



BRIEF



PM Modi being conferred with the Lokmanya Tilak National Award, in Pune, Tuesday.

Dismiss

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has dismissed a petition seeking to direct the authorities to conduct a retest of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) (UG) 2023 for a candidate who could not appear for the exam held on June 15. The high court refused to interfere in the matter saying the results of the examinations have already been declared and the counselling is likely to commence soon.

ED action

Ranchi: The Enforcement Directorate arrested Bishnu Kumar Agarwal, a Ranchi-based businessman, in connection with its ongoing money laundering probe linked to a case of alleged land fraud in Jharkhand as it claimed he was "hand in glove" with arrested IAS officer Chhavi Ranjan in land grabbing cases.

Airlifts

Srinagar: A military transport helicopter Tuesday came to the rescue of a private operator providing self-services for the Amarnath Yatra pilgrims after its single-engine copter developed some snag at the Panchtarni helipad of the pilgrimage, officials said. A Mi 17 V5 helicopter of the Air Force successfully recovered an AS-350 helicopter operated by a private operator from the Panchtarni helipad, the officials said.

Custodial deaths

New Delhi: Gujarat and Maharashtra were top two states where the highest number of deaths in police custody were reported in the last five years, Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday. Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said as many as 687 people died in police custody in various parts of the country from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2023.

New judge

Shillong: Biswadeep Bhattacharjee on Tuesday took oath as an additional judge of the Meghalaya High Court. He was administered the oath of office by High Court Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee. The strength of the Meghalaya High Court rose to four with Justice Bhattacharjee, according to a statement issued by the high court.

Mishap

Barasat: Nine students and a teacher of a state-run school in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district fell sick on Tuesday after a tank of ammonia gas exploded in its chemistry lab, officials said.

Weather
High 29 Low 25

MARKET
NIFTY 19,733.55
SENSEX 66,459.31

BULLION
GOLD 59,090
SILVER 73,939

'Total breakdown of law and order in Manipur'

New Delhi, Aug 01 (PTI):

There is complete breakdown of law and order and constitutional machinery in Manipur, an outraged Supreme Court observed on Tuesday while terming the investigation carried out by the state police as "tardy" and "too lethargic". Excoriating the law enforcement machinery over unbridled ethnic violence, it said the state police have lost control over the law and order situation, and demanded the personal presence of the Director General of Police (DGP) when it hears a clutch of petitions on the mayhem in the north-eastern state on Monday.

The bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, which had called as "deeply disturbing" the May 4 video of two women being paraded



naked, sought details from the state government about the date of occurrence of the incident and registration of 'zero FIR' and regular FIR in the case.

It also wanted to know how many accused were named in the over 6,000 FIRs registered so far and the steps taken for their arrest. "The investigation is so lethargic, FIRs are registered after so long, arrests not made, statements not

recorded...There is a complete breakdown of law and order and constitutional machinery in the state," a bench headed by Chandrachud remarked orally.

Tension had soared in Manipur, tormented by unabated ethnic violence, after a May 4 video surfaced recently that showed two women from one of the warring communities being paraded naked by a mob from the other side.

"One thing is very clear that there is long delay in registering FIR in video case," Chandrachud remarked orally.

As the hearing began, the Manipur government told the bench it has lodged 6,523 FIRs after ethnic violence erupted in Manipur in May.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the Manipur

government, told the a bench the state police lodged a 'zero' FIR in the case of stripping and parading of the two women naked.

A zero FIR can be lodged at any police station irrespective of its territorial jurisdiction which is later transferred to the police station within whose limits an incident has happened. Mehta told the top court the Manipur police have arrested seven people, including a juvenile, in the video case. It appears that the state police recorded the statement of the women after the video surfaced, Mehta told the bench. Earlier in the day, the top court directed the CBI not to proceed with recording the statements of the victim women during the day as it is scheduled to hear a batch of petitions on the issue at 2 pm.

'Reach out to Muslim women'

New Delhi, Aug 01:

Asserting that his government's decision to ban instant triple talaq has boosted the overall sense of security for Muslim women, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked Bharatiya Janata Party leaders to reach out to them during the upcoming festival of Raksha Bandhan.

ED raids Hero MotoCorp chairman Pawan Munjal

New Delhi, Aug 01 (PTI):

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday conducted searches against Hero MotoCorp executive chairperson Pawan Kant Munjal and others as part of a money laundering investigation, official sources said. The searches were carried out at the residential and business premises of the 69-year-old billionaire businessman, the promoter of India's largest two-wheeler automobiles manufacturer, in Delhi and neighbouring Gurugram apart from that of

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ED raids Hero MotoCorp chairman Pawan Munjal

some linked entities, they said. The raids were launched after the ED registered a case against them under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the sources said. In a statement, the company said, "Officials from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) today visited two of our offices in Delhi and Gurugram and the residence of our Executive Chairman Dr Pawan Munjal. We continue to extend all cooperation to the agency." The ED case stems from a complaint filed against

Munjal by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), an investigative arm of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). The ED is understood to have also taken into account a Customs department case against Munjal and an executive belonging to a "third party service provider" company that was hired by Hero MotoCorp to accompany and look after the travel and logistics arrangements for the billionaire during a business trip to London in August 2018.

Fresh violence in Gurugram: Eatery set afire

Gurugram, Aug 01 (PTI):

A mob set fire to an eatery and vandalised adjoining shops in Gurugram's Badshahpur on Tuesday afternoon, in a fresh case of communal violence after the previous day's attack on a VHP procession in adjoining Nuh district.

A fire brigade team reached the spot and controlled the blaze, police said.

The mob ransacked some shops belonging to a particular community and also chanted "Jai Shri Ram" in front of a mosque



Charred remains of a shop and other temporary structures, set ablaze by miscreants in a fresh case of communal violence after Monday's attack on a VHP procession in adjoining Nuh district, at Sector 67 area in Gurugram, Tuesday.

in Badshahpur. The Badshahpur market was also shut down, police said.

30-year-old woman raped in Bijapur

Bijapur, Aug 01:

A 30-year-old woman was allegedly raped by a man near a highway in Bijapur district, police said on Tuesday.

The incident took place in Naimed police station area, where the woman came to visit a weekly market on Monday evening, an official said.

The victim went to answer nature's call around 100 metres away from the highway, when the accused allegedly caught hold of her and raped her, he said.

The accused fled from the spot, and the woman and her family members later lodged a complaint with the police, the official said.

About the incident

The incident took place in Naimed police station area, where the woman came to visit a weekly market on Monday evening. The victim went to answer nature's call around 100 metres away from the highway, when the accused allegedly caught hold of her and raped her.

Accused arrested

The police collected evidence from the spot, scanned CCTV footage of the area and questioned shopkeepers at the market before zeroing in on the accused. The woman also identified the accused from an identification parade, the official said, adding that a case under section 376 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered.

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NCB busts Zambada, biggest LSD cartel on darknet

New Delhi, Aug 01 (PTI):

The Narcotics Control Bureau on Tuesday claimed to have busted the "biggest" darknet-based LSD cartel operating in India with the seizure of more than 13,000 blots and Rs 26 lakh in cash and the arrest of three persons.

The cartel named 'Zambada' has a "high volume of business and supply chain" of this hallucinogenic category of drug and is also operating in the UK, the US, South Africa, Canada, Russia, Spain, Portugal, Greece and Turkey, NCB Deputy Director General (operations and enforcement) Gyaneshwar Singh said.

The cartel was being operated by young educated men in the age bracket of 21-25 years, he said. It is the second LSD

trafficking cartel busted by the agency in the last about three months, officials said.

The federal anti-narcotics agency had seized a cache of 15,000 LSD blots, the highest-ever catch in one operation, and arrested half-a-dozen people in June.

LSD or lysergic acid diethylamide is a synthetic chemical based-drug and is categorised as a hallucinogen. It is abused largely by youngsters and its consumption can lead to serious health issues. It is odourless, colourless and tasteless and it is painted on small squares of paper (blots) that can be licked or swallowed.

In continued operations, it was learnt that the largest cartel operating in LSD on the darknet - Zambada - operates from Delhi-NCR, Singh said.

20 dead as girder launcher collapses during construction

On Samruddhi Expressway

Mumbai, Aug 01 (PTI):

At least 20 persons including ten labourers were crushed to death and three others injured as a girder launcher collapsed during the construction of a viaduct for the Samruddhi Expressway in Maharashtra's Thane district on early Tuesday morning, officials said.

The girder launcher along with a segment launcher (crane), weighing 700 tons, came crashing down from a height of 35 metres, the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) said in a release.

The deceased included two engineers, said the MSRDC, the executing



Police, locals and other Emergency Services personnel at the site after a girder launcher collapsed during the construction of a viaduct for the Samruddhi Expressway, in Thane district, Tuesday.

agency of the expressway project that links Nagpur with Mumbai. Thane police registered an offence against two contractors for allegedly causing death by negligence following the incident. The incident occurred sometime after midnight at Sarlambe village in Shahapur tehsil, around 80

km from Mumbai. The three injured persons were being treated at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital at Kalva in Thane. Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis expressed grief over the incident in a tweet. A probe by experts has been ordered, he added.

CENTRE TO SC

'Potential sites for cheetahs in MP, Raj'

New Delhi, Aug 01 (PTI):

The environment ministry and the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) have told the Supreme Court that apart from the Kuno National Park, they have identified potential sites for cheetah introduction in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

These include Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary and Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh and Shahgarh Bulge, Bhainsrorgarh Wildlife Sanctuary and enclosure of Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan. They, however, said the Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve is at present not fit for accommodating Cheetahs, eight of which

have died in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP) in the last few months. The response of the NTCA and the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) came in a joint affidavit after the top court, while expressing concern over the death of cheetahs at KNP had asked the Centre to explore shifting the big cats imported from Namibia and South Africa to other sanctuaries.

The top court had on July 20 observed the death of eight cheetahs in the KNP in less than one year doesn't present a "good picture". The NTCA named the potential sites identified in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan as part of an action plan for cheetah introduction.

TIRANGA SHIKARA RACE



Activists of various political parties flag off Salute Tiranga Shikara Race at Dal Lake, in Srinagar, Tuesday.

Chief Minister 'Bhent Mulaquat' for Durg division youth likely on Aug 4



Bhilai, Aug 01:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel might come to the division headquarters Durg for a "Bhent Mulaquat" with youth of Durg division on August 04. The program will be organized near Jayanti Stadium. Keeping in mind the possibility of the Chief Minister's proposed arrival on August 04, Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena on Monday held a meeting of officers and distributed work re-

sponsibility. He appealed to all the departmental officers to make the program successful with better coordination. In the meeting, the officers were informed about the outline of the programs organized in Raipur and Bilaspur. The Collector gave necessary guidelines to the officers regarding the preparations.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is likely to visit Bhilai under Durg division on August 04 for "Bhent Mulaquat" with

youth of 7 districts falling under Durg division. The collector discussed in detail the outline of the program in the meeting with the officials.

He asked to complete all the arrangements related to the event on time including law and order, arrangements etc for the program. During the "Bhent Mulaquat" youth from Rajnandgaon, Kawardha, Balod, Bemetara, Khairagarh, M a n p u r - M o h l a - A m b a g a r h - C h o w k i and

Durg districts, college students, participants preparing for competitive exams will collect near the stadium and have a direct conversation with the Chief Minister.

In this program Baghel will talk about the development issues of Chhattisgarh, the schemes run for the youth, their achievements and aspirations.

Thousands of youth from all 07 districts of Durg division will reach here in this programme, preparations for which are being done by the district administration. Forest Officer Shashi Kumar, Additional Collector and Commissioner Bhilai Municipal Corporation Rohit Vyas, CEO of District Panchayat Ashwani Dewangan, Commissioner of Durg Municipal Corporation Lokesh Chandrakar, Risali Commissioner Ashish Dewangan, Joint Collector Gokul Raote, Yogita Dewangan and HS Miri, along with heads of all the departments were present at the meeting.

Door to door survey initiated for prevention of waterborne diseases

Bhilai, Aug 01:

For the prevention of water-borne diseases in the limits of Bhilai Municipal Corporation, door to door survey of the entire area has been started. During the survey coolers are being emptied, waste tyres, plastic bottles and junk material etc are being removed as well as malathion is being sprayed and temiphos distributed. People are being advised not to use stale food or rotten fruits and boil drinking water. It needs a mention that the survey is being conducted by the special team of the health department.

On the instructions of Bhilai Mayor Neeraj Pal and Commissioner Rohit Vyas, the corporation's health staff is working intensively to prevent water-borne diseases like dengue, malaria and jaundice by running an intensive campaign in the corporation area. For the control of



dengue and malaria and to eradicate mosquitoes, employees are spraying Temiphos and Malathion while inspecting the areas of different wards. The corporation's team is running a mosquito eradication campaign in the densely populated and low lying colonies. During this, Malathion is also being sprayed to kill the mosquito larvae. For public awareness and to prevent waterborne diseases, pamphlets are being distributed to the



people. and propagated by distributing pamphlets to prevent dengue, malaria and jaundice. Health Officer Dharmendra Mishra said that for the prevention of water-borne diseases and dengue in the entire corporation area, the employees of the corporation, after surveying more than fifteen thousand houses, are giving information about the measures to prevent dengue and malaria. For the prevention and prevention of water-borne diseases, the team constituted by the health department has been using fogging malathion at water-logged places and door-to-door temiphos to prevent dengue.

The corporation has written a letter to the DGM of Public Health Department, BSP to ensure necessary arrangements for the prevention of dengue, malaria, jaundice and other waterborne diseases in the township area.

World Nature Conservation Day celebrated at Durg Science College



Bhilai, Aug 01:

National Service Scheme, Red Cross Society and Botany Department of Durg Science College celebrated World Nature Conservation Day under the guidance of the Principal of the College. On the occasion, the students took a pledge to save nature and environment. In-charge Principal Dr

Anupama Asthana in her address said that we should always be ready to keep the whole world free from pollution.

The Principal administered oath to all the students and staff for the protection of world nature. Many professors and employees of the college were present in the program. Prominent among those were Dr K Padmavati, Dr RS Singh, Dr Vijay

Lakshmi Naidu, Prof in-charge of National Service Scheme Janendra Kumar Dewan, Red Cross Incharge Motiram Sahu. The students took the opportunity to plant saplings of Karanj, Neem and Guava in the college premises. NSS volunteers Mridul, Satek, Khumendra, and students of Botany Department helped in making the programme a success.

Administrative approval of Rs 23 lakh for 5 development works

Bhilai, Aug 01: Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena has given administrative approval of Rs 23 lakh for 5 construction works on the recommendation of MP Vijay Baghel under MP Local Area Development Scheme in the district.

According to the information received from the District Planning and Statistics Office, administrative approval of Rs 5 lakh has been given for the construction of CC road in Jangaon M. Similarly, 5 lakh each for construction of passenger waiting room in village Kumhali Bhainsbod and construction of CC road from Derha Dewangan's house to Kartik Verma's house in village Borid, 3 lakh for underground pipe arrangement for water drainage in Bhainsbod (Pauha) and Rs 5 lakh have been approved for CC road construction in village Pahanda.

Durg Mayor, commissioner inspect development & beautification work

Bhilai, Aug 01:

On the instructions of MLA Durg (Urban) Arun Vora The Durg Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal and Municipal Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar, along with officers and contractors, inspected the progress of development and beautification works being done for expansion of public facilities in the Durg Municipal limits. During inspection, the duo asked the officers to speed up the road widening work of the road from Ganjpara to Sheonath (Mahmra). The duo asked the concerned officers for continuous monitoring of the work for timely completion and maintaining the quality of work. Thereafter the inspection of Gauravpath was carried out, where the duo directed to plant large number of fruit bearing and shady plants on both sides. After inspection and review, the



Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal and Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar reached Green Chowk and instructed to start the beautification work and construction of four statues soon and bring progress in the work. Public Works Incharge

Abdul Gani, Kuleshwar Sahu, Executive Engineer Dinesh Netam, Assistant Engineer Jitendra Samaiya, Sanjay Thakur, Harishankar Sahu, Sweta Mahalwar and Contractors were present during the inspection.

District records 423.5 mm of average rainfall so far

Bhilai, Aug 01: The district has recorded an average rainfall of 423.5 mm from June 01 to August 01. According to the information received from the Office of the Collector, Land Records Branch, since June 01 till now, the maximum rainfall was 605.3 mm in Patan Tehsil and the minimum was 205.0 mm has been registered in Bori Tehsil. Apart from this, 421.6 mm of rainfall was recorded in Durg Tehsil, 421.3 mm in Tehsil Dhamdha, 447.4 mm in Tehsil Bhilai 3 and 440.4 mm in Tehsil Ahiwara. On August 1, Tehsil Durg recorded 0.0 mm of rain, Tehsil Dhamdha 0.0 mm, Tehsil Patan 1.3 mm, Tehsil Bori 2.5 mm, Tehsil Bhilai 3 0.0 mm and Tehsil Ahiwara 0.0 mm.

Poster Exhibition on 'Angdaan Mahotsav-2023' inaugurated at Nehru Art Gallery

Bhilai, Aug 01:

SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Public Relations Department, in association with Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital & Research Centre (JLNHRC), Sector-9, has organized a nine-day long exhibition of selected posters under the 'Angdaan Mahotsav-2023' from July 31 to August 08, 2023, at Nehru Art Gallery, Indira Place (Civic Center). The exhibition was inaugurated by Triparna Dasgupta, President (Bhilai Mahila Samaj) on July 31, 2023, in the evening, by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Dasgupta took keen interest in the exhibition and also appreciated the arrangements.

Dr Ravindranath M, CMO I/c (M&HS) was also present on this occasion along with Chief Medical Officers of JLNHRC, Dr Pramod Binayake, Dr V Dwivedi, Dr RK Pal, Dr K Thakur and Senior Doctors, Hospital Staff, and township Citizens.

Addressing the gathering, chief guest Triparna Dasgupta congratulated BSP's Medical & Health Services department for the initiative and said that we have to continue taking more such initiatives in



the future. Organ donation is a virtuous act and we all should come forward for the same, Dasgupta said.

In his welcome address, Dr Ravindranath M, said that Organ donation is a great donation. At present millions of people in our country are in an utter need of organ-transplant, however merely 10% of the required organs are available in the country. Therefore, we all need to step forward collectively as donors.

At the onset of the inauguration programme, Triparna Dasgupta, President (BMS) flagged-off the Organ Donation Messenger Vehicle and released balloons in the sky.

