust motion in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jul 18: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has finalised a 109 point charge sheet against the Congress government which would be presented in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly as no trust motion in the ongoing Monsoon Session.

Leader of Opposition in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Narayan Chandel while addressing a press conference informed that the above decision has been taken by the BJP Legislative Party. He said that the BJP would



corner the Treasury bench on the issue of alleged corruption, coal levy recovery, liquor scam, food grain scam, Public Service Commission (PSC) recruitment irregularities and other related issues during the no trust motion against the Congress government.

Talking to reporters, he said that the Congress has cheated the educated youth whereas the people

from weaker section of society have been looted through irregularities in food grain distribution through PDS across Chhattisgarh.

Chandel said that the BJP Legislative Party would urge Assembly Speaker to take up discussion on the no trust motion at the earliest during the ongoing Monsoon Session.


He also alleged that the

Atmanand School is functioning from the District Mineral Fund (DMF) under which several irregularities are being unearthed in the purchase of furniture for the students. He said that the Congress government is patronizing the corruption and commission in several schemes denying the people with the benefits.

Former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh, MLAs Brijmohan Agrawal, Ajay Chandrakar, Dharmal Kaushik, Punnul Mohile, Shivratna Sharma, Sourabh Singh, Dr Krishnamurthy Bandhi, Nankiram Kanwar, Damrudhar Pujari, Rajnish Singh and Ranjana Sahu were present during the meeting of MLAs here.

# स्वतंत्रता सेनानी

## छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य निर्माण के पुरोध



# डॉ. खूबचंद बघेल

(19 जुलाई 1900 - 22 फरवरी 1969)

“ डॉ. बघेल ने किसानों, आदिवासियों और मजदूरों के हितों की रक्षा के लिए आजीवन संघर्ष किया। हमारी सरकार उनके बताए मार्ग पर चल, हाथियों पर खड़े हर व्यक्ति के उत्थान के लिए कार्य कर रही है। जिस छत्तीसगढ़ी अस्मिता और स्वाभिमान को पहचान दिलाने के लिए उन्होंने जीवनभर कार्य किया, उस छत्तीसगढ़ियत को हमने सुदृढ़ किया है।

## जयंती पर शत-शत नमन ”

-भूपेश बघेल मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़



## Panchakarma assistant training course to start in Ayurveda College

**Five class-rooms to be made smart class-room, Rs 25 lakh sanctioned**

**Instructions given to start OPD of Homeopathy and Unani Medicine in both Ayurveda Colleges**



College, Raipur. In view of the demand for Panchakarma assistants in government and private Ayurveda hospitals and employment of youth, it was decided to start one year Panchakarma assistant training course in Ayurveda College, Raipur. In the meeting, Rs 53 lakh was approved for the purchase of maniken (modern model) for the training and practical study of the students of Ayurveda College Raipur and Bilaspur. Approval was granted for purchase of transformer and diesel generator sets for uninterrupted power supply in the college and hospital and for fire fighting arrangements. In order to inform the general public about the health facilities

and schemes run by the Ayush department and the college hospital, permission was also given in the meeting to rent LED boards at major intersections of Raipur. Deputy Chief Minister T.S. Singhdeo instructed to start OPD of Homeopathy and Unani medicine in these hospitals to make medical consultation and treatment accessible to the general public in Ayurveda College Hospital along with Homeopathy and Unani method. He asked the officers to take necessary action for the construction of postgraduate girls' hostel and seminar hall in Raipur Ayurveda College. Singhdeo also called for encouraging research on the synergistic effects of Ayurveda and Allopathy.

With this, patients will be able to get maximum benefit of both the methods. In the meeting of Autonomous General Assembly and Executive Committee of Government Ayurveda College Raipur and Bilaspur, Mayor of Raipur Mr. Aiyaz Dhebar, Additional Chief Secretary of Medical Education Department Mrs. Renu Pillai, Secretary Medical Education Department Mr. P. Dayanand, Director of AYUSH Department Ms. Namrata Gandhi, Commissioner of Raipur Division Dr. Sanjay Alang, Commissioner of Bilaspur Division Mr. Bhim Singh, Joint Director of Ayush Department Dr. Sunil Das, Principal of Government Ayurveda College, Raipur, Dr. G.R. Chaturvedi, Registrar Dr. Sanjay Shukla and Principal of Government Ayurveda College Bilaspur Dr. R.P. Gupta and members of both the committees including Gupta and departmental officers were present.

## E-tender issued by the Mineral Resources Department

**For allocation of gold and diamond mineral blocks**

**Documents can be purchased until August 18, and the last date for submission of bids is August 21**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Jul 18:** The Department of Mineral Resources has issued an e-tender for the allotment of three precious mineral blocks through auction in the state. In the preliminary survey done by the GSI (Geological Survey of India), the possibility of the presence of gold and diamond in these blocks was mentioned. For this, an NIT has been issued in the MSTC portal on July 6, 2023, for allotment through e-auction. The Joint Director of Mineral Administration, Anurag Diwan, said that the demand for precious minerals has increased

rapidly around the world. Keeping this fact in mind, prompt action is being taken by the department to ensure its supply in the context of the development of these minerals. The State has decided to allot three precious mineral blocks through auction. Among these, Basna-2 Diamond Block under District Mahasamund, acreage 2500 hectares; Chanat-Jogidadar Gold and Associated Minerals Block under District Mahasamund, acreage 176 hectares; and Tumrisurgarda 2 Gold Block under District Kanker, acreage 240 hectares, have been retained for allotment. Detailed prospecting work in the area will be done by the winning bidder in the first instance. After this, after the mineral deposits are certified, the mining operation will commence after obtaining the mining lease. Diwan said that the last date for purchasing tender documents is Friday, August 18, 2023, and the last date for submitting bids is August 21, 2023, until 3 pm on Monday.

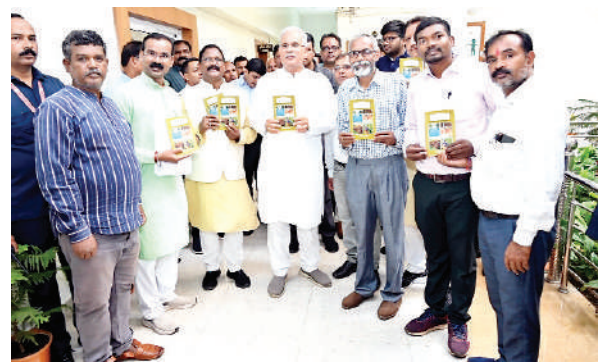
## CM invited to attend Shiv Mahapuran Katha



**Raipur, Jul 18:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday met the organizing committee of the Shiv Mahapuran recitation programme of storyteller Pandit Pradeep Mishra, at his office chamber located in the Vidhan Sabha premises. The committee cordially extended an invitation to the Chief Minister to participate in the upcoming Shiv Mahapuran Katha. They

apprised him that the Katha would be organized in Tilda Newra from August 1 to 7, 2023, by Pandit Pradeep Mishra. The Chief Minister expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the organizers for inviting him to the Shiv Mahapuran Katha. Ghanashyam Agrawal, Ankit Agrawal, Aditya Bansal, Devendra Agrawal, along with others were also present.

## CM Baghel releases a play titled 'Suraji Gaon'



**Play is based on the 'Narva, Garva, Ghuruva Bari' scheme**

**Raipur, Jul 18:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel released a Chhattisgarhi play, Suraji Gaon, written by Durga Prasad Parkar, at his office located in the Vidhan Sabha premises. Parkar's Chhattisgarhi play is a reflection of the state government's ambitious Narva, Garva, Ghuruva, and Bari scheme. Through his play, he emphasized the changes this scheme has brought to the lives of the villagers, along with the strengthening of the

rural economy. This play, 'Suraji Gaon' is his attempt to make the public aware of the welfare scheme of the state government so that they can avail its benefits. Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel congratulated and extended his best wishes to Durga Prasad Parkar for his new creation. Food and Culture Minister Amarjeet Bhagat, Parliamentary Secretary Kunwar Singh Nishad, Rajendra Nishad, Santosh Nishad, Danishwar Kumar, and Lokesh Chandrakar, along with others, were present on the occasion.

## Adivasi Congress welcomes Deepak Baij



**Raipur, Jul 18:** Led by Adivasi Congress District President Bhavani Singh Markam, members of Adivasi Congress and state president Janak Dhruv offered a rousing welcome to newly elected PCC Chief Deepak Baij at Bharat Mata Chowk. Baij

was loaded with flowers along with busting of crackers. He was presented bow and arrow. The prominent among those present were Chitraras Dhruv, Santosh Deewan, Bhuneshwar Dheeraj, Pappu Baghel and others.

## BJP Mahila Morcha celebrates Hareli Festival

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Jul 18:** Bharatiya Janata Party Mahila Morcha organised 'Hareli Mahotsav' on the auspicious occasion of Chhattisgarh's first 'Hareli Tihar' at the BJP state office located in Kushabhau Thackeray campus on Monday. BJP State President Arun Sao also participated in this program organized by Mahila Morcha. On this occasion Mr. Sao along with State President of BJP Mahila Morcha Shalini Rajput and Mahila Morcha members worshiped Nagar (plough), the symbol of farming, according to Chhattisgarhi tradition. Speaking on the occasion Mr. Sao said that Hareli is celebrated as the first festival of Chhattisgarh. It is a proud moment for all of us when we worship



the tools related to agriculture according to the Chhattisgarhi tradition. Various festivals are celebrated in Chhattisgarh according to the Chhattisgarhi tradition, in which Hareli is a major festival. During this BJP State President Mr. Sao also climbed Gedi. BJP State General Secretary Kedar Kashyap was also present. On the occasion of Hareli Mahotsav, games were also organized by the office bearers and workers

of BJP Mahila Morcha, in which competitions like fugdri were held along with Sua dance and the winners were awarded. Various types of delicious dishes were also prepared and brought by the office-bearers-workers of Mahila Morcha. State president of BJP Mahila Morcha, Shalini Rajput while congratulating the people of the state on the auspicious occasion of Hareli said that the holy festival of Hareli is the first festival

of Chhattisgarh. On this day, farmers - sons of Chhattisgarh Mahtari, worship the tools used in their farming according to Chhattisgarhi tradition, offer food to the tools with Chhattisgarhi cuisine Cheela, Bhajia, Sohari and perform works only after worshipping. State in-charge of BJP Minority Morcha Salim Raj, Treasurer Nandan Jain, Raipur City District BJP President Jayanti Bhai Patel, State in-charge of Mahila Morcha Sarla Kosaria, State General Secretary Vibha Awasthi, Leader of Opposition in Raipur Municipal Corporation Meenal Choubey, Mamta Sahu, Sheetal Nayak, Bhavna Shrestha, Sandhya Tiwari, Mini Pandey, Morcha's state media in-charge Kiran Baghel and Mahila Morcha workers were present in large numbers.

## GGCU at the forefront among higher education institutions in implementing NEP: Prof. Chakrawal

**Bilaspur, Jul 18:** The Vice-Chancellor Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal expressed his happiness that the University is at the forefront in implementing National Education Policy (NEP)-2020, showing the way to other institutions in India. He said that National Education Policy-2020 plays a pivotal role in bringing a coordination between school education and higher education with the National Curriculum Framework. Professor Chakrawal was addressing a press conference on the occasion of the third anniversary of implementation of National Educational Policy at International Guest House in Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya here on Saturday. He spoke about the elaborate steps taken in this regard such as creation of a



task force which created strategic plans and goals and worked upon each dimension of NEP2020. One of the important aspects was the implementation of Academic Bank of Credits for which more than 10k students of GGCU have been registered so far. Among other concrete steps taken are MoUs with more than 16 national and international universities, preparing of ordinance, regulation, and standard operating procedure for creating credit transfer mechanism, starting 65 courses under

Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) mode and 4 year graduation program from the session 2023-24. 2300 students are being trained under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Yojna and teachers have been trained in capacity enhancement workshops, too. These steps, with the facility of multiple entry-exits, focus on skill development and internship for holistic development and experiential learning of students, inclusion of Indian knowledge system, and having sports, NCC, NSS, and yoga in

curriculum, Professor Chakrawal stressed, will revolutionize the education system and open up many avenues for employment of our youth. Professor Chakrawal also told about three important steps taken by Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya in the spirit of the National Education Policy viz Guru Ghasidas University Shriwan Line Scheme (GSL) dedicated to the service of the elderly, 'Guru Ghasidas Swabhimani Thali' providing wholesome food to the students of the university for only Rs.10, and Swavalambi Chhattisgarhi Yojna to develop the skills of the students and assist them for entrepreneurship and in gaining employment. Earlier, at the start of the event, the Registrar, Professor Manish Shrivastava welcomed all. Thereafter, Professor P.K.

Bajpai, Convener, NEP-2020 Task Force, speaking about the objective behind the press conference, introduced the National Education Policy and told about its salient points. Prof Bajpayee said that it is noteworthy that a special committee has been constituted in order to implement the National Education Policy in Central Zone, and Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya is in the committee. Shri Dharendra Jha, Principal, Central School Bilaspur and Dr. Sanjay Ayede, Assistant Professor IASE Bilaspur were also present and shared their views. At the end of the press conference Professor M.N. Tripathi, Incharge, Media Cell presented the vote of thanks.

## Hareli festival celebrated enthusiastically

**With Roka-Cheka campaign Stop-Cheka campaign will run from July 6-31**

**Konta/Sukma, Jul 18:** Due to Chhattisgarh state being an agricultural state, the festivals here have special significance. The first festival in the order of these festivals is Hareli. The preparation of Hareli is a festival of culture and tradition and praying and wishing for a happy and good harvest. On the occasion of Hareli Tihar, Dr. S. Zaheeruddin Deputy Director Veterinary Services told that Collector Haris S. and District Panchayat CEO DN and under Kashyap's guidance, the Roka-Cheka campaign being carried out by the Livestock Development Department, District Sukma, in villages and villages of very sensitive and rural areas, is proving to be effective. With this practice



of the Government of Chhattisgarh, farmers will not only be able to complete their agricultural work quickly, but can also take advantage of double cropping. The Deputy Director of the Veterinary Department told that under the continuous Roka-Cheka campaign in the district from July 6 to 31, departmental employees organized veterinary health camps in Gauthan village and Gauthans, the works of animal health test, treatment, castration, artificial insemination, vaccination and medicine distribution are being done for animal breed improvement. Apart from this, more and more villagers are being benefited by giving information about departmental livelihood schemes to the villagers at the camp site.

Gauthan. The work of Roka-Cheka has become easier with the formation of Gauthan in every village. Gauthan Management Committees have started making proper arrangements for better management and maintenance of livestock. From time to time, by organizing veterinary camps in Gauthan villages and Gauthans, the works of animal health test, treatment, castration, artificial insemination, vaccination and medicine distribution are being done for animal breed improvement. Apart from this, more and more villagers are being benefited by giving information about departmental livelihood schemes to the villagers at the camp site.

## Hareli Tihar, Millets Carnival-Ch'garhi Olympics inaugurated

**Jagdalpur, Jul 18:** Hareli festival has special significance in the state. Hareli is the first festival of Chhattisgarh. In view of this, district level Hareli Tihar and Roka-Cheka programme was organized on Monday at Gauthan and RIPA located in village Turenar of Jagdalpur district. Chief guest of the programme, MLA Lakheshwar Baghel, President of Bastar Area Tribal Development Authority, Chitrakot MLA Rajman Benzram worshiped the agricultural machinery used in farming in Gauthan. To protect the health of the livestock, fed

medicated wheat flour. On this occasion, CREDA President Mithlesh Swarnakar, Mayor Safira Sahu, Vice President of Indravati Basin Development Authority Rajeev Sharma, Collector Vijay Dayaram K, CCF Mohd Shaheed, CEO District Panchayat Prakash Sarve also offered medicines to the animals. After this, all the guests planted saplings in the premises. Chairman of Bastar Area Tribal Development Authority Baghel extended best wishes to everyone for the first Tihar of the state on the occasion of Hareli



Tihar and Chhattisgarhi Olympics inauguration at the biggest RIPA Center of the state. He said that on the initiative of the Chief Minister to celebrate

Hareli Tihar as a festival, the importance of the culture and folk festivals of Chhattisgarh has increased. Along with this, by giving traditional sports

the form of Chhattisgarhi Olympics, sports activities have been increased. Vice Chairman of Indravati Basin Authority, Rajeev Sharma said that the Chhattisgarh government is making every possible effort to promote the state's traditional Teej festival, dialect, food and rural sports. While congratulating Hareli, Bastar Collector Vijay said that Hareli means greenery only. By the time Hareli festival comes, the work of farming of Kharif crops etc. is almost done. The government has given this festival the form of a festival for everyone's partici-

ation. Along with this, Roka-Cheka program is being done to keep the animals in cowsheds for the protection of Kharif crops and protection of livestock. The Chhattisgarhi Olympics, started last year on the initiative of the Chief Minister, gained immense popularity. In view of this, this time Chhattisgarhi Olympics 2023-24, which will start in sports activities of 16 disciplines, was inaugurated on the day of Hareli Tihar. This will continue till the last week of September. In this, a provision has also been made to give incentive amount.

Chhattisgarhi Olympics has also been started to involve more and more people in this festival of folk culture. For this, the district level program of Chhattisgarhi Olympics based on traditional sports was inaugurated by all the guests. Along with this, all the guests tried their best in gilli-danda and tug-of-war. He also visited the exhibition of Livestock Development Department, Agriculture Department and Mahima Swa group of food items based on Millets in the premises. In this programme, the District Administration

started the Millets Carnival to promote the food items made from the products of Millets. In the programme, agriculture equipment, agriculture equipment and ragi seeds were distributed to the farmers from the DMFT item to the Gauthan committee. During this, Sannirman Karmakar Mandal member Balram Maurya, public representative Janki Ram Sethia, Yashvardhan Rao, Women's Commission member Balu Baghel, Kanger Valley National Park Director Dhamshel Ganveer and other officials were present.







## Live Music outperforms recorded shows for infant engagement

A recent study conducted by the University of Toronto Scarborough has revealed that babies show greater engagement and synchronization of heart rates when watching live music performances compared to recorded versions of the same show. The findings suggest that infants experience the impact of attending live events, benefiting from the interactions between musicians and the audience, as well as the social experience of being in a crowd.

The study focused on baby opera, an online blend of animation and live-action performances specifically designed for children under the age of four. Laura Cirelli, assistant professor in the psychology department and co-author of the study published in the journal *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts*, emphasized the significance of shared experiences, highlighting that the babies' heart rates mirrored one another and fluctuated in response to the show.

Despite the various distractions present in a concert hall, the babies exhibited uninterrupted periods of attention, with moments of calm and excitement triggered by



changes in pitch or vocal riffs. Cirelli stressed the importance of socialization during early childhood development, as infants' brains establish the foundation for future skills and abilities.

Music, according to Cirelli, plays a significant role in fostering these essential bonds, as evidenced by the study's audience observations. Even in a community set-

ting, infants engaged with the music and connected with their fellow audience members. The research involved monitoring 120 babies aged six to 14 months as they watched a children's opera. Of these, 61 babies watched the performance in person, while 59 viewed a recording.

Heart monitors and tablets were used to record the infants' re-

sponses, focusing on their gaze towards the stage versus looking away. The results revealed that the live performance captured their attention for 72% of the 12-minute show, whereas the recording held their attention for 54% of the time. Moreover, the live show elicited more prolonged periods of sustained attention.

Cirelli concluded that

even very young babies, who may have limited exposure to music in a community context, demonstrate increased engagement when music is delivered live. These findings shed light on the captivating effect of live music experiences on infants and emphasize the potential benefits of incorporating live performances into early childhood development programs.

## Abandoned Bearded Dragon Rescued from Edinburgh Bin



In a distressing incident, a bearded dragon was discovered abandoned in a bin and subsequently rescued by authorities. The reptile was found by a staff member at a student accommodation facility in Hillside Crescent, Edinburgh.

The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) believes that the bearded dragon may have belonged to one of the international students who recently vacated the premises. Despite being discarded in a communal bin, the six-month-old lizard was found to be in good health, indicating

that it had been cared for until that point.

The animal welfare charity has taken custody of the bearded dragon and will ensure it receives the necessary care. Sarah Auldsmith, senior animal rescue officer, expressed gratitude that the reptile was unharmed and emphasized that there are better ways to handle situations where individuals can no longer care for their pets.

"We understand that people's circumstances can change, but abandoning an animal is never the appropriate solution," Auldsmith stated.

Abandoning animals in

such a manner not only puts their lives at risk but also raises concerns about their well-being and safety. The Scottish SPCA urges individuals to reach out to appropriate organizations or seek alternative options when they find themselves unable to care for their pets.

The rescued bearded dragon serves as a reminder of the importance of responsible pet ownership and the need for proper rehoming processes. The Scottish SPCA is committed to ensuring the well-being of animals and will continue to advocate for their protection and welfare.

## Underwater Concert Raises Awareness for Coral Reef Protection

Hundreds of divers and snorkelers gathered in the Florida Keys on Saturday for the Lower Keys Underwater Music Festival, an event dedicated to promoting coral reef conservation and eco-conscious diving practices. Taking place at Looe Key Reef in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, participants immersed themselves in the vibrant marine life and coral formations while enjoying an underwater concert.

Established in 1990, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary safeguards approximately 3,800 square miles of marine ecosystems, including the barrier reef that runs parallel to the 125-mile-long island chain. The festival aimed to raise awareness about the importance of preserving these delicate coral reefs, often referred to as the rainforests of the sea due to their exceptional biodiversity.

Divers and snorkelers swam amidst the colorful underwater landscape of Looe Key, listening to a carefully curated playlist of water-themed music broadcast by a local radio station. The melodies, such as the Beatles' "Yellow Submarine," Jimmy Buffett's "Fins," and the theme from "The Little Mermaid," were transmitted through waterproof speakers suspended beneath boats positioned above the reef. Intermingled with the musical performances were messages promoting diver awareness and offering tips on minimizing environmental impacts on coral reefs. The unique event not only aimed to educate participants but also provided a one-of-a-kind experience beneath the surface.



## Birds have learned to use 'anti-bird' spikes to build their nests

Birds are stealing the spikes designed to stop them nesting on buildings and using them to build their own nests - behaviour researchers describe as the "ultimate adaptation" to city life.

Birds are stealing anti-bird spikes put up by humans - and using them to build their nests.

Researchers from two Dutch natural history museums first came across the phenomenon in a hospital courtyard in Antwerp. Magpies had ripped about 50m of anti-

bird spikes from the hospital building and used them to build a huge nest of 1,500 spikes. Anti-bird spikes are often installed on buildings to discourage birds from nesting there. Biologist Auke-Florian Hiemstra of the Naturalis Biodiversity Centre said the magpies were using the pins in the same way humans do - "to keep other birds away from their nest". "It's like a joke, really," he said.

"Even for me as a nest researcher, these are the craziest bird nests I've ever seen." Magpies will



make a roof on their nest to protect their eggs and young, and will often use thorny branches.

But in the city, anti-bird spikes offer an urban alternative. The researchers described the behaviour as the "ultimate adaptation to life in

the city". The research published in *Deinsea*, the annual of the Natural History Museum in Rotterdam - describes similar magpie nests found in the Netherlands, Belgium and Scotland.

Crows have also been found making nests with

the spikes in the Netherlands. It's not the first example of unwholesome items being used for birds' nests. Other sharp materials, including barbed wire and knitting needles, are also used by magpies for the roof of their nests.

## Taiwanese Restaurant's 'Godzilla Ramen' with Crocodile Leg Shocks Internet

A local Taiwanese restaurant has taken social media by storm with a video showcasing their unique culinary creation, causing a sensation online. The eye-catching dish, appropriately named "Godzilla" ramen, features a surprising ingredient that has captured the attention of food enthusiasts worldwide. The restaurant, located in Douliu City, Yunlin County, has introduced a tantalizing bowl of ramen noodles topped with a crocodile leg, resulting in a concoction that is both thrilling and appetizing.

The establishment, known as Nu Wu Mao Kuei, has actively promoted their extraordinary dish through multiple videos on their Facebook page. According to reports from Taiwan News, the restaurant has even made the dish available for pre-order, alongside their regular ramen soup offerings for those seeking a less daring culinary experience. One video, shared by the restaurant, highlights a young female customer as she embarks on an extraordinary gastronomic journey. The footage begins with a generously portioned bowl of soup placed before her. She cautiously starts by sampling the various ingredients before mustering the courage to taste the star of the show—the "Godzilla"

ramen featuring the crocodile leg. To the surprise of many, the brave diner describes the dish as surprisingly delicious. She distinguishes the steamed crocodile leg as bearing a resemblance to chicken, while the braised meat showcases a flavor reminiscent of pork feet. The extraordinary "Godzilla" ramen comprises not only the crocodile leg but also includes eggs, bamboo shoots, baby corn, and a masterful blend of over 40 different spices. The restaurant prices this extraordinary culinary experience at 1,500 New Taiwan dollars (approximately \$48) per bowl, as reported by the news outlet. The restaur-



ant's owner reportedly acquired inspiration for this daring creation during a visit to Thailand, where they discovered the art of preparing the spicy "witch soup." The captivating video has generated an immense buzz on social media, capti-

vatting the imaginations of adventurous foodies worldwide. With its audacious combination of flavors and the inclusion of an exotic ingredient, the "Godzilla" ramen has truly left a lasting impression on the culinary landscape.

## Groom Assaulted by Bride's Family in Bihar's Gaya for Concealing Baldness

In a shocking incident reminiscent of the film "Bala," a groom in Bihar's Bajaura village, Gaya district, was brutally attacked by the bride's family during the wedding festivities for allegedly hiding his baldness beneath a wig.

The entire ordeal was captured on video and quickly went viral on social media. The footage shows the groom being slapped and verbally abused by enraged family members while he pleads for mercy with folded hands. The bride's relatives grew suspicious of his wig and forcefully removed it, exposing his bald head, which further fueled their anger over the perceived deception.

Despite the groom's earnest pleas for forgiveness, the bride's family escalated the matter to the village authorities, bypassing



police involvement. Local reports suggest that the issue was addressed and resolved at the panchayat (village council) level. Adding to the controversy, it was later discovered that the groom was attempting a second marriage while still legally married to his first wife, further enraging the bride's family, according to Firstpost. This incident follows another recent wedding cancellation in Karnataka, where the bride

expressed her displeasure after the groom touched her neck during the garlanding ritual. As part of the wedding customs, the couple was expected to exchange garlands. However, when the groom attempted to place the garland around the bride's neck, she abruptly flung it away and stormed out of the wedding hall. The groom's family perceived this as a grave insult and subsequently called off the wedding.



## PM Modi likely to address annual high-level UNGA session in September

**United Nations, Jul 18 (PTT):**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to address the annual high-level session of the UN General Assembly in September, according to a provisional list of speakers issued by the UN here.

The high-level General Debate of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly will begin September 19, 2023, with Brazil as the traditional first speaker of the session, followed by the US.

As per the provisional list of speakers for the high-level general debate of the 78th session of the General Assembly, India's "Head of Government" (HG) will address the ses-



session in the afternoon of September 22.

The list is provisional and there is a possibility of changes in schedules and speakers over the next few weeks. The list will continue to be updated accordingly.

Considered the "busiest diplomatic season" of the year at the United Nations

Headquarters, the high-level session opens in September annually. This year the 78th session of the General Assembly will commence on September 5. During the high-level week, world leaders will convene for the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, the Climate Ambitions Summit and the General Debate, among other key events.

The 2023 SDG Summit will take place on September 18-19. "It will mark the beginning of a new phase of accelerated progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals with high-level political guidance on transformative and accelerated ac-

tions leading up to 2030."

Last month, in a historic commemoration, Modi led the yoga session at UN Headquarters on the 9th International Day of Yoga celebrated on June 21. Nine years after Prime Minister Modi had first proposed from the UN General Assembly podium to mark International Yoga Day as an annual commemoration, the Indian leader was at the UN Headquarters to lead the yoga session in a historic commemoration of the day.

From New York, Modi travelled to Washington DC for his first state visit hosted by US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden.

## UNSC MEETING ON UKRAIN



Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, left, listens as Russian Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations Dmitry Polyansky, right, speaks during a Security Council meeting on the situation in Ukraine at United Nations headquarter.

## Pakistan govt to dissolve Parliament on Aug 8

**Islamabad, Jul 18 (PTT):**

Pakistan's major ruling coalition partners have agreed to dissolve the National Assembly on August 8, a few days before the completion of its five-year term, to get extra time for general elections, according to a media report on Tuesday.

The five-year constitutional term of the incumbent National Assembly expires on August 12 at midnight four days after the date on which both parties have reportedly agreed to dissolve the legislature.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) the two major stakeholders in the federal government have agreed to dissolve the National Assembly on August 8, the Geo News reported.

August 9 and 10 also came under discussion, but it was decided to go for August 8 to avoid any hurdle in the early dissolution



of the lower house of Parliament, the report said, quoting sources.

According to the law, if the president doesn't approve the recommendation, the National Assembly stands dissolved after 48 hours giving the government enough time to achieve its target of premature dissolution.

According to the Constitution, a general election to the National Assembly or a provincial assembly should be held within a period of 60 days immediately following the day on which the term of the Assembly is due to expire unless the Assembly

has been dissolved sooner.

However, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is bound to hold the general polls within 90 days if the Assembly is dissolved before its constitutional term. The PML-N party-led Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) alliance thinks that dissolving the National Assembly would be beneficial for it. "Next month, our government will complete its tenure. We will leave before the completion of our tenure and an interim government will come," Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said at an event recently.

## Sri Lankan President Wickremesinghe to visit India from July 20-21

**Colombo, Jul 18 (PTT):**

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe will travel to India on an official visit from July 20-21 for talks with the country's top leadership to further advance and consolidate the long-standing bilateral relations between the two neighbours, the foreign ministry announced on Tuesday.

President Wickremesinghe will undertake an official visit to India on July 20-21 at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it said in a brief statement.

The visit takes place as both countries celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this year.

During the visit, President Wickremesinghe would meet President Droupadi Murmu and hold bilateral discussions with Prime Minister Modi and other Indian dignitaries on a range of issues of mutual interest, the ministry said.

"The visit will further advance and consolidate the long-standing bilateral relations between the two coun-



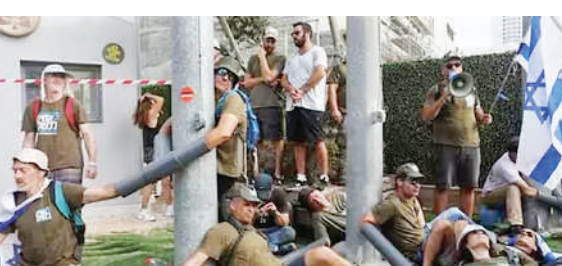
tries," it added.

This will be Wickremesinghe's first visit to India after being appointed President of the cash-strapped country last year following the ouster of Gotabaya Rajapaksa in a people's uprising in July.

In a statement in New Delhi, the External Affairs Ministry said that Sri Lanka is an important partner in India's Neighbourhood First Policy and Vision SAGAR.

"The visit will reinforce the longstanding friendship between the two countries and explore avenues for enhanced connectivity and mutually beneficial cooperation across sectors," the statement said. Wickremesinghe has laid emphasis on good relations with India and made it a major plank of his foreign policy.

## Israeli protesters block highways in a 'day of disruption'



### Against judicial overhaul plan

**Jerusalem, Jul 18 (AP):**

Israeli protesters blocked highways and gathered outside Tel Aviv's stock exchange and military headquarters on Tuesday in the latest countrywide demonstration against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's planned judicial overhaul.

The latest "day of disruption" came as long-time allies of the prime minister pushed a contentious piece of legislation through a parliamentary committee ahead of a vote expected next week. Additional

ereudms on his fitness to serve as prime minister while on trial for corruption.

The weekly mass protests led Netanyahu to suspend the overhaul in March but he decided to revive the plan last month after compromise talks with the political opposition collapsed.

protests are planned throughout the day. Demonstrators, many of them military reservists, created human chains and blocked one of the entrances to the Kirya, Israel's military headquarters in central Tel Aviv.

Netanyahu heads the most ultranationalist and religiously conservative government in Israel's 75-year history. He proposed a series of drastic changes to the country's judiciary shortly after taking office in December. His government took office in the aftermath of the country's fifth elections in under four years, all of them regarded as ref-

### SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

#### TENDER NOTICE FOR MISCELLANEOUS WORK

Tender Notice No. 08SNT-GSU-BSP-2023, Date: 11.07.2023

Name of Work:- Telecom works in connection with Station Development work under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme at Usalpur, Pendra Road, Anuppur, Shahdol, Umaria, Baikunthpur, Bijuri, Ambikapur Station in Bilaspur Division. Tender Value: ₹ 5,49,62,448.85/- (Rs. Five crore forty-nine lakh sixty-two thousand four hundred forty-eight and eighty-five paise only). EMD: ₹ 4,24,800.00 (Rs. Four lakh twenty-four thousand eight hundred only) Tender closing date: up to 15.00 Hrs. on 01.08.2023.