Few organ donors and organ recipients were also present, including organ donor Satish Bhatgaonkar and organ recipient Parmeshwar Sikka, who

shared their experience of Organ Transplant. On behalf of BSP's M&HS Department Dr Mala Choudhary undertook the initiative of organ donation first, followed by other departmental staff. An oath for organ donation was also administered and a Motivational Short-film and Anthem on Organ Donation initiative were also displayed during the inauguration programme.

The poster exhibition at Nehru Art Gallery is in consonance with the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' initiative. The Angdaan Mahotsav-2023 was observed by JLNHRC through a series of awareness activities, including poster competition. The winners of such competitions, along with the CMOs, organ donors, staff of the ancillary departments and hospital staff

Organ Donation Awareness Walkathon at JLN Hospital

Fourteen-day long 'Angdaan Mahotsav-2023' is being observed at SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital & Research Centre, Sector-9, Bhilai from July 31 to August 13, 2023. The 'Angdaan Mahotsav-2023' fortnight was inaugurated by Anirban Dasgupta, Director Director I/c (BSP), by flagging-off Organ Donation Awareness Walkathon on August 01, 2023. Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), AK Chakraborty, ED (MM), Samir Swarup, ED (Rowghat), Pawan Kumar, ED (P&A) and BK Giri, ED (Mines), Dr Ravindranath M, CMO I/c (M&HS) Chief Medical Officers of JLNHRC, Dr Pramod Binayake, Dr V Dwivedi, Dr RK Pal, Dr K Thakur, other Senior Doctors and Hospital Staff were also present on this occasion. Sharing insights on organ donation, Anirban Dasgupta appreciated



Chhattisgarh's first Skin Bank at JLNHRC and said that Organ donation is the greatest donation. In India numerous people need organs to save their lives, but very few organs are available for them, I hope, through this campaign being run by JLNHRC, people will get aware and step forward to this noble cause. Usually, the process of organ dona-

tion takes place posthumously, so what can be better if our body gets utilized to give new life to someone else, Dasgupta said.

The walkathon started from the Hospital OPD and was joined by the JLNHRC collective who walked holding banners-posters and slogan boards to spread awareness on organ donation. The Organ Donation Messenger

Vehicle also moved ahead of the walkathon playing the 'Organ Donation Anthem'. On July 01, 2023, the Central Health Ministry initiated an awareness campaign titled 'Angdaan Mahotsav-2023' on the lines of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' to commemorate the 75th year of independence. The 'Angdaan Mahotsav-2023' is focused

on raising awareness about organ donation across the country. In 2023 the Ministry had also announced that July will be observed as organ donation month and August 3 will be celebrated as the Indian Organ Donation Day.

Concluding the walkathon, Dr Ravindranath M, CMO I/c (M&HS) proposed the Vote of Thanks. The "World Breastfeeding Week" was also inaugurated by Dr Ravindranath M, CMO I/c (M&HS) by lighting a ceremonial lamp in the presence of all the CMOs, other Doctors and hospital staff. The "World Breastfeeding Week" will be observed at Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital & Research Centre, Sector-9, from August 01 to August 07, 2023. The Department of Paediatrics & Neonatology will play a significant role in organizing the "World Breastfeeding Week".

Mahotsav-2023, at JLNHRC have been exhibited at the nine-day poster exhibition, which will be open to the public, during July 31 to August 08, 2023, from 17:30 hrs to 20:30 hrs, at Nehru Art Gallery, Indira Place (Civic Center).

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CEO informs about special brief revision program of voter list



Raipur, Aug 01: Chief Electoral Officer Reena Babasaheb Kangale on Tuesday informed about the second special brief revision program of voter list in the state in a press conference organized at the Chief Electoral Officer's office. He said that it would start with the preliminary publication of the integrated electoral roll on August 2. Claims

and objections will be received from August 2 to August 31.

Mrs Kangale said that after resolving the claims and objections by September 22, the final publication of voter list will be done on October 4. Joint Chief Electoral Officers Mr. Nilesh Kumar Kshirsagar and Mr. Bipin Majhi were also present on the occasion.

CEO appeals to participate in Walkathon today

- Special brief revision of voter list from Aug 2, walkathon organised by CEO's office to make people aware



Raipur: The work of second special summary revision of voter list in the state is starting from August 2. On this day, a walkathon is being organised in the Raipur by the office of the Chief Electoral Officer to motivate more and more people to get their names added to voter list. Chief Electoral Officer Reena Babasaheb Kangale has appealed to all the resi-

dents of the city, including youth, women, senior citizens, differently-abled, third gender community, social service organizations and government officials-employees to participate in it. The walkathon will be organised on August 2nd at 7 am at G.E. Road, starting from Gandhi Udyan and will end at Shaheed Smarak Bhavan, Raipur.

JUDO ON STRIKE



JUDOs of Ambedkar Hospital are on strike demanding hike in their honorarium and due to which the services in the Hospital were badly affected and patients had to wait for long.

Engineer turns out to be a vehicle lifter

- Steals 40 bikes from different places

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Aug 01: An engineer-turned vicious thief stole bikes from different places of the city in a professional manner and kept running his business with all the stolen bikes. Disclosing this today, SSP Prashant Agrawal said that thief lifted 40 bikes from different places of the city and kept riding the stolen bikes in 'Rapido'.

After stealing a bike from one place he used to go to another place, leaving the first stolen vehicle at the same place and then lifting two-wheeler parked in another place. A case of theft has been registered against the vicious thief in different



police stations. On the complaint of bike theft in different police stations of Raipur, a special team of Anti Crime and Cyber ??Unit was formed. Accordingly police were on look out for unidentified vehicle lifter.

Meanwhile, the special team of the police received tip off from an informer that a young man in the Kotwali police station area was looking for a customer of a two-wheeler. Acting on this tip off police identified the person and the vehi-

cle and caught him. During interrogation, the young man told his name as Kharora, a resident of Rahul Verma. When he was questioned regarding the documents of the bike, he gave misleading information and did not produce any documents. During strict interrogation he told that the bike was stolen. On inquiring about other incidents of bike theft, he told that a total of 40 two-wheelers were lifted from different police station areas.

Police arrested the said vehicle lifter Rahul Verma and seized 40 bikes worth around Rs 15 lakh, stolen by him from different places. Rahul Verma studied B.Tech and also worked as an engineer earlier. He used to use the stolen bikes in offline 'Rapidos' to ferry passengers.

Public felicitation of Governor Ramesh Bais today

- By 'Hamar Siyan-Hamar Abhiyan' samiti at Indoor Stadium

Raipur, Aug 01: Former President District Panchayat Ashok Bajaj under the aegis of 'Hamar Siyan Hamar Abhiyan' organising committee will be holding public felicitation of the Governor of Maharashtra Ramesh Bais on Aug 02 at Indoor Stadium in Raipur. Known for his simple, cordial nature and hard working politician, Ramesh Bais started his political career as corporator in 1978 and got elected from Mandir Hasoud Vidhan Sabha in 1980 and got elected in the Vidhan Sabha of undivided MP. In 1989, he was elected as the Member of

Parliament in the 9th Lok Sabha and then went on his winning spree in the 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th Lok Sabha consecutively. He also served as Union Minister of State for Mines, Chemicals and Fertilizers and as Information and Broadcasting Minister during former PM Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government and later worked with the same portfolio with an Independent charge. In the 15th Lok Sabha, he was appointed as Chief Whip of BJP Parliamentary team. In addition to this he also worked as Chairman of MP Krishi & Beej Vikas Nigam in MP and served as BJP's State Secretary in MP and State V-P as well and played an important role in expansion of BJP in state of Chhattisgarh.



In formation of new Chhattisgarh state also, Governor Ramesh Bais played an important role and when the reorganisation bill was presented, at that time Ramesh Bais was the Union Minister of State (independent charge) in Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government and played an important role in preparation of the state reorganisation bill and its passing in

the LS. In order to provide better health facilities to people of the state, Ramesh Bais took an initiative for establishing of AIIMS in Raipur and due to which people of Chhattisgarh and Odisha are now getting quality medical treatment at reasonable price and the remarkable work of saving lives of many by AIIMS Raipur during Corona period stands testimony before all.

Ramesh Bais is having lot of interest in Agriculture and wood craft and has given valuable contribution in development of agriculture and rural areas during his term as MP. During his term as Member of Parliament he paid due attention towards Education, health and irrigation facilities and its ex-

pansion and infrastructure development. It is seeing his dedication and hard work and long administrative experience that the GoI appointed him as the Governor Tripura in 2019 and he served there till 2021. In July 2021 he was appointed as the Governor of Jharkhand and served there till 17 Feb 2023. Presently from 18 Feb 2023 he is working as Governor of Maharashtra.

Bajaj informed that even after serving as Governor of big state like Maharashtra, Ramesh Bais is regularly in contact with Chhattisgarh. He will be arriving here on Aug 2 and would be publically felicitated by 'Hamar Siyan-Hamar Abhiyan' Samiti in Raipur by Sarv Samaj and it is a big coincidence that Aug 2 is his birthday as well.

Pankaj Bahety conferred with Ph.D. in Management

Raipur, Aug 01: Chhattisgarh Swami Vivekananda Technical University, Bhalai conferred Doctorate degree to Pankaj Kumar Bahety on 26 July 2023.

Dr.Pankaj Kumar Bahety is the son of Mrs. Sheela Bahety and Late Vijay Kumar Bahety (Retd. Professor Pt. RSU, Raipur). He has received this title under the guidance of Professor Dr. Souren Sarkar and Dr. Tanmoy De of the Department of Management. Dr.Pankaj Kumar Bahety did his Ph.D. on "A study on consumer preference towards rural Non-Agricultural products in urban area of Chhattisgarh". Shri Shankaracharya Technical Campus officials expressed happiness and wished Dr. Bahety for a bright future. Dr. Bahety thanked his guides for this unprecedented achievement of his life and also expressed his gratitude to his parents and family.

Investiture Ceremony of Adarsh Vidyalaya held



Raipur, Aug 01: The Investiture Ceremony was held on 1st August 2023 at Adarsh Vidyalaya, Tatibandh managed by Raipur Kerala Samajam, to encourage and kindle leadership qualities in our young prodigies.

The ceremony started by lighting the lamp which signifies the removal of darkness and continuous upward movement of the flame denotes a path of wisdom and divinity. The school flag was hoisted by the Principal of the school Amir B. Sultan

and the school choir sang the School Anthem. The cadets were conferred with badges and sashes by the Principal and Vice Principal of the school Debarchana Roy. The student's council took the pledge to hold the school motto in high esteem. The Vice Principal of the school congratulated them and addressed them to be impartial and asked them to give importance to the discipline of the school.

The Principal of the school motivated the cadets and blessed them with his golden views. He reminded them that they are the torch bearers of all the values that the school stands for. Lastly the school Head Boy along with the House Captains gave salute to the flags hoisted by them.

BJP terms Ch'garh govt to be anti-dalit

- SC Morcha National President Arya attacks govt over SC welfare schemes

Raipur, Aug 01: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Scheduled Caste Morcha National President Lalsingh Arya on Tuesday alleged that the Congress government in Chhattisgarh is anti-dalit and anti-constitutional.

Arya made the above statement while addressing a press conference here. He alleged that anti-dalit face of the Congress government has been exposed when it had stopped the construction work of Gurudwara at Giraudpuri, the birth place of Guru Ghasidas. He also held the failure of state government responsible for the nude protest



being carried out by the youth recently. He said that the SC youth were forced to hold demonstration after stripping their clothes publicly as they were not able to get justice with government failing to ensure redressal of their grievances. He alleged that the patronage of the state government has stopped it from taking action against the officials with fake SC certificates. Arya further alleged that the central fund received for the development of the SC community in Chhattisgarh is being spent on other

works which is a violation of the constitutional structure. Arya further alleged that the Reservation Roster too is not been followed by the state government in the promotion issue of the employees. He added that the public welfare schemes of central government too is not effectively implemented in Chhattisgarh. Chhattisgarh BJP SC Morcha President Navin Markandey and former Member of Parliament Kamla Devi Patle were also present on the occasion.

Three persons in a car attacked, robbed of purse-mobiles

- Armed miscreants attack them with ax

Raipur, Aug 01: Some bike-borne armed miscreants attacked three people in a car on Monday midnight and robbed them of mobile phones and a purse containing some cash late Monday night on Expressway in Raipur.

The incident took place in the area falling under jurisdiction of Telibandha police station. According to the information available, Airtel employees Pranshu Gupta, Gaurav Sharma and Shubham Sharma, while coming to Raipur by car stopped for urination near Puraina Expressway on Monday night. In the meantime bike-borne miscreants

reached there and started demanding money from them. When Airtel staff in the car refused to give the money, miscreants hit Pranshu Gupta on his hand and Gaurav Sharma on his head with an ax weapon. In such a situation, the three employees left the car and fled from there to save their lives. Miscreants searched the car and fled away with a purse full of cash and mobile kept in it. Later victims informed about the incident at Telibandha police station. On the complaint of the victims, the police registered offence against unidentified miscreants. According to the victims, the miscreants fled after looting three expensive mobiles and a purse containing cash of Rs 5000.

CAIT seek withdrawal of order banning use of aluminum utensils in mid day meal: Amar Parwani

Raipur, Aug 01: CAIT National Senior Vice President Amar Parwani, chairman Mangela Maloo, Amar Gidwani, State President Jitendra Doshi, States Working President Vikram Singh Deo, Parmanand Jain, Vashu Makhija, State General Secretary, Suriender Singh, State Working General Secretary Bharat Jain and State Treasurer Ajay Agrawal informed that the Union Ministry of Health has issued a circular regarding the ill effects of cooking in aluminum utensils and this circular has been sent to the Union Ministry of Education with the intention to discourage the use of aluminum utensils in their mid-day meal schemes across India. Keeping in view the adverse impact of this circular on the country's aluminum

trade and its far-reaching consequences on Alluminium trade, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) and the All India Aluminum Utensils Manufacturers Association has urged Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Union Health Secretary, Rajesh Bhushan to withdraw the said order. Questioning the justification of this circular, the CAIT has also sought an appointment with Mr. Mandaviya and Rajesh Bhushan to discuss the issue in detail with CAIT and trade leaders of aluminium trade. CAIT National Vice President Mr. Amar Parwani & State President Mr. Jitendra Doshi informed that CAIT and All India Aluminum Utensils Manufacturers Association said that the government's order will have a huge adverse

impact on the aluminum utensils industry. They said that on the one hand pressure cookers and other utensils made of aluminum have been brought under the ambit of BIS and therefore it is difficult to understand as to how the use of aluminum utensils became harmful only for mid day meal. A large population of the country still uses these utensils because of their cheap in prices. Not everyone in the country can use stainless steel or crockery, so banning the use of these utensils is not justified. They also said that today there is a ban on utensils used for mid-day meal, so tomorrow the same ban may be imposed on all types of aluminum utensils as well. There was no consultation with the stakeholders in this regard.

Police raid in outer colonies of Raipur in early hours

- More than 100 miscreants caught

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Aug 01: Sensation prevailed in the outer colonies of the capital Raipur when police reached to carry out raids on Tuesday morning. Boriya RDA Colony and BSP Colonies under Tikrapara Police Station, Deopuri Housing Board Colony, Irani Dera, Bhatagaon Bus Stand and several other colonies in DD Nagar were raided. Miscreants including those who were on po-

lice radar were nabbed and brought to the police station.

The action of police raid comes in the wake of instruction by IG Ratanlal Dangi to take stern action against miscreants and goons in the city in view of upcoming elections. According to the information available, Raipur police conducted surprise raids at 17 locations. A large number of jawans along with 6 CSPs and 12 SHOs were put on duty to conduct raid. More than 100 miscreants, goons and anti-social elements were caught in the raid.

ACS Subrat Sahoo given charge of PWD

- Administrative reshuffle

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Aug 01: In a significant administrative reshuffle, the senior Indian Administrative Services (IAS) Officer and Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Subrat Sahoo has been given additional charge of ACS of Public Works Department apart from his present posts of ACS to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. Secretary Public Works Department Bhuvanesh Yadav has been relieved from the PWD

Department and has been given posting of Secretary Women & Child Development with additional charge of Secretary Commerce & Industries and Public Sector Undertakings.

Above changes in the posting has been made after the CM Bhupesh Baghel held a review meeting of PWD to speed up the ongoing works. Similarly, the 2008 batch IAS Officer Bhim Singh working as Labour Commissioner, has been given additional charge of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Chhattisgarh State Rural Road Development Authority.

NIT Raipur organizes a workshop

● On Intellectual Property Rights: Patents and Design Filing



Patents and Designs, RGNIIPM. The workshop was attended by 184 participants and various topics regarding intellectual property rights such as safeguarding of IP, uses of IPR to students, patent types, patent specifications, documents and patent filing, online patent filing procedure, requirement for design patent, different types of intellectual properties and trademarks were covered. In the Q&A session, Mrs. Pooja Vishal Maulikar, addressed several queries related to AI in patent, design and trademark, patenting of AI tool output like ChatGPT, solutions of questions in mathematics, AI and benefits, utility versus design patent and patents of designed drugs. The workshop concluded successfully with a valedictory session by Dr. Lata Upadhyay.

Raipur, Aug 01: National Institute of Technology Raipur collaborated with Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Intellectual Property Management (RGNIIPM), Government of India, Nagpur and organized an online workshop on Intellectual Property Rights: Patents and Design filing on 27th July 2023 in accordance with the National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission (NIPAM). Dr. N. V. Ramana Rao, Director, NIT Raipur was the Chief Patron and Dr. P. Diwan, Dean (Research & Consultancy) was the Patron for the workshop. Dr. Subhojit Ghosh, Associate Professor,

Department of Electrical Engineering, In-charge, IPR Cell, Dr. Lata Upadhyay, Head, Department of Biotechnology, and Dr. Awanish Kumar, Associate Professor, Department of Biotechnology were the members of the organizing committee. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Chinmaya Mahapatra, Assistant Professor, Department of

Biotechnology. The objective of this workshop was to impart knowledge of Intellectual Property Rights that have been widely acknowledged and recognized in the past few years in the country. The program started with an inaugural by Dr. Chinmaya Mahapatra followed by workshop sessions by Mrs. Pooja Vishal Maulikar, Resource Person & Examiner of

Upadhyay leads protest against soaring inflation

Exposes BJP Government's negligence

Symbolic representation of public anguish sends powerful message



Raipur, Aug 01: AIICC Secretary and MLA Vikas Upadhyay spearheaded a compelling protest here, denouncing the BJP-led Central government's disregard for the surging inflation city area here on Sunday. Gas cylinders, tomatoes, and green vegetables were meticulously arranged, symbolizing the public's distress. Known for his active engagement with local issues, MLA Vikas Upadhyay's protest resonated with people, compelling them to reflect on the dire situation at hand. The demonstration, titled

“Speaking about Inflation with the Public,” witnessed numerous Congress members displaying placards bearing slogans on inflation. The stark imagery, including living individuals atop gas cylinders, evoked post-mortem rituals, smoke, burning wood, and a person lying on a deathbed draped in a white shroud with a garland, painted a vivid picture of the harsh reality faced by families amid inflation. The objective was clear a “to bring the people's voices, the ground realities of inflation, the challenges of rising prices, and the struggle to afford essentials, to the attention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP leaders. Vikas Upadhyay passionately criticized the Prime Minister's lack of concern for the people's

grievances, accusing the government of authoritarianism and self-serving policies. He questioned the impact of the “Make in India” and “Achhe Din” slogans, stating that they have only exacerbated the hardships faced by the populace. With vegetables priced exorbitantly, including tomatoes selling at 200 rupees per kilogram, and women struggling to get gas cylinder refills despite having 1200 cylinders, households are grappling with the burden of inflation. Women have been forced to resort to cooking meals on wood stoves due to the escalating costs. Through this powerful protest, Vikas Upadhyay seeks to make the government accountable and address the pressing concerns of the people affected by the escalating inflation under the ruling BJP government.

IIM Raipur and DHA Delhi proudly announce commencement of Batch-II

● For India's premier PG & Diploma Certificate Prog in Digital Health

Raipur, Aug 01: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Raipur and Digital Health Academy to commence the second batch of the Post Graduate Certificate Programme in Digital Health (PGCPDH) and Diploma Programme in Digital Health (DPDH). It is a significant step in advancing the digital health landscape in India. The programmes aim to develop future leaders who will drive the digital health revolution in the country, bridging the gap between healthcare and technology. Here are some key details about the programmes:

Programme Objective: The PGCPDH and DDPH programmes are designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the

intersection of healthcare and technology. Participants will gain insights into various aspects of digital health, including telemedicine, data analytics, digital health policies, and entrepreneurship. Duration: The PGCPDH and DDPH is a year-long programme, providing participants with a thorough and in-depth learning experience. The curriculum includes online classes, interactive sessions, live discussions, and case studies, enabling participants to grasp the intricacies of digital health. Personal Immersion Programme: As part of the PGCPDH and DDPH, participants will have the opportunity to attend a three-day personal immersion programme at IIM Raipur. This on-campus experience will offer hands-on learning and networking opportunities.

Certification: Upon successful completion of the

programme, participants will be awarded a Post Graduate Certificate in Digital Health and Diploma Certificate in Digital Health jointly from IIM Raipur and Digital Health Academy, New Delhi.

Application Process: The registration for the programme commenced on 15th July 2023. Early applications are accepted until 25th August 2023, and the final deadline for applications is 25th September 2023.

The PGCPDH and DDPH programmes hold immense potential in equipping professionals with the necessary knowledge and skills to excel in the rapidly evolving field of digital health in India. As the demand for digital health solutions and innovations continues to grow, these programmes will empower future leaders to drive positive change and transformation in the healthcare sector.

Inaugural function of Deeksharambh 2023-24 held in SRU

● Chancellor of the University inaugurates Digital verification of Degree and Mark sheet by QR Code



Raipur, Aug 01: The Deeksharambh 2023-24 takes place between August 1 to 4 in which experience will share by the different expertise of their particular field to the students and the motivational speech given by the expertise to encourage the educational phenomena of the students of the university. Along with it orientation program by faculties for students and interaction with new students a part of the four days session.

In the Inaugural function, the distinguished guests were Prof. G.D Sharma, President of Association of Indian Universities (AIU), Dr. G.N Singh, Advisor to the Chief Minister of the Uttar Pradesh & Former Drug Controller of India and Kishore Mohte, Chairman of Bhakti Sagar Chanel.

Along with them Anant Shri Vibhushit Shri Ravi Shankar Ji Maharaj, the Chancellor of the University and Dr. Sanjay Maheshwari, Medical Director Head MP Birla Group of Hospitals Satna were also share their pleasant views with students of the University.

The Program started with the lighting of the lamp and the state song. In the welcome address, Mr. Harsh Gautam, the Pro-Chancellor of the University warmly welcomed all the guests at SRU, which is also the confluence of Spirituality, Education and Service. In addition, he said Today's current education system should not be limited to studies only, so the basic objective of SRU is the self-development of the students not only providing

information and knowledge. Dr. Sanjay Maheshwari shared his experience with the students and inspired them, he appreciated the goal of Gurudev Maharaj Shri for the university, and he told the students that you have to walk fast according to technology because every minute there is technology. At the same time, he gave an inspirational address, which showed a lot of enthusiasm among the students.

By giving the great perspective of the slogan of the University, Dr. G. N. Singh asserted that the “Truth, Knowledge & Infinity” explained the great vision of the founder of the University for the faithful future of the students of the SRU. He also shares the best wishes of the Chief Minister of

Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath, whom known about Sadguru greatness. He also said that India's education system is changing, the whole world is looking towards India and in the field of education, the new education policy has changed the entire education system, which the people of India have woken up.

Prof. G. D. Sharma expressed gratitude to the university for being present in the initiation program, he discussed about all the great people sitting on the stage. He said that in today's program, on the first day of this unique initiation, the blessings of the great personalities of the region are being given here; nectar is raining in Shri Rawaatpura Government University in Amrit Kaal.

Kishore Mohte said that the people of the place where you have come are thinking very well about your future, as per Gurudev's vision, the preparation for how to take you forward in your university is very good.

Sadhguru Ravi Shankar Maharaj Shri asserted that the place where students are sitting is the temple of education where their parents have sent to study hard, play and think well. If students think well then they themselves will become a good person. This is the temple where a person can go forward himself and place of every field of art such as Engineer, Medical, and Commerce and so on.

Prof. S.K Singh, the vice chancellor of the varsity, shares the brief important status and the milestones of the University from its foundation day. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Gaurav Sharma, the Registrar of the University and warm welcome of the new students of the varsity for their great future.

Radium strip being applied to cattle

● Under Roka Chheka campaign



Konta/Sukma, Aug 01: Sukma Collector Haris S. under the Roka-Chheka campaign, the field staff of the Livestock Development Department is taking action to remove stray cattle from the main roads. In order to reduce road accidents on National Highway 30, stray cattle standing near the roads are being caught and taken to Gauthans and other safe places in the urban bodies through cow catcher vehicles. Along with this, radium belts are being applied around the necks of nomadic cattle and radium strips in their horns under the Roka-Chheka campaign to prevent loss of lives and animals.

Deputy Director of Livestock Development Department - Dr S Zaeheeruddin told that a team of veterinarians and

assistants has been formed to put radium belts and radium bands on the horns and ear tags of the roaming animals so that the drivers can see the cattle sitting on the roads at night.

This team, with the help of the municipality employees, is taking action every day on national highways and square-intersections by catching cattle and buffaloes and tagging them in their ears, radium belts around their necks and radium strips in their horns.

Along with this, by identifying the owner of the animal through the tag attached in the ear of the animal, advice is being given not to leave the animal open on the road and the negligent animal herders are also being punished. The Deputy Director has appealed to the cattle herders of the district not to leave the cattle loose on the roads and to save lives and livestock from damage by cooperating with the team in putting radium strips and tags around their necks.

Action of Raipur police against addiction

Raipur, Aug 01: Police in the capital Raipur is running a “Hello Zindagi” drive for awareness against drug addiction. Action has been taken against those indulging in illicit liquor trade. The police have arrested a total of seven persons for allegedly selling illicit liquor. The drive against illicit drug trade is being run under the leadership of SSP Prashant Agrawal. On July 30, the police team of Kharora and Dharsinwa police stations arrested a total of 7 persons for allegedly selling illicit liquor. A total of 196 quarter of country liquor has been seized from their possession. The value of the seized liquor has been estimated at Rs 49,000. Illicit liquor traders arrested by the police are 23 years old Rupesh Chelak and 23 years old Ajay Kumar, 24 years old Gajendra Verma, 62-year-old Kejuram Dhiwar, 33-year-old Ishwar Markam and 38-year-old Sushil Markam (all residents of Kharora) and Ravi Patela (40), resident of Gidhouri under Dharseva Police Station Raipur.

Families of 1.2 lakh students save Rs 210 crore by enrolling their children in SAGES schools

● Swami Atmanand Government Excellent English and Hindi Medium School: an emerging model of 'Quality Education at Zero Cost'



Raipur, Jul 31: Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel's initiative, the Swami Atmanand Government Excellent English and Hindi Medium School, has emerged as a successful model of “Quality Education at Zero Cost.” Children are receiving a quality education without any fees, resulting in substantial savings for families.

The parents of these 120,778 children have saved Rs 210.54 crore by enrolling them in the SAGES schools instead

of spending on fees in private schools.

This move has alleviated the financial burden on families belonging to the poor and lower middle class, who had to forgo private schools due to high fees.

The government-run schools have provided them with an excellent alternative.

Swami Atmanand Government Excellent English- and Hindi-medium schools have

surpassed private schools in infrastructure and quality education.

The state government is continuously evaluating the scheme's progress to ensure its effectiveness.

The assessment revealed that high fees at private schools made it impossible for poor and middle-class families to enroll their children there, and if these parents had enrolled their children in private

schools, they would have paid around Rs 210 crore in fees. However, state government schools have become a vital support for these families, which are offering their children quality education without any cost. Families of 96,226 students studying in Swami Atmanand Excellent English medium schools saved around Rs. 180.74 crore, while families of 24,552 students studying in Swami Atmanand Excellent Hindi medium schools saved approximately Rs. 79 crore.

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The state government currently operates 727 Swami Atmanand Government Excellent English and Hindi medium schools, proving to be a cost-effective option for providing quality education to many students.

Courtesy meeting of Chairman of CMDC with CM



Raipur, Aug 01: Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation, Chairman, Mr. Girish

Dewangan met Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel at his residence office. It is worth mentioning that along with his current responsibilities, Mr. Dewangan has been nominated as the coordinator for state-level operation, implementation and monitoring of 'Rajiv Yuva Mitran Club Yojana'. The Chief Minister congratulated Mr. Dewangan for his new responsibilities.

Haj pilgrims accorded grand welcome

● On their return by the society and people's representatives



Konta, Aug 01: After performing Haj from the land of Arabia, the Haj pilgrims reached their homeland India. Those from Sukma returned after performing Haj after 39 days to Sukma district of Chhattisgarh state. This time for Haj year 2023, only two people from Sukma district had gone to Mecca-Madina to perform Haj. As soon as the people of the district came to

know that he is coming to Sukma after performing Haj, people gathered at Konta Road Ruhani Ashram Sukma and waited for his arrival. Former Sadar of Anjuman Islamia Committee Janab Haji

Mohammad Hanif and his wife Shahnaz Begum along with Muslim community and people's representatives Manish Kunjam, former MLA of Konta Legislative Assembly, youth president of Sukma District Panchayat Harish Kawasi, Sukma Municipal Council President Raju Sahu, Nagar Municipality Vice President Ayesha Hussain, Mahesh Kunjam, Manoj Elder Men, Hussain, as well as the people of Sukma Sahar also warmly welcomed and congratulated the Hajis.

CE Sinha of CSPGCL bid touching farewell

Raipur, Aug 01: The retired Chief Engineer (C&A) of Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company (CSPGCL) Ajay Kumar Sinha was bid touching farewell at company's head office here on Tuesday. In this farewell programme, MD CSPDCL Manoj Khare and MD CSPGCL SK Katiyar honoured him by presenting him with a certificate and memento. Both the MDs



hailed the excellent working system of Sinha and his cordial behaviour with all.

On this occasion CE Sinha shared his experi-

ence and passed on the credit of his success to team-work and expressed gratitude towards all the officers and employees during his term in the office.

In the same way in other programmes, CSPGCL Asst.

Manager (Finance Deptt) B Venkat Rao, HR's Sub-Divisional Officer from CSPGCL Lochanprasad Nayak was also bid touching farewell.

International Friendship Day 2023: Celebrating Bonds That Make Life Brighter

Friends are the pillars of support, the keepers of secrets, and the ones who bring laughter into our lives. To honor the profound impact of friendship, we celebrate International Friendship Day on July 30th every year. This special occasion serves as a reminder of the cherished bonds that make our lives richer and brighter. Our best friends are the ones who stand by us through thick and thin, making the world a better place to navigate.

Though recognized by the United Nations, the date of Friendship Day varies across countries. Countries like India, Bangladesh, UAE, Malaysia, and the US celebrate it on the first Sunday of August. For them, Friendship Day falls on August 6th this year. Regardless of the specific date, the essence remains the same - to appreciate and cherish the friends who make our lives worthwhile.

The history of International Friendship Day traces back to 2011 when the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) offi-

cially acknowledged its significance. The primary idea behind this observance is to recognize the power of friendship in fostering understanding and unity among individuals, communities, and nations. Friendship has the potential to build bridges and inspire the next generation of leaders who can work towards creating a world that values diversity and promotes global harmony.

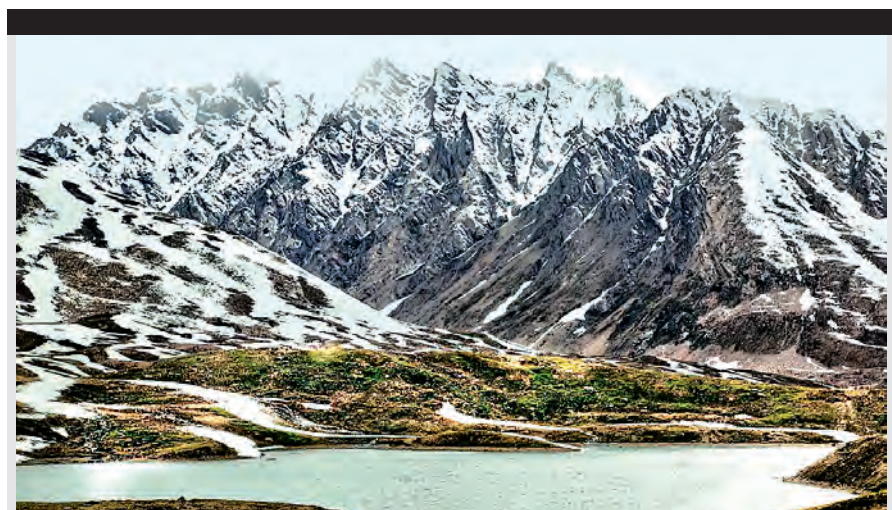
In a world where human rights

abuses, poverty, and various challenges continue to persist, International Friendship Day serves as a call to action. By nurturing strong bonds of trust and camaraderie, we can collectively strive to eradicate factors that threaten peace and development. This initiative aligns with UNESCO's proposal for a culture of peace, which encompasses a set of values, behaviors, and attitudes that reject violence and address the root causes of conflicts.

On this day, people engage in various activities to celebrate friendship. They exchange heartfelt messages, share gifts, and spend quality time with their closest companions. Social media platforms are abuzz with friendship-themed posts, where people express gratitude for their friends' unwavering support.

In a fast-paced world where connections are made and lost in the blink of an eye, Friendship Day reminds us to cherish and nurture the friendships that stand the test of time. Whether we've known our friends for years or just a short while, their presence adds warmth and meaning to our lives.

So on this International Friendship Day, let's take a moment to reach out to our friends, near and far, and let them know how much they mean to us. In celebrating this day, we not only honor the bonds we share but also reiterate our commitment to creating a world filled with compassion, understanding, and lasting friendships. Because, after all, life is brighter when we have friends by our side.



Melting of Ladakh glacier could form three glacial lakes

The Parkachik Glacier in Ladakh, a significant part of the Southern Zaskar Ranges in the western Himalayas, is experiencing accelerated melting, raising concerns about the potential formation of three glacial lakes. Researchers from the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology in Dehradun warn that these lakes could become a source of glacial lake outburst floods in the Himalayan region.

Using satellite data to analyze the glacier's glacial retreat from 1971 to 2021, the scientists discovered that the yearly melting rate between 1999 and 2021 was six times faster

than that observed from 1971 to 1999. The study, published in the Annals of Glaciology, attributes this accelerated glacial retreat to ongoing climate warming, which induces surface morphological and geological changes to glaciers.

As glaciers rapidly retreat and undergo surface morphological changes, they can create new glacial lakes or expand existing ones, ultimately leading to glacial lake outburst floods. The formation of glacial lakes occurs when a glacier erodes the land and then melts, causing the depression created by the glacier to fill with water.

The researchers identified three potential sites

for glacial lake formation at different elevations on the Parkachik Glacier. The estimated lake area for each of these lakes could range from 43 to 270 hectares. However, the expansion and reduction of these lakes are contingent on the dynamic behavior of the glacier. Notably, the study observed a slowing down of the glacier's surface ice velocity, resulting in an increase of debris cover on the glacier surface, particularly in the ablation zone. These findings further underscore the complex interplay between climate warming, glacial dynamics, and the potential for glacial lake formation and expansion.

Sleep patterns impact vocabulary and cognitive development in infants

New research from the University of East Anglia, UK, suggests that infants who nap frequently may exhibit smaller vocabularies and poorer cognitive skills. The study explored how children's sleep patterns influence their cognitive development and found that some children consolidate information more efficiently during sleep, leading them to nap less frequently, while others with lower vocabulary and cognitive skills may need more naps. Surprisingly, reducing naps for the latter group does not seem to improve brain development.

Teodora Gliga, the lead researcher of the study published in the Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry (JCPP) Advances, emphasized that parental anxiety around their children's sleep is common. Concerns often arise when children deviate from expected nap patterns, either napping more or less than anticipated for their age. Gliga urges parents to understand that young children will naturally nap for as long as they need, and this should be respected.

During the study, 463 infants aged between eight months and three years were surveyed about their sleep patterns, ability to focus, retain information, and their vocabulary. Additionally, parents provided



information about socio-economic status, education, living environment, screen time, and outdoor activities. Notably, none of the children attended daycare during the study period, minimizing disturbances to their natural sleep patterns. The research revealed that the structure of daytime sleep plays a role in cognitive development. Surprisingly, a negative association between nap frequency and vocabulary was stronger in older children. However, most parents re-

ported that their child's sleep remained unaffected during the lockdown. Still, parents from lower socio-economic backgrounds were more likely to report sleep worsening. The findings suggest that children have varying sleep needs, with some naturally dropping naps earlier, while others may continue to need naps beyond three years of age. Gliga recommends using a child's mental age, rather than chronological age, to gauge their sleep requirements.