For further details/purchase of tender document, eligibility criteria & the complete details for 'E' tender document, please contact our website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>. The tender is floated by Gatishakti department of Bilaspur Division. Dy. Chief Signal & Tele. Engg./GSU CPR/10/148 S.E.C. Railway/Bilaspur South East Central Railway @seccrail

## India-Sri Lanka Joint Committee discusses resumption of ferry services

**Colombo, Jul 18 (PTT):**

A joint commission established to strengthen bilateral connectivity has held "productive discussions" on the resumption of ferry services between India and Sri Lanka to boost regional trade and tourism and promote stronger people-to-people ties.

The meeting took place ahead of Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe's planned visit to India later this week.

The two sides were led respectively by Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways of the Government of India and K.D.S. Ruwanchandra, Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation of the Government of Sri Lanka.

The Joint Committee identified a number of areas for mutual cooperation for the operationalisation of ferry services in the near future and desired to take further steps based on mutual understanding, the statement said.

The Joint Committee was recently reconstituted by the Governments of India and Sri Lanka as per the provisions of the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding on Passenger Transportation by Sea, signed in 2011.

The ferry services were suspended in the 80's. The two sides were to start a boat service in April which was later delayed as India changed the port it had chosen for the service.

Both sides agreed that the resumption of ferry services will boost regional trade and tourism and promote stronger people-to-people ties, it said.

The meeting took place ahead of Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe's planned visit to India later this week.

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## America's largest reptile sanctuary wants to import gharials from India

**Washington, Jul 18 (PTT):**

America's largest reptile bank based in Arizona has applied to the federal government to import six gharials and another equal number of mugger crocodiles from Tamil Nadu, which it says would help preserve these endangered species.

The Phoenix Herpetological Society has applied for permission from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, according to a federal notification issued on Monday under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The federal government has asked for public comments on this matter.

According to the federal notification, the Phoenix

Herpetological Society has requested a permit to import three male and three female captive-bred gharials ( Gaviialis gangeticus ) and three male and three female captive-bred mugger crocodile ( Crocodylus palustris kimbula and Crocodylus palustris palustris ) from Madras Crocodile Bank Trust in Tamil Nadu. This is for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species. "This notification is for a single import," it said, asking the general public to send in their comments by August 16.

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**संचालनालय**  
**आदिमजाति अनुसंधान एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थान**  
पुरखौती मुवतांग के समीप, सेक्टर-24, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर (छ.ग.)  
E-mail: trti.cg@nic.in, Website: www.cgtrti.gov.in, Phone: 0771-2960350, Fax: 0771-2960531  
क्र. 47 / टी.आर.आई. / युस्त. / बुलेटिन / 2023 / 740 नवा रायपुर, दिनांक 13 / 07 / 2023

**अर्द्धवार्षिक बुलेटिन (पत्रिका) आदि-गोठ में आलेख-शोधपत्र आमंत्रण की सूचना**

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि संचालक, आदिमजाति अनुसंधान एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, नवा रायपुर द्वारा अर्द्धवार्षिक बुलेटिन (पत्रिका) आदि-गोठ के द्वितीय अंक में प्रकाशन हेतु जनजातीय जीवनशैली पर आधारित शोध, आलेख एवं रचनाएं आमंत्रित है।

कृपया अपना मौखिक शोध, आलेख, रचनाएं आदि MS Word, Kruti Dev 010/ Times New Roman में टंकण किया हुआ साफत कॉपी संस्थान के ई-मेल [trti.cg@nic.in](mailto:trti.cg@nic.in) में भेज सकते हैं अथवा "बुलेटिन प्रकोष्ठ" आदिमजाति अनुसंधान एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, सेक्टर-24 नवा रायपुर अटल नगर छत्तीसगढ़ के पते पर हार्ड एवं साफत कॉपी की सी.डी. सहित विज्ञापित जारी होने के 15 दिवस की समयवधि में भेज सकते हैं। अधिक जानकारी हेतु श्रीमती रमा उड़के, सहायक संचालक मो.नं. 9301655487 एवं श्री ईश्वर साहू, अनुसंधान सहायक मो.नं. 9111158339 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

**संचालक**  
आदिमजाति अनुसंधान एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थान  
नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर (छ.ग.)  
G-03359/1

**कार्यालय आयुक्त, आदिम जाति तथा अनुसूचित जाति विकास**  
ब्लाक-डी, भू-तल, इन्द्रावती भवन,  
नवा रायपुर अटल नगर छत्तीसगढ़

Phone No. 0771-2263708, Fax No. -2262558, www.tribal.cg.gov.in, Email-ctd.cg@nic.in  
क्रमांक / 07 / पीएमटी-पीईटी / 2023-24 / 3909 नवा रायपुर, दिनांक 14 / 07 / 2023

**युवा कैरियर निर्माण योजना (यथा संशोधित 2021) के अंतर्गत वर्ष 2023-24 में प्र. इंजीनियरिंग एवं प्र. मेडिकल की प्रवेश परीक्षाओं की तैयारी हेतु प्रतिष्ठित कोचिंग संस्थाओं से "रूचि की अभिव्यक्ति" का तृतीय आमंत्रण**

आदिमजाति तथा अनुसूचित जाति विकास विभाग द्वारा राज्य के अनुसूचित जाति एवं अनुसूचित जनजाति वर्ग के 100 (अनुसूचित जनजाति-64, अनुसूचित जाति-36) प्रतिभावान विद्यार्थियों के लिए आदिम जाति एवं अनुसूचित जाति प्र. मेडिकल एवं प्र. इंजीनियरिंग परीक्षा पूर्व प्रशिक्षण योजना अंतर्गत क्षेत्र में कोचिंग प्रदान किये जाने हेतु कार्यरत निजी प्रतिष्ठित कोचिंग संस्थाओं से "रूचि की अभिव्यक्ति" के माध्यम से प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं।

- प्रस्ताव जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि - 07.08.2023, अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक
- निर्धारित तिथि तक प्राप्त प्रस्ताव को समिति के समक्ष खोला जाना - 11.08.2023, अपराह्न 3:00 बजे
- पात्र नाए गए संस्थाओं का समिति के समक्ष प्रस्तुतीकरण एवं समग्र मूल्यांकन - पृथक से सूचित किया जावेगा

विरतुव विवरण विभाग की वेबसाईट [www.tribal.cg.gov.in](http://www.tribal.cg.gov.in) से अवलोकन कर प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

(श्रीमती शम्मी आबिदी)  
आयुक्त  
आदिम जाति तथा अनुसूचित जाति विकास  
नवा रायपुर अटल नगर (छ.ग.)  
G-03368/1

**कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)**  
**ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना**

क्रं. 20/न.पा.नि./जोन क्रं. 05/2023-24 दिनांक 18/07/2023  
एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सखम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु दिनांक 11.08.2023 को सायं काल 5:30 बजे तक ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

निविदा क्रमांक/सिस्टम टेकर नं.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (₹. लाख में)	निविदा डाउनलोड/सबमिट करने की अंतिम तिथि
141663	वार्ड क्र. 36 सूर्यवंशी भवन से उर्वरि चौक में आर.सी.सी नाली एवं प्री कास्ट स्लेब निर्माण कार्य।	25.10	10/08/2023

उपरोक्त प्रदाय कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, चरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेबसाईट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।  
जोन आयुक्त, जोन क्र. 05  
नगर पालिक निगम, बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)  
Green City, Clean City, Dream City.

**NATIONAL EDUCATION SOCIETY FOR TRIBAL STUDENTS (NESTS)**  
(An autonomous organization under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India)  
Gate No. 3A, Jeevan Tara building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

**EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS STAFF SELECTION EXAM (ESSE) - 2023**

National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), an autonomous organization under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, is inviting online applications for the recruitment of the teaching and non-teaching staff for Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) across the country. Details regarding the online application, educational qualifications, teaching experience (wherever applicable) and other eligibility criteria for the ESSE-2023 are available in the Information Bulletin, which is accessible at "[www.emrs.tribal.gov.in](http://www.emrs.tribal.gov.in)". Interested and eligible candidates can apply online till 18.08.2023 (up to 23:50 Hrs. by submitting application form prescribed thereon). Details of vacancies are available in the Information Bulletin.

The candidates are advised to visit "[www.emrs.tribal.gov.in](http://www.emrs.tribal.gov.in)" for future updates.  
CBC 43107/12/0009/2324

**NMDC Limited**  
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)  
'Khanji Bhavan', 10-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500028  
CIN:L13100TG1958GQ1001674.

**CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT**  
Pre-Tender Meeting Notice Dated:19/07/2023

NMDC Limited, A "NAVARATNA" Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites experienced, reputed and competent domestic bidders to participate in the Pre-Tender Meeting on 25/07/2023 (11.00 Hrs.) for the work of "Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Fully Automated Sampling and Analysis Systems on Turnkey basis for Iron Ore mines at Kirandul, Bachel and Donimalai Complexes of NMDC Ltd." Venue of the Meeting: NMDC Ltd., Hyderabad

For obtaining the details Brief agenda of the meeting, Preliminary scope of work, Time schedule, project site etc. the bidders may visit NMDC website <http://www.nmdc.co.in>

Further, for any queries the bidders may also contact following officials directly or through email: Mr. S Sahoo, AGM (Mech.) - NMDC Ltd. (M: 9490479089) [contracts@nmdc.co.in](mailto:contracts@nmdc.co.in)  
Executive Director (Works)

**Public Works Department**  
Sector-19, North Block, Naya Raipur (C.G.)

**E-Procurement Tender Notice**  
E-mail : [tenders-pwd.cg@gov.in](mailto:tenders-pwd.cg@gov.in)

**NIT No. 222 /TC/EinC/PWD/2023-24** Dated 10.07.2023

The Engineer-in-Chief, Public Works Department on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh invites percentage rate bids on electronic tendering system under RCPLWE RRP-III in the district of Bijapur, Kanker, Kondagaon & Mohla-Manpur-A.Chowki for construction of 06 Bridges with estimated cost amounting Rs 2181.00 Lacs including their maintenance for five years from the contractors registered with unified registration system (e-registration) in Chhattisgarh. Non registered bidders may submit bid; however the successful bidder must get registered in appropriate class under "Unified Registration System (e-Registration)" of Chhattisgarh before signing the agreement.

The bid document shall be available to bidders online free of cost and should be submitted online e-procurement system of government of Chhattisgarh in <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>. Bids form will be available on the website from 11.07.2023 and may be submitted up to 17.00 Hrs. on 26.07.2023

For participating in bidding process, bidders are required to register in the above web-site with nominal fee of Rs 500/- to be paid online to service provider. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from authorized certifying authorities.

The bidders are required to submit (a) original bid security in approved form and (b) original affidavit duly verified and notarized as per clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) and 4.4 B (c) to Chief Engineer, Tender Cell, First Floor, Nirman Bhawan, PWD, North Block, Sector-19, Naya Raipur (C.G.) 492-002 as per provisions of bid document through Speed/ Registered post, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Detailed schedule of important dates may be seen on notice board of offices and also available on website of Public Works Department <http://pwd.cg.nic.in>

**Chief Engineer**  
(Central Tender Cell)  
Office of Engineer-In-Chief  
P.W.D. Nava Raipur Atal Nagar (C.G.)  
G-03374/1





## CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 48 No. 283

### Fortifying Economic Bonds

#### India-UAE Forge Path to Local Currency Trade

In a significant move aimed at revolutionizing international financial transactions, India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have taken a stride towards boosting trade by initiating settlement in their respective currencies and linking their fast payment systems. This development follows the integration of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with Singapore's PayNow a mere five months ago, reflecting India's commitment to expanding its global economic partnerships. The Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed between the two nations establish a framework to promote the use of the Indian rupee and the Emirati dirham for cross-border transactions while interconnecting their payment and messaging systems. Furthermore, the UPI will now be connected with the UAE's Instant Payment Platform, further streamlining financial operations. The Local Currency Settlement System, borne out of the agreement between the Reserve Bank of India and the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates, aligns with the objectives of India's Digital India program, which aims to enhance and expand digital transactions. The digitization of the economy has already proven its worth in terms of efficiency and transparency, with the number of digital transactions in the country soaring from 1.27 billion in 2013-14 to approximately 13 billion in 2022-23. It is encouraging to witness the world's fastest-growing major economy spreading its wings by forging alliances with countries such as Singapore and the UAE, which boast some of the highest per capita incomes globally. Singapore boasts an annual per capita income surpassing \$64,000, while the UAE follows closely behind with over \$41,000. The UAE holds a pivotal position for India, both geopolitically and economically. Bilateral trade relations received a substantial boost last year with the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). During the inaugural meeting of the CEPA's Joint Committee last month, the two nations set a target to more than double trade in non-petroleum products, aiming for \$100 billion by 2030. The digital impetus is anticipated to augment remittances and investments, creating a mutually beneficial environment for both New Delhi and Abu Dhabi. However, it is crucial for sustained efforts to be made to fully capitalize on the UPI's potential as a reliable payment mode, ensuring a seamless and efficient trade ecosystem. This forward-looking initiative holds immense promise for enhancing trade ties between India and the UAE. By leveraging local currencies and leveraging the advancements in digital payments, both nations stand to benefit from faster, more cost-effective, and transparent international transactions. This strategic move aligns with the broader vision of nurturing strong economic partnerships and expanding India's influence on the global stage. As India continues to cement its position as a major player in the global economy, collaborative efforts like these pave the way for prosperous trade relations, facilitating economic growth and stability for both nations involved.

### Rising Champions

#### Alcaraz and Vondrousova Defy Expectations

In an exhilarating weekend showdown, the world of tennis bore witness to the meteoric rise of two young stars who defied the odds and etched their names in history. Carlos Alcaraz, the 20-year-old sensation from Spain, emerged as the new men's champion at Wimbledon, triumphing over the legendary seven-time winner, Novak Djokovic, in a gripping five-set final on Centre Court. Alcaraz's nerve and tenacity proved to be the decisive factors as he showcased the skills required to defeat a titan of the game. Djokovic, at 36 years old, missed the opportunity to match Roger Federer's record at Wimbledon, but he lauded Alcaraz for his exceptional abilities, hailing him as a complete player, embodying the best qualities of the sport's revered 'Big Three': Djokovic, Federer, and Rafael Nadal. Equally remarkable was the achievement of Czech player Marketa Vondrousova, who secured the Wimbledon women's singles crown by defeating Tunisia's Ons Jabeur. Vondrousova's victory holds a special significance as she became the first unseeded player in the professional era to claim this coveted title. While Jabeur's aspirations of becoming the first African to win the championship were shattered, Vondrousova, at 24 years old, emerged triumphant despite undergoing wrist surgery just a year ago. Her success holds a bittersweet flavor, as it serves as a testament to her unwavering determination and resilience, disproving the doubts cast by her former sponsor, Nike, who underestimated her indomitable spirit and dropped her from their ranks. As Alcaraz and Vondrousova fearlessly faced formidable opponents and secured historic victories, their triumphs signify their enduring presence in the world of tennis. Alcaraz's emphatic display on the grass court showcased his adaptability beyond his favored clay surface, solidifying his reputation as a force to be reckoned with. Tennis enthusiasts can now eagerly anticipate enthralling battles between the emerging generation of tennis stars and seasoned veterans like Djokovic and Nadal, who have proven that the 30s can be just as thrilling and formidable as the 20s. The torch is being passed as the sport witnesses a seamless transition from the era of tennis greats to a new generation of extraordinary talent. Alcaraz and Vondrousova have proven that age is no barrier when it comes to achieving greatness on the court. Their triumphs serve as an inspiration to aspiring young players worldwide, encouraging them to dream big and persevere against all odds. With their passion, skill, and unwavering determination, these rising stars are destined to leave an indelible mark on the sport, captivating audiences with their electrifying performances for years to come. The stage is set for a thrilling new chapter in tennis history, where the old guard and the young guns will collide, igniting a fierce and enthralling rivalry. As the sport continues to evolve, it is in the clash of generations that tennis aficionados will witness the timeless beauty of the game unfold, paving the way for a legacy that transcends age and inspires generations to come. The future of tennis shines brightly, with Alcaraz, Vondrousova, and their peers ready to carve their own paths and create their own legends on the hallowed courts of tennis' grand stages.

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## SWOLLEN YAMUNA



Visitors look at the swollen Yamuna river as seen from the Taj Mahal, in Agra, Tuesday, July 18.

## After all, why do rivers become villains?

DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH



Rivers are an integral part of the roots of our civilization, so the floods caused by them are also a part of our country. If we say from the point of view of hydrology and meteorology, floods in India are directly related to the rains in the country during the monsoon season. The damage caused by floods is increasing continuously.

The main reason for this is that during the last few years, economic activities have increased a lot in the areas falling into the submergence area. And, human settlements are also settling. Due to this, the possibility of people coming into the submergence area of rivers becoming victims of floods is increasing year by year.

As a result, the natural flow area of the river starts appearing as a flood-prone area. In recent years, the pace of settlement of urban settlements has increased in the areas submerged by the water of rivers. For this reason, also, the scope of damage caused by a flood is increasing. Because with the increase in the geographical area and population of any city, the possibility of more and more people becoming victims of flood increases.

As soon as the settlements start settling in the flood-affected areas, the path of flood water gets

blocked. Due to this, the flood water cannot come out. Then dams are built around the settlements to protect them from flood water. Settlement of settlements in flood-affected areas and the formation of these dams also harm the ecosystem of river valleys and rivers.

In the first period, the man was a hunter, then started farming. After this, he started doing far away business and started usurping power in the name of business. This was followed by the Industrial Age and, last of all, the capitalist system that emerged after World War II. In each period, humans became more developed than before, and at the same time, the consumption of energy and natural resources increased. In each era, information also became more available than in the previous era. In every new period, the population also increased more than before.

Till now nature was more powerful than us, but the present era is the next stage of development, it can be called the human era because now man has full control over nature and human activities have become more powerful than nature. The challenge of evacuating people from every submergence area and resettling them elsewhere as per the guidelines is

huge. And from its very beginning obstacles start coming. Even today, land acquisition is a big challenge. And governments have often been accused of not being fair in giving compensation and that government schemes for rehabilitating people are inadequate. Therefore, the political benefits of maintaining the status quo are greater. Because in this every season work is done by giving relief and compensation to the flood victims. That is why other options are not considered by the states.

Because this has a bad effect on their political interests. Apart from this, it is also to be noted here that urban dense settlements cannot be completely displaced. And for this, it is also necessary to make arrangements for their safety by building dams around these settlements. But, at the same time, it can be sure that further development of the infrastructure of the cities will be stopped. So that more settlements do not settle in the flood-affected areas. Another important thing to note here is that the zoning of the submergence area will benefit a large section of the population and area. For example, if the submergence area in the state of Assam is restored and the natural course of the Brahmaputra river is revived, its benefits will extend to Bangladesh. Because then there will be enough time between rains and flood water reaching the low-lying areas of Bangladesh. Due to this, good water levels will also be maintained in the rivers for a long time.

Here we have to accept that rivers are an integral part of this land area. In such a situation, humans have to conduct their activities within the limits set by natural conditions. In ancient

times, the way human activities were conducted in harmony with the natural system. We have to think about adopting the same idea afresh. Only then we will be able to implement this important policy at the ground level, which has been gathering dust for years.

Overall, we have reached a very dangerous phase and human activities may become the cause of its destruction. In today's era, the problem is not only destroying natural resources, but we are changing things. Changed the atmosphere, changed the composition of the land, moved from simple crops to genetically modified crops, started creating new animals, and tampering with life at the level of genes. Now the era of artificial intelligence has come. Everything may change on the earth in the coming time, but no one knows what effect it will have on nature.

Contrary to these challenges, if we try to prepare the natural flow of the rivers, then there are many possibilities for flood control in this too. This will also reduce the damage caused by floods. Land prices are not high in the areas where floods often occur.

That's why, only people from the weakest sections of society settle in such risky areas. Those who spend their life in a very dangerous place. They do not even get the benefit of government schemes and services. If such people are resettled to other places, they will have an opportunity to free themselves from the vicious cycle of poverty. They will be able to avoid the devastation of the floods that come every year. This will also help in conserving their limited capital resources.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A New Era in Tennis Begins

The match on July 16, 2023, may be a watershed moment in tennis history. Carlos Alcaraz, a remarkable 20-year-old, emerged as the deserving winner against the legendary Novak Djokovic. Their 4-hour 43-minute spectacle captivated audiences and both players deserve accolades for their magnificent performance. Alcaraz's Wimbledon victory makes him the third-youngest men's singles champion, trailing only Boris Becker and Björn Borg. It is his second grand slam title, making him the first new male player since 2015 to achieve this feat. By ending Djokovic's four-year dominance at Wimbledon, Alcaraz denied him the chance to equal Roger Federer's record of eight titles. Alcaraz's exceptional skills made Djokovic appear ordinary at times, especially in the high-intensity second set. A pivotal moment came when Alcaraz broke Djokovic's serve in an exhausting 26-minute game, securing a decisive double break. This victory marks the beginning of a new era in tennis, with Alcaraz emerging as a formidable rival to the sport's greats. While Djokovic's pursuit of the Grand Slam this year is halted, the match signifies a thrilling all-court rivalry. Kudos to Alcaraz for challenging the GOAT and shaping the future of tennis.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

### Cultural Revival

I am writing to express my utmost delight at the inauguration of the Chhattisgarhia Olympics on the auspicious occasion of Hareli Tihar in Bijapur. This remarkable event, led by the visionary Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel, marks a significant step towards reviving our cherished traditional sports and preserving our rich cultural heritage. The Chhattisgarhia Olympics, with its diverse array of activities, including gilli danda, Gedi climbing, and more, not only brings joy and excitement to our communities but also serves as a poignant reminder of our roots and the importance of passing down these traditions to future generations. The Chhattisgarhia Olympics truly embodies the spirit of unity, cultural pride, and a harmonious connection with nature. It serves as a platform to celebrate our heritage and ensures that our customs remain alive for generations to come.

MK Nair, Raipur

## Caring of planted trees is more important than plantation



Rajender Kumar Sharma

As soon as the monsoon rains begin, the whole earth ablaze with greenery. The desert land also breathes a sigh of relief after toiling in the scorching heat. All this is the gift of nature and nature has its own cycle.

Human beings felled trees indiscriminately due to their unlimited desires, due to which the very existence of forests was in danger.

Indian botanist Jagdish Chandra Basu who first proved that trees and plants respire like us, they also feel pain and pleasure like us, they also feel hunger and

thirst. The glory of trees is also mentioned in Hindu religious texts and scriptures. Trees and plants like Banyan, Peepal, Tulsi etc. have been considered worshipable.

Peepal is called the king of trees. See a verse in its worship-  
मूलम् ब्रह्मा, त्वचा विष्णु,  
Root is God Brahma, Skin (bark) is God Vishnu

सखा शंकरमेव च ।  
Branches are God Shiva

पत्रे-पत्रेका सर्वदेवानाम्,  
Leaves are all God & Goddesses

वृक्षराज नमस्ते ।  
King of tree, I bow down to you.

The kind of ecological imbalance that is being seen today, the way the continuous increase in the temperature of the earth is being recorded, the natural cycles are becoming unbalanced, the reason for all this is the decreasing number of trees. Trees play an important role in maintaining balance on the earth.

With the onset of monsoon, the Van Mahotsav programs also start in full swing. There

is a competition between political parties, social organizations and the forest department to plant more and more plants. The number of plants to be planted is not limited to hundreds of thousands, but this number reaches millions and millions. I am surprised to see these figures that we lose our sweat in taking care of ten to twenty plants in the small garden of the house. In such a situation, who would be taking care of these lakhs and crores of new plants planted?

But the reality is far away from this. It is often seen that organizations and groups organize a program of planting saplings during Van Mahotsav, the chief guest is invited, five to ten saplings are symbolically planted, photographs are taken, a little speech etc. takes place to tell what trees do for us.

The organizers walk away, leaving the remaining saplings at the mercy of others who attended the event. Now, out of the remaining plants, how many were planted and how many died lying there due to lack of planting, no one has any account of this. The next day, this tree

plantation program becomes headlines in the newspapers.

This was the matter of the plants dying at the venue, now if we talk about how many plants were properly taken care of after the plants were planted? Perhaps its data will not be available to anyone. In our scriptures, trees have been considered like parents.

In such a situation, who is to be held responsible for the killing of the plants which die due to our carelessness? A plant needs the same care as a child. When the child grows up, then its dependence on the parents decreases. Similarly, when a plant grows up to become a tree, it also does not require that much care. Just care has to be taken that no one should cut it or harm it. But our biggest problem is that we are unable to understand the language of these speechless trees. We are not ready to accept them as alive.

Today the need is that even if you do not plant millions of plants, even if you plant only one plant, that plant should survive till it becomes a tree. Only then you get the real virtue of planting trees. Saving the planted trees is a bigger responsibility than

planting new trees. The responsibility of taking care of the new saplings planted during the Van Mahotsav should be entrusted to the organizers. Before planting saplings, it should be made mandatory for the organizers to take approval from the Forest Department on the basis of program details.

The forest department should also compulsorily take an affidavit from the organizers regarding the responsibility of taking care of the planted saplings so that no one can kill these dumb newborn plants. Last year, taking positive steps in this direction, the UP government has announced the formation of committees that will take care of the saplings planted at the local level.

Other states should also take such initiative. It is the responsibility of every citizen of the country to develop an attitude of planting trees as well as taking care of trees, only then the Van Mahotsav program will be successful and meaningful in true sense.

(Writer is Sr. Educationist & Columnist, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Views are personal)



**BRIEF**

**Debt vulnerabilities**



**Gandhinagar:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday met her Chinese counterpart Liu Kun and discussed various deliverables under G20 India Presidency, including strengthening Multilateral Development Banks and global debt vulnerabilities. Both ministers met on the sidelines of the ongoing 3rd G20 Finance Minister and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting and discussed the state of their economies, inflation, trade and recognised the importance of a good business environment for economic growth and development.

**Palette brand**

**New Delhi:** Hospitality technology platform OYO on Tuesday announced its foray into premium resorts and hotels category with the launch of its new brand - Palette with plans to have a total of 50 properties by second quarter of FY24. The company has started 10 Palette resorts as a pilot in Jaipur, Hyderabad, Digha, Mumbai, Chennai, Manesar and Bangalore. It will add 40 more Palette resorts to its portfolio by Q2 FY 2024, OYO said in a statement.

**CCI queries**



**Mumbai:** Vistara CEO Vinod Kannan said the airline will submit its response to the Competition Commission's queries on the proposed merger with Air India by the end of this month and expressed confidence of receiving all regulatory approvals by early next year. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has sought more details on the merger of Vistara with Air India, a deal that was announced in November last year. "There are certain questions that have been asked. We are going to give our response to the CCI by the end of this month. Then, the CCI will decide whether it needs to go to phase two or needs further clarification," Kannan said here.

**Coal stock**

**New Delhi:** The overall coal stock position in the country rose 34 per cent to 103 million tonnes (MT) on July 16, an official statement said on Tuesday. As on July 16, 2023, thermal power plant coal stock stands at 33.46 MT, which is 28 per cent higher compared to the corresponding period of last financial year; the coal ministry said in a statement. "Coal availability at all locations including pithead coal stock at mine end, stock in transit and TPPs is 103 MT as against 76.85 MT last year, which is 34 per cent higher year-on-year."

## G20 finance ministers discuss ways to improve tax transparency, anti-evasion measures

**Gandhinagar, Jul 18:**

G20 finance ministers on Tuesday discussed strategies to implement strategies for overhauling the global tax norms to ensure that multinational companies pay taxes wherever they operate. The two-day G20 finance ministers and central bank governors meeting being held under India's Presidency also discussed ways to help low and middle income countries reeling under huge debt burden. The meeting being chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman invited views on the way forward in international taxation with

regard to implementation of measures to check tax evasion. "Finance Ministers and Governors were also invited to discuss strategies for capacity building to support implementation of 'Two Pillar Solution' and enhancing global #taxtransparency under #G20India Presidency," the Finance Ministry tweeted. The proposed two-pillar solution consists of two components, including reallocation of multinational companies' additional share of profit to the market jurisdictions where they operate. The second component is about having a global minimum tax of 15 per cent for the

multinational companies. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in an outcome statement last week said that a few jurisdictions have expressed concerns "with some specific items" in the Multi Lateral Convention (MLC). "Efforts to resolve these issues are underway with a view to prepare the MLC for signature expeditiously," the OECD said. India has been calling for G20 countries to ensure that the developing nations are guarded against any "unintended consequences" of the proposed global minimum tax deal. Developing countries make up almost

one-third of the membership of the G20 inclusive framework for taxation. Further, delegates exchanged views on ways for advancing financial inclusion and productivity gains through innovative digital approaches, including digital technologies and digital public infrastructure, to achieve SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) in G20 countries and beyond. "G20 delegates were invited to discuss progress on the Financial Sector and provide guidance on #CryptoAssets ecosystem, including their regulation, supervision, and oversight," the ministry tweeted.

## India's maritime sector poised for growth: Sonowal

**Mumbai, Jul 18:**

The third edition of the Global Maritime India Summit will be held in October and will focus on various areas, including ports of the future, decarbonisation, coastal shipping and inland waterways transportation, Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal said on Tuesday. At the curtain raiser event for the three-day summit, Sonowal also said the country's maritime sector is poised for growth, owing to proactive government policies around, ports, shipping and inland waterways. The summit will be organised in association with industry body Ficci in the national capital from October 17 and around 50 countries are expected to participate. According to a release, the summit is



aimed at unlocking potential for new investment opportunities along with collaborations for knowledge and technology to enhance cooperation in trade and promote the ease of doing business. Sonowal, who is the Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, and his deputy Shripad Naik, among others, were present at the curtain raiser event on Tuesday. "The huge potential of India's marine sector can play a significant and pivotal role

in elevating the economic cycle towards an Aatmanirbhar Bharat by 2047, Sonowal said, adding that the government has identified investment opportunities worth Rs 10 lakh crore in the country's maritime sector. "With an identified investment opportunities of more than Rs 10 lakh crore in the maritime sector of the country, we are standing at a threshold of a major economic upswing which can generate employment opportunities for more than 15 lakhs youth of India," the minister said. He urged all the maritime stakeholders to be part of the investment opportunities. As per the release, the summit will also provide a platform for startups, researchers, incubators and innovators to showcase their technology and expertise.

## Developed economies under stress, there is demand slowdown: Goyal

**New Delhi, Jul 17:**

The developed economies are under stress, and there is a demand slowdown in the world market, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said amid a dip in the country's exports. India's exports contracted by 22 per cent, the steepest decline in the last three years, to USD 32.97 billion in June on account of global demand slowdown, especially in the Western markets like the US and Europe. "Over the last two years, we have had record exports. Unfortunately, the world seems to be moving towards a recession. Developed economies of Europe and America are under stress, very often



overstocked, seen softening of commodities and commodity pricing and demand. Similarly, discretionary spending is very lukewarm," he said at an event. The minister said that gems and jewellery, textiles, and leather goods, which are India's strength areas are currently under stress. "In this situation, it is incumbent on all of us to work as a team and make

the India story, the compulsive story of the world. The world today wants to deal with India," he added. The minister noted that India is opening its trade doors wider and "we want to have greater international trade". India wants to be a part of the international global supply and value chains, he said, adding India wants to open the doors of other markets for products where it has significant skills, capabilities and competitive edge. "Therefore, a focus on free trade agreements or comprehensive economic partnerships with developed economies has been a core of the commerce (ministry's) agenda that we have," he said.

## Adani invokes 'matrabhumi', again slams Hindenburg for malicious attempt to damage reputation

**New Delhi, Jul 18:**

Billionaire Gautam Adani on Tuesday invoked growth prospects of 'matrabhumi' India and the potential it offers for his business empire as he again slammed US short-seller Hindenburg for a 'malicious' attempt to damage the reputation of his conglomerate. At the annual shareholders meeting of his ports-to-energy conglomerate, Adani said the group's assets and operating cashflows have got stronger and healthier and it will continue to consolidate what it has built while looking at expanding its horizons. He used the same language as he had used in the annual reports of his group's listed firms last month, to hit back at Hindenburg



Research's "malicious" allegations and "false narratives" that "various vested interests tried to exploit". He has reiterated that his conglomerate remains confident in its governance and disclosure standards. Hindenburg on January 24 accused Adani of "brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud" as well as using a "labyrinthine network" of

shell companies for surreptitious money movements, allegations that the conglomerate has strongly denied, calling the report "a calculated attack on India". The report lopped off close to USD 150 billion in the market value of the group's listed companies at the lowest point and led to Adani losing the richest Indian tag. Adani, 62, said the US short-seller published the report on the eve of India's Republic Day. "The report was a combination of targeted misinformation and discredited allegations, the majority of them dating from 2004 to 2015. They were all settled by the appropriate authorities at that time." "This report was a deliberate and malicious attempt aimed at damaging our reputation

and generating profits through a short-term drive-down of our stock prices," he said. He went on to refer to the expert committee constituted by the Supreme Court to look into the matter. "The Expert Committee did not find any regulatory failure," he said adding the panel confirmed the quality of the group's disclosures and "found no instance of any breach." "While Sebi (capital market regulator) is still to submit its report (on a separate probe into the allegations against Adani Group) in the months ahead, we remain confident of our governance and disclosure standards," he added. Adani then turned to his belief in the future of "matrabhumi" (the motherland).