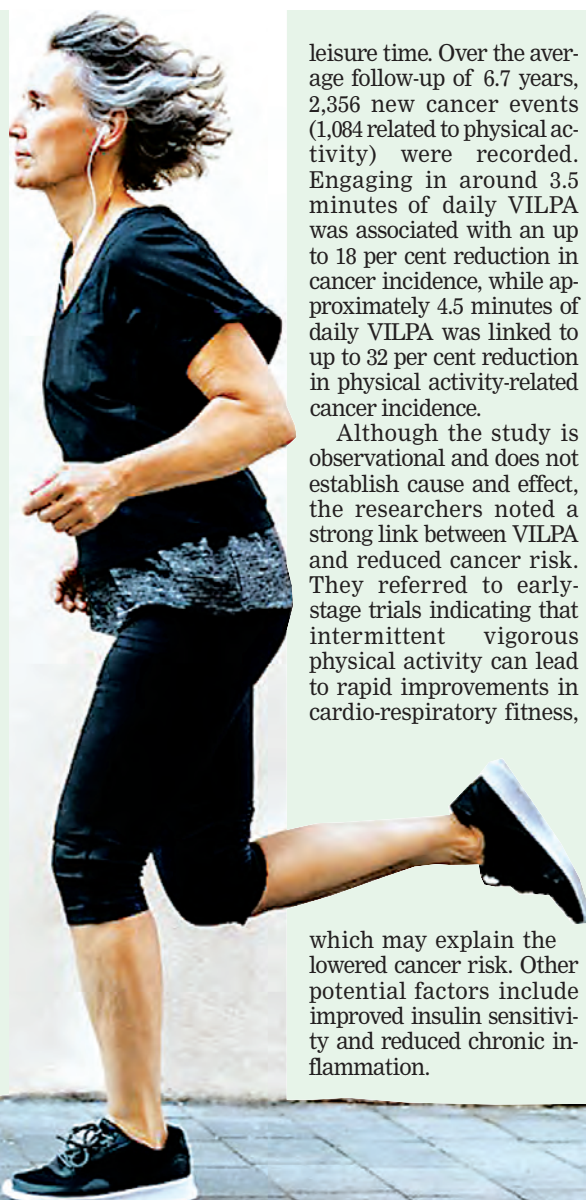
Brief, intense exercise linked to reduced cancer risk

According to a study published in the journal JAMA Oncology, engaging in short bursts of intense exercise for just 45 minutes daily can significantly lower the risk of certain cancers by up to 32 per cent. Researchers from the University of Sydney used data from wearable devices to track the daily activity of over 22,000 individuals who were not regular exercisers. Following their clinical health records for nearly seven years, the researchers found that even small amounts of vigorous intermittent lifestyle physical activity (VILPA) were associated with a reduced cancer risk compared to those who did not engage in such activity.

VILPA includes short bursts of intense activity, such as vigorous housework, carrying heavy shopping, power walking, or playing high-energy

games. The study focused on adults who do not exercise regularly and are at an increased risk of developing certain cancers like breast, endometrial, or colon cancer. Until now, the impact of less structured forms of intense physical activity on cancer risk was challenging to measure, but wearable technology like activity trackers has made it possible.

Lead author Professor Emmanuel Stamatakis emphasized the remarkable results, stating that increasing the intensity of daily tasks for just four to five minutes in short bursts of around one minute each can reduce overall cancer risk by up to 18 per cent. For cancer types associated with physical activity, the reduction can be as high as 32 per cent. The study involved 22,398 participants, averaging 62 years old, who did not exercise during their



leisure time. Over the average follow-up of 6.7 years, 2,356 new cancer events (1,084 related to physical activity) were recorded. Engaging in around 3.5 minutes of daily VILPA was associated with an up to 18 per cent reduction in cancer incidence, while approximately 4.5 minutes of daily VILPA was linked to up to 32 per cent reduction in physical activity-related cancer incidence.

Although the study is observational and does not establish cause and effect, the researchers noted a strong link between VILPA and reduced cancer risk. They referred to early-stage trials indicating that intermittent vigorous physical activity can lead to rapid improvements in cardio-respiratory fitness,

which may explain the lowered cancer risk. Other potential factors include improved insulin sensitivity and reduced chronic inflammation.

When Bank employees will get Five Day work?

Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

Bank employees have been demanding for a long time to declare 5 working days. Bank staff currently are working on alternating Saturdays, which has caused considerable confusion among consumers who need to know if it is a working Saturday. Bank unions have long advocated for a five-day work week. Demand has increased since LIC approved a five-day work proposal ahead of its IPO. The demand for a 5-day work week first came after the policy was implemented in the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India, in May 2021.

The demand of bank employees' is not unreasonable because Central Government and most State Government offices work only five days. Forget Central & State

Governments, Our regulator, the Reserve Bank of India works only 5 days a week. LIC is also working 5 days only. At the time of deciding 2 Saturdays off in 2015, there was an understanding that the outcome of 2 Saturdays off shall be analyzed and a decision to have 5 days banking will be taken in the next bipartite settlement.

According to bankers, mobile banking, ATMs, and online banking have become the key means for customers to access their bank accounts over the years. However, a subset of customers remained reliant on bank branches. Banks are increasingly transferring clients to self-service by installing cash deposit machines and passbook printing devices. A five-day working week at banks may still be some time away. While an in-principle agreement has been reached be-



Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

tween the Indian Banks' Association and public sector bank unions, a broader consensus will have to be reached with private sector banks and cooperative banks before this can be implemented.

At present, bank employees get off on Sundays, and second and fourth Saturdays. They also get holidays on festivals, and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) prepares the holiday list. Online services, however,

remain functional on holidays as well. Further, with the advancement of technology, most of the transactions can be processed without physically visiting branches. Since 2015, the banks have developed various alternative delivery channels for delivery of various services and most of the services like, fund transfers, bank statements, cheque book requests, loan applications, cash withdrawal, transaction enquiry, account opening, life certificates etc. are available online without human intervention.

Negotiations between the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and the United Forum of Bank Employees have made significant progress towards implementing a five-day work week for banks. The IBA has agreed, in principle, to this proposal in exchange for longer work

hours. According to the circular issued by the All India Bank Employees Association near the Indian Banks' Association, the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) is considering the demand of five days working in banks of bank unions. But, instead of this, the total working hours will have to be increased by 40 minutes per day.

If this proposal is implemented without further delay, it would provide much-needed relief to bank employees who have been working six days a week for several years. The change in the workweek would also bring banks in line with other industries that already operate on a five-day workweek. It would also allow bank employees to spend more time with their families and pursue other interests outside of work.

Bear cooling off in backyard pool amidst US heatwave

A heartwarming video of a black bear finding relief from scorching temperatures by taking a dip in a backyard swimming pool has taken the internet by storm. As the United States grapples with severe heatwaves, soaring temperatures exceeding 45 degrees Celsius have driven this clever grizzly to seek solace in a refreshing afternoon swim. The video, shared by the Burbank Police Department on Instagram, quickly captured the attention of netizens, garnering over 25,000 views and sparking a flurry of comments.

In the viral clip, the bear can be seen joyfully splashing around, cooling off from the sweltering heat, much to the amusement of viewers. The police department



playfully captioned the video, "This bear is beating the heat in Burbank! Officers are on-scene after the bear was spotted in a hillside neighborhood before taking a dip to cool off." Among the comments, one user humorously suggested, "Offer that man a beer or

something - what kind of manners do they have in that house?" Another user playfully pondered providing pools to bears in the future due to climate changes, emphasizing the importance of helping these magnificent creatures cope with the changing environment.

China will always stand firmly with Pakistan: Xi Jinping

Beijing, Aug 01 (PTI):

President Xi Jinping has sought to project an upbeat picture of the impact of the CPEC projects in Pakistan, saying the China-funded venture is a "vivid testament" to their "ironclad friendship" and vowed to stand firmly with its all-weather ally.

China will continue to work with Pakistan to take their strategic ties to new heights, Xi said as the two countries celebrated the 10th anniversary of the launch of the ambitious CPEC infrastructure projects in Islamabad, a day after a major suicide bombing took place in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

In his congratulatory message to the 'Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor' (CPEC) celebrations event held in Islamabad on Monday, Xi said the USD 60 billion CPEC infrastructure programme is an "important pioneering project" of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Pakistan's Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is opposed by



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), center, poses for photos with the commander of the rocket force Wang Houbin, top left, and his political commissar Xu Xisheng, top right, after promoting them to the rank of general in Beijing. Banner above reads "Central Military Commission Promotion to General Ceremony."

India as it is being laid through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

The event was attended by Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng, who is on a three-day visit to Pakistan.

"China will work with Pakistan to aim for high-standard, sustainable and livelihood-enhancing outcomes and further build the CPEC into an exemplary project of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation," Xi said.

"Since its launch in 2013, China and Pakistan have been advancing CPEC under the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and

shared benefits, and have achieved a number of early harvests," he was quoted as saying by the state-run Xinhua news agency. Xi, also the General Secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China, said the CPEC has added new impetus to the economic and social development of Pakistan and laid a good foundation for regional connectivity and integration.

He said the project is a "vivid testament to the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan", and provides an important underpinning for building an even

closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

Stressing that China and Pakistan will continue to improve overall planning and expand and deepen cooperation, Xi said no matter how the international landscape may change, China will always stand firmly with Pakistan, the report said.

"China and Pakistan will continue to work hand in hand and forge ahead in solidarity to carry forward the ironclad friendship, coordinate development and security," Xi, also the general secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China, said.

He said the two countries will continue to "pursue the cooperation of higher standards, broader scope and greater depth, and take the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership to new heights, so as to make an even greater contribution to peace and prosperity in the two countries and the broader region". The key agreement for the CPEC projects was agreed in 2013 but it was formally launched when President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan in 2015.

Imran Khan accuses govt of May 9 'false flag operation'



Lahore, Aug 01 (PTI):

Ousted prime minister Imran Khan on Tuesday said the "law of the jungle" is prevailing in Pakistan and the May 9 violence following his arrest for alleged corruption was a "well-planned false flag operation" by the Shehbaz Sharif-led government and state institutions to crush his party.

Pakistan saw unprecedented nationwide anti-government protests following the arrest of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman by paramilitary Rangers in a corruption case on May 9. Khan, 70, was later released on bail.

Dozens of military installations and government buildings, including the military headquarters in Rawalpindi, were damaged or torched during the riots. Over 100 vehicles of police and other security agencies were set on fire.

"The May 9 was a well-

planned false flag operation with the full backing of a controlled media and state institutions only with one purpose, to crush PTI," Khan said in a series of tweets.

After the May 9 violence, the police backed by the military launched a crackdown on the PTI and arrested 10,000 party workers, including women. Over 100 have been handed over to the military for their trial under the Army Act.

The PTI contests that its members were not involved in the attacks, but the government and military reject the claims and say they have "irrefutable evidence" of their involvement.

"In an increasingly desperate bid to suppress PTI, this regime is stooping to new abyssal lows each day, and there appears to be no respite in sight as the law of the jungle prevails in the country," Khan said.

Khan is also facing numerous cases related to attacks on military installations and blasphemy. He is reportedly under virtual house arrest at his private residence.

Niger crisis deepens as France plans evacuation

Coup leaders get support from neighbouring juntas

Niamey, Aug 01 (AP):

France on Tuesday announced a planned evacuation from Niger after a military coup there won backing from two other West African nations ruled by mutinous soldiers.

The French Foreign Ministry in Paris said the evacuation "will happen rapidly".

It gave no other immediate details.

The French decision to evacuate comes amid a deepening crisis sparked by the coup last week against Niger's democratically elected president, Mohamed Bazoum.

The West African regional body known as ECOWAS announced travel and economic sanctions against Niger on Sunday and said it would use force if the coup leaders don't reinstate Bazoum within one week.

Bazoum's government was one of the West's last democratic partners against West African extremists.

In a joint statement from Mali and Burkina Faso, their military governments wrote that "any military intervention against Niger will be considered as a declaration of war against Burkina Faso and Mali".

Col Abdoulaye Maiga, Mali's state minister for territorial administration and decentralisation, read the statement on Malian state TV Monday evening. The two countries also denounced ECOWAS economic sanctions as "illegal, illegitimate and inhumane" and refused to apply them.

ECOWAS suspended all commercial and financial transactions between its member states and Niger, as well as freezing Nigerian assets held in regional central banks. Niger relies heavily on foreign aid, and sanctions could further impoverish its more than 25 million people.

CLIMATE AGREEMENT SIGNED



COP28 President Designate Sultan Al Jaber and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Executive Secretary Simon Stiell after signing the host country agreement during a meeting in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Myanmar reduces Aung San Suu Kyi's sentences



Bangkok, Aug 01 (AP):

Myanmar's military-led government has reduced the prison sentences of ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi in a clemency connected to a religious holiday in the Buddhist-majority country, state media said Tuesday.

Former President Win Myint also had his sentence reduced as part of the clemency granted to more than 7,000 prisoners.

But Suu Kyi, 78, still must serve a total of 27 years out of the 33 she was originally imprisoned for.

The head of Myanmar's military council, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, granted the clemency

order to reduce the sentences in five cases against Suu Kyi in which she was convicted for violating coronavirus restrictions, illegally importing and possessing walkie-talkies and sedition, according to a report on state MRTV. She was initially sentenced for 19 offenses that her supporters

and rights group say were attempts to discredit her and legitimise the 2021 army takeover while preventing her return to politics. The clemency was announced a day after Myanmar's military extended the state of emergency it imposed when it seized power from Suu Kyi's elected government 2 1/2 years ago, forcing a further delay in elections it promised when it took over. Several of Suu Kyi's cases are awaiting final appeals.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक निर्माण विभाग (भ/स) उत्तर बस्तर संभाग क्र. 2 जगदलपुर

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
क्रमांक 28921/NIT-03/व.ले.लि./2023-24 दिनांक 27/07/2023

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम / NoOfCalls	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख में) (सं.)/ बैक सॉल्वेसी (रु.)
01	उपसंभाग लोहपल्लीगुडा के अंतर्गत जगदलपुर चित्रकोट मार्ग के कि.मी. 23 से 38 = 8.00 कि.मी. में बी.टी. पेंच मरम्मत कार्य।	25.14 18900.00 371100.00
03	उपसंभाग बस्तर के अंतर्गत मानपुरी मुण्डगगव नारायणपाल मार्ग के कि.मी. 1 से 8, एवं 18 से 22 = 14.00 कि.मी. में बी.टी. पेंच मरम्मत का कार्य।	49.85 37400.00 747750.00
03	उपसंभाग दरमा के अंतर्गत विभिन्न मार्गों में डब्लू.एम.एम. पेंच मरम्मत का कार्य।	10.00 7500.00 150000.00

कार्यपालन अभियंता
लो.नि.वि. (भ/स) संभाग क्र. 2
जगदलपुर

Public Works Department
Office of The Superintending Engineer, Pwd,
Raipur Circle No.-1 Raipur. (C.G.)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
(1st Call)
No. 11/Raipur/2023-24 Raipur, Dated. 26.07.2023

Public Works Department (PWD) invites proposal for Planning, Design, Estimation and related services for the work

वित्तीय वर्ष 2023-24 के बजट में शामिल जिला रायपुर के नवा रायपुर सेक्टर-24 में निर्माणधीन राजमार्ग, माननीय मुख्यमंत्री एवं माननीय मंत्री गणों के आवासीय परिसर के बाह्य संरचना कार्य हेतु वास्तुविद् चयन की निविदा आमंत्रण करने बावत।

Situated at Raipur
Probable cost of project Rs. 8004.23 Lakh
Minimum eligibility for participants shall be as below :-

S.N.	Building project cost	The applicant firms, firms forming Joint venture/consortium shall be	Earnest money (In shape as per annexure I) Favor of Executive Engineer, PWD Division No.-03 Raipur
1	For project cost Exceeding Rs. 50 to Above	Empanelled as architect in Class "A" & Above Class in C.G. PWD.	Rs. 20,000=00

General condition :- All the documents & information as per para 6.4, shall be submitted through speed post/Registered post, so as to reach the office of under signed on or before dated 16.08.2023 by 17.30 hour. Any documents received after the last date and time will not be entertained.

The detailed RFP is available on the website www.cg.nic.in/pwdraipur & <http://cgstate.gov.in/> from where it can be downloaded for submission. CG.PWD reserves the right to reject all or any of the application without assigning any reason. Right to modify the process of Pre-qualification is reserved with CG.PWD.

Superintending Engineer
Public Works Department
Raipur Circle No.-1 Raipur

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

E-Procurement Tender Notice
E-mail : tenders-pwd.cg@gov.in

NIT No. 262 /TC/EinC/PWD/23-24 Dated 24.07.2023

The Engineer-in-Chief, Public Works Department on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh invites percentage rate bids on electronic tendering system under RCPLEW RRP-III in the district of Bijapur for construction & up-gradation of 1 Road with estimated cost amounting Rs 1620.08 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 25.07.2023 and may be submitted up to 17.00 Hrs. on 10.08.2023

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) of Chief Engineer, Tender Cell, First Floor, Nirman Bhawan, PWD, North Block, Sector-19, Naya Raipur Atal Nagar (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
(Chief Tender Cell)
Office of Engineer-In-Chief
P.W.D. Naya Raipur Atal Nagar (C.G.)

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लो० नि० वि० वि/यां संभाग रायपुर छ.ग.