**FICCI-EY REPORT**



Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Chair of the FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians, along with other dignitaries launches FICCI-EY report on 'Road Safety in India', in New Delhi, Tuesday, July 18.

## More optimistic about India now than 'in a long time', says World Bank chief Ajay Banga

**Gandhinagar, Jul 18:**

World Bank president Ajay Banga said amid global challenges, he is more optimistic about India and its economy now than he has been "in a long time". Talking to the media on the sidelines of the third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting here, the first-ever Indian-American to head the top global financial institution said the world economy is in a difficult place. Banga (63) showered praises on India for its digital infrastructure, saying he is a "big fan" of such initiatives taken by the world's fifth largest economy. "I am more optimistic about India, as a whole, economically, than I



have been for a long time. The fact is that the world economy is in a difficult place. It has outperformed what everybody thought. But it does not mean that it won't be more challenging. The IMF forecast, the World Bank forecast are that the world will get a little challenging over the next year or so," he said at the Mahatma Mandir Convention Centre, where the G20 meeting is being held.

## India's gems & jewellery exports may fall 10-15 pc this fiscal: GJEPC

**New Delhi, Jul 18:**

India's gems and jewellery exports are likely to decline by 10 to 15 per cent in the current financial year on account of slowing demand in key markets like the US and China, GJEPC Chairman Vipul Shah has said. The gems and jewellery exports grew 2.48 per cent year-on-year to Rs 3,00,462.52 crore (over USD 36 billion) in FY23, according to the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC). Addressing the media, on the sidelines of an event here on Monday evening, the GJEPC Chairman informed that the Commerce Ministry has given a target of USD 42 billion for the gems and jewellery segment exports in 2023-24.

## Market indices hit fresh peaks; Sensex breaches 67,000-mark in intra-day trade

**Mumbai, Jul 18:**

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty continued their record-breaking rally for the fourth day on Tuesday, reaching new all-time high closing levels, amid fresh foreign fund inflows and a positive trend in the US and European markets. Robust buying in IT major Infosys also contributed to the domestic benchmark indices optimism. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 205.21 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at its new all-time closing high of 66,795.14. During the day, it jumped 417.09 points or 0.62 per cent to reach its record intra-day peak of 67,007.02. The benchmark breached the 67,000-mark for the first time ever in intra-day



trade. The NSE Nifty gained 37.80 points or 0.19 per cent to end at its all-time closing high of 19,749.25. During the day, the benchmark rallied 108 points or 0.54 per cent to hit its lifetime peak of 19,819.45. From the Sensex pack, Infosys jumped the most by 3.67 per cent. Asian Paints, HCL Technologies, Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank,

Wipro, NTPC, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv and Larsen & Toubro were among the other major gainers. State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, Titan, Tata Steel, Tata Motors and UltraTech Cement were among the laggards. "The bulls continued to lift the market to new heights, but volatility emerged in the second half due to concerns over valuation. Rapid fall in the dollar index and a slide in the US 10-year yield are supporting liquidity in emerging markets. While disappointing economic growth in China and improvement in the US market outlook are drawing attention to the Indian market," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

## Indian aviation market has huge potential waiting to be tapped: Top industry experts

**Colombo, Jul 18:**

India's aviation market has a "huge potential" waiting to be tapped, and a growing middle-class and a young population usually showing a greater propensity to travel will contribute to its growth, top experts of the industry have said. Besides, privatisation of airports has been a "big boost for aviation", and huge investment is happening in new airports and existing airports in India, said Nipun Aggarwal, Chief Commercial & Transformation Officer, Air India. Aggarwal of Air India, CEO of IndiGo, Pieter Elbers; CEO of SriLankan Airlines,

Richard Nuttall and Country Director for the International Air Transport Association (IATA) in India Amitabh Khosla, were among leaders of the aviation industry who took part in Indian Travel Congress 2023 hosted recently in Colombo, as part of the efforts to boost tourism in the cash-strapped island nation. The industry experts concurred that the growth in the aviation sector will in turn fuel the growth in the tourism sector; both of which were badly hit globally after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, but have shown resilience, and are recovering on the right trajectory. "In so far as aviation is con-

cerned, we are extremely bullish on the long-term prospects of the industry. Indian aviation is the third-largest and fastest-growing market in the world, growing at almost 10 per cent for the last decade, almost 2.5 times the global average," Aggarwal said. He was speaking in a panel discussion on 'India Tourism Vision 2047: A Transformed Landscape of Experiences and Connections', held as part of the 67th annual convention of the TAAI (Travel Agents Association of India) -- Indian Travel Congress -- in the Sri Lankan capital from July 6-9. "Aviation is very closely related to GDP (Gross

Domestic Product) and GDP per capita... We have a growing middle class, a rapidly urbanising population, and we have a very young population. We are a billion-plus population," he said. The top official of Air India underlined that India is the third largest aviation market, but "our market size is a fraction of the US or China market, so the potential out there is huge". He said air travel penetration in India is still "very, very low", with only "0.1 trips per capita compared to 0.5 trips per capita in China", adding, that the Indian government has taken multiple steps over the last decade or so, to facilitate aviation.



## MLA, public reps took a ride on 'Gedi', threw 'Bhoura'

On occasion of Hareli Tihar and Ch'garhia Olympics in Gram Navagaon of Pendra

Kotami, Jul 17:

On occasion of state's first 'tihar' i.e 'Hareli', MLA Marwahi Dr KK Dhruv along with other public representatives offered prayers to 'Gau Mata' and to agricultural equipments in the district-level programme held in Gram Navagaon. On this occasion MLA and others took part in 'Gedi' ride and played with 'Bhanwara' and inaugurated the Chhattisgarhia Olympics 2023 to promote local traditional sports in villages in an organised manner, so that there is atmosphere of sports right from state to village level. He expressed gratitude towards CM for organising this Chhattisgarhia Olympics



and he also distributed 'Ragi' seeds for modern agriculture farming to the farmers.

Member CG State ST Commission and special guest Archana Porte said that the state's true identity is from its traditional sports and to make it alive, she expressed gratitude to

wards CM Baghel. CG Yuwa Aayog member and special guest Uttam Vasudev recalling the local traditional games of his childhood period appealed people to take part in large number in the Ch'garhia Olympics and to revive the rich culture and traditional sports of Chhattisgarh

and for re-visiting their childhood. On this occasion all the public representatives took part in the 'Gedi daud' and to play with 'Bhoura' in their hand and on the ground.

In this programme, Janpad V-P JS Rathore, project director DRDA RK Khunte, SDM (R) Pendra Road Puspendra Sharma, District Sports Officer Seema David, BEO RN Chandra, Veterinary and Medical Officer, Janpad CEO Pendra Sanjay Sharma, SDO P Vadegaokar, Sarpanch Dharmendra Kanwar, noted citizens, Manoj Gupta, Naval Lahare, Ajit Singh Shyam, Jagdish Yadav, Rajiv Yuwa Mitran Club members and others were present.

## Wholesale market without shed is posing problems

To both the sellers and purchasers as well

Rajim, Jul 18:

The rains starting from Saturday afternoon continued till late in the night and again there was light drizzle since morning. The prices of vegetables soared up in the wholesale vegetable market and tomatoes were sold at Rs 2500 per crate. The wholesalers are selling tomatoes in sensitive manner, because if it is not sold in two days, it starts getting stale and then they have to bear the loss. Due to this they are even forced to sell it under a shade during rains as well, and putting a cover on top of it.

Meanwhile in the wholesale market here in city,



there is no shade available and the purchasers have to come and purchase it standing out in the drizzling weather. Those reaching here during rains were carrying umbrellas in their hand and were selecting vegetables using the other hand and in no times they were drenched almost to half.

It is notable here that Rajim is Vidhan Sabha headquarters and is still facing lots of shortcomings and people are made to adjust in that itself. As to how long this facility will be there, it cannot be said and with elections in the forefront and leaders are now busy in their promotion and campaigns,

but the face and condition of 'Pasara' market in city does not seem to get a facelift now.

As to when the people will get 'pucca' shade or an umbrella type top above their head is very difficult to say at this stage, as many of them have lost hope of any development on this issue.

## Gyatri Pariwar plants saplings on 'Hareli'



Rajim, Jul 17: The members of Gyatri Pariwar Rajim along with 'Taru Mitra' and 'Maa Bhagwati Mahila Mandal' (MBMM) on occasion of 'Hareli Tihar' planted saplings amidst light rains at Mini Stadium, near Shri Rajiv Lochan College here on Monday. They passed on the message that 'breathing is reducing, let's plant saplings'; 'plants gives us life'; and materials made out of wood are useful in

human life and every person should plant one sapling in his life'. During this the head of Gyatri Pariwar Ramkumar Sahu said that we cannot imagine life without trees and it is the trees which are keeping the environment well-balanced, as they give to us without asking for anything in return. Trees have lot of importance in life of humans and they are our true friends and therefore well all should

protect them and place tree-guard wherever it is required. On this occasion saplings of 'Gulmohar' and 'Bel' tree were planted and the responsibility of its safety and security was taken by Dhanesh Sahu.

In this plantation drive, Pawan Kumar Gupta, senior family member; Ramkumar Sahu head of Gyatri Pariwar, Rajim; Santram Dhruv- Trustee; Tarachand Sahu-Plantation in-charge; Santosh Sahu teacher; Shekhar Yadav-Parivrajak; Dhanesh Sahu -Taru Mitra member; Kunal Sahu; and from Mahila Mandal- Seeta Sahu, block co-ordinator; Gyatri Sahu unit head; Deepak Sahu- Trustee; Sarrita Sahu active worker; Durga Sahu teacher; Jinendra Dhruv-from Yuwa cell; Niharika Sahu folk singer and Renuka Sahu were present.

## Wing Commander Hirwani retires from IAF

Dhamdha, Jul 18:

Wing Commander Kishore Kumar Hirwani achieved superannuation last on July 12 from the Indian Air Force (IAF). He joined IAF as Flying Officer in 2009 in Bhuj-Gujarat and started his defence services. He was the only officer to have got selected in 2009 in the IAF and is S/o Tarun Kumar Hirwani working in the Agriculture Department.

It is notable here that KK Hirwani was born in Dhamdha city and completed his primary education here itself and then went to Shankaracharya College for Higher Education and was the most talented student of his batch and completed his higher education. It was after this he opted for Defense Services and got



the break in IAF as Flying Officer in 2009 and brought laurels to his family and city.

## Gauthans neglected without amenities

Kurud, Jul 18:

The Gauthan scheme run by the state government, which gives the slogan of Naruva, Garua, Ghurua and Bari, a symbol of Chhattisgarh, has started losing its existence by going through neglect. The Gauthan schemes run by the state government at the panchayat level for the upliftment of farmers and villagers, is in a defoliating condition as the inaction of the Sarpanch Secretary has ruined this campaign of the government. Because of which the condition of Gauthan has turned from bad to worse.

Villagers are accusing the Sarpanch Secretary of corruption in the scheme, and said that there is no arrangement for fodder and water for the cattle in Gauthan. Cattle are get-



ting sick after eating this, along with there is a huge lack of facilities, they said. Due to lack of ac-

tion, from the Panchayat's side this ambitious scheme of governance has now started dying.

## 140 children relying on one headmaster, one teacher!



Katgi, Jul 18:

The Charoda (B) School, located at the end of Katgi-Kasdol development block and in deep Vananchal area, is seeing no teachers for a student ratio of 140. The school which is situated in the middle of the dense forests has only two teachers are posted in the pre-secondary school, while the registered number of students is 140, who

are all from adjoining villages. Student Aanchal Pradhan and Renuka Thakur told that in Charoda school, there is great problem in studying as both the teachers handle both class room teaching and official work.

Sarpanch representative Bhupendra Barik says that the administration has been continuously demanding teachers, yet no one is taking care, there

are 140 students depending on two teachers, there is an urgent need for two more teachers. Being a forest area, no teacher wants to come here, a few days ago one or two new teachers had come, but they did not take charge here and got the amendments done at another place, I demand from the government to arrange two more teachers at the earliest, he demanded.

## One should plant a sapling on one's B'day: Sen

Rajim, Jul 18:

Mukul Sen, S/o Sarpanch Gram Panchayat Baronda - Danendra Sen on occasion of his birthday, planted a sapling and gave the message of saving the environment. It is notable here that every year Mukul Sen plant saplings in and around his house and in the surroundings and trying to reduce pollution and also trying to create awareness about planting of saplings with one's own initiative.

Mukul Sen says that if the youth come up at their own level for planting of saplings, then only the environment can be saved.

It is responsibility of every person that he or she plants one sapling in his life. On this occasion,



Sarpanch Danendra Sen said that every person should take a pledge to plant a sapling on his birthday and should protect and take its care till it grows into a big tree, so that there is no shortage

of trees anywhere in the state and it will look green and healthier. On this occasion Suresh Sen, Raj Sen, Suyash Sen, Lucky Sen, Yash Sen, Samir Sen, Vedit Sen and others were present.

## Residents submit memorandum regarding illegal encroachments



Dongargarh, Jul 18:

Ward Residents of Thetwar Para, Ward No 23 have submitted a memorandum to the Sub-Divisional Officer Revenue and Chief Municipal Officer regarding the removal of illegal encroachments in the ward. According to the information received from the residents of the ward, encroachment was being done many times in the ward even before this, but due to prompt action by the municipality, the encroachers could be brought under control. The residents of the ward

have mentioned in their memorandum that in Ward No. 23 Thetwar Para, Khedu Yadav, in place of Nazul, next to the public well, illegal encroachment is being done in and the encroachment is causing obstruction in the way to and fro. Ward residents Durga Prasad, Ghanshyam, Maniram, Major, Kamal, Ajay, Prajwal, Lavi, Govind, Tarun, Bismar, Arvind, Vasudev, Ajay Devraj and other ward residents have submitted the memorandum. Notice has been sent to the encroachers- Pramod Shukla, CMO.

## Devotees throng 'Kuleshwarnath Mahadev Temple'

On occasion of second 'sawan somwar' of the season

Rajim, Jul 18:

The rush on occasion of 'sawan somwar' and 'Hareli' was so much at famous Kuleshwarnath Mahadev Mandir premises and at the confluence of three rivers that the 'Pujaris' had to come out of the temple to handle the crowd. To ensure that all devotees can pay respect and obeisance, they asked all the devotees to form separate queue of male and female devotees and this long queue was there till 8:30 pm when the doors of the temple closes.

et and 'lota' full of water for 'Rudrabhishekh' and were raising slogans 'Har Har Mahadev'. The resonating sound of 'bells' in 'Mahamandap' continue throughout the day and the amount of rush and crowd in the second 'sawan somwar' was worth witnessing.

Devotees visiting the temple were not sure about such a large crowd to be present in the temple. As such the devotees of Lord Shiva are of simple nature and extend help to each other and pay oblations to Lord Shiva. Devotees from far-flung area visited the temple, despite bad weather conditions and here devotees from Bhilai, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Raipur, Dhamtari, Korba, Saraiपाली, Gariyaband, Deobhog and other places



visited and this included 'Kanwaris' and devotees as well. The devotees poured water on 'tambe ka jalpatra' for 'Rudrabhishekh' of Mahadev.

It is notable here that devotees do not reach upto the 'Grabh Grih' of the temple, but an arrangement has been made by the tem-



ple authority to provide 'darshan' to them from 'Mahamandap' itself. They offer water on 10 feet long 'Grey Tambe ka patra' which directly goes to the Shivaling and the 'Jalabhishekh' of Mahadev is done. It is the flowers and 'belpatra' which is provided by the 'Pujaris'.

Many a devotee's who had come said that if at all they would have got an opportunity to touch the 'Shivaling' it would have

been more satisfactory. But now the earlier system is not there and seeing the rush of devotees, the route has been changed. Now the 'Vedi' located in the 'Shivaling' is considered as 'Maa Parwati' and it has been beautifully decorated and this brings out true beauty after 'Shringar'. The 'damru' is played during 'arti'. It is notable here that Baba Kuleshwarnath Mahadev is seated along with his 'Rudra Pariwar' and at 'Mahamandap',

'Maa Devi Parwati', 'Devi Kalika', 'Devi Sheetala', 'Shyam Kartikey' and Lord Ganesh is seated. There are two 'Grabh Grih' in the temple and in one of them, there is 'Shivaling' of 'Baba Kuleshwarnath Mahadev' and in other 'Jagat Jannani Maa Durga' is seated. There is one 100 yr old 'Peepal' tree in front of the temple.

Laxman Jhula acts as support with rise in water-level:

With continuous rains, the temple is surrounded from all the four sides with water and due to which it is not possible to reach upto the Mahadev temple through river route. Now the devotees are reaching 'Mahadev' mandir through 'Laxman Jhula' and it is acting as big gift to the devotees and

'Kanwaris'. It is the only 'Laxman Jhula' which is acting as medium to pay obeisance to Lord Shiva, because when this 'Laxman Jhula' was not there, the devotees were unable to pay obeisance to Mahadev. But the Bhupesh government by dedicating the 'Laxman Jhula' last year, has provided big relief to the devotees coming during 'sawan' season and right since then there is manifold increase in visit of devotees to the temple.

Less number of 'Kanwaris' today:

On second 'sawan somwar' here on Monday, the strength of 'Kanwaris' is less. Earlier there used to be long queue of 'Kanwaris' on the road, but this time their strength is less. This time there are going to be 8

Monday's and at present six are still pending. In this view, the 'Kanwaris' are expected to come in the coming six Monday's. Entire market is decked up for the 'Kanwaris' and the items like saffron coloured clothes and other necessary items are available in these shops.

It is notable here that 'Kanwaris' reach from one 'Shiv Peeth' to other bringing their 'Kanwar' with them and perform 'Jalabhishekh' of Shivaling. Pujari of Kuleshwatnath Mahadev mandir- Juguthakur, Santosh, Bhagwat Maharaj, Mohannath Yogi informed that due to heavy rains the rush of the crowd was less and there was long queue outside the temple even after closure of doors of the temple.



# Struggling batters must improve to avoid series loss

Mirpur, Jul 18 (PTD):

Struggling Indian batters will need to find a way to play on a slow surface as they face Bangladesh in the second women's ODI in a bid to avoid an embarrassing series defeat here on Wednesday.

Spinners, especially leg-break bowlers, have troubled Indian batters through the Bangladesh tour and on Sunday they also found pacer Marufa Akter hard to negotiate as the fancied team suffered its first-ever loss to Bangladesh in ODIs.

Following that memorable victory and a win in the preceding final T20, Bangladesh now have the momentum and belief to script a famous series win over India. India have a World Cup to play in Bangladesh next year and they need to learn how to accumulate runs on



Match starts 9 am IST.

pitches where the ball doesn't come on to the bat. It has been a collective failure so far on the tour though India somehow managed to seal the T20 series.

Star batter Smriti

Mandhana's showing has been a big disappointment and Priya Punia, who replaced Shafali Verma for the ODI series opener, too struggled in her comeback. Both Yastika Bhatia and

Jemimah Rodrigues have struggled to rotate strike and that has put them under extra pressure. In the absence of Richa Ghosh, no one has stepped up for the finisher's role with the team

struggling to find boundaries. Amanjot Kaur, who bowled well on Sunday, has a good opportunity to make an impact with the bat as well and give India a much needed finishing option.

# Indian women's hockey team loses 1-4 to hosts Germany

Wiesbaden, Jul 18 (PTD):

The Indian women's hockey team suffered a 1-4 thrashing to Germany in the first of the two matches against the hosts here on Tuesday.

Youngster Vaishnavi Vittal Phalke (29) was the lone goal-scorer for India, while Nike Lorenz (6', 59") and Jette Flesch (14', 43") scored a brace each in Germany's win.

The hosts began the match on an attacking note, putting India on the backfoot at the very beginning. They scored back-to-back goals in the first quarter mounting pressure on India's defence.

Germany's first goal came off Nike Lorenz' well-executed penalty corner while the team's second goal came off a penalty stroke via Jette. Though the visitors tried to bounce back when they were awarded a PC in the 11th minute, the chance could not be converted.

However, in the second



quarter, the Indian team emerged from the early setback with a well-structured game. While they didn't allow any goals by Germany, they successfully converted a PC in the 29th minute through Vaishnavi.

With the score reading 2-1 at half time, Germany returned to the pitch with a plan to test the Indian defence.

While India lived up to the fight, an infringement by their defence while halting the German attack

in the circle saw them concede a PC. Jette made no mistake in converting the opportunity and help her team extend the lead to 3-1. Though India found a few chances in the final quarter to score, the German defence was too strong to breach.

Meanwhile, Nike scored the fourth goal for Germany in the dying minutes of the game, taking the final score to 4-1. India will again play against Germany on Wednesday.

# Sindhu slips to lowest ranking in over a decade

New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTD):

Battling an inconsistent form, double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu on Tuesday slipped five places to world number 17 in the latest BWF world rankings.

Ever since returning from a five-month long injury layoff, Sindhu

has struggled to string together a series of wins in a week, resulting in a titleless streak this season.

A former world number 2 Sindhu, who had suffered a stress fracture on her ankle during her title-winning run at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, currently has 49,480 points from 14 tournaments.

This is her lowest ranking in over a decade. The last time she was ranked 17th was in January, 2013. She has been inside the top 10 since 2016, having reached a career-best world number 2 in April, 2016.



Sindhu will hope she finds her footing quickly in the Olympic qualification period which ends in April next year, especially after getting the services of Indonesian coach Muhammad Hafiz Hashim, a former All England champion. The 2019 World Champion, Sindhu had

reached the final of the Madrid Spain Masters, her best finish this season. She registered a semifinal finish at Malaysia Masters and Canada Open but made a quarterfinal exit in the next event at the US Open. She is now in Korea for a super 500 tournament.

HS Prannoy also slipped a place to world number 10, while Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth were static at 12th and 20th spots respectively.

Saina Nehwal slumped five places to world number 36.

Men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty remain India's best-placed shuttlers at world number 3.

Among others, Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also lost a spot to be at the 19th position in women's doubles, while there was no Indian in the top 25 in mixed doubles.

# Controversy surrounds WFI panel's Asian Games entries

■ Hands direct Asian Games entries to Bajrang

New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTD):

The WFI ad-hoc panel on Tuesday handed Olympic medallist Bajrang Punia and World Championship medalist Vinesh Phogat direct entries into the Asian Games, a decision which was taken without the consent of the national chief coaches. The IOA ad-hoc panel said in a circular that it has already selected wrestler in men's freestyle 65kg and women's 53kg but trials will be held in all six weight categories in each of the three styles.

The ad-hoc panel did not name Bajrang and Vinesh in the circular but panel member Ashok Garg confirmed to PTI that the two wrestlers have been exempted from the trials. The Indian Olympic Association's ad-



hoc committee took the decision just four days before the trials to select the wrestling squad for the Asian Games, scheduled to commence on September 23 in the Chinese city of Hangzhou.

The greco-roman and women's freestyle trials are scheduled for July 22, while the men's freestyle trials will be held on July 23 at IG Stadium in New Delhi. Bajrang, the 65kg wrestler, who was one of the six



protesting wrestlers at Jantar Mantar demanding the arrest of Brij Bhushan, is currently training in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan. Vinesh, the 53kg wrestler who won the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games gold medal, is training in Budapest, Hungary. The move to exempt Bajrang and Vinesh, however, has not gone down well with fellow competitors, who have threatened to move court.

# Van de Pol a superb goalkeeping coach: Sreejesh

Bengaluru, Jul 18 (PTD):

Veteran India hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh believes the special coaching camps with Dutch expert Dennis van de Pol will "definitely help" the team as it prepares for a tournament in Spain this month and the Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai from August 3.

The goalkeeping coach is currently conducting the first of two special camps for the India team goalkeepers in Bengaluru, while the second camp will be held from September 7 to 14 ahead of the Asian Games in Hangzhou. Sreejesh, who played a key role in India winning an Olympic medal after more than four decades at the Tokyo Olympics, also said that young goalkeepers will benefit from the Dutch expert's drills. "Dennis van de Pol is a superb coach. Working closely with someone of his experience and calibre has certainly been



useful. We have important tournaments going ahead and I believe that we have utilised his time well here, particularly for the young goalies too. "His valuable insights and coaching skills have definitely helped. We have worked on various drills including PC defence, penalty shoot outs and most importantly our footwork," said Sreejesh in a release.

# Shakeel's double ton puts Pakistan in lead

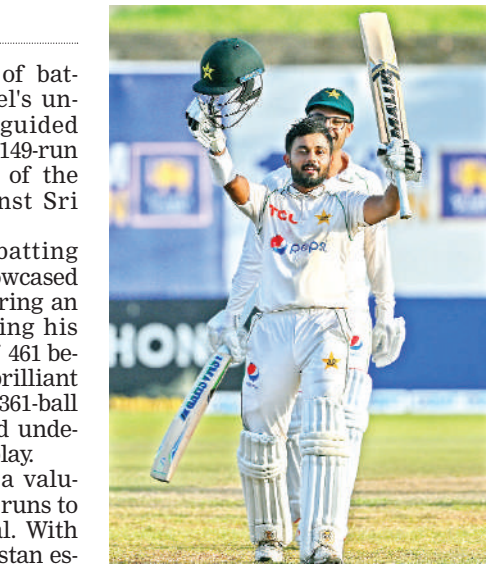
Galle, Jul 18 (AP):

In a remarkable display of batting prowess, Saud Shakeel's unbeaten double century guided Pakistan to a commanding 149-run first-innings lead on Day 3 of the opening cricket test against Sri Lanka.

Pakistan's left-handed batting sensation, Saud Shakeel, showcased his exceptional form by scoring an impressive 208 runs, steering his team to a formidable total of 461 before being all out. Shakeel's brilliant knock comprised a resilient 361-ball innings, where he remained undefeated throughout the day's play.

Agha Salman also made a valuable contribution, adding 83 runs to Pakistan's first-innings total. With their combined efforts, Pakistan established a substantial lead of nearly 150 runs, placing them in an impregnable position with two days of play remaining.

Sri Lanka's openers managed to survive nearly four overs, scoring



Pakistan's Saud Shakeel (front) celebrates after scoring double ton.

14 runs without losing a wicket by stumps. However, they face a daunt-

ing task when they resume their innings tomorrow, as they aim to overcome the substantial deficit.

Shakeel, who made his test debut last December, continues to make a significant impact in the international cricket arena. In just six matches, he has already amassed two centuries and five half-centuries at an extraordinary average of 87, reminiscent of the legendary Sir Donald Bradman.

Pakistan's batting approach in the previous cycle of the ICC's Test Championship garnered criticism for its conventional style. However, in this match, they adopted a more aggressive approach, taking a cue from England's recent success, and managed to score at an impressive rate of almost five runs per over.

Both Shakeel and Salman fearlessly took on the spinners, frequently using their feet and punishing loose deliveries. Their aggressive batting forced Sri Lanka into a defensive mindset, exerting immense pressure on the opposition.

Yeosu, Jul 18 (PTD):

Star Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty stormed into the second round with a straight-game win over Thailand's Supak Jomkoh and Kittinupong Kedren in the Korea Open Super 500 tournament here on Tuesday.

The world number 3 pair beat Jomkoh and Kedren 21-16 21-14 in the round of 32 to set up a clash with China's He Ji Ting and Zhou Hao Dong in the next round.

World number 27 MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila, however, couldn't complete the match after the former suffered from a back issue and retired midway in the opening game while lagging 5-6 against eighth



seeded Chinese Liu Yu Chen and Ou Xuan Yi in their opening round.

"I felt a pain in my back during the rallies. I applied spray for pain relief but I wasn't feeling comfortable, so we decided to pull out. The physio said it looks like a back spasm and should be fine within

a few days. I will be travelling to Japan. So let's see. Hopefully I will be okay," Arjun told PTI.

India's Harshit Aggarwal also couldn't reach the main draw after losing to Korea's Choi Pyeong Gang 15-21 21-10 10-21 in his second qualification match. He had

beaten Tan Jia Jie of Malaysia in his opening match.

Another Indian, Shashwat Dalal also went down in his first round, losing 14-21 17-21 to Jeong Min Seon of Korea, while Meiraba Maisnam withdrew from the qualifiers.

Playing their first tournament since winning the Indonesia Open Super 1000 last month, Satwik and Chirag dished out a compact game as they opened up a 4-1 lead and kept moving ahead to grab a 11-6 lead at the interval. The Indian duo didn't give much chance to its opponent and from 18-15, took the remaining points to grab a 1-0 lead. After the change of sides, the Thai players gave a good account of themselves as they managed to lead 9-4.

# West Indies replace Reifer with Sinclair for second Test

Port of Spain, Jul 18 (PTD):

The West Indies have included spin bowling all-rounder Kevin Sinclair in place of batting all-rounder Ramon Reifer in the squad for the second Test against India beginning here on Thursday.

Sinclair, who has featured in seven ODIs and six T20Is, is yet to play a Test match. The 23-year-old replacing Reifer is the only change in the squad for the hosts after an innings defeat against India



in Dominica. However, Reifer will remain with

the team as an injury cover. Sinclair had finished as the leading wicket taker for West Indies A in a three-match series against Bangladesh A earlier this year. He was also part of West Indies squad in the ICC World Cup Qualifier in Zimbabwe, where the Caribbean unit failed to qualify for the 50-over showpiece in India.

Another off-spinner Rahkeem Cornwall, who struggled with chest infection during the series opener, has been retained.

# Cummins more of old fashioned Test captain: Ricky Ponting

Dubai, Jul 18 (PTD):

The legendary Ricky Ponting feels Australian skipper Pat Cummins is more of an old fashioned Test captain, who lets "plans unravel" while his English counterpart Ben Stokes tries to make something happen every ball.

The decisions of the two relatively new captains in the ongoing Ashes series have given rise to intense debates.

While Stokes' call to declare early in the first innings in the opening Test was dissected by media



and pundits alike, Cummins' sparse use of rookie spinner Todd Murphy in the loss at Headingley also raised eyebrows.

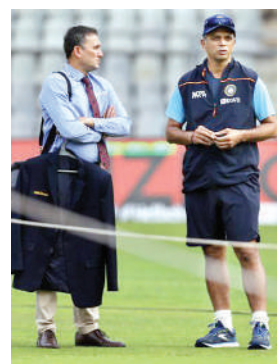
# Agarkar to meet Dravid, Rohit in Windies for WC roadmap

New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTD):

Chairman of senior selection committee Ajit Agarkar is all set to travel to West Indies to meet head coach Rahul Dravid and skipper Rohit Sharma to discuss the road map for 50 over World Cup starting October 5 in Ahmedabad.

India will play Australia in Chennai on October 8 and marquee clash against Pakistan is slated for October 15 in Ahmedabad.

"Currently Salil Ankola is in the West Indies but he will be back after the Test series



gets over: Ajit will be joining the team before start of the white ball leg," a BCCI source in know of things told PTI on

conditions of anonymity. It is understood that Agarkar after being appointed the chairman of selection committee hasn't had a chance to meet the team management in person and this will be an opportunity to sit a draw an elaborate blueprint on what will be India's strategy going forward in 50 over World Cup. The team management and selection committee needs to be in sync about the core 20 players that they are looking ahead for the World Cup apart from dealing with fitness issues and workload management.



## Oppn mantra is 'of, by and for family': PM

Port Blair, Jul 18 (PTI):

Launching a scathing attack on the opposition parties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday alleged that their mantra is "of, by and for the family".

Modi, in an apparent reaction to the opposition conclave being held in Bengaluru, said this while virtually inaugurating the new integrated terminal building of the Veer Savarkar Airport here.

Taking a dig at the opposition meeting, he said, "People are saying that this gathering is to promote 'bhrashtachar' (corruption)." He alleged that the opposition parties have given a "clean chit" to the DMK despite corruption



PM Modi virtually inaugurates the new integrated terminal building of Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, on Tuesday.

cases in Tamil Nadu. Modi also upped the ante against the 26 parties which are meeting in Karnataka's capital, and pointed out, "Massive violence took place in West Bengal during recent panchayat elections. But the Left and the Congress kept mum despite attacks on their cadre. The leaders left their activists to die for their

own selfish motives."

Seeing these opposition leaders in one frame, people are calling it a symbol of corruption and the Bengaluru meeting, 'Kattar Bhrashtachar Sammelan' (hardcore corruption convention), the PM said. "People have made up their minds to bring our government back to power in 2024," he

said. West Bengal's recently concluded rural polls had seen the death of at least 39 people since the announcement of elections, with the majority of those killed owing allegiance to the ruling TMC. "They (opposition parties) are not concerned about the development of the children of the country's poor. Their common minimum programme is to increase corruption for their family. It is their only ideology and agenda. "Democracy means 'of the people, by the people, for the people'. But these dynastic parties have the mantra of 'of the family, by the family, for the family'. For them, their family is first, and the nation is nothing," he said.

The PM said that India

could have developed more after Independence but did not due to corruption and dynastic politics.

"Those responsible for this 'badhali' (plight) have now again opened their shops to sell the poison of casteism and indulge in corruption. Their product is a Rs 20 lakh crore scam guarantee. To gain entry to these shops, one must be corrupt. In their shops, they prefer corrupt people as their 'margdarshak' (mentor)," he said.

"In the opposition meet, those accused of scams worth crores of rupees are being honoured. Those whose entire family is on bail on corruption cases get even more respect," he said, without naming anyone.