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
क्रमांक-10/143/NIT-9/2023-2024/ व ले लि दिनांक : 28/07/2023

एकीकृत पूंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित मनुअल निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम / NoOfCalls	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)
T0145	E/F work to Govt. Resi. & NR building O/W/MOW/Deposit/SR/ Ordinary repair work block Mainpur & Devbhog under PWD E/M subdivision Gariyaband (C.G.) प्रथम आमंत्रण	19.50
T0146	E/F work to Govt. Resi. & NR building O/W/MOW/Deposit/SR/ Ordinary repair work block Gariyaband under PWD E/M subdivision Gariyaband (C.G.) प्रथम आमंत्रण	10.00
T0147	E/F work to Govt. Resi. & NR building O/W/MOW/Deposit/SR/ Ordinary repair work block Chhura under PWD E/M subdivision Gariyaband (C.G.) प्रथम आमंत्रण	13.50
T0148	Providing E/F work for SR.MOW,Deposit,Original work and Ordinary Maintenance at Pension Bada and Bairon Bazar section under PWD E/M workshop subdivision, Raipur (C.G.) प्रथम आमंत्रण	15.00
T0149	Providing E/F work for SR.MOW,Deposit,Original work and Ordinary Maintenance at Civil Lines section under PWD E/M workshop subdivision, Raipur (C.G.) प्रथम आमंत्रण	15.50
T0150	Providing E/F work for SR.MOW,Deposit,Original work and Ordinary Maintenance at Sirpur Bhawan campus section under PWD E/M workshop subdivision, Raipur (C.G.) प्रथम आमंत्रण	16.50
T0151	Providing E/F work for SR.MOW,Deposit,Original work and Ordinary Maintenance at University section under PWD E/M workshop subdivision, Raipur (C.G.) प्रथम आमंत्रण	15.00
T0152	Providing E/F work for SR.MOW,Deposit,Original work and Ordinary Maintenance at Rajbhawan section under PWD E/M workshop subdivision, Raipur (C.G.) प्रथम आमंत्रण	14.00
T0153	Providing E/F work for SR.MOW,Deposit,Original work and Ordinary Maintenance at Rajbhawan section under PWD E/M workshop subdivision, Raipur (C.G.) प्रथम आमंत्रण	18.50
T0155	Providing, installation and maintenance of monoblock pump and submersible pump under PWD E/M workshop subdivision, Raipur (C.G.) प्रथम आमंत्रण	18.50
T0156	Providing E/F work for SR.MOW,Deposit,Original work and Ordinary Maintenance at C.G. Sadan, C.G. Bhawan under PWD E/M workshop subdivision, Raipur (C.G.) प्रथम आमंत्रण	18.50
T0157	Providing and installation of new air-conditioner and ordinary maintenance of Air-conditioners at C.G. Sadan, C.G. Bhawan and Tribal Youth Hostel New Delhi under PWD E/M workshop subdivision, Raipur (C.G.) (Make- Daikin, Voltas, Mitsubushi) प्रथम आमंत्रण	10.00
T0158	वि. या. उपसंभाग चम्मरी के अंतर्गत स्थित उपसंभाग घमन्तरी के मूल कार्य, लघुमूल, जमा मद कार्य, साधारण मरम्मत एवं विशेष मरम्मत कार्य के सम्बन्धित विद्युत्परीक्षण कार्य। प्रथम आमंत्रण	10.00
T0159	वि. या. उपसंभाग चम्मरी के अंतर्गत स्थित उपसंभाग कुन्द के मूल कार्य, लघुमूल, जमा मद कार्य, साधारण मरम्मत एवं विशेष मरम्मत कार्य के सम्बन्धित विद्युत्परीक्षण कार्य। प्रथम आमंत्रण	10.00
T0160	वि. या. उपसंभाग चम्मरी के अंतर्गत स्थित उपसंभाग नगरी के मूल कार्य, लघुमूल, जमा मद कार्य, साधारण मरम्मत एवं विशेष मरम्मत कार्य के सम्बन्धित विद्युत्परीक्षण कार्य। प्रथम आमंत्रण	10.00
T0161	लो.नि.वि. विद्युत्/वाटिकी अनुभाग मन्थाल रायपुर अनुभाग अंतर्गत विभिन्न उपखंडों में नए साइड रिस्ट्रिक्ट ऑडियो विडियो कांफ़रेन्स रिस्ट्रिक्ट एवं अन्य इलेक्ट्रॉनिक आइटम के नया प्रदान एवं स्थापना/ रिपेयरिंग/ मरम्मत का जोनल कार्य (Make- Ahuja, Yamaha) प्रथम आमंत्रण	15.00
T0162	वि. या. उपसंभाग रायपुर के अंतर्गत न्यू सर्फिट हाउस सेक्टर-24 नया रायपुर में लगे हुए लिफ्ट मशीनों का वार्षिक मरम्मत एवं अनुसंधान का कार्य (App. Make- Thyssenkrupp/Kone/Otis) प्रथम आमंत्रण	8.00
T0163	वि. या. उपसंभाग विधानसभा रायपुर अंतर्गत न्यू सर्फिट हाउस सेक्टर-24 नया रायपुर के अंतर्गत स्थापित डीजी सेट एवं उच्चदाब उपकेंद्र ट्रांसफॉर्मर इन्वार्डि का वार्षिक मरम्मत एवं अनुसंधान का कार्य (App. make Kirlosker /Cummins/Greaves power) प्रथम आमंत्रण	4.45
T0164	छ.ग. विधानसभा स्थित निवान लाइट एवं शहीद गार्डन निवान लाइट का वार्षिक मरम्मत एवं अनुसंधान कार्य। प्रथम आमंत्रण	1.25
T0165	छ.ग. विधानसभा अंतर्गत स्थापित समस्त ऑनलाइन यु.पी.एस. एवं छ.ग. विधानसभा आर्यन निसर में स्थापित समस्त ऑनलाइन यु.पी.एस. का वार्षिक अनुसंधान एवं संचालन कार्य। प्रथम आमंत्रण	4.13
T0166	Providing annual maintenance & repair work of 05 Nos DG set Capacity 10, 25 & 200 KVA installed at Sirpur Bhawan Campus, Civil Line Raipur (C.G.) (App. Make-Greaves/Cummins/Koel/ Kirlosker) प्रथम आमंत्रण	9.50
T0167	Providing, maintenance, repair & replacement work of UPS, Inverter, Battery & power backup system with all the capacity installed at Sirpur Bhawan Campus, Civil Line Raipur (C.G.) (App. Make- Unitech power systems/Microtek) प्रथम आमंत्रण	3.00

नोट :- निविदा प्रश्न हेतु आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 16/08/2023 अपराह्न 6:30 बजे तक

निविदा संकोषों सही विभागीय वेबसाइट www.cg.nic.in/pwdraipur में Live Tender के अंतर्गत निविदा प्रश्न में उपलब्ध हैं। इनका अद्यतन संशोधित संस्करण कार्यालय में संचित जा सकता है।

शर्तों - 1) उपरोक्त कार्यों के आवेदन प्राप्त होने पर ही विभागीय न्यायालय की कार्यवाही की जावेगी।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
लो. नि. वि. वि/यां संभाग रायपुर छ.ग.

Muharram Processions

Embracing Peace in Jammu and Kashmir

The streets of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed the revival of a centuries-old tradition—the Muharram processions. After a prolonged hiatus, the solemn commemorations of Muharram 10 unfolded in Srinagar's downtown area, echoing the historical and cultural significance they hold for the region. Muharram is a sacred month in the Islamic calendar, and the 10th day, known as Ashura, is observed by Shia Muslims worldwide to honor the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions in the battle of Karbala. For generations, Muharram processions have been an integral part of the religious and cultural fabric of Jammu and Kashmir, providing a platform for mourners to express their grief and solidarity with the sacrifices made in the battle of Karbala. However, in recent decades, the region's security challenges and disturbances posed significant obstacles to the observance of these processions. The eruption of terrorism in 1989 disrupted the peaceful conduct of Muharram processions, leaving a void in the hearts of the Shia community and hindering the expression of their religious sentiments. The revival of Muharram processions in Jammu and Kashmir marks a historic step towards reclaiming traditions and fostering a sense of cultural identity. The presence of mourners in the Zuljanah procession signifies the resilience of faith and the yearning to pay homage to the martyrs of Karbala after a prolonged silence. It reflects a collective aspiration for peace and an atmosphere where religious observances can be practiced with reverence and tranquility. The significance of Muharram processions extends beyond religious sentiments. The observance of such traditions is a testament to the region's diverse cultural heritage, where communities come together to honor their shared history. It symbolizes the coexistence of various religious and cultural identities, promoting understanding and harmony among different sections of society. The administration's facilitation and support for the peaceful conduct of Muharram processions are commendable steps towards nurturing an inclusive environment. The authorities' recognition of the cultural significance of this event fosters an atmosphere of mutual respect and encourages communities to embrace their cultural heritage without fear or hesitation. As the Muharram processions return to the streets of Jammu and Kashmir, it opens a new chapter of hope and reconciliation. It signifies a step towards reclaiming a sense of normalcy and a renewed commitment to preserving cultural traditions that form the bedrock of the region's social fabric. While the revival of Muharram processions is a cause for celebration, it is essential to approach this development with sensitivity and understanding. Continued efforts must be made to ensure the safety and security of all participants and maintain an environment that upholds the values of peace and inclusivity. As Jammu and Kashmir embrace its cultural tapestry, it is imperative to foster an environment where all communities can freely practice their religious and cultural observances. The revival of Muharram processions after a long gap serves as a beacon of hope, guiding the region towards a future where diversity is celebrated, and traditions are cherished with pride.

Courts' Limitations

Beyond Panacea?

Yash Pal Ralhan

In the halls of justice, a mounting crisis threatens the very core of our judicial system. The Union government recently revealed distressing figures, shedding light on the escalating number of pending cases in our courts. With over 70,000 cases pending in the Supreme Court, a staggering 60 lakh in the high courts, and a mind-boggling 4.4 crore in the district and subordinate courts, it is evident that we face an arduous battle ahead. Who should shoulder the responsibility for this alarming state of affairs? The blame game echoes through the corridors of power, with each segment pointing fingers at the other. Last year, the Chief Justice of India NV Ramana held the executive and legislative branches accountable, blaming their inaction and deficiencies for the overwhelming case-load. However, amidst this finger-pointing, one voice rises above the rest: the Union Government asserts that the disposal of pending cases falls "within the domain of the judiciary." Yet, merely assigning blame will not rectify the situation. The esteemed Supreme Court bench of Justice SK Kaul and Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia has astutely proclaimed that courts cannot be the panacea for every societal ill. Their statement, though in response to a particular petition, resonates beyond a single case and demands a broader examination of the issue at hand. Society, as a whole, must evolve to ensure that the burden of change does not rest solely on the judiciary. It is irrefutable that a significant delay in filling judicial vacancies hampers the administration of justice. The appointment of judges should be a collaborative process involving both the executive and the judiciary. Additionally, certain central and state laws contribute to the proliferation of excessive and frivolous litigation, further exacerbating the problem. Nevertheless, we must recognize that not every matter demands adjudication in the courtrooms. Common citizens often shy away from the complex and time-consuming legal processes due to various factors - lack of awareness, financial constraints, and the fear of prolonged litigation. As a result, many opt for alternative methods of resolution, leaving the courtrooms free for more critical matters. Conversely, there exist individuals well-equipped with financial prowess who exploit the system for their gain, prolonging cases for their advantage rather than seeking true justice. Moreover, historical instances of judicial overreach have inadvertently encouraged certain sections of society to flood the courts with endless litigations, leaving many important matters unresolved. While the judiciary endeavors to uphold justice, accessibility remains a challenge for the common man. In some high-profile cases involving politicians, activists, and even terrorists, the courts have exhibited unwavering dedication, even working beyond regular hours. This has sparked discussions on judicial accountability, as the public expects unbiased treatment regardless of the parties involved.

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

WATERLOGGED NH-8



Commuters on the waterlogged NH-8 following incessant monsoon rainfall, in Ajmer, Tuesday, Aug. 1.

IMPORTANCE OF SACRED GROVES



DR. D. SRINIVASA RAO



The devastating land sliding, flooding of unprecedented scale that happened recently in the Himalayan states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand is an ecological lesson on the consequences of developmental activities in sensitive eco-zones resulting in the destruction of environment and loss of property and life. This is becoming repetitive in those states and other states through which the Himalayan Rivers are flowing. The river changing the course and consequential loss in Bihar is well documented. These losses through flooding in monsoon time is though not new, the scale of destruction is certainly new and linked to the so called development activity in the form of construction of dams, building of hotels and other concrete structures for attracting the tourists and many more. All this happened as the states, ignoring their uniqueness, joined the rat race of development and exploitation of natural resources. The state administrations forgot the need for conservation and protecting the sensitive ecosystems. This is being done by educated, engineering specialists and none of them had time and inclination to care the centuries old customs practiced in India and how the belief systems developed over generations protected the nature. "Nature can meet all the needs of humans but not the greed" is the famous quote of Mahatma Gandhi. As long as man remained attached to the customs of his forefathers humanity lived in peace. Not only the area currently devastated but all over the country, there was the custom of maintaining sacred groves. Each village designated an area as a sacred grove, where they believe their village deity resides to protect them from the natural calamities. This believe was evolved with passing of

time and basing on their experiences, thus such sacred groves are proven protectors of nature and people dependent on the natural ecosystems. The names of those groves may varied from one language to other and the area but everywhere the way people of that area respected and maintained those groves was the same. Our forefathers learnt the way to conserve the nature and understood the need to conserve the nature and respected the laws of the nature and it was those practices which were in practice in many areas that retained India in the top 10 forest-rich nations list of the world. Sacred groves are the natural habitats bordering or within the area of human habitation protected by the local community on religious belief. Experts concur that as many as a lakh sacred groves must have been there in India though only 14,000 are documented. These sacred groves are the reservoirs of rare fauna and flora. The existence of sacred groves are often associated with temples, monasteries, shrines, pilgrimage sites and are referred in all Indian origin religions, Hindu, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism. The existence and significance of such groves find their mention in the religious texts and in the ancient Ayurveda treatise Vrikshayurveda and Kalidasa classical literature. Regional language literatures have more documented information on the sacred groves of their areas and benefits derived from them. The rules of sacred groves remained unquestioned for centuries, since Indians valued the customs handed over from one generation to the next generation. The sacred grove is considered as the place where the presiding deity of the village resides. Custom says that one can enter the grove but can't dis-

turb the sanctity of the grove. All followed the rule of not chopping the wood, in the sacred not killing the animals or birds there in as they feared the curse of the God of the grove. One can collect the dead wood, fallen fruit or dry branches, leaves etc., but no living thing be touched there. It is out of the experience these groves were protected as they realised they realised that groves helps in reducing the soil erosion, prevents the desertification, and maintain the ground water level and these groves generally associated with a water sources like ponds, streams and help in meeting the water requirements of the community. The recharging of aquifers also occur because of these sacred groves. Tribal communities, whom the Left historians wish to project as members outside the mainstream Hinduism, even now had sacred groves and the beliefs are associated with groves, hence vehemently oppose any disturbance to their sacred groves. Tribal opposition to the mining activity is opposed by tribal people in Jharkhand because they know that their lives are linked to the sacred groves. They protecting them at all costs, as traditional Hindus used to do in earlier decades. Whatever be the modernity which were supposedly injected into Tribal people, their belief systems remained strongly undisturbed in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh states. There are instances of Tribal communities vehemently opposing the mining activity in their areas due to their love and respect to the sacred groves. Dabobera village in East Singhbhum district the tribals worship a huge stone as their protective God and when stone mining was proposed in that hillock they opposed as it will disturb their God. For a contractor or for a mining baron the nature is meant for exploitations and for making profits. But for the tribal or natives, nature is the mother which sustained them for generations. The Bastar area of Chhattisgarh the presiding deity is Danteswari and there are many sacred groves (locally referred as Deva Gudis) with which local tribes are associated with. The life of tribes there is associated with the worship of the local deities on every occasion including sowing and harvesting. Each tribe maintains an instruments of music of their own and

blowing them, led by their tribe priest the entire community goes in procession and perform rituals and then initiate their programs. The Hindu pilgrimage places are all in sacred groves, conceptually, of a higher level and broader in area. All shrines whether it is Chardhams of Himalayan hilly area or the Balaji of Tirumala hill, and Sabarimala hills located in the south, are the holy places located at the centre of sacred groves. Thus those hills got protected, through devotion, from exploitation and flora and fauna associated with those groves. That was the wonderful concept developed, for the protection of nature, by our rishis. As the greed took over, and traditional beliefs were pushed away during the foreign invaders and colonial rulers, the destruction of these sacred groves happened and is continued. There were resistance movements opposing the destruction of nature in the name of development. The Chipko movement in the Ghadwal area under the leadership of environmentalist Sunderlal Bahuguna is one which received the international attention then. The urbanisation and bad planning coupled with excessive focus on tourism led to the destruction of the sacred groves. The tribal communities in Himachal Pradesh and local communities in Uttarakhand remained as mute spectators or some enterprising among them joined the exploitative group of contractors, thus destroying their own habitats. The sacred grove areas got shrunk. With the sacred groves gone, the water retention capacity of the soil was reduced, with removal of the top soil became fast. The erosion of top soil made the trees vulnerable as massive volume of soil is run down by the seasonal rains. The unsettled soil was easily eroded and landslides became the norm. And the consequences are there to see for all. It is time to revive not only sacred groves concept to maintain the sustainability of the ecosystems but also to delve into other native practices, traditions which helped our country to maintain the respect for the nature and derived the benefits for our sustenance. (The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the newspaper.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Deteriorating conditions in Manipur

The decision to have the viral video case investigated by the CBI in Manipur comes as a relief. However, one cannot overlook the fact that this decision was taken rather belatedly. The question that arises is why the incident of 4th May remained concealed until it went viral? It is evident that the government and administrative authorities failed to act promptly, raising concerns about their responsiveness. Even now, the situation in Manipur is far from being stable. Instead of addressing the issues at hand, both the ruling party and the opposition seem more interested in trading accusations against each other. It is imperative for both parties to realize that political agendas can wait; what matters most is to restore order and control in the state. **N. Mateeni, Mumbai**

Retort to China

China's repeated issuance of stapled visas to Arunachal Pradesh people signals its claim over the region. India's ban on Arunachal players' travel to China in response should not harm the athletes. However, India must assert its sovereignty and respond appropriately to China's antics. Diplomatic channels should be used to reaffirm Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India and protect its dignity. We must stand united, unwavering against any attempt to undermine our nation's integrity. **N. Ashraf, Mumbai**

Debating Awards and Free Speech

The act of returning awards and titles as a form of protest is not new in India's history. From Rabinadrath Tagore's renunciation of his knighthood to recent instances like Mirabai Channu's desire to return her medal, such actions have been a means to express dissent. Writers, filmmakers, and artists have also followed suit, causing embarrassment to those in power. The parliamentary standing committee's proposal, suggesting awardees sign an undertaking to never return their prizes, takes on political implications in this context. This notion of a "no-return" policy dampens the spirit of celebration and appears authoritarian. It seemingly restricts free speech, raising concerns about the state of democracy in our nation. **MJ Azizi, Hyderabad**

Building Semiconductors

India's foresight in becoming a dependable market for vital industries, including semiconductors, is commendable. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to extend 50% financial assistance to technology firms for establishing semiconductor manufacturing facilities deserves our wholehearted appreciation. This move signifies India's commitment to strengthening its technological capabilities and reducing reliance on external sources. By fostering local semiconductor production, the nation can ensure greater self-sufficiency and bolster its position in the global technology landscape. **Jahangir Ali, Mumbai**

Hypocrisy Of Great Indian Middle Class

Kajal Chatterjee

Indian middle class citizens often dare to project themselves as "intellectual" and "opinion-maker" by advertising themselves as "flag-bearer" of "morality" with "impeccable sense of social responsibility". It is indeed a fact that protest or movement against social issues are mostly carried out by the middle class. But they comprise a mere tiny fraction of their entire brethren! Actually less said about the overwhelming majority of the middle class population the better. Following the overnight "bravest decision in independent India", hundreds of innocents (mostly of non-privileged vintage) had to face tragic death following stampedes in inhuman queues in front of banks or after getting refused treatment in hospitals for lack of "legal cash". Farmers, failing to sell their produce and suffering unfathomable monetary loss, started committing suicide. Millions of wage earners lost their livelihood. But far from expressing minimum sympathy for these innocent vulnerable folks falling victim to the heartless farce named demonetisation; privileged Indians of middle class, already armed with credit/debit cards with cashless facilities, had either preferred to remain

indifferent to the woes of the poor or heartlessly claimed that such "small small sacrifices" are supposed to be made for the "sake of the nation". Again following the overnight decision of instant nation-wide lockdown, when millions of poorest of poor wage earners and migrants were witnessing burning hell and walking hundreds and thousands of kilometres in hungry stomachs, many of whom were collapsing to death upon highways and railway tracks; the middle class (that privileged lucky section who managed to spend months with their families in safe comforts of home with their salaries getting paid) were found to be posting their activities at home in social media (ranging from exercising to churning delicacies, playing Ludo to watching Ramayana) and counting number of "Likes" with constant lament of missing shopping malls, restaurants, multiplexes and "day-out". People dying like cats and dogs due to lack of oxygen, mass pyres getting lit with corpses floating in river waters - yet the general public discourse couldn't promote itself above mere Dalgona coffee and sheer communalism targeting a specific religious community as "super-spreaders". During the trial and judgment of the

sensational Nirbhaya gangrape cum murder case, we were regularly hearing how the "collective conscience of the nation" has got "hurt". The same words are heard when any Mumbai journalist, Bangalore techie or Hyderabad doctor gets gangraped/murdered by urchins/lorry drivers/bus conductors and helpers. But a woman getting raped/gangraped and thereafter murder or the victim succumbing to injuries from daily piece of news in this "Devi-worshipping" country. But why don't we witness any "national tsunami of shock" in those cases! Do the "collective conscience" of this partial and biased class-conscious society get "awakened" overnight in specific cases only. Do their "conscience" prefer to enjoy a sound sleep when "lesser folks" of poor/rural vintage get regularly gang raped and/or murdered, but instantly wake up when victims of the same crime hail from urban privileged stock with the culprits being of "low class". Privileged middle-class individuals hold full right to take a leisure trip to Kashmir Valley, enjoying to their full upon the waters of the Dal or snow fields of Gulmarg. But how can they dare to declare "Kashmir is Smiling/Normal" just on the basis of their fun-making. Do

they try to enter the soul of a common Kashmiri to get enlightened of their day-to-day experience since the "historic" 2019 saga. Does the middle class society in general care to feel the Himalayan pain which the victims of riots or pogrom have to undergo! Do they care for the sufferings and shattered hearts of the hapless families of those victims or rape-survivors who get caught up in that mayhem. Instead often we have to hear statements like "To every action there is an equal and opposite reaction" as if to justify such atrocities (as in 2002 Gujarat pogrom). What a torture unleashed upon the Rohingyas in Myanmar just because of their Islamic credentials! What a miserable escape to Bangladesh by negotiating waters and hills. What a pathetic existence in the cramped refugee camps. Yet any proposal of their rehabilitation or temporary refuge in India gets thwarted with cruel words - "India is not a Dharmshala". Perhaps these "nationalist" utter selfish folks are unaware that they could also have found themselves as persecuted Rohingyas in Myanmar or stranded refugees in Bangladesh as birth is nothing but a mere accident of destiny. Recently, innumerable "patriotic" mid-

dle class Indians had displayed much "pride" as Indians on witnessing the spectacle of Moon-mission. Do those very same "proud" people feel an iota of shame, disgrace and disgust as Indians on reading news reports of unfathomable barbaric horrendous atrocities upon Kuki women in Manipur reminding all of the lawless dark days of centuries ago. Or in the definition of the "patriotic" Indians, all norms of "modernity" and "progress" lie embedded in technological advancement only. And perhaps this is the reason why Manipur simply does not create any ripple within their minds. Kindness and compassion are surely in great rush to recede to some sort of "antiquity" in these times of national jingoism, religious muscle flexing and crude selfish existence - all typical traits of middle class. If feelings of compassion towards poor souls, broken hearts, tortured bodies do not make its presence felt, the middle class should at least refrain itself from acting as the "Conscience" of the society. (The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the newspaper.)

BRIEF

Appointment



New Delhi: Co-working firm 91Springboard on Tuesday said it has appointed Anshu Sarin as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Before joining 91Springboard, Anshu Sarin served as the CEO at Berggruen Hotels Pvt Ltd, the company said in a statement. Outgoing CEO Anand Vemuri assumes the role of Executive Chairman, it added.

Power consumption

New Delhi: The country's power consumption grew by 8.4 per cent to 139 billion units in July this year compared to the same month last year. In the year-ago period, power consumption stood at 128.25 billion units (BU), higher than 123.72 BU in July 2021, according to the government data. The peak power demand met, which is the highest supply in a day, rose to 208.82 GW in July 2023. The peak power supply stood at 190.35 GW in July 2022 and 200.53 GW in July 2021. The power ministry had estimated the country's electricity demand to touch 229 GW during the summer season.

Turnover rises



New Delhi: Delhi-NCR's leading milk supplier Mother Dairy turnover increased 17 per cent to around Rs 14,500 crore in FY23 on better demand across all categories, including fresh milk, value-added dairy products and edible oils, the company's top official said. The turnover stood at about Rs 12,500 crore in the previous fiscal year (FY22). "Overall, the growth was very healthy last financial year. Both in value and volume, we grew in almost all the categories. The growth in value-added dairy products was significant," Mother Dairy Pvt Ltd MD Manish Bandish told PTI.

Govt mobilises Rs 5.77 lakh crore by issuing dated securities till Jul 31: FM

New Delhi, Aug 01:

The government has mobilised a gross amount of Rs 5.77 lakh crore by issuing dated securities in the current financial year up to July 31, 2023, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday. It has raised a net amount of Rs 4.18 lakh crore through the instrument in the same period. Government borrowing is done through various sources, including dated securities, treasury bills, external loans and state provident funds. The central government has planned to raise net debt resources of Rs 17.99 lakh crore from various sources in 2023-24, mainly to finance its fiscal deficit, the finance minister said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha. "This amount is about 40 per cent of the total net size of



the Union Budget 2023-24 of Rs 45.03 lakh crore," she said. The government plans a gross market borrowing of Rs 15.4 lakh crore from dated securities in FY24. This is higher than the total borrowing of Rs 14.21 lakh crore in FY23. She said that borrowing by entities like the National Highway Authority of India is on the strength of their own balance sheet. Replying to another question, Sitharaman said banks and financial institutions

are required to submit the list of wilful defaulters of Rs 25 lakh and above to credit information companies (CICs), and CICs have also been advised to disseminate the information pertaining to suit filed accounts of wilful defaulters on their respective websites as per the RBI guidelines. Accordingly, she said, lists of suit-filed wilful defaulters of Rs 25 lakh and above are available in the public domain on the websites of Credit Information Companies (CICs). Further, as per the RBI's instructions, wilful defaulters are not sanctioned any additional facilities by banks or financial institutions, and their unit is debarred from institutional finance for floating new ventures for five years. Wilful defaulters and companies with wilful defaulters as promoters/directors have

been debarred from accessing capital markets to raise funds, she said, adding the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 has debarred wilful defaulters from participating in the insolvency resolution process. The gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) have declined in the last three financial years from Rs 8,35,051 crore (gross NPA ratio of 7.33 per cent) as on March 31, 2021, to Rs 7,42,397 crore (gross NPA ratio of 5.82 per cent) as on March 31, 2022, and further to Rs 5,71,515 crore (gross NPA ratio of 3.87 per cent) as on March 31, 2023, she said. In another reply, the finance minister said the RBI has apprised that it does not maintain data in respect of the amount written-off in accounts which were declared as fraud.

ATF price hiked by steep 8.5%; commercial LPG rate cut by Rs 100

New Delhi, Aug 01:

Jet fuel or ATF price on Tuesday was hiked by a steep 8.5 per cent - the second increase in a month, while commercial cooking gas rate was cut by Rs 100 per cylinder in line with divergent trends in international benchmarks. Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was increased by 7,728.38 per kilolitre, or 8.5 per cent, in the national capital to Rs 98,508.26 per kl, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

Rates, which vary from state to state depending on the incidence of local sales tax or VAT, have been increased on firming up of global rates that followed four months of decline. The hike comes on the back of a 1.65 per cent or Rs 1,476.79 per kl increase in ATF prices effected from July 1. Prior to that, rates had been cut on four occasions. Price of commercial LPG, used in establishments such as ho-

tels and restaurants, on the other hand, was reduced by Rs 100 per cylinder. A 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder now costs Rs 1,680 in the national capital.

Saudi contract price (CPP), the benchmark used for pricing of LPG, has reduced since peaking in March and the same is reflected in domestic prices, industry officials said. Globally, jet fuel prices have increased in line with the firming up of global crude oil prices, necessitating the hike in ATF rates. Commercial LPG rates were cut on three previous monthly revisions beginning April. In three cuts, prices had gone down by Rs 346.5 per 19-kg cylinder. The price of domestic LPG -- used in the kitchen for cooking purposes -- remained unchanged at Rs 1,103 per 14.2-kg cylinder in the national capital. Domestic LPG rate was last changed on March 1, when it was hiked by Rs 50 per cylin-

der. State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) revise cooking gas and ATF prices on the 1st of every month based on the average international price in the previous month. Petrol and diesel prices continued to remain on freeze for a record 16th month in a row. Petrol costs Rs 96.72 per litre in the national capital and diesel comes for Rs 89.62.

State-owned fuel retailers are supposed to revise petrol and diesel prices daily based on a 15-day rolling average of benchmark international fuel prices but they haven't done that since April 6, 2022. Prices were last changed on May 22, when the government cut excise duty to give relief to consumers from a spike in retail rates that followed a surge in international oil prices.

RBI says 88 pc of Rs 2,000 notes returned to banks

Mumbai, Aug 01:

The Reserve Bank on Tuesday said 88 per cent of the Rs 2,000 banknotes valued at Rs 3.14 lakh crore have returned to the banking system after it announced withdrawal of the high value currency notes from circulation in May. According to the data received from banks, the RBI said the total value of Rs 2,000 banknotes received back from circulation is Rs 3.14 lakh crore up to July 31, 2023.

"Consequently, Rs 2,000 banknotes in circulation as at the close of business on July 31 stood at Rs 0.42 lakh crore," the central bank said in a statement. As much as 88 per cent of the Rs 2,000 banknotes in circulation as on May 19,

2023, have since been returned. The total value of Rs 2,000 banknotes in circulation, which amounted to Rs 3.62 lakh crore on March 31, 2023, had declined to Rs 3.56 lakh crore as at the close of business on May 19, 2023.

Out of the total banknotes in Rs 2,000 denomination received back from circulation, about 87 per cent came in the form of deposits and the remaining around 13 per cent has been exchanged into other denomination banknotes.

The Reserve Bank has urged the public to utilise the next two months to deposit and/or exchange the Rs 2,000 banknotes held with them to avoid any rush in the last few days before September 30, 2023.

NMDC launches customer portal and product brochure

Hyderabad, Aug 01:

NMDC, India's largest producer of iron ore launched its Customer Portal - Darpan on Monday at its Head office. Amitava Mukherjee, CMD (Additional Charge) led the launch in the presence of DK Mohanty, Director (Production); Vishwanath Suresh, Director (Commercial) and other senior officials of the company.

NMDC's initiative to launch its Customer Portal is a strategic progression towards expanding its mines and evacuation capacity as the company strives to serve existing and potential customers from the industry. Darpan



will provide a one stop solution in facilitating faster and smoother transactions for its customers, ensuring transparency and accountability. Speaking on the occasion, Amitava Mukherjee, CMD (Additional Charge), NMDC said, "As one of India's mining giants, it is NMDC's responsibility to execute its futuristic vision of foraying into expansion and potential customers that boost the country's economy, including

processes and help the customers identify and track deliverables which will definitely increase efficiency in our operations." Vishwanath Suresh, Director (Commercial) said, "NMDC is committed to building a transparent ecosystem. To achieve that, necessary steps and initiatives have been adopted to promote transparency and address issues that strengthen our approach towards customer satisfaction." NMDC also launched its Product Brochure that documents the latest advancements undertaken by the Company including product specifications from Bailadila and Donimalai, ESG and sustainability initiatives.

Maruti Suzuki leads SUV space in July; total sales rise to 1,81,630 units

New Delhi, Aug 01:

Maruti Suzuki India on Tuesday said its total sales increased by 3 per cent to 1,81,630 units in July, led by robust demand for its utility vehicle product range. The company, which had dispatched a total of 1,75,916 units to its dealers in July 2022, became the leading player in the SUV space last month with a market share of 24.6 per cent.

Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer (Marketing and Sales) Shashank Srivastava said the company led the SUV segment in July with sales volume of 46,620 units. He noted that the company's market share in the SUV



space has grown from 7.1 per cent in July last year to 24.6 per cent by July-end this year. Srivastava said that the SUV segment was now accounting for 49.1 per cent of the overall domestic passenger vehicle sales. The vertical accounted for 43 per cent of the overall passenger vehicle sales last year, he said. "With the company growing faster than the industry last month, our overall

market share has grown to 43.3 per cent as compared with 41.8 per cent in July last year," Srivastava said. He also noted that the company's premium sales network Nexa has become the country's second largest car brand with sales of 52,450 units in July. MSI said its total domestic passenger vehicle sales were at 1,52,126 units last month as compared to 1,42,850 units in the year-ago month, a growth of 6 per cent. The company said its utility vehicles, consisting of Brezza, Ertiga, Fronx, Grand Vitara, Jimny and XL6, clocked sales of 62,049 units last month, a jump of over two-fold as against 23,272 units dispatched in July 2022.

Rupee pares initial losses, settles 3 paise higher at 82.26/USD

Mumbai, Aug 01:

Rupee pared initial losses and settled for the day 3 paise higher at 82.26 (provisional) against US dollar on Tuesday amid a muted trend in domestic equities. Forex traders said the rupee witnessed range-bound movement on Tuesday as the dollar index moved higher and Asian currencies moved lower against the American currency. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.32 against the US dollar and settled 3 paise higher at 82.26 (provisional) against the previous close. During the day, the domestic unit witnessed an intra-day high of 82.24 and a low of 82.33.

IMMERSIVE EXHIBITION



Youngsters pose at the toiletpaper's largest immersive exhibition, titled 'RUN AS SLOW AS YOU CAN', at Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre in Mumbai, Tuesday, Aug. 1.

Airtel launches IQ Reach

New Delhi, Aug 01:

Bharti Airtel, one of India's leading telecommunications service providers, today, announced the launch of Airtel IQ Reach, a first-of-its-kind self-serve marketing communications platform, which will enable brands/ companies to drive targeted customer engagements through personalised communications.

Launched under Airtel IQ, the world's first network embedded Communications Platform as a Service (CPaaS), Airtel IQ Reach is an intuitive platform that will enable small and medium businesses to make the most of their marketing investments as they engage with target customers in a cost-eff-

fective manner with pre-paid pay-as-you-go plans.

This self-serve portal will be a one-stop destination to empower businesses, especially emerging businesses, to have full control of their campaign execution, by simply logging on to a single portal for designing customised messages, uploading or selecting their target audiences, scheduling their messages and, finally, tracking campaign effectiveness, all in just a few clicks. Abhishek Biswal, Head - Digital Products & Services, Airtel Business, said, "Our customers are at the heart of everything we do. We have designed Airtel IQ Reach especially for the SMB segment to enable them to elevate their customer communication.

Govt debt stands at Rs 155.6 lakh cr in March 2023

New Delhi, Aug 01:

The central government's debt stood at Rs 155.6 lakh crore or 57.1 per cent of the GDP at the end of March 2023, Parliament was informed on Tuesday. "The Central Government's debt was Rs 155.6 lakh crore as on March 31, 2023. It has reduced from 61.5 per cent of GDP in 2020-21 to 57.1 per cent of GDP in FY 2022-23," Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha. The debt of state governments at the end of 2022-23 is estimated to be about 28 per cent of GDP. Replying to another question, Chaudhary said the Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) in the Indian economy has increased from Rs. 45.41 lakh crore (constant 2011-12 prices) in 2018-19 to Rs 54.35 lakh crore in 2022-



23 (Provisional Estimates). "The government is implementing the 'Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure' (2020-21 & 2021-22) and 'Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment' (2022-23 & 2023-24)," he said. The government approved and released special assistance (loan) in the form of a 50-year interest-free loan for capital expenditure on capital projects in sectors like health, education, irrigation, and power etc for capital expenditure for different States, he said.

NMDC record-breaking production upto July 2023

Hyderabad, Aug 01:

NMDC, a Navratna miner under the Ministry of Steel reported a production of 13.15 million tonnes and sales of 14.18 million tonnes upto July 2023, recording its highest ever production in any corresponding period since inception showing 20% & 33.5% year-on-year growth in production and sales respectively. In the month of July, the mining major produced 2.44 million tonnes and sold 3.03 million tonnes of iron ore showing a growth of 19% & 2.7% month-on-month CPLY in production and sales respectively. Growing from strength to strength, the National Miner has delivered record performances in FY24 so far. Paving the way towards becoming a 100 Mnt mining company, NMDC is gear-

ing up to surpass its historic production of 40 Mnt for two fiscals in a row. Commenting on the company's performance, Amitava Mukherjee, CMD (Additional Charge) said, "NMDC has been reporting record-breaking iron ore production in FY24 so far. With a legacy of more than 40 million tonne annual production, over the last two years our achievement of the highest ever production upto July in any corresponding period in company history is a testament to our resilience and agility. Our strong commitment to expansion and technology is enabling our growth vertically, horizontally and geographically. We will continue to leverage our strengths to sustain this momentum and become a global mining company."