## BHOOMI SAMMAN 2023



President Droupadi Murmu presents the 'Bhoomi Samman 2023' award to a recipient during a function, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

## FICCI-EY REPORT

### 'Road accidents top cause for youth's, kids' death globally'

● India loses 1.5 m lives every year

New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTI):

Road accidents claim around 1.5 million lives in India every year, contributing 11 per cent to the total number of such fatalities globally, according to a FICCI-EY report.

Globally, at least one life is lost every 24 seconds due to road traffic injury, said the report released on Tuesday. As per the World Health Organisation (WHO), road crash is the 8th leading cause of death with more than 1.3 billion deaths and 50 million serious injuries. It is the leading cause of death amongst youth and kids aged 5 to 29 years, it said. "1st rank in

road fatalities is held by India (11 per cent share in the world). Every year India loses 1.5 million lives in road crashes...Every year we lose a number of people the size of the population of Estonia," the report titled 'Road Safety in India - Navigating through nuances' said. India is a signatory to Brasilia Declaration which aims to half the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic crashes by 2030. The report was released by Tukuni Sahu, Minister for Transport, Water Resources & Commerce, government of Odisha, in the national capital. She emphasized the importance of collaboration between corporates and governments to achieve substantial

progress in this segment. It is imperative that seat belts and helmets are utilised not only on highways but while driving within the cities, in order to ensure safety. "Road safety is a shared responsibility, and it is crucial for corporates, policymakers, and citizens to come together and contribute to reducing road accidents and fatalities," Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Chair of the FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians, and Member of Parliament. Amitabh Thakur, Odisha transport commissioner, said: "This conference on the role of corporates in road safety has provided a valuable opportunity for stakeholders to come together and share best practices.

## 19 'markswomen' commandos to be frontline sharpshooters

● For G-20 Summit

New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTI):

In view of the upcoming G-20 summit, 19 women commandos of the Delhi Police have been imparted specialised training as "markswomen" to act as the frontline sharpshooters during the key event, officials said on Tuesday.

It is the first batch of commandos to receive such highly professional training in shooting by a trained Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) team, they said.

They will act as the frontline sharpshooter commandos of the force.

"In view of the upcoming G-20 summit, Delhi Police is committed to providing utmost security to the visiting delegates. In this process, special cell has taken a step further by imparting specialised training to its female SWAT commandos," HGS

Dhaliwal, Special Commissioner of Police (Special Cell), said.

The first batch of 19 women SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) commandos have successfully completed a four-week course from the training team of the ITBP Force, RTC, Karera, Madhya Pradesh, during June-July, he said.

"In this training course, 19 women commandos of SWAT and the Delhi Police were trained in the basic principles of firing and groomed as markswomen. Constable Kiran stood first by securing 95 per cent marks, constable Vaishali secured second position with 77.5 pc marks and constable Kavita stood third with 75 per cent marks," the officer added.

The best female SWAT commando is now able to hit a target of 4 cm from a distance of 100 yards, the officer added.

## Anti-ageing function of human cell protein discovered

New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTI):

Researchers have found an anti-ageing function in a protein deep within human cells.

The protein, ATSF-1, controlled the fine balance between creation of new and repair of damaged mitochondria, the part of cell responsible for producing energy, the researchers at the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI), The University of Queensland, Australia, discovered.

"Mitochondrial dysfunction lies at the core of many human diseases, including common age-related diseases such as dementia and Parkinson's," said associate professor at QBI, Steven Zuryn.

While the energy produced by the mitochondria powers biological functions, the toxic by-

products of this process contribute to the ageing process of the cell.

"Our finding could have exciting implications for healthy ageing and for people with inherited mitochondrial diseases.

"In conditions of stress, when mitochondrial DNA has been damaged, the ATSF-1 protein prioritises repair which promotes cellular health and longevity," said Zuryn.

As an analogy, Zuryn likened the relationship to a race car needing a pit-stop.

"ATSF-1 makes the call that a pitstop is needed for the cell when mitochondria need repairs.

"We studied ATFS-1 in C. elegans, or round worms, and saw that enhancing its function promoted cellular health,

meaning the worms became more agile for longer.

"They didn't live longer, but they were healthier as they aged," said Zuryn.

Understanding how cells promote repair is an important step towards identifying possible interventions to prevent mitochondrial damage, the authors said in the study published in the journal Nature Cell Biology said.

"Our goal is to prolong the tissue and organ functions that typically decline during ageing by understanding how deteriorating mitochondria contribute to this process," said Michael Dai, QBI.

"We may ultimately design interventions that keep mitochondrial DNA healthier for longer, improving our quality of life," said Dai.

## HC stays Maha collector's order barring mosque entry

Aurangabad, Jul 18 (PTI):

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday granted an interim stay for two weeks on the Jalgaon district collector's order restraining people from praying at a mosque on a complaint by an outfit which claimed the structure has the "appearance of a temple".

A single bench of Justice R M Joshi of the Aurangabad bench of the HC issued notice to the respondents in the plea and posted the matter for further hearing after two weeks.

Until then the impugned order (passed by the district collector) is stayed, the bench said while hearing the petition filed by Jumma Masjid Trust Committee.

An outfit, Pandavwada Sangharsh Samiti, had

claimed the concerned structure resembles a temple and it was being encroached upon by Muslims. However, the trust panel which maintains the mosque claimed to possess records to show the existence of the structure at least since 1861.

The trust panel filed a petition in the high court through its president Altaf Khan challenging the collector's order passed on July 11, 2023.

The trust claimed the collector's order ordered directing them to hand over keys of the mosque to the Erandol municipal council's chief officer was "arbitrary and illegal".

The order was passed under sections 144 and 145 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, as per which the status quo shall be maintained pending a

final decision on the dispute of the land.

As per the plea, the mosque has been in existence for decades and the Maharashtra government had declared the structure of the masjid as an ancient and historical monument, which is enlisted in the schedule of protected monuments.

The petitioner stated the trust committee has been taking utmost care and no complaint was received in that regard by the Archaeological Department, or even the state government.

In May this year, the Pandavwada Sangharsh Samiti in order to create disturbance in Jalgaon's Erandol taluka, submitted an application to the district collector claiming the ancient monument is having the "appearance of a

mandir" and therefore the occupation of the Muslim community must be vacated, the plea said.

The Samiti had demanded that the "illegal construction" made by the petitioner trust be removed and a madrasa (Islamic seminary) run by trustees be not allowed.

Pursuant to the complaint, the collector issued a notice to the petitioner trust on June 14, directing the trustees to remain present on June 27 for a hearing.

The plea claimed the trustees appeared before the collector's office but since he was busy that day, no hearing took place.

On a later date, the petitioner trust sought time from the collector to go through the complaint and file its response, the plea said.

## Slain gangster Vikas Dubey's aide gets five years in jail

● In case related to Bikru killing

Kanpur (UP), Jul 18 (PTI):

A Kanpur Dehat court has sentenced an aide of slain gangster Vikas Dubey to five years' rigorous imprisonment in a case related to the 2020 killing of eight policemen, an official said on Tuesday. Shyamu Bajpai has been convicted for firing at the police team that had come to arrest him, days after the killing of the eight cops in the district's Bikru village.

Bajpai, accused of hiding weapons used in the Bikru killing, was booked under Section 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code.

Days after the Bikru killing, Vikas Dubey and

five of his alleged accomplices were killed in what the police had described as exchanges of fire.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Lakhan Singh Yadav said charges in 37 criminal cases have been framed in connection with the Bikru killing. This is the first conviction in the Bikru killing and related cases, he added.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Amit Malviya on Monday also imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 on Bajpai and awarded three months' additional simple imprisonment if he failed to deposit the amount, said Yadav.

Three more cases are pending against Bajpai, he said. Bajpai, who carried a cash reward of Rs 25,000, was arrested after

an encounter with the police in the Chaubeypur area six days after the Bikru killing, Yadav said. During his arrest, in an abortive attempt to escape, Bajpai had indiscriminately fired at the police team, Yadav added.

Bajpai was a key accused in hiding the weapons used to fire at the cops, said another official. Raju Porwal, the district government counsel, told PTI over phone that the testimonies of witnesses and forensic reports helped get the conviction.

Eight personnel, including Deputy Superintendent of Police Devendra Mishra, were ambushed in the Bikru village when they were on their way to arrest Vikas Dubey shortly after midnight on July 3, 2020.

Vikas Dubey was killed in an encounter on July 10 when a police vehicle carrying him from Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh to Kanpur met with an accident and he tried to escape, the police had said.

Following a search operation after the July 3 incident, two of Vikas Dubey's associates — Prem Prakash Pandey and Atul Dubey — were killed in an encounter in Kanpur, they had said.

On July 8, Amar Dubey, who carried a reward of Rs 50,000, was killed by the police in the Maudaha village of Hamirpur district. The following day, Kartikeya alias Prabhat and Bauwa Dubey alias Praveen were killed in separate encounters in Kanpur and Etawah districts, the police had said.

## WATERLOGGED STREETS



School students pass through a waterlogged street amid monsoon rains, in Surat, Tuesday.

## NGT for PPEs for workers exposed to asbestos pollution

● Asks CPCB to issue appropriate guidelines

New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTI):

The National Green Tribunal has directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to issue appropriate guidelines for asbestos-based industries across the country, including mandatory use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by workers exposed to the disease causing fibres that can damage the lungs.

The NGT also asked the CPCB to follow certain measures suggested by it for mitigating the adverse impact of asbestos exposure on human health and environment.

The NGT was hearing a petition claiming environmental pollution in

Bishada village of Gautam Buddha Nagar district in Uttar Pradesh by a public limited company UP Asbestos Ltd.

Underlining that there is no safe level of asbestos exposure, a bench of judicial member Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and expert member Afroz Ahmad directed project proponent (PP) or private companies to implement certain measures to protect people from the hazards of asbestos exposure.

"We also consider it appropriate to direct CPCB to issue appropriate guidelines covering similar asbestos-based industries operating in the country to strictly ensure compliance with Environmental Clearance (EC) and consent conditions as well as to follow the measures suggested for mitigating adversarial impacts of asbestos exposure on human health and

environment," the bench said.

It said exposure to asbestos was a risk factor for "disabling and deadly lung diseases", such as lung cancer and scarring of the lung tissues.

"The proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), needs to be made mandatory for the workers," it said.

Keeping in view the hazards of exposure associated with the handling of asbestos, following measures for protecting workers, their family members, people coming into contact with them and residents of the locality are required to be implemented by the PP in letter and spirit, the bench said.

These included protecting workers, measures for controlling exposure, medical monitoring and training, it said.

The bench said for pro-

tecting workers employees are required to assess asbestos levels, mark the regulated areas, post hazard signs and provide engineering controls (ventilation systems with filters) along with green belts and other technological measures to reduce the level of asbestos in the air.

The tribunal said smoking, eating or drinking in areas where asbestos exposure is possible should be prohibited and all precautions need to be taken to avoid carrying asbestos fibres from the work site.

It also said periodical exposure monitoring and medical surveillance of workers should be made mandatory, besides training workers who are exposed to airborne concentrations of asbestos at or above the Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL).

During the proceedings, the tribunal appreciated the PP of the Bishada village plant for the initiatives taken to comply with the suggestions made from time to time during the course of the hearing and also for identifying and allocating 33 per cent of land at the project for plantation.

**कैसर सर्जरी**  
पश्चात अंगों का पुनःनिर्माण  
(जबड़ा, स्तन व अन्य)  
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कालड़ा बर्न एंव  
प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर  
आर. के. सी. के सामने, चौथे कालोनी एवं पंचवटी  
नाका, धर्मपुरी रोड, कलकत्ता नॉक के पास, रायपुर  
कॉल : 9827143060/8871003060  
Apy 9827144371



### BRIEF



A packet containing narcotics suspected to have been airdropped by a drone after it was recovered by BSF personnel, in Tam Taran district, Punjab.

### Extend

**■ Guwahati:** The Assam government on Tuesday extended the term of an expert committee formed to examine the legislative competence of the state legislature to enact a law to end polygamy. In an official release, the state government said the term of the committee has been extended by a month with effect from July 13 to August 12.

### Rescued

**■ Vidisha:** A little girl who slipped into a borewell at a village in Madhya Pradesh's Vidisha district on Tuesday was rescued and rushed to a hospital in Sironj town, an official said. The girl, aged about two years, was being taken to the hospital to examine her condition, said sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) Harshal Choudhary.

### Resignation

**■ New Delhi:** National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) chairperson Vijay Sampla is believed to have resigned from his post as he is likely to be given organisational responsibility in the BJP in the upcoming elections, sources said on Tuesday.

### EC

**■ New Delhi:** The allotment of air time to political parties for campaigning on All India Radio and Doordarshan will now be done online to enhance efficiency, the Election Commission said on Tuesday. The poll body has amended the existing scheme for the use of government-owned electronic media by political parties.

**Weather**  
High 29 Low 25

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 19,749.25  
SENSEX 66,795.14

**BULLION**  
GOLD 59,849  
SILVER 76,256

### MORAL VICTORY FOR STATE

## SC halts ED action in 'liquor scam case' in Chh'garh

**■ After state alleges harassment of officials**  
New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to "stay their hand in all manner" in a money laundering case linked to the alleged Rs 2,000 crore liquor scam in Chhattisgarh. A bench of justices S K Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia passed the order while hearing the pleas, including the one filed by two Chhattisgarh-based persons, challenging the proceedings initiated against them by the anti-money laundering agency. "Apart from the order already passed of no coercive action, the concerned respondent authorities



(ED) must stay their hand in all manner," the bench said. While hearing the matter on May 16, the top court had told the ED not to create an "atmosphere of fear", after the Chhattisgarh government had alleged that the probe agency was "running amok" and was trying to implicate Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in a money laundering case linked to liquor scam in

### What SC says....

While hearing the matter on May 16, the top court had told the ED not to create an "atmosphere of fear", after the Chhattisgarh government had alleged that the probe agency was "running amok" and was trying to implicate Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in a money laundering case linked to liquor scam in the state. "Apart from the order already passed of no coercive action, the concerned respondent authorities (ED) must stay their hand in all manner," the bench said.

### State Govt stand...

The state alleged the investigation being carried out by the ED is wholly without jurisdiction and illegal in as much as there is no underlying predicate offence. The Chhattisgarh government alleged in the apex court that several state excise department officials have complained that the ED was threatening them and their family members with arrest. The state has filed an application seeking implementation in one of the petitions, claiming that 52 officers of the excise department have complained in writing alleging "mental and physical torture" by ED officers during the course of the investigation.

the state. During the hearing on Tuesday, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who appeared for the Chhattisgarh government, alleged that the officers of

the state were harassed by the probe agency and they were being told to give details of their properties, which were being attached.

### 38 NDA ALLIES MEET

## Time-tested alliance: PM

New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTI):

Leaders of 38 parties joined a meeting of the BJP-led NDA here on Tuesday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserting that the bloc is a time-tested alliance that seeks to further national progress and fulfil regional aspirations.

Prime Minister Modi was welcomed by BJP president J P Nadda, Shiv Sena leader and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, former Tamil Nadu chief minister and AIADMK leader K Palaniswami and Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio.

The meeting coincides with the mega opposition conclave in Bengaluru and



PM Modi being garlanded by NDA leaders before the meeting of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) ahead of the next year's Lok Sabha polls, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

is seen as a show of strength by the ruling party.

Prime Minister Modi said the coming together of NDA allies is a matter of "immense joy". He tweeted, "It is a matter of immense joy that our valued NDA partners from across India will be attending the meeting in Delhi today. Ours is a time-tested alliance which seeks to further national progress and fulfil regional aspirations."

Union minister Pralhad Joshi and BJP general secretary Vinod Tawde welcomed the leaders, from the BJP as well as allies, who arrived at the venue of the meeting.

This will be the first such meeting of the National Democratic Alliance during the second term of the Modi government.

## Chhattisgarh Mahila Congress chief Phulodevi Netam resigns

Raipur, Jul 18:

Rajya Sabha MP Phulodevi Netam on Tuesday resigned as president of the Chhattisgarh Mahila Congress, saying she wants to make way for other women colleagues in the party to be considered for the organisational post in the poll-bound state. Netam has been holding the top state post in the Congress women's wing for the last seven years. The development comes nearly a week after Chhattisgarh Congress president Mohan Markam was replaced with Lok

Sabha MP Deepak Bajj in an organisational reshuffle ahead of the assembly elections due by the year-end.

Markam was later inducted into the Bhupesh Baghel cabinet. Netam posted the resignation letter on her Twitter handle and wrote she has discharged her duty as chief of the Pradesh Mahila Congress Committee with full dedication, and requested that the job be given to some other woman colleague. Netam, a prominent tribal leader from the Bastar region, was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2020 from Chhattisgarh.



### Govt calls all-party meeting

**■ Ahead of monsoon session of Parl**  
New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTI):

The government has convened an all-party meeting on Wednesday to deliberate on a host of issues related to Parliament's monsoon session, which will begin from July 20.

It's a customary get-together on the eve of a session's start as various parties put across their issues at the meeting attended by senior government ministers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also participated in many such meetings.

A similar all-party meeting called on Tuesday by Rajya Sabha Chairperson Jagdeep Dhankhar has been deferred due to non-availability of leaders of many parties. While opposition parties are holding a meeting in Bengaluru, the ruling National Democratic Alliance is meeting in the national capital.

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## Three workers killed in oxygen cylinder blast

**■ At cement factory**  
Balodabazar, Jul 18:

Three workers were killed when an oxygen cylinder exploded at a cement factory in Balodabazar district on Tuesday, police said. The incident took place at UltraTech Cement's plant in Hirni area. A senior police official said. Lakesh Kumar Gayakwad (21), Shatruhan Lal Verma (27) and Umesh Kumar Verma (26), all contractual workers, were killed in the explosion, he said.

### About the incident

The incident took place at UltraTech Cement's plant in Hirni area. Lakesh Kumar Gayakwad (21), Shatruhan Lal Verma (27) and Umesh Kumar Verma (26), all contractual workers, were killed in the explosion. The exact cause of the explosion was yet to be ascertained and investigation was underway.

The exact cause of the explosion was yet to be ascertained and investigation was underway, the official said.

## Oppn alliance to be called INDIA

Bengaluru, Jul 18 (PTI):



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren at a joint press conference after the opposition parties meeting, in Bengaluru, Tuesday.

### 'It is 'Modi vs INDIA' fight'

Addressing the joint press conference with other leaders, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said they have decided to prepare an action plan where they will talk about their ideology and programmes. "The fight is against the ideology of the BJP and their thinking, they are attacking the country, unemployment is rampant, and the country's wealth is being taken away from millions and handed over to a few of the friends of the BJP and the Prime Minister," Gandhi said.

### 11-member coordination committee to be set up

The Congress president said an 11-member coordination committee will be set up and its composition will be finalised in the next meeting in Mumbai. The dates for the Mumbai meeting will be announced soon. Kharge also said a secretariat will also be set up in Delhi for campaign management of the alliance and specific committees will be formed for separate issues. He said the dates for the Mumbai meeting will be announced soon.

are attacking the country, unemployment is rampant, and the country's wealth is being taken away from millions and handed over in the hands of a few," Gandhi said.

### RUN FOR SAFETY



A woman and a child wade through the floodwaters, in Morigaon district, Tuesday.

## Court grants interim bail to Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh

**■ In wrestlers' sexual harassment case**  
New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTI):

A Delhi court Tuesday granted two-day interim bail to embattled Wrestling Federation of India chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in the sexual harassment case lodged by women wrestlers, noting that he was not arrested during the investigation and appeared before it "without any coercive process". Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Harjeet Singh Jaspal, who also granted interim bail



to Vinod Tomar, the suspended WFI assistant secretary, granted relief to both of them on a personal bond of Rs 25,000 each. The court passed the order after the public prosecutor representing Delhi police submitted even though the charge sheet has been filed without arrest he was still opposed to the bail applications.

### JOINT RESOLUTION

## 26 opposition parties demand caste census

**■ Vow to fight 'crimes against minorities, women, Dalits, tribals'**

Bengaluru, Jul 18 (PTI):

A group of 26 opposition parties on Tuesday demanded the implementation of the caste census while asserting that they have come together to defeat the "hatred and violence being manufactured against minorities" as well as "rising crimes against women, Dalits, tribals and Kashmiri Pandits".

The opposition alliance that will take on the ruling NDA in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections will be called Indian National

Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) and an 11-member committee will be set up for coordination, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge announced after a meeting of the parties here.

In their 'Samuhik Sankalp (joint resolution)' released after the meeting, the parties expressed their steadfast resolve to safeguard the idea of India as enshrined in the Constitution.

"The character of our republic is being severely assaulted in a systematic manner by the BJP. We are at a most crucial juncture in our nation's history. The foundational pillars of the Indian Constitution secular democracy, economic sovereignty, social justice

and federalism are being methodically and menacingly undermined," they alleged. The opposition parties also expressed "grave concern" over the "humanitarian tragedy" that has "destroyed" Manipur. The parties said they are determined to combat and confront the continuing assault on the Constitution and on constitutional rights of democratically elected state governments. "There is a deliberate attempt to weaken the federal structure of our polity. The role of governors and LGs (lieutenant governor) in non-BJP ruled states has exceeded all constitutional norms," the opposition parties said in the resolution.

### JOURNEY OF FAITH

## Priest walks over 700 kms to reach Amarnath cave shrine

Pulwama (J-K), Jul 18 (PTI):

A priest from Uttar Pradesh walked over 700 kilometres to pay obeisance at the holy cave shrine of Amarnath in the south Kashmir Himalayas.

Rahul Sharma, a resident of Badhoo village in Saharanpur district, said he will visit Kedarnath in Uttarakhand on his way back home.

He started his journey on May 30 and reached the cave shrine on July 11.

Sharma said he also paid obeisance at the revered Mata Vaishnodevi shrine in Jammu region before embarking on the arduous trek to the cave

shrine via the Pahalgam route of the yatra.

"I first went to Mata Vaishnodevi and from there to Amarnath cave shrine. I started the yatra from the Pahalgam side," Sharma, while walking and carrying the tricolour, told PTI here.

It takes two days to reach the cave shrine via the route in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Sharma, however, took the Baltal axis, in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, to come back from the cave shrine.

He has now set out to walk to the other Lord Shiva temple - Kedarnath - in Uttarakhand.

## Centre starts process to refund Rs 5,000 crore to investors

**■ Of 4 Sahara Group cooperative societies**  
New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTI):

The Centre on Tuesday started the process to refund Rs 5,000 crore of depositors whose funds are stuck in four cooperative societies of Sahara Group, a move that is likely to help crores of small investors awaiting return of their hard-earned savings.

On March 29, the government had said money will be returned to 10 crore investors of the four cooperative societies within 9 months. The announcement followed a Supreme Court order directing transfer of Rs 5,000 crore from Sahara-Sebi refund account to the



Sahara investors outside Atal Akshaya Urja Bhawan during the launch of 'CRCS- Sahara Refund Portal', in New Delhi, Tuesday.

Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS). Launching a 'CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal' to facilitate the refund, Cooperation Minister Amit Shah said: "The process of

returning the amount of Rs 5,000 crore to the investors is starting today in a transparent manner on a trial basis. This is beginning of refund of monies to the depositors (of Sahara Group)".



# Naxal Deputy Commander carrying Rs 3 lakh bounty surrenders in Kanker

The armed naxal was involved in Madanwada ambush in which SP Vinod Choube and 28 other cops martyred

Bhilai, Jul 18:

A naxal cadre, carrying a reward of Rs 3 lakh on his head and wanted in several cases of attack on security forces including the Maoist ambush in Madanwada in which SP Vinod Choube and 28 others were martyred, surrendered before BSF at Kanker on Tuesday. The naxal who surrendered is identified as Sannu Madvi alias Shivaji (32) a resident of village Chhindpara, Bijapur. He was working as Deputy Commander of Section 'A' of Maoist Military Platoon - 05. He was active in this banned organisation since 2005.

Influenced with the policies of the state government, he surrendered in-



front of IG Indraj Singh (BSF) Frontier Headquarters, Special Operations, Chhattisgarh, DIG (BSF) Ajay Agrawal, DIG (BSF) Harender Pal Singh Sohi, BSF 135 Battalion Commandant Naval Singh and ASP Khoman Sinha. SP (Kanker) Divyang Patel immediately provided Rs 25000 monetary aid to the surrendered red rebel.

Sannu Madvi joined the banned Baal Sangham in the year 2005 and worked in Company Number 02 for three months. In the year 2006, he was promoted in the Maoist Organisation and he worked as Section Deputy Commander of Platoon Number 05 of Partapur Area Committee of North Bastar Division. He was armed with an Insas and

SLR rifle. In the year 2015, he was demoted in the organisation as he married a naxal girl Jeeto Jurri. Thereafter in 2016, he was again reinstated and sent to Gangaloor Area Committee where he worked as Janmilitia Commander of Mankeli. He was involved in the attack on CISF jawans at NMDC in Hiroli, Dantewada in the month

of February 2006. Eight jawans of CISF were killed and the naxal had looted 17 weapons from them. He was in the group of 300 naxals led by Sudhakar and Ramedar, who laid ambush at Madanwada Camp in July 2009. SP Vinod Choube and 28 other cops were martyred in this incident.

He was also involved in the encounter at Durgkondal in August 2010 in which 05 jawans of BSF laid down their lives in the line of duty. The naxal had looted arms and ammunition in this incident.

He was also involved in an IED explosion at village Gorna of Bijapur in which a DRG Jawan was injured in August 2019. In April 2023, while working as Janmilitia Commander, he led the naxals in blocking the road by cutting trees to protest the establishment of a new camp and road construction.

# Notorious thief nabbed with Rs 5 lakh booty



Bhilai, Jul 18:

With the arrest of a notorious thief, police claimed to have solved two cases of thefts which occurred in the limits of Mohan Nagar Police Station. Mobile phones, iPad and other items worth Rs 5 lakh were seized from him.

While addressing media persons on Tuesday, ASP (City) Sanjay Dhruv informed that on the instructions of SP Shalabh Sinha, a joint team of Mohan Nagar Police Station and ACCU launched investigation on the cases of thefts. The team maintained vigil on the suspects,

habitual criminals and criminals released from jail. The network of informers was also activated. CCTV footage of the places near the crime scenes was examined in which the cops found a suspicious person near two crime scenes. His photo was spread on social media and soon the cops identified him as Manish Yadav alias Sagar of New Deepak Nagar. He was taken into custody and during interrogation, he confessed to committing thefts at Arya Nagar and Deepak Nagar. Police recovered stolen mobile phones, iPads, camera and cash from

his possession. Police booked Manish Yadav alias Sagar (23) son of Dilip Yadav a resident of Ward No 24, New Deepak Nagar, Durg under section 457, 380 of IPC.

ASI Rajesh Pandey, Purna Bahadur Karki, Constable Shiv Tiwari, Kapil Yadav, Chandrashekhar Banjir, Constable Pradeep Singh, Jagjit Singh, Khurram Baksh, Tisheshwar Rathore, Chitrasen Sahu, Shobhit Sinha, Narendra Sahare and others from the Anti-Crime Cyber Unit and Mohan Nagar Police Station played a vital role in arresting the accused.

# BoB organises blood donation camp on 116th foundation day



Bhilai, Jul 18: Bank of Baroda is going to celebrate its 116th Foundation Day on July 20, 2023. On this occasion, various programs are being organized by the Durg Regional Office of Bank of Baroda. Bank of Baroda has always been contributing towards Corporate Social Responsibility and following this tradition, Regional Office, Durg organized a Blood Donation Camp on July 17, 2023 on the eve of 116th Foundation Day of the

Bank. A total of 51 units of blood were donated in the camp.

Under the Corporate Social Responsibility, officials of all the branches under the Durg region will visit schools, colleges, orphanages, old age homes and hospitals, etc to help the needy. They will also conduct tree plantation drives to keep the environment clean. Various cultural programs are also being organized by the staff members of the bank on this occasion.

# There are benefits of filing Tax Returns even if not liable: CA Minesh Jain

Bhilai, Jul 18:

The last date of filing Income Tax Return is July 31, and everyone should file the return within the stipulated time to avail about 10 main benefits even if one's income is not taxable. Also, if the return is not filed within the prescribed time frame it would invite a penalty and interest of upto Rs 5000, explained Minesh Jain, past Chairman, Bhilai CA Branch. Elaborating on the benefits, CA Minesh Jain asserted that filing your ITR can be beneficial when applying for various loans such as vehicle loans (2-wheelers or 4-wheelers) or home loans. Major banks often require a copy of your tax returns as proof of your income statement. This is a mandatory document for loan approval. Secondly, it helps in Quick Visa Processing. When applying for a visa, most embassies and consultants require copies of your tax returns from the past couple

of years. These documents are among the mandatory requirements. Therefore, it is advisable to file your ITR on time.

Third, by filing your return within the original due date, you can carry forward losses to subsequent years. These losses can be offset against the income of future years, thereby reducing your tax liability. Without filing an income tax return, this benefit would not be possible. Not to forget, timely filing helps in the Claim of Tax Refund. There may be instances where tax has been deducted (TDS) from your income, even if your total taxable income is below the basic exemption limit, or you have no tax liability for that year. In such cases, you must file an Income Tax Return to claim a refund of the TDS.

Having an Insurance cover is an important necessity now and for buying a term insurance the record of income is required. To approve term insurance plans, insur-



ance providers often require applicants to submit their Income Tax Return (ITR) records as proof of their annual income. The coverage amount is determined based on the individual's earnings, and presenting the ITR helps insurance providers assess a person's higher income level, therefore, Tax Return papers become important to get insurance cover easily. Another important benefit is that it

can be considered as a reliable proof of address. The Income Tax Return is valid as address verification. Even an Aadhaar Card can be obtained using it. Aadhar Cards, licenses, passports, and other documents like those are all required to have address proofs. Frequently, these documents do not accept common forms of identification like ID cards. Your Income Tax Return can be applied in such cases.

Minesh Jain further emphasised that the IT papers is considered an "Authentic Evidence of Your Earnings". Form 16 is typically given by employers to their employees as proof of income. The ITR Filing form serves as actual income verification for self-employed or independent contractors. It includes a thorough breakdown of a person's income and expenses for the entire fiscal year. Next most important advantage is when going for a scholarship. Various authorities view an ITR as a source of income documentation (both government and private). For instance, you can submit an ITR to claim specific institute and/or university scholarships. The ITR aids in establishing the prospective student's ability to prove their income, and insurance companies also accept them as acceptable documentation.

Most importantly, added the past Chairman of Bhilai CA branch, is that losses can be carried for-

ward. Elucidating further Minesh said that Section 70 and 71 of the Income-tax Act 1961 contains some provisions for carrying forward losses of a particular year to the subsequent year. This means that you can move your loss to the next assessment year. Citing few examples he explained that Losses from house property can be carried forward till the next 8 assessment years and can be set off from income from house property. Also, Loss from business can be carried forward and paid with the future income from the business. If you do not file an Income tax return, you cannot carry forward or set off your losses.

Last but not the least it comes in handy for accident or Other Claims. Many times Courts ask for proof of Income like in case of accident claims of Motor Insurance or cases like divorce, etc. ITR becomes valid proof of your income and can be proper evidence in a court of law.

# Training on Mushroom Farming organised for women



Bhilai, Jul 18: Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department, of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, in association with Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV), Raipur is organising a three-day long 'Mushroom Farming Training' from July 18 to July 20, 2023, at CSR Department premises, Sector-5. Under this training camp, as many as 40 women from Bhilai and adjoining areas will undergo Mushroom-farming Training for three days, aimed at livelihood-generation.

Addressing the gathering Chief Guest Prof Dr Chandrashekhar Shukla, said that Mushroom Cultivation, besides being a good livelihood alternative, consumption of mushroom is equally beneficial for our dietary health, as it contains all those proteins and nutrients which are available in meat. Dr Harvinder Kumar Singh, said that Mushroom Cultivation is an extremely viable livelihood initiative for women.

In his welcome address Shivrajan, GM (CSR) said that the Mushroom Cultivation Training will add to the livelihood of women and shall certainly lead to women empowerment.

Under the three-day training camp agriculture trainers from IGKV,

Raipur will train the women trainees for cultivation of Mushroom varieties of Oyster, Paddy Stray and Milky Mushrooms. A farming shed of 50 feet x 15 feet has also been constructed for mushroom cultivation. After completion of the training the women trainees will be able to cultivate mushrooms free of cost for the coming three months.

The programme was compered by Rajni Rajak, CSR Assistant, while Sushil Kamde, Sr Mgr (CSR) proposed the Vote of Thanks. Vivek Mishra, Asst Mgr, played a significant role in organising the programme successfully along with, Sita Sinha, Vijaylakshmi, Budhelal, Ashutosh and other personnel from BSP's CSR Department.

# Free Medical Camps organised at villages Daniya & Dhaba

Bhilai, Jul 18:

SAIL- Bhilai Steel Plant, conducts several public welfare activities as part of its organizational social responsibility towards the community in and around its areas of operations. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department of the Plant organized one-day free Health Camps, at villages Dhaba and Daniya on July 15 and July 17, 2023, respectively.

A total of 33 villagers from village Dhaba, including 22 men, 07 women and 04 Children, availed

tion, and Shambhu for registration, volunteered their services for the camps.

Sita Sinha from the CSR department was present during the Health Camp at village Dhaba, while Anjani Kumar Dwivedi, CSR Assistant was present at the Daniya village Health Camp.

It is noteworthy that Health Camp is one of the prime initiatives, through which BSP's CSR Department has contributed substantially towards Public Health & Medicine. The CSR Department of Bhilai



free health services at the day long Health Camp, whereas 33 villagers, including 07 men, 22 women and 04 Children got their medical examination done at the Health Camp at village Daniya on July 17, 2023. Free medicines were also distributed to villagers attending the camps at both villages.

The Medical Team from CSR department, comprising, Dr Isha Kujur, Pharmacist, AS Gaur, Rekha Dev for Blood-Sugar and BP examina-



Steel Plant, conducts health camps on a regular basis in the adjoining areas or mines, with the aim of ensuring adequate Medical & Health facilities to the communities within which it works.

# GBM of BSP EX-OA held, completes 10 years of its creation



Bhilai, Jul 18:

The 53rd General Body Meeting of BSP Ex-Officers' Association was held on July 18, 2023 at Pragati Bhavan (OA Bldg.), presided over by Saroj Ranjan Das, President of BSP Ex-OA. Narendra Banchhor, President BSP OA & Chairman SEFI, Parvinder Singh, General Secretary OA and Ankur Mishra, Treasurer OA graced the meeting & spoke on EPS 95 Pension and the other important issues. Ex-OA office bearers' Dilip Verma, RB Gupta, JB Patil, and many senior retired officers Naresh Vishwakarma, YP Aggarwal, R Kale, SK Tiwari, Pravin Gupta, AB Arnold, SE Ahmed & others attended the meeting.

Ex-OA President SR Das spoke about completion of 10 years of formation of Ex-OA on August 11, 2023 & briefly outlined Ex-OA's decade long journey after its inception on August 11, 2013 with the full support of the then President & General Secretary of OA.



He also gave feedback on the EPS 95 Pension, Mediclaim: 23-24 and other important issues such as revised gratuity, 11 months' perks arrears etc.

Dr Pritam Agrawal, eminent Knee & Joint Replacement Surgeon of Shree Narayana Hospital, Raipur made a detailed presentation on Robotic Knee Replacement Surgery first introduced by them in Chhattisgarh, its benefits over traditional surgery and clarified the doubts of members. Yuvraj Khemka, Head of Administration spoke about the facilities available in the hospital. Shrikant Upadhyay, Head of Administration of

Hitek Hospital, Bhilai spoke on the various facilities and advanced procedures adopted by Hitek Hospital.

Mohd Hussain, in-charge of Bhilai Unit of TPA MD India spoke on the important provisions of SAIL Mediclaim Scheme: 2023-24 and answered members' queries.

OA President & SEFI Chairman Banchhor, General Secretary Parvinder Singh and Treasurer Ankur Mishra spoke on the most important issues of EPS 95 pension, SAIL Mediclaim Scheme, 11 months' perks arrears, ongoing process of BSP house lease registration process etc.



## IT raids four groups dealing in power, steel and coal sector

Two raids in Bilaspur and two in Raipur

Raid in Raipur against Vandana Global and Ishwar TMT and in Bilaspur against Satya Power and Jharkharia Group



Satya Power



Raipur, Jul 18: The investigation wing of the Income Tax department has conducted raid in the residence, offices, factories and other premises of four steel, power plant, coal industrialists here in Raipur and Bilaspur on charges of tax evasion and money laundering act here on Tuesday morning. IT raided at different establishments of Satya Power and Jharkharia Group in Bilaspur and

Vandana Global and Ishwar TMT Group in Raipur.

As per reports in this regard, a 100 strong IT team in more than 20 vehicles first raided residence, offices and factories of Satya Power in Bilaspur region during wee hours in the morning.

The team started the investigation before they could take any action. The owner of Satya Power are Ramawater Agrawal,



Pawan Agrawal and Shrikant and at Power Factory at Bharari near Ratanpur jointly.

The House of owners is located in Hansa Vihar. The groups deals in Power production, road construction and coal beneficiation and steel manufacturing work. IT has raided this group two years back as well and it is on charges of having more than disproportionate income that this IT raid has been conduct-

ed. IT later raided the residence, offices of Sushil Jharkharia in Jagmal Chowk and is working as Railway Contractor in Bilaspur. At both these places the raids continued till the evening hours and IT has seized many documents including stock de-

tails and cross-checking it with books of accounts.

The IT raid in Raipur was conducted at the residence and office of Vandana Global Group. The team raided the Group's plant at Siltara and house in Civil Lines and office at MG Road. The raid at Ishwar TMT Group was conducted at its Urla factory and the Directors of the Group are Dhamendra Patel, Piyush Patel, Bharat Kumar Patel.

## President Murmu Confers 'Bhoomi Samman' Award on Ch'garh

For effective land administration

Surguja and Bemetara districts receive Bhoomi Samman Platinum Certificates

CM Bhupesh Baghel lauds Ch'garh's remarkable achievement



Raipur, Jul 18: The President of India Droupadi Murmu bestowed the prestigious 'Bhoomi Samman' award upon Chhattisgarh in a ceremony held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi today. Additionally, the districts of Surguja and Bemetara were recognized for their efficient land administration and were awarded Bhoomi Samman (Platinum Certificate).

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel commended Chhattisgarh's remarkable accomplishment in land management, expressing his immense pride. He congratulated the Revenue Department and the

Surguja and Bemetara district administrations for their outstanding efforts. Highlighting the impact of the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), the Chief Minister stated that significant progress has been made in the state under this programme, resulting in improved accessibility of land-related information for the general public.

Notably, the state has completed 95 per cent of the tasks related to land management under the DILRMP. Surguja and Bemetara districts have achieved 100 per cent completion in four components related to land management, including the digitization of land records,

effective coordination with registration offices, and the establishment of model record rooms. These districts have emerged as leading examples of efficient land management in the country.

Neelam Namdev Ekka, Secretary of the Revenue Department, Kiran Kaushal, Inspector General of Registration and Superintendent of Stamp, and Ramesh Sharma, Director of Land Records, received the award on behalf of Chhattisgarh from the President Smt. Murmu. The President personally presented the platinum certificates to Bemetara Collector P.S. Alma and Surguja Collector Kundan Kumar.

## Men stage nude protest demanding action against govt employees

Who used fake caste certificates

Raipur, Jul 18: A group of men staged a nude protest in capital Raipur on Tuesday demanding action against people who got government jobs using fake caste certificates, officials said.

The police took more than a dozen nude protesters into custody when they were marching towards the state legislative assembly, they said. The four-day monsoon session of the state assembly began on Tuesday. The youths belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes communities stripped naked and marched towards the assembly carrying placards with messages demanding action against government employees who used fake caste certificates to get jobs. The protesters were taken into custody near Ama Seoni turn under Pandri police station area for staging

a demonstration in an obscene manner. Raipur senior superintendent of police Prashant Agrawal told PTI. Talking to reporters, one of the protesters said the state government's enquiry committee conducted a probe into fake caste certificate cases and found that 267 government employees had used forged SC/ST certificates, but no action has been taken against them so far.

"Earlier, we went on a hunger strike seeking action against them, but our demand remained unheard. Hence, we are now staging a naked protest. We demand that the fake caste certificate holders be arrested and the authorities seize property they have acquired," he said, warning of more fierce demonstrations if the demands are not met.

The protest stunned passersby who shot videos of the naked men marching and shouting slogans on the road and shared it on social media.

## VR Bhasin, Bhanu Pratap Singh paid rich tributes

Raipur, Jul 18: On the first day of the monsoon session of Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Assembly Speaker Dr. Charandas Mahant along with the members of the House paid humble tribute to Late Shri Vidya Ratan Bhasin, MLA from Vaishali Nagar (Bhilai) constituency and Late Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh, former cabinet minister of the undivided Madhya Pradesh. While paying tribute to former MLA Mr. Vidya Ratan Bhasin, Chief Minister Baghel said that late Mr. Bhasin had a simple and easy-going personality, he always worked for the welfare of common people and for the protection of public interest. He would actively raise the issues and grievances of the area in the assembly. Despite suffering from a serious illness, he was soft spoken and had an easy-going behavior. He would remain calm and centered even during the most diffi-

cult times. Paying tribute to Mr. Bhasin, Assembly Speaker Mr. Charandas Mahant said that Mr. Bhasin dedicated his life to public service, his departure is an irreparable loss for all of us.

Paying tribute to late Bhanu Pratap Singh, a member of Raigarh royal family and former cabinet minister, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that Late Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh was the younger brother of Late Raja Chakradhar Singh. Late Shri Bhanupratap Singh actively worked for the promotion of art and culture. His contribution in public interest and social sectors has been commendable. Being the chairman of Chakradhar Samaroh, he provided a platform to the artists from across the state and the country to display their artistic talents in Raigarh. Besides being actively involved in the field of politics, sports and arts, he continued to work diligently for issues related to public interest.

## CM Baghel condoles loss of three lives

In tragic road accident in Sodma Village  
Announces financial aid of Rs 4 lakh each for families of deceased

Raipur, Jul 18: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel expressed deep sorrow over the loss of three lives in a road accident that took place in Sodma village in Makdi Tehsil of Kondagaon. He extended his heartfelt condolences to the grieving families and announced financial assistance of Rs 4 lakhs each for the families of the deceased. The victims of the tragic accident are Anita Nag, Rameshwar Nag, and Sonamati Nag.

## DIGGING OF ROADS



The digging of roads during peak of rainy season continues by RMC authorities for laying of water pipelines in different localities.

## BJP drafts 109-point charge sheet against Congress Govt

To present no trust motion in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jul 18: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has finalised a 109 point charge sheet against the Congress government which would be presented in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly as no trust motion in the ongoing Monsoon Session.

Leader of Opposition in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Narayan Chandel while addressing a press conference informed that the above decision has been taken by the BJP Legislative Party. He said that the BJP would



corner the Treasury bench on the issue of alleged corruption, coal levy recovery, liquor scam, food grain scam, Public Service Commission (PSC) recruitment irregularities and other related issues during the no trust motion against the Congress government.

Talking to reporters, he said that the Congress has cheated the educated youth whereas the people

from weaker section of society have been looted through irregularities in food grain distribution through PDS across Chhattisgarh.

Chandel said that the BJP Legislative Party would urge Assembly Speaker to take up discussion on the no trust motion at the earliest during the ongoing Monsoon Session.


He also alleged that the

Atmanand School is functioning from the District Mineral Fund (DMF) under which several irregularities are being unearthed in the purchase of furniture for the students. He said that the Congress government is patronizing the corruption and commission in several schemes denying the people with the benefits.

Former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh, MLAs Brijmohan Agrawal, Ajay Chandrakar, Dharmal Kaushik, Punnul Mohile, Shivratna Sharma, Sourabh Singh, Dr Krishnamurthy Bandhi, Nankiram Kanwar, Damrudhar Pujari, Rajnish Singh and Ranjana Sahu were present during the meeting of MLAs here.

### स्वतंत्रता सेनानी

## छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य निर्माण के पुरोधा



# डॉ. खूबचंद बघेल

(19 जुलाई 1900 - 22 फरवरी 1969)

“ डॉ. बघेल ने किसानों, आदिवासियों और मजदूरों के हितों की रक्षा के लिए आजीवन संघर्ष किया। हमारी सरकार उनके बताए मार्ग पर चल, हाथिये पर खड़े हर व्यक्ति के उत्थान के लिए कार्य कर रही है। जिस छत्तीसगढ़ी अस्मिता और स्वाभिमान को पहचान दिलाने के लिए उन्होंने जीवनभर कार्य किया, उस छत्तीसगढ़ियत को हमने सुदृढ़ किया है।

### जयंती पर शत-शत नमन ”

-भूपेश बघेल मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़



## Panchakarma assistant training course to start in Ayurveda College

**Five class-rooms to be made smart class-room, Rs 25 lakh sanctioned**

**Instructions given to start OPD of Homeopathy and Unani Medicine in both Ayurveda Colleges**



College, Raipur. In view of the demand for Panchakarma assistants in government and private Ayurveda hospitals and employment of youth, it was decided to start one year Panchakarma assistant training course in Ayurveda College, Raipur. In the meeting, Rs 53 lakh was approved for the purchase of maniken (modern model) for the training and practical study of the students of Ayurveda College Raipur and Bilaspur. Approval was granted for purchase of transformer and diesel generator sets for uninterrupted power supply in the college and hospital and for fire fighting arrangements. In order to inform the general public about the health facilities

and schemes run by the Ayush department and the college hospital, permission was also given in the meeting to rent LED boards at major intersections of Raipur. Deputy Chief Minister T.S. Singhdeo instructed to start OPD of Homeopathy and Unani medicine in these hospitals to make medical consultation and treatment accessible to the general public in Ayurveda College Hospital along with Homeopathy and Unani method. He asked the officers to take necessary action for the construction of postgraduate girls' hostel and seminar hall in Raipur Ayurveda College. Singhdeo also called for encouraging research on the synergistic effects of Ayurveda and Allopathy.

With this, patients will be able to get maximum benefit of both the methods. In the meeting of Autonomous General Assembly and Executive Committee of Government Ayurveda College Raipur and Bilaspur, Mayor of Raipur Mr. Aiyaz Dhebar, Additional Chief Secretary of Medical Education Department Mrs. Renu Pillai, Secretary Medical Education Department Mr. P. Dayanand, Director of AYUSH Department Ms. Namrata Gandhi, Commissioner of Raipur Division Dr. Sanjay Alang, Commissioner of Bilaspur Division Mr. Bhim Singh, Joint Director of Ayush Department Dr. Sunil Das, Principal of Government Ayurveda College, Raipur, Dr. G.R. Chaturvedi, Registrar Dr. Sanjay Shukla and Principal of Government Ayurveda College Bilaspur Dr. R.P. Gupta and members of both the committees including Gupta and departmental officers were present.

## E-tender issued by the Mineral Resources Department

**For allocation of gold and diamond mineral blocks**

**Documents can be purchased until August 18, and the last date for submission of bids is August 21**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Jul 18:** The Department of Mineral Resources has issued an e-tender for the allotment of three precious mineral blocks through auction in the state. In the preliminary survey done by the GSI (Geological Survey of India), the possibility of the presence of gold and diamond in these blocks was mentioned. For this, an NIT has been issued in the MSTC portal on July 6, 2023, for allotment through e-auction. The Joint Director of Mineral Administration, Anurag Diwan, said that the demand for precious minerals has increased

rapidly around the world. Keeping this fact in mind, prompt action is being taken by the department to ensure its supply in the context of the development of these minerals. The State has decided to allot three precious mineral blocks through auction. Among these, Basna-2 Diamond Block under District Mahasamund, acreage 2500 hectares; Chanat-Jogidadar Gold and Associated Minerals Block under District Mahasamund, acreage 176 hectares; and Tumrisurgarda 2 Gold Block under District Kanker, acreage 240 hectares, have been retained for allotment. Detailed prospecting work in the area will be done by the winning bidder in the first instance. After this, after the mineral deposits are certified, the mining operation will commence after obtaining the mining lease. Diwan said that the last date for purchasing tender documents is Friday, August 18, 2023, and the last date for submitting bids is August 21, 2023, until 3 pm on Monday.

## CM invited to attend Shiv Mahapuran Katha



**Raipur, Jul 18:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday met the organizing committee of the Shiv Mahapuran recitation programme of storyteller Pandit Pradeep Mishra, at his office chamber located in the Vidhan Sabha premises. The committee cordially extended an invitation to the Chief Minister to participate in the upcoming Shiv Mahapuran Katha. They apprised him that the Katha would be organized in Tilda Newra from August 1 to 7, 2023, by Pandit Pradeep Mishra. The Chief Minister expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the organizers for inviting him to the Shiv Mahapuran Katha. Ghanashyam Agrawal, Ankit Agrawal, Aditya Bansal, Devendra Agrawal, along with others were also present.

## CM Baghel releases a play titled 'Suraji Gaon'



**Raipur, Jul 18:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel released a Chhattisgarhi play, Suraji Gaon, written by Durga Prasad Parkar, at his office located in the Vidhan Sabha premises. Parkar's Chhattisgarhi play is a reflection of the state government's ambitious Narva, Garva Ghuruva, and Bari scheme. Through his play, he emphasized the changes this scheme has brought to the lives of the villagers, along with the strengthening of the rural economy. This play, 'Suraji Gaon' is his attempt to make the public aware of the welfare scheme of the state government so that they can avail its benefits. Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel congratulated and extended his best wishes to Durga Prasad Parkar for his new creation. Food and Culture Minister Amarjeet Bhagat, Parliamentary Secretary Kunwar Singh Nishad, Rajendra Nishad, Santosh Nishad, Danishwar Kumar, and Lokesh Chandrakar, along with others, were present on the occasion.

## Adivasi Congress welcomes Deepak Baij



**Raipur, Jul 18:** Led by Adivasi Congress District President Bhavani Singh Markam, members of Adivasi Congress and state president Janak Dhruv offered a rousing welcome to newly elected PCC Chief Deepak Baij at Bharat Mata Chowk. Baij was loaded with flowers along with busting of crackers. He was presented bow and arrow. The prominent among those present were Chitraras Dhruv, Santosh Deewan, Bhuneshwar Dheeraj, Pappu Baghel and others.

## BJP Mahila Morcha celebrates Hareli Festival

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Jul 18:** Bharatiya Janata Party Mahila Morcha organised 'Hareli Mahotsav' on the auspicious occasion of Chhattisgarh's first 'Hareli Tihar' at the BJP state office located in Kushabhau Thackeray campus on Monday. BJP State President Arun Sao also participated in this program organized by Mahila Morcha. On this occasion Mr. Sao along with State President of BJP Mahila Morcha Shalini Rajput and Mahila Morcha members worshiped Nagar (plough), the symbol of farming, according to Chhattisgarhi tradition. Speaking on the occasion Mr. Sao said that Hareli is celebrated as the first festival of Chhattisgarh. It is a proud moment for all of us when we worship



the tools related to agriculture according to the Chhattisgarhi tradition. Various festivals are celebrated in Chhattisgarh according to the Chhattisgarhi tradition, in which Hareli is a major festival. During this BJP State President Mr. Sao also climbed Gedi. BJP State General Secretary Kedar Kashyap was also present. On the occasion of Hareli Mahotsav, games were also organized by the office bearers and workers

of BJP Mahila Morcha, in which competitions like fugdri were held along with Sua dance and the winners were awarded. Various types of delicious dishes were also prepared and brought by the office-bearers-workers of Mahila Morcha. State president of BJP Mahila Morcha, Shalini Rajput while congratulating the people of the state on the auspicious occasion of Hareli said that the holy festival of Hareli is the first festival

of Chhattisgarh. On this day, farmers - sons of Chhattisgarh Mahtari, worship the tools used in their farming according to Chhattisgarhi tradition, offer food to the tools with Chhattisgarhi cuisine Cheela, Bhajia, Sohari and perform works only after worshipping. State in-charge of BJP Minority Morcha Salim Raj, Treasurer Nandan Jain, Raipur City District BJP President Jayanti Bhai Patel, State in-charge of Mahila Morcha Sarla Kosaria, State General Secretary Vibha Awasthi, Leader of Opposition in Raipur Municipal Corporation Meenal Choubey, Mamta Sahu, Sheetal Nayak, Bhavna Sheela, Sandhya Tiwari, Mini Pandey, Morcha's state media in-charge Kiran Baghel and Mahila Morcha workers were present in large numbers.

## GGCU at the forefront among higher education institutions in implementing NEP: Prof. Chakrawal

**Bilaspur, Jul 18:** The Vice-Chancellor Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal expressed his happiness that the University is at the forefront in implementing National Education Policy (NEP)-2020, showing the way to other institutions in India. He said that National Education Policy-2020 plays a pivotal role in bringing a coordination between school education and higher education with the National Curriculum Framework. Professor Chakrawal was addressing a press conference on the occasion of the third anniversary of implementation of National Educational Policy at International Guest House in Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya here on Saturday. He spoke about the elaborate steps taken in this regard such as creation of a



task force which created strategic plans and goals and worked upon each dimension of NEP2020. One of the important aspects was the implementation of Academic Bank of Credits for which more than 10k students of GGCU have been registered so far. Among other concrete steps taken are MoUs with more than 16 national and international universities, preparing of ordinance, regulation, and standard operating procedure for creating credit transfer mechanism, starting 65 courses under

Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) mode and 4 year graduation program from the session 2023-24. 2300 students are being trained under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Yojna and teachers have been trained in capacity enhancement workshops, too. These steps, with the facility of multiple entry-exits, focus on skill development and internship for holistic development and experiential learning of students, inclusion of Indian knowledge system, and having sports, NCC, NSS, and yoga in

curriculum, Professor Chakrawal stressed, will revolutionize the education system and open up many avenues for employment of our youth. Professor Chakrawal also told about three important steps taken by Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya in the spirit of the National Education Policy viz Guru Ghasidas University Shriwan Line Scheme (GSL) dedicated to the service of the elderly, 'Guru Ghasidas Swabhimani Thali' providing wholesome food to the students of the university for only Rs.10, and Swalambi Chhattisgarhi Yojna to develop the skills of the students and assist them for entrepreneurship and in gaining employment. Earlier, at the start of the event, the Registrar, Professor Manish Shrivastava welcomed all. Thereafter, Professor P.K.

Bajpai, Convener, NEP-2020 Task Force, speaking about the objective behind the press conference, introduced the National Education Policy and told about its salient points. Prof Bajpayee said that it is noteworthy that a special committee has been constituted in order to implement the National Education Policy in Central Zone, and Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya is in the committee. Shri Dharendra Jha, Principal, Central School Bilaspur and Dr. Sanjay Ayede, Assistant Professor IASE Bilaspur were also present and shared their views. At the end of the press conference Professor M.N. Tripathi, Incharge, Media Cell presented the vote of thanks.

## Hareli festival celebrated enthusiastically

**With Roka-Cheka campaign Stop-Cheka campaign will run from July 6-31**

**Konta/Sukma, Jul 18:** Due to Chhattisgarh state being an agricultural state, the festivals here have special significance. The first festival in the order of these festivals is Hareli. The preparation of Hareli is a festival of culture and tradition and praying and wishing for a happy and good harvest. On the occasion of Hareli Tiyar, Dr. S. Zaheeruddin Deputy Director Veterinary Services told that Collector Haris S. and District Panchayat CEO DN and under Kashyap's guidance, the Roka-Cheka campaign being carried out by the Livestock Development Department, District Sukma, in villages and villages of very sensitive and rural areas, is proving to be effective. With this practice



of the Government of Chhattisgarh, farmers will not only be able to complete their agricultural work quickly, but can also take advantage of double cropping. The Deputy Director of the Veterinary Department told that under the continuous Roka-Cheka campaign in the district from July 6 to 31, departmental employees organized veterinary health camps in Gauthan village and Gauthans, the works of animal health test, treatment, castration, artificial insemination, vaccination and medicine distribution are being done for animal breed improvement. Apart from this, more and more villagers are being benefited by giving information about departmental livelihood schemes to the villagers at the camp site.

Gauthan. The work of Roka-Cheka has become easier with the formation of Gauthan in every village. Gauthan Management Committees have started making proper arrangements for better management and maintenance of livestock. From time to time, by organizing veterinary camps in Gauthan villages and Gauthans, the works of animal health test, treatment, castration, artificial insemination, vaccination and medicine distribution are being done for animal breed improvement. Apart from this, more and more villagers are being benefited by giving information about departmental livelihood schemes to the villagers at the camp site.

## Hareli Tihar, Millets Carnival-Ch'garhi Olympics inaugurated

**Jagdalpur, Jul 18:** Hareli festival has special significance in the state. Hareli is the first festival of Chhattisgarh. In view of this, district level Hareli Tihar and Roka-Cheka programme was organized on Monday at Gauthan and RIPA located in village Turenar of Jagdalpur district. Chief guest of the programme, MLA Lakheshwar Baghel, President of Bastar Area Tribal Development Authority, Chitrakot MLA Rajman Benzman worshipped the agricultural machinery used in farming in Gauthan. To protect the health of the livestock, fed

medicated wheat flour. On this occasion, CREDA President Mithlesh Swarnakar, Mayor Safira Sahu, Vice President of Indravati Basin Development Authority Rajeev Sharma, Collector Vijay Dayaram K, CCF Mohd Shaheed, CEO District Panchayat Prakash Sarve also offered medicines to the animals. After this, all the guests planted saplings in the premises. Chairman of Bastar Area Tribal Development Authority Baghel extended best wishes to everyone for the first Tihar of the state on the occasion of Hareli



Tihar and Chhattisgarhi Olympics inauguration at the biggest RIPA Center of the state. He said that on the initiative of the Chief Minister to celebrate

Hareli Tihar as a festival, the importance of the culture and folk festivals of Chhattisgarh has increased. Along with this, by giving traditional sports

the form of Chhattisgarhi Olympics, sports activities have been increased. Vice Chairman of Indravati Basin Authority, Rajeev Sharma said that the Chhattisgarh government is making every possible effort to promote the state's traditional Teej festival, dialect, food and rural sports. While congratulating Hareli, Bastar Collector Vijay said that Hareli means greenery only. By the time Hareli festival comes, the work of farming of Kharif crops etc. is almost done. The government has given this festival the form of a festival for everyone's partici-

pation. Along with this, Roka-Cheka program is being done to keep the animals in cowsheds for the protection of Kharif crops and protection of livestock. The Chhattisgarhi Olympics, started last year on the initiative of the Chief Minister, gained immense popularity. In view of this, this time Chhattisgarhi Olympics 2023-24, which will start in sports activities of 16 disciplines, was inaugurated on the day of Hareli Tihar. This will continue till the last week of September. In this, a provision has also been made to give incentive amount.

Chhattisgarhi Olympics has also been started to involve more and more people in this festival of folk culture. For this, the district level program of Chhattisgarhi Olympics based on traditional sports was inaugurated by all the guests. Along with this, all the guests tried their best in gilli-danda and tug-of-war. He also visited the exhibition of Livestock Development Department, Agriculture Department and Mahima Swa group of food items based on Millets in the premises. In this programme, the District Administration

started the Millets Carnival to promote the food items made from the products of Millets. In the programme, agriculture equipment, agriculture equipment and ragi seeds were distributed to the farmers from the DMFT item to the Gauthan committee. During this, Sannirman Karmakar Mandal member Balram Maurya, public representative Janki Ram Sethia, Yashvardhan Rao, Women's Commission member Balu Baghel, Kanger Valley National Park Director Dhamshel Ganveer and other officials were present.



BRIEF



Congress workers stage a protest against Kirit Somaiya after a video showing him in a compromising situation went viral, in Solapur, Maharashtra, Tuesday.

Traffic

New Delhi: Traffic movement was affected in many areas of the city due to waterlogging following rainfall on Tuesday. The Delhi Traffic Police took to Twitter to alert commuters about the traffic congestion. "Traffic is affected in the carriage-way from Rajghat towards Sarai Kale Khan due to waterlogging and breakdown of a bus near IP fly-over. Kindly avoid the stretch," the traffic police said in a tweet.

Threat call

Mumbai: Mumbai police on Tuesday received a threat call, a second in two days, about a bomb planted in the city, officials said. A similar call received on Monday had been found to be a hoax. A First Information Report (FIR) has also been registered against unidentified persons regarding a message received last week, warning of a terror attack in the city if Pakistani woman Seema Haider did not return to her country.

Arrested

Faridabad: A Nigerian national was arrested in an alleged drug peddling case here, police said on Tuesday. The accused has been identified as June Beril, who lived as a tenant in Delhi's Tughlakabad area, was arrested on Saturday from near the Lions club in Faridabad. Over 1 kg of marijuana was recovered from her possession, they said. "During interrogation, the accused revealed that she had come to India on April 9 last year on a tourist visa," a police spokesperson said.

Recruitment

Jaipur: To strengthen the law and order in the state, 3,578 police constables will be recruited in the Rajasthan Police Subordinate Service, an official statement issued on Tuesday said. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has given consent to the proposal to this effect.

Suicide

Jaipur: A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan on Tuesday allegedly shot himself dead with his service rifle in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district, police said. The incident took place in the morning when Sandeep Baradar (31) was on duty at Dhanan post, Station House Officer of Sam police station Urjaram said. The jawan was rushed to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him brought dead, he said.

Puthuppally loses its pulse as Chandy departs

Kottayam, Jul 18 (PTI):

Puthuppally, a village in Kottayam district on Tuesday felt an "unbearable loss" and a void that is unlikely to be filled. The passing of their leader, Oommen Chandy, who represented the Puthuppally Assembly constituency for the past 53 years, brought a cloud of gloom as hundreds of people gathered at his residence. The leader's home in Puthuppally was particularly familiar to those around because its doors were always open and locals recalled how they could walk in to discuss matters with Chandy any time of the day. Despite the fact that the mortal remains of their affable leader would only be brought to the house on Wednesday evening, a significant number of people had already gathered at the residence and its

courtyard. Vijayan Joseph, a local resident, told the media that Chandy was the pulse of Puthuppally. "We cannot believe that he left us. He was the pulse of Puthuppally. His memories and his name will remain with us forever," Joseph said. The Karott Vallikalil house of Chandy is often crowded on Sundays with people thronging to meet him with a list of their issues to be resolved. "He used to listen to each and everyone patiently and in a compassionate manner and provide them with solutions," Biju, a local resident said. News of Chandy's demise left Puthuppally residents with a void and the weight of their collective loss hung heavily in the air as they mourned the absence of their leader who had touched so many lives. Even though Chandy had



Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah and Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi pay their last respects to Kerala chief minister Oommen Chandy, in Bengaluru, Tuesday.

shifted to Thiruvananthapuram, he never really left Puthuppally. Chandy named his residence at the

state capital, Puthuppally and ensured that he was there at his constituency every Sunday, at Karott Vallikalil house, a habit he continued until he shifted to Bengaluru for his treatment. "We are childhood friends. Since the time he became an MLA in 1970, we could come and meet him at any time with any issues and he would find a solution. I don't think Puthuppally or Kerala will ever get a social worker like Chandy," Thamban, another Puthuppally resident said. He was first elected from Puthuppally on a Congress ticket in 1970. Puthuppally, under the stewardship of Chandy, was the only constituency left untouched by the political shifts that the state witnessed for more than half a century. A local resident was seen sobbing while talking to a TV channel when they asked him

about Chandy. "Chandy sir was everything for Puthuppally. He has helped me and my family numerous times. I cannot believe that he is gone," the man said. Another resident George Varghese said Chandy was very dear to everyone in Puthuppally. "It's a huge loss to Puthuppally," Varghese said. A woman was seen sobbing in front of a TV channel saying Puthuppally cannot bear the loss of Chandy. "Chandy sir used to live for us, not for his family. He was such a gentleman. We all are shattered after hearing the news," she said. The memory of his deeds and the impact he had on the lives of those around him was evident from the crowd gathered at Puthuppally. With scores of them emotionally recounting and epitomising a legacy of kindness and empathy.

Tea vendor manages traffic on flooded road amid rains

Indore, Jul 18 (PTI):

A tea vendor played a good samaritan by managing traffic on an inundated road amid heavy rains in Madhya Pradesh's Indore city. A photograph of tea vendor getting drenched while sitting on a bench placed on an open manhole is going viral on social media, with netizens lauding his selfless act and at the same time criticising the Indore Municipal Corporation. The incident took place on Monday when heavy rains pounded the city, leaving roads waterlogged. Talking to PTI, Rahul, who runs a tea stall in Bhamori area of the city, on Tuesday

said, "Due to heavy rains, water was flowing from three sides on the road in front of my shop and many passing vehicles were getting stuck and had to be pushed out." Rahul said he opened the lid of a manhole on the road and put a bench over it to drain out the water from the road. "I sat on the bench and managed the traffic to ensure that no fell into the pit and got injured because of the heavy rains," he said. It took nearly two hours for the accumulated water to drain out of the road, the tea vendor said, pointing out that no municipal staffer had reached the spot.

Homes, clothes, books washed away, flood victims stare at battle to stay afloat



Flood-hit resident looks at houses submerged in the floodwaters of the swollen Yamuna river near Nizamuddin Bridge, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTI):

They survived Delhi's devastating floods but now stare at the challenges of the aftermath - rebuilding a home, restarting a life! Aruna Devi (35) lived in the Yamuna Khadar area before the water of the swollen river came gushing in last week, sweeping away the modest structure she called home and destroying her children's books. The family was evacuated to a relief camp, and as the water recedes it prepares to come back. Their immediate challenge is that one of them has fallen sick, but

their longterm challenges are more daunting. "I am worried for the education of my children," says Aruna, who worked in agriculture fields. "The flood washed away their books and other essentials. When I went back to get them, the police did not let me. I do not know what I shall do." The consequences of the floods have been devastating with over 26,000 people being evacuated from their homes. The waters inundated key landmarks, roads, monuments and residential areas. The estimated loss of property, businesses and earnings may run into crores.