Amazon Fresh is pouring offers this Monsoon season

Mumbai, Aug 01:

As the monsoon season continues across India, Amazon Fresh has launched exciting offers for customers to avail during August Mega Festival along with Super Value Days from the 1st to 7th Aug, 2023. Shop and get a chance to win a mega prize worth approx. INR 1 Lakh. Customers can relish their favourite recipes and enjoy hassle-free shopping for groceries and daily essentials with up to 45% off on staples, packaged foods, personal care, baby and pet care products among others. They can also stock up on monthly essentials and avail fresh offers on popular brands such as Fortune, Kohinoor, Dabur, Tata, Catch, and Ariel among oth-

ers at convenient delivery options from a single online destination. With the rain comes pouring offers and the chance to win big prizes this monsoon during the 'August Mega Festival' from 1st - 31st Aug. During this month-long shopping event, customers will get a chance to win mega prize such as French door refrigerator worth INR 1 Lakh* approx. and weekly winners will get a chance to win Kitchen Appliances and Amazon Pay balance. Shop for monthly groceries on Amazon Fresh and participate in weekly "Spin the Wheel" to stand a chance. Winners will be announced every Friday for weekly contest and the monthly winners will be announced in the first week of September.

NTPC Talaipalli Project poised to record production

Raigarh, Aug 01:

Setting an example of change and progress in development, NTPC Talaipalli, which was established at Gharghoda about 4 years ago, has not only strengthened its claim in record coal production but has also won the title of 100 percent safe mine. Apart from this, the country's Maharatna Company is also playing an important role in social development by planting more than 17 thousand saplings and giving an effective message of environmental protection.

Shri Bandopadhyay, Chief General Manager, NTPC gave information about the contributions related to NTPC Talaipalli project from coal production to social concern and natural conservation at Raikera's administrative building on Saturday. He informed that the target of producing 60 million tonnes of coal this year has been achieved in Talaipalli Mining, spread over an area of more than 5 thousand acres.



He informed that from November 11, 2022, coal is being transported by rail till NTPC Lara and so far 1220 racks have been sent by rail to the power plant. In the press conference, NTPC officials told that they have medium quality G-13 grade coal available, but that too is allowed for transport after passing through the testing lab. Safety-conscious officials of NTPC Talaipalli project told that work starts in the mine with daily safety pledge. Public relations officer Lalit Kumar along with officials from various departments of NTPC was present during the press conference. Mr. Bandopadhyay

told that although the Central Government's Girl Empowerment Scheme is implemented in all the undertakings, but the Talaipalli project is the first coal undertaking whose participation is also included in this campaign. He informed that so far efforts have been made to empower about 4 thousand girls by keeping them in the Bal Bhavan built in the township with training in various disciplines.

Expressing concern in the press conference, the Chief General Manager of Talaipalli project said that due to lack of any serious sources of energy in the country, the entire pres-

sure of energy production has come on coal, that is why mining with a Maharatna company like NTPC had to land in the area. He said that due to legal entanglement and other problems, the Talaipalli project is also not able to produce coal as per the target, whereas due to the shortage of coal, there is a danger of energy crisis in the whole country. Hence there is immense pressure to increase mining capacity. He informed that after last year's production of 24 lakh metric tonnes, now a target has been given to increase the production capacity to 60 lakh metric tonnes this year.

It is privilege to have opportunity to serve Kanwar pilgrims: Bohra

Kabirdham, Aug 01: Like last year, for the service of Kanwar pilgrims and pilgrims going from Kabirdham district to Amarkantak in the month of Sawan, free arrangements were made by Bhavna Bohra for their stay and food from 3rd July to 31st July through Bhavna Samaj Sevi Sansthan. During this time around 11,000 Kanwar Yatrins reached the Gurdwara Complex, Amarkantak where they were welcomed and served by the members of the Sansthan. The arrival of hundreds of pilgrims and devotees from Kabirdham district Swa Kanwar continued daily in the premises, while thousands of devotees participated in the evening aarti and received food and prasad after worshipping Lord Shiva.

Along with this, about 1000 Kanwar Yatrins and devotees coming from Kabirdham district also benefited from the facility of free mobile health path lab run by Bhavna Bohra for their better health. On this occasion, Bhavna Bohra said that on the occasion of Sawan month, we got a fortunate opportunity to be a part of virtue in the difficult journey of Shiva devotees and Kanwar Yatrins going to Amarkantak from Kabirdham district.

Scouting activities organised at 'Teeya Sopan' training camp



Kurud, Aug 01:

For the purpose of character development of the students and development of life skills through adventure activities, under the aegis of Bharat Scouts and Guides District Union, the fourth day of the five-day residential third step / expert training check-up camp of Scout-Guide, Rover-Ranger Wing. Practical knowledge of technical knowledge and skills of scouting was also given to the participants by practical demonstration of flag etiquette, guide wing's color party by the trainees.

On the fourth day of training, former local union president Rajesh Sharma, local union president Manish Sahu, life members Santosh Jeevanlal Sahu, Prajaprati, Shyamshankar



Chandrakar, journalist Moolchand Sinha, Chandan Sharma visited the scouting camp. In his address, former President Rajesh Sharma shared his experiences of commissioner training at the National Training Center Panchmarhi, inspired all the participants by giving information about scouting activities in his memoirs related to his life, by giving information about the progressive development in the field of scouting. Camp directors Khilleshwar Prasad Sahu,

Daneshwar Sahu, Mithlesh Sinha, Hemant Sahu, Shweta Gajendra, Hina Sahu, camp directors, informed about activities of fourth day STA, making log book, information about making hike report in a systematic manner was also given by the trainers.

In the training, 167 trainees including BRCC Rajesh Pandey, local union secretary Dharmendra Sahu, Durgesh Dwivedi, scout-guide, rover-ranger in-charge are receiving training in scouting activities.

Collector chairs review meeting



Manendragarh, Aug 01:

As per the instructions of the Election Commission of India, Collector Narendra Dugga here held a meeting of political parties as part of the preparations for the upcoming Assembly General Elections 2023 in a free, fair, peaceful and transparent manner. He informed about the dates fixed in the context of the second special brief revision eligibility date of October 1, 2023, of the photo electoral rolls issued by the Chief Electoral Officer, Chhattisgarh.

Under this, August 2 is fixed for the initial publication of the electoral roll. The date of receiving claim objection is from

August 2 to August 31 and special camps are organized at polling station level on August 12, 13, 19 and 20. The final publication of electoral rolls is scheduled for 4 October 2023. Collector Mr. Dugga informed the office bearers of political parties about the facilities being made available for voting in polling stations to Divyangjan and voters above 80 years of age.

Collector Mr. Dugga urged the representatives of the media to widely publicize the special voter list revision in the assembly elections 2023. He gave information about appointing booth level agents from political parties, getting voter list, names of new voters

added to voter list and deleted voters. He told that the basic facilities in the polling stations are being verified by the sector officers. Along with this, demonstration of EVM machines and voter awareness programs are being conducted under SVEEP activities.

Mr. Rajesh Singh from Indian National Congress, Mr. Shuddhulal Verma, Mr. Ashish Majumdar from Bharatiya Janata Party, Mr. Anand Tamarkar, Mr. Adityaraj David from Chhattisgarh Janata Congress, Mr. Vikas Pandey from Aam Aadmi Party, Mr. Vinay Prakash Raksel from Bahujan Samaj Party were present in the meeting.

Farmer suicides soar amid Bhupesh govt's failures

Fingeshwar, Aug 01:

The Bhupesh Government's shortcomings are taking a heavy toll on farmers, leading to a disturbing rise in suicide cases. In the latest heart-wrenching incident, Kanhaiya Sinha, a 52-year-old farmer from Chhuhiya village in Khalari Vidhansabha, tragically took his own life. District Panchayat member Rohit Sahu disclosed that Kanhaiya, owning 5 acres of land, received no benefits from crop insurance and was burdened with a debt of over four lakhs in Axis Bank. Struggling to cope with the unrelenting financial pressure and mental distress, Kanhaiya felt trapped. Additionally, persistent low voltage issues in the rural area resulted in the ruin of his crops. With no support from the Bhupesh Government, Kanhaiya felt driven to this drastic and tragic step.

Sahu expressed deep concern over the mounting farmer suicide cases since the Bhupesh Government assumed power. Farmers in Chhattisgarh are being deprived of the Kisan



Samman Nidhi and are unjustly excluded from the Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme due to alleged technical discrepancies. The state government has failed to provide adequate compensation for losses caused by excessive rainfall, and complete loan waivers remain elusive. Sahu called for a compensation of Rs 50 lakhs to be provided to the grieving family, along with securing a government job for their lone son.

Highlighting the unequal treatment, Sahu questioned why the Chief Minister could generously offer Rs 50 lakhs to farmers in Uttar Pradesh who took their lives but hesitates to extend similar relief to the farmers of Chhattisgarh.

MLA Chandrakar inaugurates Sub-Tehsil office

Ensures timely revenue services in Tumgaon

Mahasamund, Aug 01:

Parliamentary Secretary and MLA, Vinod Chandrakar, inaugurates the Sub-Tehsil Office at Nagar Panchayat Tumgaon, in a decisive move towards facilitating timely revenue services for the citizens, ultimately fortifying administrative efficiency.

With a grand ceremony marking the occasion, Chandrakar, a distinguished guest, inaugurated the Sub-Tehsil Office, accompanied by other prominent figures such as Agriculture Produce Market Committee Chairman, Heera Banjare, Seed Research Committee Director, Daulal Chandrakar, Arun Chandrakar, District Panchayat Member, Amar Chandrakar, and Janpad Vice President, Triloki Radheshyam Dhruv.

Expressing heartfelt appreciation to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel for his visionary



initiative of opening the Sub-Tehsil Office in Tumgaon, Chandrakar emphasized that citizens' woes of traversing long distances to address revenue matters have come to an end. From now on, prompt and efficient revenue services will be readily available at their doorstep. The commitment made during the meeting with Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel further highlights the paramount importance of fulfilling this project swiftly.

Simultaneously with the Sub-Tehsil Office inauguration, the region also celebrated the opening of Swami Atmanand

School, reflecting the government's comprehensive approach to uplift public facilities and foster balanced development across all sectors.

Present at the auspicious event were notable personalities such as Om Prakash Yadav, Kapil Yadav, Radhelal Sinha, Gautam Sinha, Manik Sahu, Vijay Bandhe, Pokhan Sahu, Gajendra Sahu, Shailendra Sen, Biar Nayak, Rajesh Chandrakar, Sidhant Sahu, Thanuram Sahu, Ravindra Chandrakar, Mamta Ahirwar, Hemin Dhiwar, Santosh Dhiwar, alongside several other dignitaries and esteemed officials.

Two-day badminton competition concludes



Bijapur, Aug 01: The district administration's relentless dedication to nurturing the talents of aspiring athletes culminated in the successful organization of a highly competitive two-day badminton tournament from July 29 to July 30. The event showcased exceptional performances from players hailing from remote areas, demonstrating their mettle on the regional stage.

The grand finale of the badminton competition witnessed the presence of distinguished guests, including the esteemed C.R.P.F. D.I.G. S.K. Mishra, Collector Rajendra Kumar Katara, and Police Superintendent Anjaney Varshney. These dignitaries bestowed the victo-

rious players with well-deserved accolades, comprising cash rewards, certificates, shields, and medals. Also gracing the occasion were eminent personalities such as DFO Ashok Patel, District Sports Officer Dilip Uiquey, Additional Police Superintendent Chandrakant Garvane, Deputy Collector Vikas Sarve, along with other officials and sports coaches.

Among the stellar winners, the women's singles category witnessed Ranu Mandawi securing the coveted first position, with Simran Khalakho in second place, both representing the Bijapur Sports Academy. The women's doubles category witnessed another triumph

for Ranu Mandawi and Pushpalata Divan securing the first position, while Payal Poonam and Simran Khalakho earned a well-deserved second place.

In the mixed doubles category, Rinku Hemla and Ranu Mandawi exhibited their prowess and clinched the top spot, while Yuvaraj Dev and Payal Poonam secured the commendable second position. The Under-17 boys' singles category showcased Sai Ekade emerging victorious in the first position, while Prakash Andrik displayed remarkable talent securing the second position.

Moving on to the men's doubles category, Rinku Hemla and Vimal Toppo

D.I.G., Collector, and S.P honour victorious players

dominated and triumphed in the first position, while Akhilesh Shukla and Pramod put up an excellent performance securing the second position. In the 35-year age group, the men's doubles title was claimed by the dynamic duo of Pramod Hemla and Jayprakash Nakka, while Vinod Ekka and Gyanendra Singh displayed their prowess securing the commendable second position.

C.R.P.F. D.I.G. S.K. Mishra and Collector Rajendra Kumar Katara extended their warmest wishes to the organizing committee for the successful conduct of the event. They also motivated the players to elevate their preparations for future stages, encouraging all participants who didn't clinch victory this time to persist with their remarkable abilities, unwavering enthusiasm, and passion for the sport, inspiring them to make renewed efforts for future triumphs.

Free medical camp benefits rural residents

Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Aug 01: A free health examination camp was organized in the village of Jogisar in Gaurela

Vikas Khand, providing medical benefits to a large number of rural residents from nearby areas such as Belapat, Khodari, and Banjhoraka. Spearheaded by the experienced surgeon Dr. Gambhir Singh, the camp garnered active participation from medical professionals, including Dr. Vibha Haripriya from Bilaspur and Dr. Anil from Raigarh, who wholeheartedly dedicated themselves to diagnose and treat various health conditions.

The health camp particularly saw enthusiastic involvement from women, availing themselves of the medical services with zeal. Commonly reported health issues included viral fever, hypertension, diabetes, and general weakness. Furthermore, some patients were offered valuable recommendations for continuing treatment at reputed institutions in Bilaspur and Raipur. Dr. Gambhir Singh, the visionary behind successive medical



camp in Marwahi, emphasized the critical need for adequate medical facilities in this tribal and rural region. Minor ailments often escalate into severe health crises due to the dearth of timely medical care. Through such proactive camps, they successfully identify those in need and ensure they receive suitable medical attention, resulting in improved health outcomes.

Dr. Vibha Haripriya from Ganpati Hospital Bilaspur highlighted the significance of these medical camps in bridging the healthcare accessibility gap for individuals residing in distant areas like Bilaspur and Raipur. The free health camp was orchestrated by the collaborative efforts of the Sankalp Social Organization and Linesh Club Sanskriti Gaurela. The event witnessed the support and presence of various representatives and social workers, including prominent names such as Brjraj Rathore, Samira Paikra, Santosh Tiwari, Tapas Sharma (President

In Gaurela Pendra Marwahi

of Sankalp Social Organization), Jyoti Dubey (President of Linesh Club), Jogi Sar Panchayat Jaylal Paikra, Belapat Sarpanch Likhan Paikra, Dugara Sarpanch Sangita Shiv Udde, Pravesh Tiwari, Bhavesh Kesharwani, Mahesh Rathore, Rambahadur Singh, Deepak Sharma, Shailesh Soni, Abhishek Gupta, and Moni Chattopadhyay from Linesh Club, alongside numerous other representatives and rural attendees.

An admirable gesture toward environmental preservation, the occasion was also marked by the plantation of fruit-bearing saplings within the premises of the Higher Secondary School in Jogisar. This act signifies a collective commitment to safeguarding our environment for future generations. The event resonated with a sense of community spirit and determination to address healthcare challenges, promoting wellness and prosperity in the rural populace.

Women's World Cup

Netherlands blows out Vietnam 7-0 to win Group E

Dundee, Aug 01 (AP):



Netherlands' forward #22 Esmee Brugts (2nd R) celebrates with her teammates after scoring her team's third goal during the Australia and New Zealand 2023 Women's World Cup Group E football match between Vietnam and the Netherlands at Dunedin Stadium in Dunedin on August 1.

Netherlands scored four times in a torrid 15-minute first-half stretch, overwhelming Vietnam 7-0 in the Women's World Cup on Tuesday and sealing first place in Group E.

The Dutch went into the match in second place on goal differential behind the United States. But the blowout win combined with the Americans' 0-0 draw with Portugal made Netherlands the group winner. The U.S. advanced in second place.

Netherlands dominated almost from the start. Lieke Martens chipped a shot into the net in the eighth minute over 5-foot-4 (1.63-meter) Vietnam goalkeeper Tran Thi Kim Thanh to get the scoring started. Then the rout was on, as goals from three other Dutch players quickly followed.

Esmee Brugts scored one in the flurry on a curling ball from outside the penalty area in the 18th minute, then got another from nearly the same spot in the second half. Jill Roord also scored twice.

Vietnam changed goalkeepers at halftime, substituting Khong Thi Hang in for Tran Thi Kim Thanh. It was too late. Attendance for the match was 8,215, a big drop from the sold-out crowd of 25,947 at the previous match, when co-host New Zealand played Switzerland to a 0-0 draw and was eliminated from the tournament. Martens and Katja Snoeijis scored within four minutes of each other, setting the tone for

the match. Coming into the game in need of goals to catch the U.S. on goal differential, the Dutch players wasted little time celebrating and put the ball right back into play.

Netherlands will advance to the round of 16 for its third time in tournament history, which includes

the 2019 final. It will leave the group stage ranked first in Group E, followed by the defending champion United States. Tuesday's match was Vietnam's last in this year's Women's World Cup, its tournament debut. The Vietnamese finished 0-3 with no goals and 12 conceded.

US advances to round of 16 despite scoreless draw



USA's goalkeeper #01 Alyssa Naeher (L) makes a save during the Australia and New Zealand 2023 Women's World Cup Group E football match between Portugal and the United States at Eden Park in Auckland on August 1.

Auckland, Aug 01 (AP):

The United States women's soccer team secured a spot in the round of 16 at the Women's World Cup in a nail-biting, goalless draw against Portugal. Ana Capeta's shot in stoppage time hit the post, leaving Portugal heartbroken and allowing the US to advance to the knockout stage.

The US team's performance in the group stage was below their usual

standards, winning just one game and scoring only four goals in three matches. Despite finishing second in their group behind the Netherlands, the US will move on to face an opponent in Melbourne, Australia, in the next round.

Amidst criticism of the team's play, star players like Alex Morgan and Megan Rapinoe defended their performance, emphasizing their focus on winning for their country

and denying any signs of arrogance.

The Portuguese team, playing in their first-ever World Cup, displayed resilience and determination but fell just short of causing an upset against the mighty United States.

The match saw chances for both teams, but the inability to finish in front of the net led to a frustrating stalemate. US coach Vlatko Andonovski made changes to the starting lineup, hoping to inject en-

ergy into the team, but the players struggled to find their rhythm.

While the US has not been eliminated in the group stage since 2011, the team acknowledged their need to improve their attacking efficiency for the upcoming matches. The US will now face a challenging opponent in the round of 16, likely Sweden, and will need to regroup and show their true potential to progress further in the tournament.