Varun Nandan (40s), a single parent of three, lost all his belongings and is now worried about his children's education. The government has set up multiple relief camps in the city where those rescued from the affected areas are being kept. At one of the relief camps, Sunita says the food they are being provided is not sufficient for her kids and there are no regular water facilities either. "I lost my livelihood in the floods. I am worried about how I will rebuild my life," Sunita says. Parts of the city have been grappling with waterlogging and flooding issues for a week now. Initially, a downpour caused intense waterlogging on July 8 and 9, with the city receiving 125 per cent of its monthly rainfall quota in just two days. Subsequently, heavy rains in the upper catchment areas, including Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Haryana, led to the Yamuna swelling to record levels. The river reached 208.66 metres on Thursday, surpassing the previous all-time record of 207.49 metres set in September 1978

Two children suffering from rare diseases treated

New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTI):

A four-year-old girl suffering from a rare congenital condition, whose worldwide incidence is "2-3 cases per million of population", has received a new lease of life after undergoing a therapy at a leading private hospital here, doctors said on Tuesday. Congenital neutropenia is a cluster of genetic diseases and causes low levels of neutrophils. These conditions can lead to recurrent infection of skin, sinuses, stomatitis and infection of lung, bone and nervous system, the doctors said. The child patient was recently brought to the Fortis hospital at Shalimar Bagh here with

fever and multiple oral ulcerations, the hospital said in a statement on Tuesday. A team of doctors led by Dr Arvind Kumar, director and head of paediatrics department at the hospital, treated the patient with a specific therapy and a well-curated approach, it said. The girl was suffering from congenital neutropenia, "whose worldwide incidence is 2-3 cases per million population", the hospital claimed. The patient was admitted to several hospitals and treated with antibiotics, but there was no improvement in her condition, it said.

"Detailed analysis of her previous medical reports revealed that on multiple occasions her neutrophil counts were 100 to 500 (normal counts for her age is more than 1500) which triggered a look for rare disease of congenital neutropenia," the statement said. A genetic testing was conducted as it is a useful tool in the diagnosis and management of these group of inherited diseases. The child received a specific therapy -- granulocyte colony stimulating factor -- a medication which increases the white blood cells by stimulating bone marrow, and clinical condition of the child showed dramatic im-

provement, it said. In another instance, Dr Kumar treated a six-year-old boy with a rare disease of agammaglobulinemia (Burton's Disease). The boy was suffering from high-grade fever, cough, purulent eye, ear discharge and loose stool. The worldwide incidence of this rare disease is 1:190,000 male births. From India, about 50-odd cases have been reported so far, the hospital claimed. A close look at the previous reports showed the male child was treated multiple times for pneumonia, ear infections, and loose stool. He had infections with rare bacteria and viruses, the hospital said.

Fight against TMC in Bengal will intensify

Kolkata, Jul 18 (PTI): Asserting that the teaming up of opposition parties to take on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections will have no bearing on Bengal politics, CPI(M) state secretary Mohd Salim on Tuesday said the fight against Trinamool Congress will intensify in the state. He claimed that TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had no option but to join the Bengaluru opposition meeting since her earlier attempts to form a third front with parties like Samajwadi Party and Biju Janata Dal have not fruited. "There is no alliance with Trinamool Congress in West Bengal and there won't be one," the CPI(M) West Bengal state secretary said. The TMC supremo and CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury were among the leaders of 26 parties, that also included Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, present at a meeting of the opposition parties in Bengaluru to chalk out a strategy to jointly take on the BJP in the 2024 general elections.

RELIEF MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION. Flood affected people receive relief material distributed by the administration, in Mathura, Tuesday. Image showing people receiving relief material.

Normal life affected as rains lash many places in Telangana

Hyderabad, Jul 18 (PTI): Normal life was disrupted at several places in Telangana on Tuesday following widespread rains and the Met office has forecast heavy and very heavy rainfall at isolated places in Khammam, Warangal and other districts in the next few days. The Southwest Monsoon has been active over Telangana and heavy rainfall occurred at most places in Mulugu and at few places in Hanamakonda and Karimnagar districts, the Met Centre of IMD said in

a release. Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Mayor Vijaya Lakshmi R Gadwal directed officials to be alert and take steps on a war footing to prevent any accidents in view of the rains in the city. She asked the Enforcement Vigilance and Disaster Management (EVDM) personnel to promptly drain out rainwater on roads. The Mayor, who gave directives with regard to dealing with dilapidated buildings and others, said any inaction or negligence

would be taken seriously, according to GHMC. In its forecast and farmers weather bulletin, the Met Centre said light to moderate rain or thunder showers are very likely to occur at most places over Telangana on Tuesday and Wednesday. In its weather warnings, it said heavy to very heavy rain with extremely heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places in Khammam, Mahabubabad, Warangal, Hanamakonda and Janaganam districts on Tuesday.

IDBI BANK LTD. Branch-Regional Office, Bilaspur (C.G.). APPENDIX IV [RULE 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties). Table with columns: Sl No., Name of the Borrowers, Guarantors, Mortgagees & Branch Name, 1)Date of Demand Notice & 2) Possession Notice, Claim Amount as per demand notice, Description of the Immovable Properties.

NAME CHANGE. It is informed to the general public that I ASHA LATA SONI W/o RAJKUMAR SONI Resident of H.No. 145 Agrawal Colony, Priyadarshini Nagar, Bilaspur, Teh. & Distt. Bilaspur (C.G.) PIN - 495001 have Changed my old Name ASHA LATA SONI W/o RAJKUMAR SONI so in future. I should be recognized by my new name That is ASHA SONI W/o RAJKUMAR SONI in all Government and Other Documents.

NAME CHANGE. It is informed to the general public that I MOHAMMAD KAISH QURRNI S/o MOHAMMAD YOUSUF Resident of H.No. 61, Geetanjali Enclave, Ring Road No. 02, Near Om Residency, Gaurav Path Bilaspur, Teh. & Distt. Bilaspur (C.G.) PIN - 495001 have Changed my old Name MOHAMMAD KAISH QURRNI S/o MOHAMMAD YOUSUF so in future. I should be recognized by my new name That is MOHAMMAD KAISH S/o MOHAMMAD YUSUF in all Government and Other Documents.

NAME CHANGE. It is informed to the general public that I RAJ KUMAR S/o Late RATANCHAND SONI Resident of H.No. 145 Agrawal Colony, Priyadarshini Nagar, Bilaspur, Teh. & Distt. Bilaspur (C.G.) PIN - 495001 have Changed my old Name RAJ KUMAR S/o Late RATANCHAND SONI so in future. I should be recognized by my new name That is RAJKUMAR SONI S/o Late RATANCHAND SONI in all Government and Other Documents.

GENERAL PUBLIC NOTICE. Being authorized by my client Santosh Sharma S/o Govind Sharma, R/o Islagal Road, Masanganji, Bilaspur (C.G.), I hereby take attention of General Public, Institutions or Banks that my above client is the owner of the Nazul land and Flat situated at Nazul Mohalla Masanganji, in the Mpl. Corp., Bilaspur Limit, Teh. & Distt. Bilaspur (C.G.) Pt. Hamarayan Bajpai Tower, Ground Floor, Flat No. 107, Area 770 sq.ft. bearing Nazul Sheet No. 20, Plot No. 6, 31, 9, Lease Period till 31.3.2027. Boundary Marks - East Flat No. 108, West Open Area of Apartment, North Passage and Flat No. 108 and South Open Area of Apartment. The above property has been purchased by my above mentioned client by Regd. Sale Deed Dt. 27.9.2021 from Ramchandra Namdev S/o Dhaniram. In the same way, Ramchandra Namdev had purchased the above property from M/s. Siddhi Vinayak Enterprises Pvt. Ltd. through Director Rajesh Bajpai by Regd. Sale Deed Dt. 5.11.1999 vide Document No. 794. Above previous deed i.e. Regd. Sale Deed Dt. 5.11.2009 is misplaced somewhere or with the possession of previous owner and because of said reason the said deed is not trace out. All persons claiming an interest in the said property or any part thereof by way of sale, gift, lease, inheritance, exchange, mortgage, charge, lien, trust, possession, easement, attachment or otherwise however are hereby required to make the same known to the undersigned at his office within 7 days from the date of publish, failing which the said property will be mortgage to Shriram Finance Ltd. without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, shall be considered as waived.



## Live Music outperforms recorded shows for infant engagement

A recent study conducted by the University of Toronto Scarborough has revealed that babies show greater engagement and synchronization of heart rates when watching live music performances compared to recorded versions of the same show. The findings suggest that infants experience the impact of attending live events, benefiting from the interactions between musicians and the audience, as well as the social experience of being in a crowd.

The study focused on baby opera, an online blend of animation and live-action performances specifically designed for children under the age of four. Laura Cirelli, assistant professor in the psychology department and co-author of the study published in the journal *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts*, emphasized the significance of shared experiences, highlighting that the babies' heart rates mirrored one another and fluctuated in response to the show.

Despite the various distractions present in a concert hall, the babies exhibited uninterrupted periods of attention, with moments of calm and excitement triggered by



changes in pitch or vocal riffs. Cirelli stressed the importance of socialization during early childhood development, as infants' brains establish the foundation for future skills and abilities.

Music, according to Cirelli, plays a significant role in fostering these essential bonds, as evidenced by the study's audience observations. Even in a community set-

ting, infants engaged with the music and connected with their fellow audience members. The research involved monitoring 120 babies aged six to 14 months as they watched a children's opera. Of these, 61 babies watched the performance in person, while 59 viewed a recording.

Heart monitors and tablets were used to record the infants' re-

sponses, focusing on their gaze towards the stage versus looking away. The results revealed that the live performance captured their attention for 72% of the 12-minute show, whereas the recording held their attention for 54% of the time. Moreover, the live show elicited more prolonged periods of sustained attention.

Cirelli concluded that

even very young babies, who may have limited exposure to music in a community context, demonstrate increased engagement when music is delivered live. These findings shed light on the captivating effect of live music experiences on infants and emphasize the potential benefits of incorporating live performances into early childhood development programs.

## Abandoned Bearded Dragon Rescued from Edinburgh Bin



In a distressing incident, a bearded dragon was discovered abandoned in a bin and subsequently rescued by authorities. The reptile was found by a staff member at a student accommodation facility in Hillside Crescent, Edinburgh.

The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) believes that the bearded dragon may have belonged to one of the international students who recently vacated the premises. Despite being discarded in a communal bin, the six-month-old lizard was found to be in good health, indicating

that it had been cared for until that point.

The animal welfare charity has taken custody of the bearded dragon and will ensure it receives the necessary care. Sarah Auldsmith, senior animal rescue officer, expressed gratitude that the reptile was unharmed and emphasized that there are better ways to handle situations where individuals can no longer care for their pets.

"We understand that people's circumstances can change, but abandoning an animal is never the appropriate solution," Auldsmith stated.

Abandoning animals in

such a manner not only puts their lives at risk but also raises concerns about their well-being and safety. The Scottish SPCA urges individuals to reach out to appropriate organizations or seek alternative options when they find themselves unable to care for their pets.

The rescued bearded dragon serves as a reminder of the importance of responsible pet ownership and the need for proper rehoming processes. The Scottish SPCA is committed to ensuring the well-being of animals and will continue to advocate for their protection and welfare.

## Underwater Concert Raises Awareness for Coral Reef Protection

Hundreds of divers and snorkelers gathered in the Florida Keys on Saturday for the Lower Keys Underwater Music Festival, an event dedicated to promoting coral reef conservation and eco-conscious diving practices. Taking place at Looe Key Reef in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, participants immersed themselves in the vibrant marine life and coral formations while enjoying an underwater concert.

Established in 1990, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary safeguards approximately 3,800 square miles of marine ecosystems, including the barrier reef that runs parallel to the 125-mile-long island chain. The festival aimed to raise awareness about the importance of preserving these delicate coral reefs, often referred to as the rainforests of the sea due to their exceptional biodiversity.

Divers and snorkelers swam amidst the colorful underwater landscape of Looe Key, listening to a carefully curated playlist of water-themed music broadcast by a local radio station. The melodies, such as the Beatles' "Yellow Submarine," Jimmy Buffett's "Fins," and the theme from "The Little Mermaid," were transmitted through waterproof speakers suspended beneath boats positioned above the reef. Intermingled with the musical performances were messages promoting diver awareness and offering tips on minimizing environmental impacts on coral reefs. The unique event not only aimed to educate participants but also provided a one-of-a-kind experience beneath the surface.



## Birds have learned to use 'anti-bird' spikes to build their nests

Birds are stealing the spikes designed to stop them nesting on buildings and using them to build their own nests - behaviour researchers describe as the "ultimate adaptation" to city life.

Birds are stealing anti-bird spikes put up by humans - and using them to build their nests.

Researchers from two Dutch natural history museums first came across the phenomenon in a hospital courtyard in Antwerp. Magpies had ripped about 50m of anti-

bird spikes from the hospital building and used them to build a huge nest of 1,500 spikes. Anti-bird spikes are often installed on buildings to discourage birds from nesting there. Biologist Auke-Florian Hiemstra of the Naturalis Biodiversity Centre said the magpies were using the pins in the same way humans do - "to keep other birds away from their nest". "It's like a joke, really," he said.

"Even for me as a nest researcher, these are the craziest bird nests I've ever seen." Magpies will



make a roof on their nest to protect their eggs and young, and will often use thorny branches.

But in the city, anti-bird spikes offer an urban alternative. The researchers described the behaviour as the "ultimate adaptation to life in

the city". The research published in *Deinsea*, the annual of the Natural History Museum in Rotterdam - describes similar magpie nests found in the Netherlands, Belgium and Scotland.

Crows have also been found making nests with

the spikes in the Netherlands. It's not the first example of unwholesome items being used for birds' nests. Other sharp materials, including barbed wire and knitting needles, are also used by magpies for the roof of their nests.

## Taiwanese Restaurant's 'Godzilla Ramen' with Crocodile Leg Shocks Internet

A local Taiwanese restaurant has taken social media by storm with a video showcasing their unique culinary creation, causing a sensation online. The eye-catching dish, appropriately named "Godzilla" ramen, features a surprising ingredient that has captured the attention of food enthusiasts worldwide. The restaurant, located in Douliu City, Yunlin County, has introduced a tantalizing bowl of ramen noodles topped with a crocodile leg, resulting in a concoction that is both thrilling and appetizing.

The establishment, known as Nu Wu Mao Kuei, has actively promoted their extraordinary dish through multiple videos on their Facebook page. According to reports from Taiwan News, the restaurant has even made the dish available for pre-order, alongside their regular ramen soup offerings for those seeking a less daring culinary experience. One video, shared by the restaurant, highlights a young female customer as she embarks on an extraordinary gastronomic journey. The footage begins with a generously portioned bowl of soup placed before her. She cautiously starts by sampling the various ingredients before mustering the courage to taste the star of the show—the "Godzilla"

ramen featuring the crocodile leg. To the surprise of many, the brave diner describes the dish as surprisingly delicious. She distinguishes the steamed crocodile leg as bearing a resemblance to chicken, while the braised meat showcases a flavor reminiscent of pork feet. The extraordinary "Godzilla" ramen comprises not only the crocodile leg but also includes eggs, bamboo shoots, baby corn, and a masterful blend of over 40 different spices. The restaurant prices this extraordinary culinary experience at 1,500 New Taiwan dollars (approximately \$48) per bowl, as reported by the news outlet. The restaur-



ant's owner reportedly acquired inspiration for this daring creation during a visit to Thailand, where they discovered the art of preparing the spicy "witch soup." The captivating video has generated an immense buzz on social media, capti-

vating the imaginations of adventurous foodies worldwide. With its audacious combination of flavors and the inclusion of an exotic ingredient, the "Godzilla" ramen has truly left a lasting impression on the culinary landscape.

## Groom Assaulted by Bride's Family in Bihar's Gaya for Concealing Baldness

In a shocking incident reminiscent of the film "Bala," a groom in Bihar's Bajaura village, Gaya district, was brutally attacked by the bride's family during the wedding festivities for allegedly hiding his baldness beneath a wig.

The entire ordeal was captured on video and quickly went viral on social media. The footage shows the groom being slapped and verbally abused by enraged family members while he pleads for mercy with folded hands. The bride's relatives grew suspicious of his wig and forcefully removed it, exposing his bald head, which further fueled their anger over the perceived deception.

Despite the groom's earnest pleas for forgiveness, the bride's family escalated the matter to the village authorities, bypassing



police involvement. Local reports suggest that the issue was addressed and resolved at the panchayat (village council) level. Adding to the controversy, it was later discovered that the groom was attempting a second marriage while still legally married to his first wife, further enraging the bride's family, according to Firstpost. This incident follows another recent wedding cancellation in Karnataka, where the bride

expressed her displeasure after the groom touched her neck during the garlanding ritual. As part of the wedding customs, the couple was expected to exchange garlands. However, when the groom attempted to place the garland around the bride's neck, she abruptly flung it away and stormed out of the wedding hall. The groom's family perceived this as a grave insult and subsequently called off the wedding.



## PM Modi likely to address annual high-level UNGA session in September

United Nations, Jul 18 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to address the annual high-level session of the UN General Assembly in September, according to a provisional list of speakers issued by the UN here. The high-level General Debate of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly will begin September 19, 2023, with Brazil as the traditional first speaker of the session, followed by the US. As per the provisional list of speakers for the high-level general debate of the 78th session of the General Assembly, India's "Head of Government" (HG) will address the ses-



Headquarters, the high-level session opens in September annually. This year the 78th session of the General Assembly will commence on September 5. During the high-level week, world leaders will convene for the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, the Climate Ambitions Summit and the General Debate, among other key events.

The 2023 SDG Summit will take place on September 18-19. "It will mark the beginning of a new phase of accelerated progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals with high-level political guidance on transformative and accelerated ac-

tions leading up to 2030." Last month, in a historic commemoration, Modi led the yoga session at UN Headquarters on the 9th International Day of Yoga celebrated on June 21. Nine years after Prime Minister Modi had first proposed from the UN General Assembly podium to mark International Yoga Day as an annual commemoration, the Indian leader was at the UN Headquarters to lead the yoga session in a historic commemoration of the day.

From New York, Modi travelled to Washington DC for his first state visit hosted by US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden.

Headquarters, the high-level session opens in September annually. This year the 78th session of the General Assembly will commence on September 5. During the high-level week, world leaders will convene for the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, the Climate Ambitions Summit and the General Debate, among other key events.

From New York, Modi travelled to Washington DC for his first state visit hosted by US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden.

## UNSC MEETING ON UKRAIN



Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, left, listens as Russian Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations Dmitry Polyansky, right, speaks during a Security Council meeting on the situation in Ukraine at United Nations headquarter.

## Sri Lankan President Wickremesinghe to visit India from July 20-21

Colombo, Jul 18 (PTI):

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe will travel to India on an official visit from July 20-21 for talks with the country's top leadership to further advance and consolidate the long-standing bilateral relations between the two neighbours, the foreign ministry announced on Tuesday.

President Wickremesinghe will undertake an official visit to India on July 20-21 at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it said in a brief statement.

The visit takes place as both countries celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this year.

During the visit, President Wickremesinghe would meet President Droupadi Murmu and hold bilateral discussions with Prime Minister Modi and other Indian dignitaries on a range of issues of mutual interest, the ministry said.

"The visit will further advance and consolidate the long-standing bilateral relations between the two coun-



tries," it added.

This will be Wickremesinghe's first visit to India after being appointed President of the cash-strapped country last year following the ouster of Gotabaya Rajapaksa in a people's uprising in July.

In a statement in New Delhi, the External Affairs Ministry said that Sri Lanka is an important partner in India's Neighbourhood First Policy and Vision SAGAR.

"The visit will reinforce the longstanding friendship between the two countries and explore avenues for enhanced connectivity and mutually beneficial cooperation across sectors," the statement said. Wickremesinghe has laid emphasis on good relations with India and made it a major plank of his foreign policy.

## Israeli protesters block highways in a 'day of disruption'



### Against judicial overhaul plan

Jerusalem, Jul 18 (AP):

Israeli protesters blocked highways and gathered outside Tel Aviv's stock exchange and military headquarters on Tuesday in the latest countrywide demonstration against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's planned judicial overhaul.

The latest "day of disruption" came as long-time allies of the prime minister pushed a contentious piece of legislation through a parliamentary committee ahead of a vote expected next week. Additional

ereudms on his fitness to serve as prime minister while on trial for corruption.

The weekly mass protests led Netanyahu to suspend the overhaul in March but he decided to revive the plan last month after compromise talks with the political opposition collapsed.

protests are planned throughout the day. Demonstrators, many of them military reservists, created human chains and blocked one of the entrances to the Kirya, Israel's military headquarters in central Tel Aviv.

Netanyahu heads the most ultranationalist and religiously conservative government in Israel's 75-year history. He proposed a series of drastic changes to the country's judiciary shortly after taking office in December. His government took office in the aftermath of the country's fifth elections in under four years, all of them regarded as ref-

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**TENDER NOTICE FOR MISCELLANEOUS WORK**  
 Tender Notice No. 08SNT-GSU-BSP-2023, Date: 11.07.2023  
 Name of Work:- Telecom works in connection with Station Development work under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme at Usalpur, Pendra Road, Anuppur, Shahdol, Umaria, Baikunthpur, Bijuri, Ambikapur Station in Bilaspur Division. Tender Value: ₹ 5,49,62,448.85/- (Rs. Five crore forty-nine lakh sixty-two thousand four hundred forty-eight and eighty-five paise only). EMD: ₹ 4,24,800.00 (Rs. Four lakh twenty-four thousand eight hundred only) Tender closing date: up to 15.00 Hrs. on 01.08.2023.  
 For further details/purchase of tender document, eligibility criteria & the complete details for 'E' tender document, please contact our website https://www.ireps.gov.in  
 The tender is floated by Gatishakti department of Bilaspur Division.  
 Dy. Chief Signal & Tele. Engg./GSU  
 CPR/10/148 S.E.C. Railway/Bilaspur  
 South East Central Railway @seccrail

## Pakistan govt to dissolve Parliament on Aug 8

Islamabad, Jul 18 (PTI):

Pakistan's major ruling coalition partners have agreed to dissolve the National Assembly on August 8, a few days before the completion of its five-year term, to get extra time for general elections, according to a media report on Tuesday.

The five-year constitutional term of the incumbent National Assembly expires on August 12 at midnight four days after the date on which both parties have reportedly agreed to dissolve the legislature.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) the two major stakeholders in the federal government have agreed to dissolve the National Assembly on August 8, the Geo News reported.

August 9 and 10 also came under discussion, but it was decided to go for August 8 to avoid any hurdle in the early dissolution



of the lower house of Parliament, the report said, quoting sources.

According to the law, if the president doesn't approve the recommendation, the National Assembly stands dissolved after 48 hours giving the government enough time to achieve its target of premature dissolution.

According to the Constitution, a general election to the National Assembly or a provincial assembly should be held within a period of 60 days immediately following the day on which the term of the Assembly is due to expire unless the Assembly

has been dissolved sooner. However, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is bound to hold the general polls within 90 days if the Assembly is dissolved before its constitutional term. The PML-N party-led Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) alliance thinks that dissolving the National Assembly would be beneficial for it. "Next month, our government will complete its tenure. We will leave before the completion of our tenure and an interim government will come," Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said at an event recently.

## America's largest reptile sanctuary wants to import gharials from India

Washington, Jul 18 (PTI):

America's largest reptile bank based in Arizona has applied to the federal government to import six gharials and another equal number of mugger crocodiles from Tamil Nadu, which it says would help preserve these endangered species.

The Phoenix Herpetological Society has applied for permission from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, according to a federal notification issued on Monday under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The federal government has asked for public comments on this matter.

According to the federal notification, the Phoenix Herpetological Society has requested a permit to import three male and three female captive-bred gharials ( Gaviialis gangeticus ) and three male and three female captive-bred mugger crocodile ( Crocodylus palustris kimbula and Crocodylus palustris palustris ) from Madras Crocodile Bank Trust in Tamil Nadu. This is for the purpose of enhancing the propagation or survival of the species. "This notification is for a single import," it said, asking the general public to send in their comments by August 16.

## India-Sri Lanka Joint Committee discusses resumption of ferry services

Colombo, Jul 18 (PTI):

A joint commission established to strengthen bilateral connectivity has held "productive discussions" on the resumption of ferry services between India and Sri Lanka to boost regional trade and tourism and promote stronger people-to-people ties.

The meeting took place ahead of Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe's planned visit to India later this week.

The two sides were led respectively by Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways of the Government of India and K.D.S. Ruwanchandra, Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation of the Government of Sri Lanka.

The Joint Committee identified a number of areas for mutual cooperation for the operationalisation of ferry services in the near future and desired to take further steps based on mutual understanding, the statement said.

The two sides were to start a boat service in April which was later delayed as India changed the port it had chosen for the service.

Both sides agreed that the resumption of ferry services will boost regional trade and tourism and promote stronger people-to-people ties, it said.

The meeting took place ahead of Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe's planned visit to India later this week.

The two sides were led respectively by Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways of the Government of India and K.D.S. Ruwanchandra, Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation of the Government of Sri Lanka.

The Joint Committee identified a number of areas for mutual cooperation

## कार्यालय आयुक्त, आदिम जाति तथा अनुसूचित जाति विकास

ब्लाक-डी, भू-तल, इन्द्रावती भवन, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर छत्तीसगढ़

Phone No. 0771-2263708, Fax No. -2262558, www.tribal.cg.gov.in, Email-ctd.cg@nic.in

क्रमांक/07/पीएमटी-पीईटी/2023-24/3909 नवा रायपुर, दिनांक 14/07/2023

युवा कैरियर निर्माण योजना (यथा संशोधित 2021) के अंतर्गत वर्ष 2023-24 में प्रो. इंजीनियरिंग एवं प्रो. मेडिकल की प्रवेश परीक्षाओं की तैयारी हेतु प्रतिष्ठित कोचिंग संस्थाओं से "रूचि की अभिव्यक्ति" का तृतीय आमंत्रण

आदिमजाति तथा अनुसूचित जाति विकास विभाग द्वारा राज्य के अनुसूचित जाति एवं अनुसूचित जनजाति वर्ग के 100 (अनुसूचित जनजाति-64, अनुसूचित जाति-36) प्रतिभायुक्त विद्यार्थियों के लिए आदिम जाति एवं अनुसूचित जाति प्रो. मेडिकल एवं प्रो. इंजीनियरिंग परीक्षा पूर्व प्रशिक्षण योजना अंतर्गत क्षेत्र में कोचिंग प्रदान किये जाने हेतु कार्यरत निजी प्रतिष्ठित कोचिंग संस्थाओं से "रूचि की अभिव्यक्ति" के माध्यम से प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं।

1. प्रस्ताव जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि - 07.08.2023, अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक
2. निर्धारित तिथि तक प्राप्त प्रस्ताव को समिति के समक्ष खोला जाना - 11.08.2023, अपराह्न 3:00 बजे
3. पात्र नाए गए संस्थाओं का समिति के समक्ष प्रस्तुतीकरण एवं समग्र मूल्यांकन - पृथक से सूचित किया जावेगा

विरतुव विवरण विभाग की वेबसाईट [www.tribal.cg.gov.in](http://www.tribal.cg.gov.in) से अवलोकन कर प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।  
 (श्रीमती शम्मी आबिदी) आयुक्त आदिम जाति तथा अनुसूचित जाति विकास नवा रायपुर अटल नगर (छ.ग.)

**संचालनालय**  
**आदिमजाति अनुसंधान एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थान**  
 पुरखौती मुवतंगिन के समीप, सेक्टर-24, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर (छ.ग.)  
 E-mail: trti.cg@nic.in, Website: www.cgtrti.gov.in, Phone: 0771-2960350, Fax: 0771-2960531  
 क्र. 47/टी.आर.आई./युस्त./बुलेटिन/2023/740 नवा रायपुर, दिनांक 13/07/2023  
 // अर्द्धवार्षिक बुलेटिन (पत्रिका) आदि-गोठ में आलेख-शोधपत्र आमंत्रण की सूचना //

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि संचालक, आदिमजाति अनुसंधान एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, नवा रायपुर द्वारा अर्द्धवार्षिक बुलेटिन (पत्रिका) आदि-गोठ के द्वितीय अंक में प्रकाशन हेतु जनजातीय जीवनशैली पर आधारित शोध, आलेख एवं रचनाएं आमंत्रित हैं।

कृपया अपना मौखिक शोध, आलेख, रचनाएं आदि MS Word, Kruti Dev 010/ Times New Roman में टंकण किया हुआ साफ्ट कॉपी संस्थान के ई-मेल [trti.cgbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:trti.cgbulletin@gmail.com) में भेज सकते हैं अथवा "बुलेटिन प्रकोष्ठ" आदिमजाति अनुसंधान एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, सेक्टर-24 नवा रायपुर अटल नगर छत्तीसगढ़ के पते पर हार्ड एवं साफ्ट कॉपी की सी.डी. सहित विज्ञापित जारी होने के 15 दिवस की समयवधि में भेज सकते हैं। अधिक जानकारी हेतु श्रीमती रमा उड़के, सहायक संचालक मो.नं. 9301655487 एवं श्री ईश्वर साहू, अनुसंधान सहायक मो.नं. 9111158339 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

संचालक आदिमजाति अनुसंधान एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थान नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर (छ.ग.)

**कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)**  
**ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना**  
 क्र. 20/न.पा.नि./जोन क्र. 05/2023-24 दिनांक 18/07/2023  
 एकीकृत पंचायत प्रणाली अंतर्गत सखम श्रेणी में पंचीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु दिनांक 11.08.2023 को सायं काल 5:30 बजे तक ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

निविदा क्रमांक/सिस्टम टेकर नं.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (₹. लाख में)	निविदा वाचनलोक (सबमिट करने की अंतिम तिथि)
141663	वार्ड क्र. 36 सूर्यवंशी भवन से उर्वई चौक में आर.सी.सी नाली एवं प्री कास्ट स्लेब निर्माण कार्य।	25.10	10/08/2023

उपरोक्त प्रदाय कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, चरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेबसाईट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से वाचनलोक की जा सकती है।  
 जोन आयुक्त, जोन क्र. 05  
 Green City, Clean City, Dream City. नगर पालिक निगम, बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

**NATIONAL EDUCATION SOCIETY FOR TRIBAL STUDENTS (NESTS)**  
 (An autonomous organization under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India)  
 Gate No. 3A, Jeevan Tara building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

**EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS STAFF SELECTION EXAM (ESSE) - 2023**

National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), an autonomous organization under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, is inviting online applications for the recruitment of the teaching and non-teaching staff for Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) across the country. Details regarding the online application, educational qualifications, teaching experience (wherever applicable) and other eligibility criteria for the ESSE-2023 are available in the Information Bulletin, which is accessible at "[www.emrs.tribal.gov.in](http://www.emrs.tribal.gov.in)". Interested and eligible candidates can apply online till 18.08.2023 (up to 23:50 Hrs. by submitting application form prescribed thereon). Details of vacancies are available in the Information Bulletin.

The candidates are advised to visit "[www.emrs.tribal.gov.in](http://www.emrs.tribal.gov.in)" for future updates.  
 CBC 43107/12/0009/2324

**NMDC Limited**  
 (A Govt. of India Enterprise)  
 'Khanji Bhavan', 10-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500028  
 CIN:L13100TG1958GQ001674.

**CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT**  
 Pre-Tender Meeting Notice Dated:19/07/2023

NMDC Limited, A "NAVARATNA" Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites experienced, reputed and competent domestic bidders to participate in the Pre-Tender Meeting on 25/07/2023 (11.00 Hrs.) for the work of "Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Fully Automated Sampling and Analysis Systems on Turnkey basis for Iron Ore mines at Kirandul, Bacheli and Donimalai Complexes of NMDC Ltd." Venue of the Meeting: NMDC Ltd., Hyderabad

For obtaining the details Brief agenda of the meeting, Preliminary scope of work, Time schedule, project site etc. the bidders may visit NMDC website <http://www.nmdc.co.in>

Further, for any queries the bidders may also contact following officials directly or through email: Mr. S Sahoo, AGM (Mech.) - NMDC Ltd. (M: 9490479089) [contracts@nmdc.co.in](mailto:contracts@nmdc.co.in)  
 Executive Director (Works)

**Public Works Department**  
 Sector-19, North Block, Naya Raipur (C.G.)

**E-Procurement Tender Notice**  
 E-mail : [tenders-pwd.cg@gov.in](mailto:tenders-pwd.cg@gov.in)

**NIT No. 222 /TC/EinC/PWD/2023-24** Dated 10.07.2023

The Engineer-in-Chief, Public Works Department on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh invites percentage rate bids on electronic tendering system under RCPLWE RRP-III in the district of Bijapur, Kanker, Kondagaon & Mohla-Manpur-A.Chowki for construction of 06 Bridges with estimated cost amounting Rs 2181.00 Lacs including their maintenance for five years from the contractors registered with unified registration system (e-registration) in Chhattisgarh. Non registered bidders may submit bid; however the successful bidder must get registered in appropriate class under "Unified Registration System (e-Registration)" of Chhattisgarh before signing the agreement.

The bid document shall be available to bidders online free of cost and should be submitted online e-procurement system of government of Chhattisgarh in <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>. Bids form will be available on the website from 11.07.2023 and may be submitted up to 17.00 Hrs. on 26.07.2023

For participating in bidding process, bidders are required to register in the above web-site with nominal fee of Rs 500/- to be paid online to service provider. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from authorized certifying authorities.

The bidders are required to submit (a) original bid security in approved form and (b) original affidavit duly verified and notarized as per clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) and 4.4 B (c) to Chief Engineer, Tender Cell, First Floor, Nirman Bhawan, PWD, North Block, Sector-19, Naya Raipur (C.G.) 492-002 as per provisions of bid document through Speed/ Registered post, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Detailed schedule of important dates may be seen on notice board of offices and also available on website of Public Works Department <http://pwd.cg.nic.in>

**Chief Engineer**  
 (Central Tender Cell)  
 Office of Engineer-In-Chief  
 P.W.D. Nava Raipur Atal Nagar (C.G.)





## CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 11 No. 109

### Fortifying Economic Bonds

#### India-UAE Forge Path to Local Currency Trade

In a significant move aimed at revolutionizing international financial transactions, India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have taken a stride towards boosting trade by initiating settlement in their respective currencies and linking their fast payment systems. This development follows the integration of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with Singapore's PayNow a mere five months ago, reflecting India's commitment to expanding its global economic partnerships. The Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed between the two nations establish a framework to promote the use of the Indian rupee and the Emirati dirham for cross-border transactions while interconnecting their payment and messaging systems. Furthermore, the UPI will now be connected with the UAE's Instant Payment Platform, further streamlining financial operations. The Local Currency Settlement System, borne out of the agreement between the Reserve Bank of India and the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates, aligns with the objectives of India's Digital India program, which aims to enhance and expand digital transactions. The digitization of the economy has already proven its worth in terms of efficiency and transparency, with the number of digital transactions in the country soaring from 1.27 billion in 2013-14 to approximately 13 billion in 2022-23. It is encouraging to witness the world's fastest-growing major economy spreading its wings by forging alliances with countries such as Singapore and the UAE, which boast some of the highest per capita incomes globally. Singapore boasts an annual per capita income surpassing \$64,000, while the UAE follows closely behind with over \$41,000. The UAE holds a pivotal position for India, both geopolitically and economically. Bilateral trade relations received a substantial boost last year with the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). During the inaugural meeting of the CEPA's Joint Committee last month, the two nations set a target to more than double trade in non-petroleum products, aiming for \$100 billion by 2030. The digital impetus is anticipated to augment remittances and investments, creating a mutually beneficial environment for both New Delhi and Abu Dhabi. However, it is crucial for sustained efforts to be made to fully capitalize on the UPI's potential as a reliable payment mode, ensuring a seamless and efficient trade ecosystem. This forward-looking initiative holds immense promise for enhancing trade ties between India and the UAE. By leveraging local currencies and leveraging the advancements in digital payments, both nations stand to benefit from faster, more cost-effective, and transparent international transactions. This strategic move aligns with the broader vision of nurturing strong economic partnerships and expanding India's influence on the global stage. As India continues to cement its position as a major player in the global economy, collaborative efforts like these pave the way for prosperous trade relations, facilitating economic growth and stability for both nations involved.

### Rising Champions

#### Alcaraz and Vondrousova Defy Expectations

In an exhilarating weekend showdown, the world of tennis bore witness to the meteoric rise of two young stars who defied the odds and etched their names in history. Carlos Alcaraz, the 20-year-old sensation from Spain, emerged as the new men's champion at Wimbledon, triumphing over the legendary seven-time winner, Novak Djokovic, in a gripping five-set final on Centre Court. Alcaraz's nerve and tenacity proved to be the decisive factors as he showcased the skills required to defeat a titan of the game. Djokovic, at 36 years old, missed the opportunity to match Roger Federer's record at Wimbledon, but he lauded Alcaraz for his exceptional abilities, hailing him as a complete player, embodying the best qualities of the sport's revered 'Big Three': Djokovic, Federer, and Rafael Nadal. Equally remarkable was the achievement of Czech player Marketa Vondrousova, who secured the Wimbledon women's singles crown by defeating Tunisia's Ons Jabeur. Vondrousova's victory holds a special significance as she became the first unseeded player in the professional era to claim this coveted title. While Jabeur's aspirations of becoming the first African to win the championship were shattered, Vondrousova, at 24 years old, emerged triumphant despite undergoing wrist surgery just a year ago. Her success holds a bittersweet flavor, as it serves as a testament to her unwavering determination and resilience, disproving the doubts cast by her former sponsor, Nike, who underestimated her indomitable spirit and dropped her from their ranks. As Alcaraz and Vondrousova fearlessly faced formidable opponents and secured historic victories, their triumphs signify their enduring presence in the world of tennis. Alcaraz's emphatic display on the grass court showcased his adaptability beyond his favored clay surface, solidifying his reputation as a force to be reckoned with. Tennis enthusiasts can now eagerly anticipate enthralling battles between the emerging generation of tennis stars and seasoned veterans like Djokovic and Nadal, who have proven that the 30s can be just as thrilling and formidable as the 20s. The torch is being passed as the sport witnesses a seamless transition from the era of tennis greats to a new generation of extraordinary talent. Alcaraz and Vondrousova have proven that age is no barrier when it comes to achieving greatness on the court. Their triumphs serve as an inspiration to aspiring young players worldwide, encouraging them to dream big and persevere against all odds. With their passion, skill, and unwavering determination, these rising stars are destined to leave an indelible mark on the sport, captivating audiences with their electrifying performances for years to come. The stage is set for a thrilling new chapter in tennis history, where the old guard and the young guns will collide, igniting a fierce and enthralling rivalry. As the sport continues to evolve, it is in the clash of generations that tennis aficionados will witness the timeless beauty of the game unfold, paving the way for a legacy that transcends age and inspires generations to come. The future of tennis shines brightly, with Alcaraz, Vondrousova, and their peers ready to carve their own paths and create their own legends on the hallowed courts of tennis' grand stages.

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### SWOLLEN YAMUNA



Visitors look at the swollen Yamuna river as seen from the Taj Mahal, in Agra, Tuesday, July 18.

## After all, why do rivers become villains?

DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH



Rivers are an integral part of the roots of our civilization, so the floods caused by them are also a part of our country. If we say from the point of view of hydrology and meteorology, floods in India are directly related to the rains in the country during the monsoon season. The damage caused by floods is increasing continuously.

The main reason for this is that during the last few years, economic activities have increased a lot in the areas falling into the submergence area. And, human settlements are also settling. Due to this, the possibility of people coming into the submergence area of rivers becoming victims of floods is increasing year by year.

As a result, the natural flow area of the river starts appearing as a flood-prone area. In recent years, the pace of settlement of urban settlements has increased in the areas submerged by the water of rivers. For this reason, also, the scope of damage caused by a flood is increasing. Because with the increase in the geographical area and population of any city, the possibility of more and more people becoming victims of flood increases.

As soon as the settlements start settling in the flood-affected areas, the path of flood water gets

blocked. Due to this, the flood water cannot come out. Then dams are built around the settlements to protect them from flood water. Settlement of settlements in flood-affected areas and the formation of these dams also harm the ecosystem of river valleys and rivers.

In the first period, the man was a hunter, then started farming. After this, he started doing far away business and started usurping power in the name of business. This was followed by the Industrial Age and, last of all, the capitalist system that emerged after World War II. In each period, humans became more developed than before, and at the same time, the consumption of energy and natural resources increased. In each era, information also became more available than in the previous era. In every new period, the population also increased more than before.

Till now nature was more powerful than us, but the present era is the next stage of development, it can be called the human era because now man has full control over nature and human activities have become more powerful than nature. The challenge of evacuating people from every submergence area and resettling them elsewhere as per the guidelines is

huge. And from its very beginning obstacles start coming. Even today, land acquisition is a big challenge. And governments have often been accused of not being fair in giving compensation and that government schemes for rehabilitating people are inadequate. Therefore, the political benefits of maintaining the status quo are greater. Because in this every season work is done by giving relief and compensation to the flood victims. That is why other options are not considered by the states.

Because this has a bad effect on their political interests. Apart from this, it is also to be noted here that urban dense settlements cannot be completely displaced. And for this, it is also necessary to make arrangements for their safety by building dams around these settlements. But, at the same time, it can be sure that further development of the infrastructure of the cities will be stopped. So that more settlements do not settle in the flood-affected areas. Another important thing to note here is that the zoning of the submergence area will benefit a large section of the population and area. For example, if the submergence area in the state of Assam is restored and the natural course of the Brahmaputra river is revived, its benefits will extend to Bangladesh. Because then there will be enough time between rains and flood water reaching the low-lying areas of Bangladesh. Due to this, good water levels will also be maintained in the rivers for a long time.

Here we have to accept that rivers are an integral part of this land area. In such a situation, humans have to conduct their activities within the limits set by natural conditions. In ancient

times, the way human activities were conducted in harmony with the natural system. We have to think about adopting the same idea afresh. Only then we will be able to implement this important policy at the ground level, which has been gathering dust for years.

Overall, we have reached a very dangerous phase and human activities may become the cause of its destruction. In today's era, the problem is not only destroying natural resources, but we are changing things. Changed the atmosphere, changed the composition of the land, moved from simple crops to genetically modified crops, started creating new animals, and tampering with life at the level of genes. Now the era of artificial intelligence has come. Everything may change on the earth in the coming time, but no one knows what effect it will have on nature.

Contrary to these challenges, if we try to prepare the natural flow of the rivers, then there are many possibilities for flood control in this too. This will also reduce the damage caused by floods. Land prices are not high in the areas where floods often occur.

That's why, only people from the weakest sections of society settle in such risky areas. Those who spend their life in a very dangerous place. They do not even get the benefit of government schemes and services. If such people are resettled to other places, they will have an opportunity to free themselves from the vicious cycle of poverty. They will be able to avoid the devastation of the floods that come every year. This will also help in conserving their limited capital resources.

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### A New Era in Tennis Begins

The match on July 16, 2023, may be a watershed moment in tennis history. Carlos Alcaraz, a remarkable 20-year-old, emerged as the deserving winner against the legendary Novak Djokovic. Their 4-hour 43-minute spectacle captivated audiences and both players deserve accolades for their magnificent performance. Alcaraz's Wimbledon victory makes him the third-youngest men's singles champion, trailing only Boris Becker and Björn Borg. It is his second grand slam title, making him the first new male player since 2015 to achieve this feat. By ending Djokovic's four-year dominance at Wimbledon, Alcaraz denied him the chance to equal Roger Federer's record of eight titles. Alcaraz's exceptional skills made Djokovic appear ordinary at times, especially in the high-intensity second set. A pivotal moment came when Alcaraz broke Djokovic's serve in an exhausting 26-minute game, securing a decisive double break. This victory marks the beginning of a new era in tennis, with Alcaraz emerging as a formidable rival to the sport's greats. While Djokovic's pursuit of the Grand Slam this year is halted, the match signifies a thrilling all-court rivalry. Kudos to Alcaraz for challenging the GOAT and shaping the future of tennis.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

#### Cultural Revival

I am writing to express my utmost delight at the inauguration of the Chhattisgarhia Olympics on the auspicious occasion of Hareli Tihar in Bijapur. This remarkable event, led by the visionary Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel, marks a significant step towards reviving our cherished traditional sports and preserving our rich cultural heritage. The Chhattisgarhia Olympics, with its diverse array of activities, including gilli danda, Gedi climbing, and more, not only brings joy and excitement to our communities but also serves as a poignant reminder of our roots and the importance of passing down these traditions to future generations. The Chhattisgarhia Olympics truly embodies the spirit of unity, cultural pride, and a harmonious connection with nature. It serves as a platform to celebrate our heritage and ensures that our customs remain alive for generations to come.

MK Nair, Raipur

## Caring of planted trees is more important than plantation



Rajender Kumar Sharma

As soon as the monsoon rains begin, the whole earth ablaze with greenery. The desert land also breathes a sigh of relief after toiling in the scorching heat. All this is the gift of nature and nature has its own cycle.

Human beings felled trees indiscriminately due to their unlimited desires, due to which the very existence of forests was in danger.

Indian botanist Jagdish Chandra Basu who first proved that trees and plants respire like us, they also feel pain and pleasure like us, they also feel hunger and

thirst. The glory of trees is also mentioned in Hindu religious texts and scriptures. Trees and plants like Banyan, Peepal, Tulsi etc. have been considered worshipable.

Peepal is called the king of trees. See a verse in its worship-

मूलम् ब्रह्मा, त्वचा विष्णु,  
Root is God Brahma, Skin (bark) is God Vishnu

सखा शंकरमेव च ।  
Branches are God Shiva

पत्रे-पत्रेका सर्वदेवानाम,  
Leaves are all God & Goddesses

वृक्षराज नमस्ते ।  
King of tree, I bow down to you.

The kind of ecological imbalance that is being seen today, the way the continuous increase in the temperature of the earth is being recorded, the natural cycles are becoming unbalanced, the reason for all this is the decreasing number of trees. Trees play an important role in maintaining balance on the earth.

With the onset of monsoon, the Van Mahotsav programs also start in full swing. There

is a competition between political parties, social organizations and the forest department to plant more and more plants. The number of plants to be planted is not limited to hundreds of thousands, but this number reaches millions and millions. I am surprised to see these figures that we lose our sweat in taking care of ten to twenty plants in the small garden of the house. In such a situation, who would be taking care of these lakhs and crores of new plants planted?

But the reality is far away from this. It is often seen that organizations and groups organize a program of planting saplings during Van Mahotsav, the chief guest is invited, five to ten saplings are symbolically planted, photographs are taken, a little speech etc. takes place to tell what trees do for us.

The organizers walk away, leaving the remaining saplings at the mercy of others who attended the event. Now, out of the remaining plants, how many were planted and how many died lying there due to lack of planting, no one has any account of this. The next day, this tree

plantation program becomes headlines in the newspapers.

This was the matter of the plants dying at the venue, now if we talk about how many plants were properly taken care of after the plants were planted? Perhaps its data will not be available to anyone. In our scriptures, trees have been considered like parents.

In such a situation, who is to be held responsible for the killing of the plants which die due to our carelessness? A plant needs the same care as a child. When the child grows up, then its dependence on the parents decreases. Similarly, when a plant grows up to become a tree, it also does not require that much care. Just care has to be taken that no one should cut it or harm it. But our biggest problem is that we are unable to understand the language of these speechless trees. We are not ready to accept them as alive.

Today the need is that even if you do not plant millions of plants, even if you plant only one plant, that plant should survive till it becomes a tree. Only then you get the real virtue of planting trees. Saving the planted trees is a bigger responsibility than

planting new trees. The responsibility of taking care of the new saplings planted during the Van Mahotsav should be entrusted to the organizers. Before planting saplings, it should be made mandatory for the organizers to take approval from the Forest Department on the basis of program details.

The forest department should also compulsorily take an affidavit from the organizers regarding the responsibility of taking care of the planted saplings so that no one can kill these dumb newborn plants. Last year, taking positive steps in this direction, the UP government has announced the formation of committees that will take care of the saplings planted at the local level.

Other states should also take such initiative. It is the responsibility of every citizen of the country to develop an attitude of planting trees as well as taking care of trees, only then the Van Mahotsav program will be successful and meaningful in true sense.

(Writer is Sr. Educationist & Columnist, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Views are personal)



**BRIEF**

**Debt vulnerabilities**



**Gandhinagar:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday met her Chinese counterpart Liu Kun and discussed various deliverables under G20 India Presidency, including strengthening Multilateral Development Banks and global debt vulnerabilities. Both ministers met on the sidelines of the ongoing 3rd G20 Finance Minister and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting and discussed the state of their economies, inflation, trade and recognised the importance of a good business environment for economic growth and development.

**Palette brand**

**New Delhi:** Hospitality technology platform OYO on Tuesday announced its foray into premium resorts and hotels category with the launch of its new brand - Palette with plans to have a total of 50 properties by second quarter of FY24. The company has started 10 Palette resorts as a pilot in Jaipur, Hyderabad, Digha, Mumbai, Chennai, Manesar and Bangalore. It will add 40 more Palette resorts to its portfolio by Q2 FY 2024, OYO said in a statement.

**CCI queries**



**Mumbai:** Vistara CEO Vinod Kannan said the airline will submit its response to the Competition Commission's queries on the proposed merger with Air India by the end of this month and expressed confidence of receiving all regulatory approvals by early next year. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has sought more details on the merger of Vistara with Air India, a deal that was announced in November last year. "There are certain questions that have been asked. We are going to give our response to the CCI by the end of this month. Then, the CCI will decide whether it needs to go to phase two or needs further clarification," Kannan said here.

**Coal stock**

**New Delhi:** The overall coal stock position in the country rose 34 per cent to 103 million tonnes (MT) on July 16, an official statement said on Tuesday. As on July 16, 2023, thermal power plant coal stock stands at 33.46 MT, which is 28 per cent higher compared to the corresponding period of last financial year; the coal ministry said in a statement. "Coal availability at all locations including pithead coal stock at mine end, stock in transit and TPPs is 103 MT as against 76.85 MT last year, which is 34 per cent higher year-on-year."

## G20 finance ministers discuss ways to improve tax transparency, anti-evasion measures

**Gandhinagar, Jul 18:**

G20 finance ministers on Tuesday discussed strategies to implement strategies for overhauling the global tax norms to ensure that multinational companies pay taxes wherever they operate. The two-day G20 finance ministers and central bank governors meeting being held under India's Presidency also discussed ways to help low and middle income countries reeling under huge debt burden. The meeting being chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman invited views on the way forward in international taxation with

regard to implementation of measures to check tax evasion. "Finance Ministers and Governors were also invited to discuss strategies for capacity building to support implementation of 'Two Pillar Solution' and enhancing global #taxtransparency under #G20India Presidency," the Finance Ministry tweeted. The proposed two-pillar solution consists of two components, including reallocation of multinational companies' additional share of profit to the market jurisdictions where they operate. The second component is about having a global minimum tax of 15 per cent for the

multinational companies. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in an outcome statement last week said that a few jurisdictions have expressed concerns "with some specific items" in the Multi Lateral Convention (MLC). "Efforts to resolve these issues are underway with a view to prepare the MLC for signature expeditiously," the OECD said. India has been calling for G20 countries to ensure that the developing nations are guarded against any "unintended consequences" of the proposed global minimum tax deal. Developing countries make up almost

one-third of the membership of the G20 inclusive framework for taxation. Further, delegates exchanged views on ways for advancing financial inclusion and productivity gains through innovative digital approaches, including digital technologies and digital public infrastructure, to achieve SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) in G20 countries and beyond. "G20 delegates were invited to discuss progress on the Financial Sector and provide guidance on #CryptoAssets ecosystem, including their regulation, supervision, and oversight," the ministry tweeted.

## India's maritime sector poised for growth: Sonowal

**Mumbai, Jul 18:**

The third edition of the Global Maritime India Summit will be held in October and will focus on various areas, including ports of the future, decarbonisation, coastal shipping and inland waterways transportation, Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal said on Tuesday. At the curtain raiser event for the three-day summit, Sonowal also said the country's maritime sector is poised for growth, owing to proactive government policies around, ports, shipping and inland waterways. The summit will be organised in association with industry body Ficci in the national capital from October 17 and around 50 countries are expected to participate. According to a release, the summit is



aimed at unlocking potential for new investment opportunities along with collaborations for knowledge and technology to enhance cooperation in trade and promote the ease of doing business. Sonowal, who is the Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, and his deputy Shripad Naik, among others, were present at the curtain raiser event on Tuesday. "The huge potential of India's marine sector can play a significant and pivotal role

in elevating the economic cycle towards an Aatmanirbhar Bharat by 2047, Sonowal said, adding that the government has identified investment opportunities worth Rs 10 lakh crore in the country's maritime sector. "With an identified investment opportunities of more than Rs 10 lakh crore in the maritime sector of the country, we are standing at a threshold of a major economic upswing which can generate employment opportunities for more than 15 lakhs youth of India," the minister said. He urged all the maritime stakeholders to be part of the investment opportunities. As per the release, the summit will also provide a platform for startups, researchers, incubators and innovators to showcase their technology and expertise.

## Developed economies under stress, there is demand slowdown: Goyal

**New Delhi, Jul 17:**

The developed economies are under stress, and there is a demand slowdown in the world market, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said amid a dip in the country's exports. India's exports contracted by 22 per cent, the steepest decline in the last three years, to USD 32.97 billion in June on account of global demand slowdown, especially in the Western markets like the US and Europe. "Over the last two years, we have had record exports. Unfortunately, the world seems to be moving towards a recession. Developed economies of Europe and America are under stress, very often



overstocked, seen softening of commodities and commodity pricing and demand. Similarly, discretionary spending is very lukewarm," he said at an event. The minister said that gems and jewellery, textiles, and leather goods, which are India's strength areas are currently under stress. "In this situation, it is incumbent on all of us to work as a team and make

the India story, the compulsive story of the world. The world today wants to deal with India," he added. The minister noted that India is opening its trade doors wider and "we want to have greater international trade". India wants to be a part of the international global supply and value chains, he said, adding India wants to open the doors of other markets for products where it has significant skills, capabilities and competitive edge. "Therefore, a focus on free trade agreements or comprehensive economic partnerships with developed economies has been a core of the commerce (ministry's) agenda that we have," he said.

## Adani invokes 'matrabhumi', again slams Hindenburg for malicious attempt to damage reputation

**New Delhi, Jul 18:**

Billionaire Gautam Adani on Tuesday invoked growth prospects of 'matrabhumi' India and the potential it offers for his business empire as he again slammed US short-seller Hindenburg for a 'malicious' attempt to damage the reputation of his conglomerate. At the annual shareholders meeting of his ports-to-energy conglomerate, Adani said the group's assets and operating cashflows have got stronger and healthier and it will continue to consolidate what it has built while looking at expanding its horizons. He used the same language as he had used in the annual reports of his group's listed firms last month, to hit back at Hindenburg



Research's "malicious" allegations and "false narratives" that "various vested interests tried to exploit". He has reiterated that his conglomerate remains confident in its governance and disclosure standards. Hindenburg on January 24 accused Adani of "brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud" as well as using a "labyrinthian network" of

shell companies for surreptitious money movements, allegations that the conglomerate has strongly denied, calling the report "a calculated attack on India". The report lopped off close to USD 150 billion in the market value of the group's listed companies at the lowest point and led to Adani losing the richest Indian tag. Adani, 62, said the US short-seller published the report on the eve of India's Republic Day. "The report was a combination of targeted misinformation and discredited allegations, the majority of them dating from 2004 to 2015. They were all settled by the appropriate authorities at that time." "This report was a deliberate and malicious attempt aimed at damaging our reputation

and generating profits through a short-term drive-down of our stock prices," he said. He went on to refer to the expert committee constituted by the Supreme Court to look into the matter. "The Expert Committee did not find any regulatory failure," he said adding the panel confirmed the quality of the group's disclosures and "found no instance of any breach." "While Sebi (capital market regulator) is still to submit its report (on a separate probe into the allegations against Adani Group) in the months ahead, we remain confident of our governance and disclosure standards," he added. Adani then turned to his belief in the future of "matrabhumi" (the motherland).

**FICCI-EY REPORT**



Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Chair of the FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians, along with other dignitaries launches FICCI-EY report on 'Road Safety in India', in New Delhi, Tuesday, July 18.

## More optimistic about India now than 'in a long time', says World Bank chief Ajay Banga

**Gandhinagar, Jul 18:**

World Bank president Ajay Banga said amid global challenges, he is more optimistic about India and its economy now than he has been "in a long time". Talking to the media on the sidelines of the third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting here, the first-ever Indian-American to head the top global financial institution said the world economy is in a difficult place. Banga (63) showered praises on India for its digital infrastructure, saying he is a "big fan" of such initiatives taken by the world's fifth largest economy. "I am more optimistic about India, as a whole, economically, than I



have been for a long time. The fact is that the world economy is in a difficult place. It has outperformed what everybody thought. But it does not mean that it won't be more challenging. The IMF forecast, the World Bank forecast are that the world will get a little challenging over the next year or so," he said at the Mahatma Mandir Convention Centre, where the G20 meeting is being held.

## India's gems & jewellery exports may fall 10-15 pc this fiscal: GJEPC

**New Delhi, Jul 18:**

India's gems and jewellery exports are likely to decline by 10 to 15 per cent in the current financial year on account of slowing demand in key markets like the US and China, GJEPC Chairman Vipul Shah has said. The gems and jewellery exports grew 2.48 per cent year-on-year to Rs 3,00,462.52 crore (over USD 36 billion) in FY23, according to the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC). Addressing the media, on the sidelines of an event here on Monday evening, the GJEPC Chairman informed that the Commerce Ministry has given a target of USD 42 billion for the gems and jewellery segment exports in 2023-24.

## Market indices hit fresh peaks; Sensex breaches 67,000-mark in intra-day trade

**Mumbai, Jul 18:**

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty continued their record-breaking rally for the fourth day on Tuesday, reaching new all-time high closing levels, amid fresh foreign fund inflows and a positive trend in the US and European markets. Robust buying in IT major Infosys also contributed to the domestic benchmark indices optimism. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 205.21 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at its new all-time closing high of 66,795.14. During the day, it jumped 417.09 points or 0.62 per cent to reach its record intra-day peak of 67,007.02. The benchmark breached the 67,000-mark for the first time ever in intra-day



trade. The NSE Nifty gained 37.80 points or 0.19 per cent to end at its all-time closing high of 19,749.25. During the day, the benchmark rallied 108 points or 0.54 per cent to hit its lifetime peak of 19,819.45. From the Sensex pack, Infosys jumped the most by 3.67 per cent. Asian Paints, HCL Technologies, Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank,

Wipro, NTPC, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv and Larsen & Toubro were among the other major gainers. State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, Titan, Tata Steel, Tata Motors and UltraTech Cement were among the laggards. "The bulls continued to lift the market to new heights, but volatility emerged in the second half due to concerns over valuation. Rapid fall in the dollar index and a slide in the US 10-year yield are supporting liquidity in emerging markets. While disappointing economic growth in China and improvement in the US market outlook are drawing attention to the Indian market," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

## Indian aviation market has huge potential waiting to be tapped: Top industry experts

**Colombo, Jul 18:**

India's aviation market has a "huge potential" waiting to be tapped, and a growing middle-class and a young population usually showing a greater propensity to travel will contribute to its growth, top experts of the industry have said. Besides, privatisation of airports has been a "big boost for aviation", and huge investment is happening in new airports and existing airports in India, said Nipun Aggarwal, Chief Commercial & Transformation Officer, Air India. Aggarwal of Air India, CEO of IndiGo, Pieter Elbers; CEO of SriLankan Airlines,

Richard Nuttall and Country Director for the International Air Transport Association (IATA) in India Amitabh Khosla, were among leaders of the aviation industry who took part in Indian Travel Congress 2023 hosted recently in Colombo, as part of the efforts to boost tourism in the cash-strapped island nation. The industry experts concurred that the growth in the aviation sector will in turn fuel the growth in the tourism sector; both of which were badly hit globally after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, but have shown resilience, and are recovering on the right trajectory. "In so far as aviation is con-

cerned, we are extremely bullish on the long-term prospects of the industry. Indian aviation is the third-largest and fastest-growing market in the world, growing at almost 10 per cent for the last decade, almost 2.5 times the global average," Aggarwal said. He was speaking in a panel discussion on 'India Tourism Vision 2047: A Transformed Landscape of Experiences and Connections', held as part of the 67th annual convention of the TAAI (Travel Agents Association of India) -- Indian Travel Congress -- in the Sri Lankan capital from July 6-9. "Aviation is very closely related to GDP (Gross

Domestic Product) and GDP per capita... We have a growing middle class, a rapidly urbanising population, and we have a very young population. We are a billion-plus population," he said. The top official of Air India underlined that India is the third largest aviation market, but "our market size is a fraction of the US or China market, so the potential out there is huge". He said air travel penetration in India is still "very, very low", with only "0.1 trips per capita compared to 0.5 trips per capita in China", adding, that the Indian government has taken multiple steps over the last decade or so, to facilitate aviation.



# MLA, public reps took a ride on 'Gedi', threw 'Bhoura'

On occasion of Hareli Tihar and Ch'garhia Olympics in Gram Navagaon of Pendra

Kotami, Jul 17:

On occasion of state's first 'tihar' i.e 'Hareli', MLA Marwahi Dr KK Dhruv along with other public representatives offered prayers to 'Gau Mata' and to agricultural equipments in the district-level programme held in Gram Navagaon. On this occasion MLA and others took part in 'Gedi' ride and played with 'Bhanwara' and inaugurated the Chhattisgarhia Olympics 2023 to promote local traditional sports in villages in an organised manner, so that there is atmosphere of sports right from state to village level. He expressed gratitude towards CM for organising this Chhattisgarhia Olympics



and he also distributed 'Ragi' seeds for modern agriculture farming to the farmers.

Member CG State ST Commission and special guest Archana Porte said that the state's true identity is from its traditional sports and to make it alive, she expressed gratitude to

wards CM Baghel. CG Yuwa Aayog member and special guest Uttam Vasudev recalling the local traditional games of his childhood period appealed people to take part in large number in the Ch'garhia Olympics and to revive the rich culture and traditional sports of Chhattisgarh

and for re-visiting their childhood. On this occasion all the public representatives took part in the 'Gedi daud' and to play with 'Bhoura' in their hand and on the ground.

In this programme, Janpad V-P JS Rathore, project director DRDA RK Khunte, SDM (R) Pendra Road Puspendra Sharma, District Sports Officer Seema David, BEO RN Chandra, Veterinary and Medical Officer, Janpad CEO Pendra Sanjay Sharma, SDO P Vadegaokar, Sarpanch Dharmendra Kanwar, noted citizens, Manoj Gupta, Naval Lahare, Ajit Singh Shyam, Jagdish Yadav, Rajiv Yuwa Mitran Club members and others were present.

# Wholesale market without shed is posing problems

To both the sellers and purchasers as well

Rajim, Jul 18:

The rains starting from Saturday afternoon continued till late in the night and again there was light drizzle since morning. The prices of vegetables soared up in the wholesale vegetable market and tomatoes were sold at Rs 2500 per crate. The wholesalers are selling tomatoes in sensitive manner, because if it is not sold in two days, it starts getting stale and then they have to bear the loss. Due to this they are even forced to sell it under a shade during rains as well, and putting a cover on top of it.

Meanwhile in the wholesale market here in city,



there is no shade available and the purchasers have to come and purchase it standing out in the drizzling weather. Those reaching here during rains were carrying umbrellas in their hand and were selecting vegetables using the other hand and in no times they were drenched almost to half.

It is notable here that Rajim is Vidhan Sabha headquarters and is still facing lots of shortcomings and people are made to adjust in that itself. As to how long this facility will be there, it cannot be said and with elections in the forefront and leaders are now busy in their promotion and campaigns,

but the face and condition of 'Pasara' market in city does not seem to get a facelift now.

As to when the people will get 'pucca' shade or an umbrella type top above their head is very difficult to say at this stage, as many of them have lost hope of any development on this issue.

# Gyatri Pariwar plants saplings on 'Hareli'



Rajim, Jul 17: The members of Gyatri Pariwar Rajim along with 'Taru Mitra' and 'Maa Bhagwati Mahila Mandal' (MBMM) on occasion of 'Hareli Tihar' planted saplings amidst light rains at Mini Stadium, near Shri Rajiv Lochan College here on Monday. They passed on the message that 'breathing is reducing, let's plant saplings'; 'plants gives us life'; and materials made out of wood are useful in

human life and every person should plant one sapling in his life'. During this the head of Gyatri Pariwar Ramkumar Sahu said that we cannot imagine life without trees and it is the trees which are keeping the environment well-balanced, as they give to us without asking for anything in return. Trees have lot of importance in life of humans and they are our true friends and therefore well all should

protect them and place tree-guard wherever it is required. On this occasion saplings of 'Gulmohar' and 'Bel' tree were planted and the responsibility of its safety and security was taken by Dhanesh Sahu.

In this plantation drive, Pawan Kumar Gupta, senior family member; Ramkumar Sahu head of Gyatri Pariwar, Rajim; Santram Dhruv- Trustee; Tarachand Sahu-Plantation in-charge; Santosh Sahu teacher; Shekhar Yadav-Parivrajak; Dhanesh Sahu -Taru Mitra member; Kunal Sahu; and from Mahila Mandal- Seeta Sahu, block co-ordinator; Gyatri Sahu unit head; Deepak Sahu- Trustee; Sarrita Sahu active worker; Durga Sahu teacher; Jinendra Dhruv-from Yuwa cell; Niharika Sahu folk singer and Renuka Sahu were present.

# Wing Commander Hirwani retires from IAF

Dhamdha, Jul 18:

Wing Commander Kishore Kumar Hirwani achieved superannuation last on July 12 from the Indian Air Force (IAF). He joined IAF as Flying Officer in 2009 in Bhuj-Gujarat and started his defence services. He was the only officer to have got selected in 2009 in the IAF and is S/o Tarun Kumar Hirwani working in the Agriculture Department.

It is notable here that KK Hirwani was born in Dhamdha city and completed his primary education here itself and then went to Shankaracharya College for Higher Education and was the most talented student of his batch and completed his higher education. It was after this he opted for Defense Services and got



the break in IAF as Flying Officer in 2009 and brought laurels to his family and city.