We will continue to apply tactical changes: Fulton

Chennai, Aug 01 (PTI):



Indian men's hockey team's chief coach, Craig Fulton, announced that they will continue to apply the tactical changes they recently introduced during the Asian Champions Trophy. The tournament, scheduled from August 3 to 12 at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Chennai, will serve as a vital preparation platform for the upcoming Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

Fulton expressed satisfaction with the team's recent performance in the 100th anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation international tournament, where

they secured a commendable third-place finish. Their victory against the reigning FIH Pro League champions, Netherlands, in the third-fourth play-off match boosted their confidence. Vice-captain Hardik Singh emphasized the importance of maintaining

focus throughout each match, controlling the game's tempo from the start, and approaching every opponent as a formidable challenge. The Asian Champions Trophy will feature six teams, including India, Pakistan, Japan, Korea, China, and Malaysia. After the round-robin stage, the top four teams will advance to the semifinals.

Captain Harmanpreet Singh highlighted the significance of the next couple of months for the Indian team. The upcoming tournament offers a valuable opportunity for the players to gain experience and execute the strategies they have worked on diligently.

Parag and Murasingh lead East Zone to victory

Puducherry, Aug 01 (PTI):



Riyon Parag in action for East Zone vs West Zone in the Deodhar Trophy at Pondicherry.

In a spectacular display of cricket, East Zone secured a commanding 157-run win over West Zone in the Deodhar Trophy match held in Puducherry. Riyon Parag's explosive century (102 not out off 68 balls) and Manisankar Murasingh's brilliant five-wicket haul dismantled West Zone and sealed the triumph.

East Zone's innings got off to a strong start with Utkarsh Singh's half-century (50 off 52 balls) and valuable contributions from Virat Singh (42) and Abhimanyu Easwaran (38). However, a slight dip in the middle order saw them at 157 for five. It was then that Parag, in his second century in the tourna-

ment, and Kumar Kushagra (53 off 47 balls) put together a magnificent 150-run partnership for the sixth wicket, guiding East Zone to an imposing total of 319/7 in 50 overs.

Chasing 320, West Zone struggled against

Murasingh's bowling onslaught. The right-arm medium-fast bowler wreaked havoc, taking five wickets for just 28 runs in seven overs. Saurashtra opener Harvik Desai's valiant 92 runs went in vain as wickets kept

falling around him. Utkarsh Singh complemented Murasingh's performance with a crucial spell of 3 wickets for 16 runs.

West Zone's chase faltered, and they were bowled out for a meager 162 in 34 overs. The win propelled East Zone to the second spot in the points table, tied with South Zone at 16 points each.

The match showcased East Zone's all-round brilliance and resilience, with Parag and Murasingh emerging as the heroes of the day. Their impressive performance has put East Zone in a strong position for the rest of the tournament, and they will be eager to maintain their momentum in the upcoming matches.

India's women 50m rifle 3P team wins gold in WUG

Chengdu, Aug 01 (PTI):

The Indian trio of Ashi Chouksey, Manini Kaushik and Sift Kaur Samra won gold in women's 50m rifle 3 positions team event at the World University Games here on Tuesday.

Ashi, Manini and Sift scored an impressive 3527 points to take the top spot ahead of China (3525) and Czech Republic (3499) on day five of the Games.

In the men's 10m air pistol team event, the Indian trio of Arjun Singh Cheema, Varun Tomar and Anmol Jain bagged a bronze medal, scoring 1730 points. Korea and China took gold and silver respectively. Tomar finished seventh in the final of the individual event.

Treesa-Gayatri enter second round of Australia Open

Sydney, Aug 01 (PTI):



Commonwealth Games bronze medallists Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand progressed to the second round of the Australia Open Super 500 badminton tournament with a straight game win over Canada's Catherine Choi and Josephine Wu on Tuesday.

Treesa and Gayatri, who climbed two spots to world number 17 in the latest BWF ranking on Tuesday, registered a 21-16 21-17 win over world number 29 Canadian pair in the round of 32.

The Indian pair have not

crossed the second round in any tournament apart from the semifinal finish at the All England Championships and the duo will face a tough task against world number 4 Japanese combination of Mayu Matsumoto and

Wakana Nagahara. Ashwini Ponnappa, who is playing the tournament after four years, didn't have a good outing as she along with her women's doubles partner Tanisha Crasto lost 11-21 21-14 17-21 to the Indonesian combi-

nation of Febriana Dwipuji Kusuma and Amallia Cahaya Pratiwi in the opening round.

Another women's doubles combination of N Sikki Reddy and Arathi Sara Sunil also bowed out after losing 14-21 17-21 to the Taiwanese pair of Hsu Yin-Hui and Lee Chih Chen in their opening match.

PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen and HS Prannoy will be among the star Indian players who will be competition in the tournament, which is the last event before the World Championships in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Markande and Rana lead North Zone's win

Puducherry, Aug 01 (PTI):



Markande showcased his spin wizardry, claiming four wickets for just 14 runs in 9.1 overs. Mayank Yadav complemented his performance, taking three crucial wickets for 21 runs in six overs. Seamers Vaibhav Arora, Rishi

Dhawan, and left-arm spinner Nishant Sindhu also contributed with one wicket each.

North East Zone struggled throughout their innings, with their captain Langlonyamba Meitan Keishangbam being the highest scorer with 36 runs off 69 balls. However, Markande's excellent bowling towards the end halted their progress.

Chasing a modest target of 102, North Zone faced an early hiccup when opener Shubham Khajuria was run out for just six runs. Nonetheless, Prabhsimran Singh (40 not out off 35 balls) and Himanshu Rana

(52 not out off 33 balls) took charge and anchored a match-winning partnership of 93 runs for the second wicket.

North Zone reached the target in just 12.5 overs, showcasing their dominance over North East Zone's bowlers. Despite having used six different bowling options, the latter failed to halt Prabhsimran and Rana's impressive batting display.

With this resounding victory, North Zone registered only their second win in five matches in the 50-over competition, placing them in the fourth spot on the points table.

People make such comments when India lose match: Jadeja

Tarouba, Aug 01 (PTI):



Star India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja responded to former captain Kapil Dev's dig on the team becoming 'arrogant', saying "people make such comments when India lose matches".

Recently, Kapil said that arrogance has crept in the current Indian team and the players feel they know everything.

Talking to reporters on the eve of the series-deciding third ODI against the West Indies here, Jadeja said the players were only focused on winning for India and have no personal agenda.

"Everyone has their own opinion. Ex-players have full right to share their opinion, but I don't think there is any arrogance in this team," Jadeja said.

"Everyone is enjoying their cricket and everyone is hardworking. No one has taken anything for granted. They are giving their 100 per cent. Such comments generally come when Indian team loses a match.

Prannoy moves to 9th, Lakshya jumps to 11th in BWF ranking

New Delhi, Aug 01 (PTI):



Star Indian shuttlers HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen on Tuesday jumped to the ninth and 11th spots respectively in the latest BWF world rankings following semifinal finishes at Japan Open Super 750 badminton tournament.

While Prannoy gained one spot, Sen improved two places after they lost in the semifinals in three hard-fought games against Denmark's Viktor Axelsen and Indonesia's Jonatan Christie respectively in Tokyo last week. Former world number one Kidambi Srikanth also went up

a rung to 19th position, while national champion Mithun Manjunath moved four places to the 50th position. Double Olympic medalist PV Sindhu remained static at the 17th spot, while Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also stayed at the world number 2 position in the latest chart.

Hope and Thomas return as West Indies T20Is against India

Port of Spain, Aug 01 (PTI):



Wicketkeeper-batter Shai Hope and fast bowler Oshane Thomas were recalled as the West Indies named a 15-member 'provisional' squad for the five-match T20 International series against India, beginning on Thursday at Tarouba.

All 15 members of the provisional squad, to be led by Rovman Powell, will travel to all matches. There will then be a 13-member squad for each match from which the

final XI will be selected, the Cricket West Indies (CWI) said. The 29-year-old Hope, the West Indies captain in the three-match ODI series, last played a T20I in February last year

in Kolkata during the tour of India.

The 26-year-old Thomas, on the other hand, is coming back after playing his last T20I in Karachi in December 2021.

'Mastermind's plan': Khattar on Nuh violence

Chandigarh, Aug 01 (PTI)

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday said the attack on a VHP procession in Nuh seems to be part of a big conspiracy and asserted that strict action will be taken against the culprits.

Five people have been killed in the violence that erupted on Monday. Four people, including two home guards, died and many others injured in Nuh, where mobs tried to stop a Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) procession, while a naib imam was killed at a mosque in Gurugram.

Khattar's remarks came hours after Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij said someone who wanted to disturb the peace in the state engineered the violence in Nuh.

On Tuesday, authorities imposed a curfew in the district after the previous day's violence.

Chief Minister Khattar on Tuesday afternoon held a meeting here with Vij and senior officials, including the chief secretary, to take stock of the situation. Senior police officers, including the DGP, joined the meeting virtually. According to an official statement, Khattar said that every year, the 'Brij Mandal Jalabhishek Yatra' used to be taken out. This year too, this Yatra was being taken out when the incidents occurred at around 2 pm on Monday, he said.

Some people hatched a conspiracy and attacked the procession, Khattar said, adding police personnel were also attacked.



"Definitely, it looks like part of a big conspiracy," the CM said.

So far, 44 FIRs have been registered and 70 people taken into custody.

After investigations, strict action will be taken against all those found involved in the violence, he said. Anyone who has indulged in this arson will not be spared, he said.

After the incident, Khattar had dispatched the DGP, ADGP (CID) and ADGP (law and order) to Nuh while police force from neighbouring districts was rushed and the Centre was requested to send additional forces, the statement said.

He again appealed to all to cooperate and help maintain peace, saying what happened in Nuh on Monday was unfortunate.

Earlier in the day Home Minister Vij had said the incident in Nuh does not appear to have happened all of a sudden. "The level of violence that took place and also occurred at different points, the way stones were collected, the way weapons were brandished, the way shots were fired, it does not appear to have happened all of a sudden," Vij told reporters in Ambala.

Both the communities live peacefully there, he said. Somebody who wanted to disturb peace in the state and the country engineered or masterminded this incident, claimed Vij.

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MONSOON CLOUDS



Children play on the bank of River Hooghly as dark clouds fill the sky, in Nadia, Tuesday.

DU ADMISSIONS

85,853 candidates allotted seats in UG courses in first round

New Delhi, Aug 01 (PTI)

More than 85,000 candidates have been allotted seats in under-graduate courses in Delhi University (DU) colleges in the first round of seat allocation, officials said on Tuesday.

They said 2,02,416 eligible candidates were considered for seat allocation based on their preference of programme and college combination. As many as 7,042 candidates have got their first preference, the officials said.

The seat allocation for under-graduate programmes is being done under the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS)-UG-2023.

Seat allocation has been done for all programmes in all colleges, except in those programmes where

the eligibility includes performance and practical tests, the officials said.

In a statement, the university said that "a total of 85,853 allocations have been done in the First CSAS round itself". "This includes allocation to all programmes in all colleges in UR, SC, ST, OBC(NCL), EWS and two supernumerary quotas, PwBD and Kashmiri Migrants," it said.

While about 22,000 candidates have been allocated a seat from their first five preferences, 7,042 candidates got their first preference. "The candidates who have got a seat in the first round will have to accept the seat by 4:59 pm Friday, August 4, 2023," the statement said.

Colleges will check the applications of candidates and process the "applica-

tions till 04:59 pm Saturday, August 5, 2023", it said.

"Candidates whose applications get approved by the college will have to submit the fees by 04:59 pm Sunday, August 6, 2023. The college may 'raise a query' in case they seek any clarification from the candidate," the statement said.

Candidates who are offered a seat in the first round must complete admission formalities by the stipulated time, the DU said.

"Only candidates who would complete their admission process, including payment of fees, will be able to opt for upgrade to participate in the second round," it said.

The university will announce the second round on 5:00 pm on August 10.

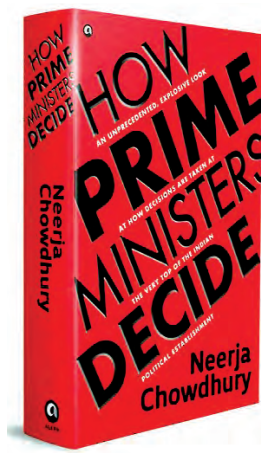
'Indira had good relations with many RSS leaders but carefully kept distance with Sangh'

New Delhi, Aug 01 (PTI)

Former prime minister Indira Gandhi had good relations with several RSS leaders, and just as the Sangh brass reached out to her for help, she too used it for her purposes but carefully kept a distance between the organisation and herself, claims a new book.

In "How Prime Ministers Decide", journalist Neerja Chowdhury analyses the operating styles of the country's prime ministers through the prism of six decisions of historic significance - the strategy that Gandhi devised to return to power in 1980 post-Emergency, the Shah Bano case, the Mandal Commission, the Babri Masjid incident, Atal Bihari Vajpayee's nod to nuclear tests, and the Indo-US nuclear deal under Manmohan Singh.

The book claims the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) had made



overtures to Gandhi all through the Emergency.

"RSS chief Balasaheb Deoras had written to her several times. Some RSS leaders had reached out to Sanjay Gandhi through Kapil Mohan. Now, in 1977, she would have to see how to respond. But she would have to play this one very carefully," Chowdhury writes.

"Just as the RSS brass had reached out to her for

help, she too used the RSS for her purposes - but carefully kept a distance between the organisation and herself. For all her opposition to the RSS, she had managed to get it to support the Emergency."

Sensing the unhappiness amongst Muslims about the Congress, she wanted to "Hinduize her politics", aware that a silent nudge from the RSS or even a neutral stand by them towards her might help, Chowdhury says in the book.

According to the author, her book is about power and its exercise by those who held the highest public office. The chapters illustrate how the power of the prime ministers played out under majority rule as well as in a coalition government.

The book also claims that in 1980, Atal Bihari Vajpayee was trying to secularize his image while Indira Gandhi was trying to Hinduize the face of the

Congress.

"The RSS helped Indira Gandhi come to power in 1980," Gandhi's close aide Anil Bali is quoted as saying. "She knew the RSS had supported her but she never acknowledged it publicly. She used to admit privately that had it not been for the support by the RSS, she could not have won 353 seats, one more than she had won in her heyday in 1971," Bali claims.

He adds that "increased temple going was not lost" on the RSS leadership.

"RSS chief Balasaheb Deoras had once remarked during the course of a conversation, 'Indira Gandhi bahut badi Hindu hai (Indira Gandhi is a staunch Hindu).'"

"Balasaheb Deoras and his brother saw in Indira Gandhi a potential leader of the Hindus," Bali is quoted as saying.

The soon to be launched book, published by Aleph Book Company, also says

the RSS in 1971 praised Gandhi for hiving off Bangladesh, and weakening Pakistan.

"The then RSS chief Madhav Sadashiv Golwalkar, popularly known as Guruji, wrote to her, 'The biggest measure of credit for this achievement goes to you.' In 1974, she won the RSS's admiration again for exploding the nuclear device - the RSS had always advocated a militarily strong India," it says.

Chowdhury also writes that what V P Singh did, no one else who had left the Congress over the years had managed to do.

"Neither Chandra Shekhar, nor Sharad Pawar, nor Ramkrishna Hegde, nor Mamata Banerjee, nor Jagan Mohan Reddy. They too had, like VP, severed relations with the Congress leadership in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s in the last century, and also in the 21st century.

SC refuses urgent hearing on Uddhav faction's plea

Against EC order

New Delhi, Aug 01 (PTI)

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused an urgent hearing on the Uddhav Thackeray faction's plea challenging the Election Commission's decision to recognise the Eknath Shinde-led bloc as the real Shiv Sena and allotting to it the 'bow and arrow' poll symbol.

Advocate Amit Anand Tiwari mentioned the matter before a bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, seeking an urgent hearing.

"Wait for the Constitution bench on Jammu and Kashmir to get over and we will give a date," the bench, also com-

prising Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra, said.

The petition contended that the poll panel erred in holding that disqualification under the Tenth Schedule and proceedings under the Symbols Order operate in different spheres and that disqualification of MLAs is not based on cessation of membership of a political party. It also submitted that the poll panel erred in holding that there was a split in the Shiv Sena.

In the absence of any pleadings and evidence that there was a split in a political party, the findings of the Election Commission are completely erroneous on this ground, the plea stated.

The petition said the

Thackeray faction has an overwhelming majority in the Pratinidhi Sabha — the apex body representing the wishes of primary members and other stakeholders of the party.

The plea said the poll panel has acted in a "biased and unfair manner".

It is submitted that the Election Commission of India has failed to discharge its duties as a neutral arbiter of disputes under para 15 of the symbols order and has acted in a manner undermining its constitutional status, the petition stated.

The poll panel had recognised the Eknath Shinde-faction as the real Shiv Sena and ordered the allocation of the 'bow and arrow' election symbol of the undivided party found

ed by the late Balasaheb Thackeray.

In a 78-page order on the protracted battle for control of the organisation, the commission allowed the Uddhav Thackeray faction to keep the "flaming torch" poll symbol allotted to it till the completion of the assembly byelections in the state. The commission had said the MLAs backing Shinde got nearly 76 per cent of the votes polled in favour of the 55 winning Shiv Sena candidates in the 2019 Maharashtra Assembly elections. The MLAs in the Uddhav Thackeray camp got 23.5 per cent of the votes polled in favour of the winning Shiv Sena candidates, the three-member commission had said.



Oppn leaders to meet President Murmu today

To discuss Manipur issue

New Delhi, Aug 01 (PTI) Opposition leaders will meet President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday to raise the Manipur issue after their demand for the prime minister's statement in Parliament followed by a comprehensive discussion on the violence in the state remained unfulfilled.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge had sought time from President Murmu on behalf of the opposition parties to discuss the Manipur issue, and the President has granted time to them on Wednesday at 11.30 am, party leaders said on Tuesday. The delegation will also include 21 MPs of the opposition Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) who visited Manipur on July 29-30. The opposition is demanding a

statement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi followed by a discussion under Rule 267 after suspending all other House business, while the ruling dispensation wants a short-duration discussion on Manipur which will be replied to by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.



Guv releases Quarterly e-Book 'Raj Bhavan Patrika'

Mumbai, Aug 01: Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais released the quarterly book 'Raj Bhavan Patrika' at Raj Bhavan Mumbai. The e-book gives an account of the programmes and functions attended by him during the period April to July 2023.

The book covers the Governor's meetings with

the President of India, Prime Minister of India, diplomats, constitutional functionaries, and events such as Conventions, Book release functions, etc. attended by him. The e-book has been brought out by the Governor's Secretariat and can be accessed online from the website of Maharashtra Raj Bhavan.

FLOWER SHOW PREPARATIONS



Preparations underway for the annual flower show for Independence Day at the Lalbagh Botanical Garden, in Bengaluru, Tuesday.

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