# Gauthans neglected without amenities

Kurud, Jul 18:

The Gauthan scheme run by the state government, which gives the slogan of Naruva, Garua, Ghurua and Bari, a symbol of Chhattisgarh, has started losing its existence by going through neglect. The Gauthan schemes run by the state government at the panchayat level for the upliftment of farmers and villagers, is in a defoliating condition as the inaction of the Sarpanch Secretary has ruined this campaign of the government. Because of which the condition of Gauthan has turned from bad to worse.

Villagers are accusing the Sarpanch Secretary of corruption in the scheme, and said that there is no arrangement for fodder and water for the cattle in Gauthan. Cattle are get-



ting sick after eating this, along with there is a huge lack of facilities, they said. Due to lack of ac-

tion, from the Panchayat's side this ambitious scheme of governance has now started dying.

# 140 children relying on one headmaster, one teacher!



Katgi, Jul 18:

The Charoda (B) School, located at the end of Katgi-Kasdol development block and in deep Vananchal area, is seeing no teachers for a student ratio f 140. The school which is situated in the middle of the dense forests has only two teachers are posted in the pre-secondary school, while the registered number of students is 140, who

are all from adjoining villages. Student Aanchal Pradhan and Renuka Thakur told that in Charoda school, there is great problem in studying as both the teachers handle both class room teaching and official work.

Sarpanch representative Bhupendra Barik says that the administration has been continuously demanding teachers, yet no one is taking care, there

are 140 students depending on two teachers, there is an urgent need for two more teachers. Being a forest area, no teacher wants to come here, a few days ago one or two new teachers had come, but they did not take charge here and got the amendments done at another place, I demand from the government to arrange two more teachers at the earliest, he demanded.

# One should plant a sapling on one's B'day: Sen

Rajim, Jul 18:

Mukul Sen, S/o Sarpanch Gram Panchayat Baronda - Danendra Sen on occasion of his birthday, planted a sapling and gave the message of saving the environment. It is notable here that every year Mukul Sen plant saplings in and around his house and in the surroundings and trying to reduce pollution and also trying to create awareness about planting of saplings with one's own initiative.

Mukul Sen says that if the youth come up at their own level for planting of saplings, then only the environment can be saved.

It is responsibility of every person that he or she plants one sapling in his life. On this occasion,



Sarpanch Danendra Sen said that every person should take a pledge to plant a sapling on his birthday and should protect and take its care till it grows into a big tree, so that there is no shortage

# Residents submit memorandum regarding illegal encroachments



Dongargarh, Jul 18:

Ward Residents of Thetwar Para, Ward No 23 have submitted a memorandum to the Sub-Divisional Officer Revenue and Chief Municipal Officer regarding the removal of illegal encroachments in the ward. According to the information received from the residents of the ward, encroachment was being done many times in the ward even before this, but due to prompt action by the municipality, the encroachers could be brought under control. The residents of the ward

have mentioned in their memorandum that in Ward No. 23 Thetwar Para, Khedu Yadav, in place of Nazul, next to the public well, illegal encroachment is being done in and the encroachment is causing obstruction in the way to and fro. Ward residents Durga Prasad, Ghanshyam, Maniram, Major, Kamal, Ajay, Prajwal, Lavi, Govind, Tarun, Bislam, Arvind, Vasudev, Ajay Devraj and other ward residents have submitted the memorandum. Notice has been sent to the encroachers- Pramod Shukla, CMO.

# Devotees throng 'Kuleshwarnath Mahadev Temple'

On occasion of second 'sawan somwar' of the season

Rajim, Jul 18:

The rush on occasion of 'sawan somwar' and 'Hareli' was so much at famous Kuleshwar Nath Mahadev Mandir premises and at the confluence of three rivers that the 'Pujaris' had to come out of the temple to handle the crowd. To ensure that all devotees can pay respect and obeisance, they asked all the devotees to form separate queue of male and female devotees and this long queue was there till 8:30 pm when the doors of the temple closes.

et and 'lota' full of water for 'Rudrabhishekh' and were raising slogans 'Har Har Mahadev'. The resonating sound of 'bells' in 'Mahamandap' continue throughout the day and the amount of rush and crowd in the second 'sawan somwar' was worth witnessing.

Devotees visiting the temple were not sure about such a large crowd to be present in the temple. As such the devotees of Lord Shiva are of simple nature and extend help to each other and pay oblations to Lord Shiva. Devotees from far-flung area visited the temple, despite bad weather conditions and here devotees from Bhilai, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Raipur, Dhamtari, Korba, Saraiapali, Gariyaband, Deobhog and other places



visited and this included 'Kanwaris' and devotees as well. The devotees poured water on 'tambe ka jalpatra' for 'Rudrabhishekh' of Mahadev.

It is notable here that devotees do not reach upto the 'Grabh Grih' of the temple, but an arrangement has been made by the temple authority to provide 'darshan' to them from 'Mahamandap' itself. They offer water on 10 feet long 'Grey Tambe ka patra' which directly goes to the Shivling and the 'Jalabhishekh' of Mahadev is done. It is the flowers and 'belpatra' which is provided by the 'Pujaris'.



Many a devotee's who had come said that if at all they would have got an opportunity to touch the 'Shivling' it would have

been more satisfactory. But now the earlier system is not there and seeing the rush of devotees, the route has been changed. Now the 'Vedi' located in the 'Shivling' is considered as 'Maa Parwati' and it has been beautifully decorated and this brings out true beauty after 'Shringar'. The 'damru' is played during 'arti'. It is notable here that Baba Kuleshwarnath Mahadev is seated along with his 'Rudra Pariwar' and at 'Mahamandap',

'Maa Devi Parwati', 'Devi Kalika', 'Devi Sheetala', 'Shyam Kartikey' and Lord Ganesh is seated. There are two 'Grabh Grih' in the temple and in one of them, there is 'Shivling' of 'Baba Kuleshwarnath Mahadev' and in other 'Jagat Jannani Maa Durga' is seated. There is one 100 yr old 'Peepal' tree in front of the temple.

Laxman Jhula acts as support with rise in water-level:

With continuous rains, the temple is surrounded from all the four sides with water and due to which it is not possible to reach upto the Mahadev temple through river route. Now the devotees are reaching 'Mahadev' mandir through 'Laxman Jhula' and it is acting as big gift to the devotees and

'Kanwaris'. It is the only 'Laxman Jhula' which is acting as medium to pay obeisance to Lord Shiva, because when this 'Laxman Jhula' was not there, the devotees were unable to pay obeisance to Mahadev. But the Bhupesh government by dedicating the 'Laxman Jhula' last year, has provided big relief to the devotees coming during 'sawan' season and right since then there is manifold increase in visit of devotees to the temple.

Less number of 'Kanwaris' today:

On second 'sawan somwar' here on Monday, the strength of 'Kanwaris' is less. Earlier there used to be long queue of 'Kanwaris' on the road, but this time their strength is less. This time there are going to be 8

Monday's and at present six are still pending. In this view, the 'Kanwaris' are expected to coming in the coming six Monday's. Entire market is decked up for the 'Kanwaris' and the items like saffron coloured clothes and other necessary items are available in these shops.

It is notable here that 'Kanwaris' reach from one 'Shiv Peeth' to other bringing their 'Kanwar' with them and perform 'Jalabhishekh' of Shivling.

Pujari of Kuleshwatnath Mahadev mandir- Juguthakur, Santosh, Bhagwat Maharaj, Mohannath Yogi informed that due to heavy rains the rush of the crowd was less and there was long queue outside the temple even after closure of doors of the temple.



## Struggling batters must improve to avoid series loss

Mirpur, Jul 18 (PTI):

Struggling Indian batters will need to find a way to play on a slow surface as they face Bangladesh in the second women's ODI in a bid to avoid an embarrassing series defeat here on Wednesday.

Spinners, especially leg-break bowlers, have troubled Indian batters through the Bangladesh tour and on Sunday they also found pacer Marufa Akter hard to negotiate as the fancied team suffered its first-ever loss to Bangladesh in ODIs.

Following that memorable victory and a win in the preceding final T20, Bangladesh now have the momentum and belief to script a famous series win over India. India have a World Cup to play in Bangladesh next year and they need to learn how to accumulate runs on



Match starts 9 am IST.

pitches where the ball doesn't come on to the bat. It has been a collective failure so far on the tour though India somehow managed to seal the T20 series.

Star batter Smriti

Mandhana's showing has been a big disappointment and Priya Punia, who replaced Shafali Verma for the ODI series opener, too struggled in her comeback. Both Yastika Bhatia and

Jemimah Rodrigues have struggled to rotate strike and that has put them under extra pressure. In the absence of Richa Ghosh, no one has stepped up for the finisher's role with the team

struggling to find boundaries. Amanjot Kaur, who bowled well on Sunday, has a good opportunity to make an impact with the bat as well and give India a much needed finishing option.

## Indian women's hockey team loses 1-4 to hosts Germany

Wiesbaden, Jul 18 (PTI):

The Indian women's hockey team suffered a 1-4 thrashing to Germany in the first of the two matches against the hosts here on Tuesday.

Youngster Vaishnavi Vittal Phalke (29) was the lone goal-scorer for India, while Nike Lorenz (6', 59") and Jette Flesch (14', 43") scored a brace each in Germany's win.

The hosts began the match on an attacking note, putting India on the backfoot at the very beginning. They scored back-to-back goals in the first quarter mounting pressure on India's defence.

Germany's first goal came off Nike Lorenz' well-executed penalty corner while the team's second goal came off a penalty stroke via Jette. Though the visitors tried to bounce back when they were awarded a PC in the 11th minute, the chance could not be converted.

However, in the second



quarter, the Indian team emerged from the early setback with a well-structured game. While they didn't allow any goals by Germany, they successfully converted a PC in the 29th minute through Vaishnavi.

With the score reading 2-1 at half time, Germany returned to the pitch with a plan to test the Indian defence.

While India lived up to the fight, an infringement by their defence while halting the German attack

in the circle saw them concede a PC. Jette made no mistake in converting the opportunity and help her team extend the lead to 3-1. Though India found a few chances in the final quarter to score, the German defence was too strong to breach.

Meanwhile, Nike scored the fourth goal for Germany in the dying minutes of the game, taking the final score to 4-1. India will again play against Germany on Wednesday.

## Sindhu slips to lowest ranking in over a decade

New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTI):

Battling an inconsistent form, double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu on Tuesday slipped five places to world number 17 in the latest BWF world rankings.

Ever since returning from a five-month long injury layoff, Sindhu

has struggled to string together a series of wins in a week, resulting in a titleless streak this season.

A former world number 2 Sindhu, who had suffered a stress fracture on her ankle during her title-winning run at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, currently has 49,480 points from 14 tournaments.

This is her lowest ranking in over a decade. The last time she was ranked 17th was in January, 2013. She has been inside the top 10 since 2016, having reached a career-best world number 2 in April, 2016.



Sindhu will hope she finds her footing quickly in the Olympic qualification period which ends in April next year, especially after getting the services of Indonesian coach Muhammad Hafiz Hashim, a former All England champion. The 2019 World Champion, Sindhu had

reached the final of the Madrid Spain Masters, her best finish this season. She registered a semifinal finish at Malaysia Masters and Canada Open but made a quarterfinal exit in the next event at the US Open. She is now in Korea for a super 500 tournament.

HS Prannoy also slipped a place to world number 10, while Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth were static at 12th and 20th spots respectively.

Saina Nehwal slumped five places to world number 36.

Men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty remain India's best-placed shuttlers at world number 3.

Among others, Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also lost a spot to be at the 19th position in women's doubles, while there was no Indian in the top 25 in mixed doubles.

## Controversy surrounds WFI panel's Asian Games entries

■ Hands direct Asian Games entries to Bajrang

New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTI):

The WFI ad-hoc panel on Tuesday handed Olympic medallist Bajrang Punia and World Championship medalist Vinesh Phogat direct entries into the Asian Games, a decision which was taken without the consent of the national chief coaches. The IOA ad-hoc panel said in a circular that it has already selected wrestler in men's freestyle 65kg and women's 53kg but trials will be held in all six weight categories in each of the three styles.

The ad-hoc panel did not name Bajrang and Vinesh in the circular but panel member Ashok Garg confirmed to PTI that the two wrestlers have been exempted from the trials. The Indian Olympic Association's ad-



hoc committee took the decision just four days before the trials to select the wrestling squad for the Asian Games, scheduled to commence on September 23 in the Chinese city of Hangzhou.

The greco-roman and women's freestyle trials are scheduled for July 22, while the men's freestyle trials will be held on July 23 at IG Stadium in New Delhi. Bajrang, the 65kg wrestler, who was one of the six



protesting wrestlers at Jantar Mantar demanding the arrest of Brij Bhushan, is currently training in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan. Vinesh, the 53kg wrestler who won the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games gold medal, is training in Budapest, Hungary. The move to exempt Bajrang and Vinesh, however, has not gone down well with fellow competitors, who have threatened to move court.

## Van de Pol a superb goalkeeping coach: Sreejesh

Bengaluru, Jul 18 (PTI):

Veteran India hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh believes the special coaching camps with Dutch expert Dennis van de Pol will "definitely help" the team as it prepares for a tournament in Spain this month and the Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai from August 3.

The goalkeeping coach is currently conducting the first of two special camps for the India team goalkeepers in Bengaluru, while the second camp will be held from September 7 to 14 ahead of the Asian Games in Hangzhou. Sreejesh, who played a key role in India winning an Olympic medal after more than four decades at the Tokyo Olympics, also said that young goalkeepers will benefit from the Dutch expert's drills. "Dennis van de Pol is a superb coach. Working closely with someone of his experience and calibre has certainly been



useful. We have important tournaments going ahead and I believe that we have utilised his time well here, particularly for the young goalies too. "His valuable insights and coaching skills have definitely helped. We have worked on various drills including PC defence, penalty shoot outs and most importantly our footwork," said Sreejesh in a release.

## Shakeel's double ton puts Pakistan in lead

Galle, Jul 18 (AP):

In a remarkable display of batting prowess, Saud Shakeel's unbeaten double century guided Pakistan to a commanding 149-run first-innings lead on Day 3 of the opening cricket test against Sri Lanka.

Pakistan's left-handed batting sensation, Saud Shakeel, showcased his exceptional form by scoring an impressive 208 runs, steering his team to a formidable total of 461 before being all out. Shakeel's brilliant knock comprised a resilient 361-ball innings, where he remained undefeated throughout the day's play.

Agha Salman also made a valuable contribution, adding 83 runs to Pakistan's first-innings total. With their combined efforts, Pakistan established a substantial lead of nearly 150 runs, placing them in an impregnable position with two days of play remaining.

Sri Lanka's openers managed to survive nearly four overs, scoring



Pakistan's Saud Shakeel (front) celebrates after scoring double ton.

14 runs without losing a wicket by stumps. However, they face a daunt-

ing task when they resume their innings tomorrow, as they aim to overcome the substantial deficit.

Shakeel, who made his test debut last December, continues to make a significant impact in the international cricket arena. In just six matches, he has already amassed two centuries and five half-centuries at an extraordinary average of 87, reminiscent of the legendary Sir Donald Bradman.

Pakistan's batting approach in the previous cycle of the ICC's Test Championship garnered criticism for its conventional style. However, in this match, they adopted a more aggressive approach, taking a cue from England's recent success, and managed to score at an impressive rate of almost five runs per over.

Both Shakeel and Salman fearlessly took on the spinners, frequently using their feet and punishing loose deliveries. Their aggressive batting forced Sri Lanka into a defensive mindset, exerting immense pressure on the opposition.

Yeosu, Jul 18 (PTI):

Star Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty stormed into the second round with a straight-game win over Thailand's Supak Jomkoh and Kittinupong Kedren in the Korea Open Super 500 tournament here on Tuesday.

The world number 3 pair beat Jomkoh and Kedren 21-16 21-14 in the round of 32 to set up a clash with China's He Ji Ting and Zhou Hao Dong in the next round.

World number 27 MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila, however, couldn't complete the match after the former suffered from a back issue and retired midway in the opening game while lagging 5-6 against eighth



seeded Chinese Liu Yu Chen and Ou Xuan Yi in their opening round.

"I felt a pain in my back during the rallies. I applied spray for pain relief but I wasn't feeling comfortable, so we decided to pull out. The physio said it looks like a back spasm and should be fine within

a few days. I will be travelling to Japan. So lets see. Hopefully I will be okay," Arjun told PTI.

India's Harshit Aggarwal also couldn't reach the main draw after losing to Korea's Choi Pyeong Gang 15-21 21-10 10-21 in his second qualification match. He had

beaten Tan Jia Jie of Malaysia in his opening match.

Another Indian, Shashwat Dalal also went down in his first round, losing 14-21 17-21 to Jeong Min Seon of Korea, while Meiraba Maisnam withdrew from the qualifiers.

Playing their first tournament since winning the Indonesia Open Super 1000 last month, Satwik and Chirag dished out a compact game as they opened up a 4-1 lead and kept moving ahead to grab a 11-6 lead at the interval. The Indian duo didn't give much chance to its opponent and from 18-15, took the remaining points to grab a 1-0 lead. After the change of sides, the Thai players gave a good account of themselves as they managed to lead 9-4.

## West Indies replace Reifer with Sinclair for second Test

Port of Spain, Jul 18 (PTI):

The West Indies have included spin bowling all-rounder Kevin Sinclair in place of batting all-rounder Ramon Reifer in the squad for the second Test against India beginning here on Thursday.

Sinclair, who has featured in seven ODIs and six T20Is, is yet to play a Test match. The 23-year-old replacing Reifer is the only change in the squad for the hosts after an innings defeat against India



in Dominica. However, Reifer will remain with

the team as an injury cover. Sinclair had finished as the leading wicket taker for West Indies A in a three-match series against Bangladesh A earlier this year. He was also part of West Indies squad in the ICC World Cup Qualifier in Zimbabwe, where the Caribbean unit failed to qualify for the 50-over showpiece in India.

Another off-spinner Rahkeem Cornwall, who struggled with chest infection during the series opener, has been retained.

## Cummins more of old fashioned Test captain: Ricky Ponting

Dubai, Jul 18 (PTI):

The legendary Ricky Ponting feels Australian skipper Pat Cummins is more of an old fashioned Test captain, who lets "plans unravel" while his English counterpart Ben Stokes tries to make something happen every ball.

The decisions of the two relatively new captains in the ongoing Ashes series have given rise to intense debates.

While Stokes' call to declare early in the first innings in the opening Test was dissected by media



and pundits alike, Cummins' sparse use of rookie spinner Todd Murphy in the loss at Headingley also raised eyebrows.

## Agarkar to meet Dravid, Rohit in Windies for WC roadmap

New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTI):

Chairman of senior selection committee Ajit Agarkar is all set to travel to West Indies to meet head coach Rahul Dravid and skipper Rohit Sharma to discuss the road map for 50 over World Cup starting October 5 in Ahmedabad.

India will play Australia in Chennai on October 8 and marquee clash against Pakistan is slated for October 15 in Ahmedabad.

"Currently Salil Ankola is in the West Indies but he will be back after the Test series



gets over: Ajit will be joining the team before start of the white ball leg," a BCCI source in know of things told PTI on

conditions of anonymity. It is understood that Agarkar after being appointed the chairman of selection committee hasn't had a chance to meet the team management in person and this will be an opportunity to sit a draw an elaborate blueprint on what will be India's strategy going forward in 50 over World Cup. The team management and selection committee needs to be in sync about the core 20 players that they are looking ahead for the World Cup apart from dealing with fitness issues and workload management.



## Oppn mantra is 'of, by and for family': PM

Port Blair, Jul 18 (PTI):

Launching a scathing attack on the opposition parties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday alleged that their mantra is "of, by and for the family".

Modi, in an apparent reaction to the opposition conclave being held in Bengaluru, said this while virtually inaugurating the new integrated terminal building of the Veer Savarkar Airport here.

Taking a dig at the opposition meeting, he said, "People are saying that this gathering is to promote 'bhrashtachar' (corruption)." He alleged that the opposition parties have given a "clean chit" to the DMK despite corruption



PM Modi virtually inaugurates the new integrated terminal building of Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, on Tuesday.

cases in Tamil Nadu. Modi also upped the ante against the 26 parties which are meeting in Karnataka's capital, and pointed out, "Massive violence took place in West Bengal during recent panchayat elections. But the Left and the Congress kept mum despite attacks on their cadre. The leaders left their activists to die for their

own selfish motives."

Seeing these opposition leaders in one frame, people are calling it a symbol of corruption and the Bengaluru meeting, 'Kattar Bhrashtachar Sammelan' (hardcore corruption convention), the PM said. "People have made up their minds to bring our government back to power in 2024," he

said. West Bengal's recently concluded rural polls had seen the death of at least 39 people since the announcement of elections, with the majority of those killed owing allegiance to the ruling TMC. "They (opposition parties) are not concerned about the development of the children of the country's poor. Their common minimum programme is to increase corruption for their family. It is their only ideology and agenda. "Democracy means 'of the people, by the people, for the people'. But these dynastic parties have the mantra of 'of the family, by the family, for the family'. For them, their family is first, and the nation is nothing," he said.

The PM said that India

could have developed more after Independence but did not due to corruption and dynastic politics.

"Those responsible for this 'badhali' (plight) have now again opened their shops to sell the poison of casteism and indulge in corruption. Their product is a Rs 20 lakh crore scam guarantee. To gain entry to these shops, one must be corrupt. In their shops, they prefer corrupt people as their 'margdarshak' (mentor)," he said.

"In the opposition meet, those accused of scams worth crores of rupees are being honoured. Those whose entire family is on bail on corruption cases get even more respect," he said, without naming anyone.

## BHOOMI SAMMAN 2023



President Droupadi Murmu presents the 'Bhoomi Samman 2023' award to a recipient during a function, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

## FICCI-EY REPORT

### 'Road accidents top cause for youth's, kids' death globally'

● India loses 1.5 m lives every year

New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTI):

Road accidents claim around 1.5 million lives in India every year, contributing 11 per cent to the total number of such fatalities globally, according to a FICCI-EY report.

Globally, at least one life is lost every 24 seconds due to road traffic injury, said the report released on Tuesday. As per the World Health Organisation (WHO), road crash is the 8th leading cause of death with more than 1.3 billion deaths and 50 million serious injuries. It is the leading cause of death amongst youth and kids aged 5 to 29 years, it said. "1st rank in

road fatalities is held by India (11 per cent share in the world). Every year India loses 1.5 million lives in road crashes...Every year we lose a number of people the size of the population of Estonia," the report titled 'Road Safety in India - Navigating through nuances' said. India is a signatory to Brasilia Declaration which aims to half the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic crashes by 2030. The report was released by Tukuni Sahu, Minister for Transport, Water Resources & Commerce, government of Odisha, in the national capital. She emphasized the importance of collaboration between corporates and governments to achieve substantial

progress in this segment. It is imperative that seat belts and helmets are utilised not only on highways but while driving within the cities, in order to ensure safety. "Road safety is a shared responsibility, and it is crucial for corporates, policymakers, and citizens to come together and contribute to reducing road accidents and fatalities," Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Chair of the FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians, and Member of Parliament. Amitabh Thakur, Odisha transport commissioner, said: "This conference on the role of corporates in road safety has provided a valuable opportunity for stakeholders to come together and share best practices.

## 19 'markswomen' commandos to be frontline sharpshooters

● For G-20 Summit

New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTI):

In view of the upcoming G-20 summit, 19 women commandos of the Delhi Police have been imparted specialised training as "markswomen" to act as the frontline sharpshooters during the key event, officials said on Tuesday.

It is the first batch of commandos to receive such highly professional training in shooting by a trained Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) team, they said.

They will act as the frontline sharpshooter commandos of the force.

"In view of the upcoming G-20 summit, Delhi Police is committed to providing utmost security to the visiting delegates. In this process, special cell has taken a step further by imparting specialised training to its female SWAT commandos," HGS

Dhaliwal, Special Commissioner of Police (Special Cell), said.

The first batch of 19 women SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) commandos have successfully completed a four-week course from the training team of the ITBP Force, RTC, Karera, Madhya Pradesh, during June-July, he said.

"In this training course, 19 women commandos of SWAT and the Delhi Police were trained in the basic principles of firing and groomed as markswomen. Constable Kiran stood first by securing 95 per cent marks, constable Vaishali secured second position with 77.5 pc marks and constable Kavita stood third with 75 per cent marks," the officer said.

The best female SWAT commando is now able to hit a target of 4 cm from a distance of 100 yards, the officer added.

## Anti-ageing function of human cell protein discovered

New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTI):

Researchers have found an anti-ageing function in a protein deep within human cells.

The protein, ATSF-1, controlled the fine balance between creation of new and repair of damaged mitochondria, the part of cell responsible for producing energy, the researchers at the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI), The University of Queensland, Australia, discovered.

"Mitochondrial dysfunction lies at the core of many human diseases, including common age-related diseases such as dementia and Parkinson's," said associate professor at QBI, Steven Zuryn.

While the energy produced by the mitochondria powers biological functions, the toxic by-

products of this process contribute to the ageing process of the cell.

"Our finding could have exciting implications for healthy ageing and for people with inherited mitochondrial diseases.

"In conditions of stress, when mitochondrial DNA has been damaged, the ATSF-1 protein prioritises repair which promotes cellular health and longevity," said Zuryn.

As an analogy, Zuryn likened the relationship to a race car needing a pit-stop.

"ATSF-1 makes the call that a pitstop is needed for the cell when mitochondria need repairs.

"We studied ATFS-1 in C. elegans, or round worms, and saw that enhancing its function promoted cellular health,

meaning the worms became more agile for longer.

"They didn't live longer, but they were healthier as they aged," said Zuryn.

Understanding how cells promote repair is an important step towards identifying possible interventions to prevent mitochondrial damage, the authors said in the study published in the journal Nature Cell Biology said.

"Our goal is to prolong the tissue and organ functions that typically decline during ageing by understanding how deteriorating mitochondria contribute to this process," said Michael Dai, QBI.

"We may ultimately design interventions that keep mitochondrial DNA healthier for longer, improving our quality of life," said Dai.

## HC stays Maha collector's order barring mosque entry

Aurangabad, Jul 18 (PTI):

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday granted an interim stay for two weeks on the Jalgaon district collector's order restraining people from praying at a mosque on a complaint by an outfit which claimed the structure has the "appearance of a temple".

A single bench of Justice R M Joshi of the Aurangabad bench of the HC issued notice to the respondents in the plea and posted the matter for further hearing after two weeks.

Until then the impugned order (passed by the district collector) is stayed, the bench said while hearing the petition filed by Jumma Masjid Trust Committee.

An outfit, Pandavwada Sangharsh Samiti, had

claimed the concerned structure resembles a temple and it was being encroached upon by Muslims. However, the trust panel which maintains the mosque claimed to possess records to show the existence of the structure at least since 1861.

The trust panel filed a petition in the high court through its president Altaf Khan challenging the collector's order passed on July 11, 2023.

The trust claimed the collector's order ordered directing them to hand over keys of the mosque to the Erandol municipal council's chief officer was "arbitrary and illegal".

The order was passed under sections 144 and 145 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, as per which the status quo shall be maintained pending a

final decision on the dispute of the land.

As per the plea, the mosque has been in existence for decades and the Maharashtra government had declared the structure of the masjid as an ancient and historical monument, which is enlisted in the schedule of protected monuments.

The petitioner stated the trust committee has been taking utmost care and no complaint was received in that regard by the Archaeological Department, or even the state government.

In May this year, the Pandavwada Sangharsh Samiti in order to create disturbance in Jalgaon's Erandol taluka, submitted an application to the district collector claiming the ancient monument is having the "appearance of a

mandir" and therefore the occupation of the Muslim community must be vacated, the plea said.

The Samiti had demanded that the "illegal construction" made by the petitioner trust be removed and a madrasa (Islamic seminary) run by trustees be not allowed.

Pursuant to the complaint, the collector issued a notice to the petitioner trust on June 14, directing the trustees to remain present on June 27 for a hearing.

The plea claimed the trustees appeared before the collector's office but since he was busy that day, no hearing took place.

On a later date, the petitioner trust sought time from the collector to go through the complaint and file its response, the plea said.

## Slain gangster Vikas Dubey's aide gets five years in jail

● In case related to Bikru killing

Kanpur (UP), Jul 18 (PTI):

A Kanpur Dehat court has sentenced an aide of slain gangster Vikas Dubey to five years' rigorous imprisonment in a case related to the 2020 killing of eight policemen, an official said on Tuesday. Shyamu Bajpai has been convicted for firing at the police team that had come to arrest him, days after the killing of the eight cops in the district's Bikru village.

Bajpai, accused of hiding weapons used in the Bikru killing, was booked under Section 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code.

Days after the Bikru killing, Vikas Dubey and

five of his alleged accomplices were killed in what the police had described as exchanges of fire.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Lakhan Singh Yadav said charges in 37 criminal cases have been framed in connection with the Bikru killing. This is the first conviction in the Bikru killing and related cases, he added.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Amit Malviya on Monday also imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 on Bajpai and awarded three months' additional simple imprisonment if he failed to deposit the amount, said Yadav.

Three more cases are pending against Bajpai, he said. Bajpai, who carried a cash reward of Rs 25,000, was arrested after

an encounter with the police in the Chaubeypur area six days after the Bikru killing, Yadav said. During his arrest, in an abortive attempt to escape, Bajpai had indiscriminately fired at the police team, Yadav added.

Bajpai was a key accused in hiding the weapons used to fire at the cops, said another official. Raju Porwal, the district government counsel, told PTI over phone that the testimonies of witnesses and forensic reports helped get the conviction.

Eight personnel, including Deputy Superintendent of Police Devendra Mishra, were ambushed in the Bikru village when they were on their way to arrest Vikas Dubey shortly after midnight on July 3, 2020.

Vikas Dubey was killed in an encounter on July 10 when a police vehicle carrying him from Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh to Kanpur met with an accident and he tried to escape, the police had said.

Following a search operation after the July 3 incident, two of Vikas Dubey's associates — Prem Prakash Pandey and Atul Dubey — were killed in an encounter in Kanpur, they had said.

On July 8, Amar Dubey, who carried a reward of Rs 50,000, was killed by the police in the Maudaha village of Hamirpur district. The following day, Kartikeya alias Prabhat and Bauwa Dubey alias Praveen were killed in separate encounters in Kanpur and Etawah districts, the police had said.

## WATERLOGGED STREETS



School students pass through a waterlogged street amid monsoon rains, in Surat, Tuesday.

## NGT for PPEs for workers exposed to asbestos pollution

● Asks CPCB to issue appropriate guidelines

New Delhi, Jul 18 (PTI):

The National Green Tribunal has directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to issue appropriate guidelines for asbestos-based industries across the country, including mandatory use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by workers exposed to the disease causing fibres that can damage the lungs.

The NGT also asked the CPCB to follow certain measures suggested by it for mitigating the adverse impact of asbestos exposure on human health and environment.

The NGT was hearing a petition claiming environmental pollution in

Bishada village of Gautam Buddha Nagar district in Uttar Pradesh by a public limited company UP Asbestos Ltd.

Underlining that there is no safe level of asbestos exposure, a bench of judicial member Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and expert member Afroz Ahmad directed project proponent (PP) or private companies to implement certain measures to protect people from the hazards of asbestos exposure.

"We also consider it appropriate to direct CPCB to issue appropriate guidelines covering similar asbestos-based industries operating in the country to strictly ensure compliance with Environmental Clearance (EC) and consent conditions as well as to follow the measures suggested for mitigating adversarial impacts of asbestos exposure on human health and

environment," the bench said.

It said exposure to asbestos was a risk factor for "disabling and deadly lung diseases", such as lung cancer and scarring of the lung tissues.

"The proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), needs to be made mandatory for the workers," it said.

Keeping in view the hazards of exposure associated with the handling of asbestos, following measures for protecting workers, their family members, people coming into contact with them and residents of the locality are required to be implemented by the PP in letter and spirit, the bench said.

These included protecting workers, measures for controlling exposure, medical monitoring and training, it said. The bench said for pro-

tecting workers employees are required to assess asbestos levels, mark the regulated areas, post hazard signs and provide engineering controls (ventilation systems with filters) along with green belts and other technological measures to reduce the level of asbestos in the air.

The tribunal said smoking, eating or drinking in areas where asbestos exposure is possible should be prohibited and all precautions need to be taken to avoid carrying asbestos fibres from the work site.

It also said periodical exposure monitoring and medical surveillance of workers should be made mandatory, besides training workers who are exposed to airborne concentrations of asbestos at or above the Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL).

During the proceedings, the tribunal appreciated the PP of the Bishada village plant for the initiatives taken to comply with the suggestions made from time to time during the course of the hearing and also for identifying and allocating 33 per cent of land at the project for plantation.

**कैसर सर्जरी**  
पश्चात अंगों का पुनःनिर्माण  
(जबड़ा, स्तन व अन्य)  
डॉ. च. शासन से मान्यता प्राप्त  
कालड़ा बर्न एंव  
प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर  
आर. के. सी. के सामने, चौथे कालोनी एंव पंचवटी  
नाका, धर्मपुरी रोड, कलकत्ता नॉक के पास, रायपुर  
कॉल : 98271 43060/8871 003060  
Apy 9827144371