



BRIEF



Dhara Shah, whose baby girl Ariha Shah has been living in a foster care in Berlin for over 20 months, at Parliament House complex during the Monsoon session, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

Boiked

■ **Shimla:** A landslide blocked the national highway connecting Shimla to Chandigarh in Himachal Pradesh's Solan district on Wednesday morning, leaving many vehicles stranded, officials said. A 50-metre road stretch was completely caved in following the landslide at Chaki Mor near Koti between Dharampur and Parwanoo in Solan.

Anti-corruption cell

■ **Kolkata:** West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose on Wednesday inaugurated an anti-corruption cell at the Raj Bhavan here, amidst protests by the ruling TMC of this being an "intrusion" into day-to-day administration which was the responsibility of the state government.

Arrested

■ **Srinagar:** Security forces on Wednesday arrested two "hybrid terrorists" of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) outfit from Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. Acting on a tip off, security forces established a mobile vehicle check point at Azadgunj in Baramulla town. The two suspects tried to flee after noticing the check-point, a police official said.

Walkout

■ **New Delhi:** Opposition leaders on Wednesday walked out from the Rajya Sabha after the Chair did not admit their notices for suspension of the listed business and take up discussion on the Manipur issue. Soon after the listed papers were tabled, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said he has received 58 notices under Rule 267 of the Rajya Sabha | demanding discussion on the ongoing situation in Manipur.

Mishap

■ **Bhavnagar:** A woman was killed and at least 17 persons were injured after two balconies - one each on the first and second floor - of a seven-storey building collapsed on them in Gujarat's Bhavnagar city on Wednesday, officials said. The incident occurred around 11.50 am, Bhavnagar Municipal Commissioner N V Upadhyay said.

Weather
High 26 Low 24

MARKET
NIFTY 19,526.55
SENSEX 65,782.78

BULLION
GOLD 59,160
SILVER 73,017

SC allows VHP, Bajrang rallies, says no hate speech

New Delhi, Aug 02 (PTI):

With communal clashes claiming six lives in parts of Haryana close to Delhi, the Supreme Court Wednesday ordered enhanced deployment of security personnel in sensitive areas and a crackdown on hate speech but refused to stop the proposed rallies by VHP and Bajrang Dal in the NCR. Observing that hate speeches

vitiating the atmosphere, a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and S V Bhatti also ordered installation of CCTV cameras in vulnerable places. "We hope and trust that the state governments, including the police authorities, will ensure that there are no hate speeches against any community and there is no violence or damage to properties. Wherever required, adequate

police force or paramilitary forces will be deployed," the bench said. The apex court directed Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the Centre, to immediately get in touch with authorities and ensure no untoward incident takes place anymore. Raju sought time from the court to seek instructions. The apex court has postponed the matter for hearing on

Friday. The top court passed the order after senior advocate C U Singh, appearing for journalist Shaheen Abdullah, said 23 demonstrations have been announced by Hindu right groups Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal in various parts of the National Capital Region (NCR). He mentioned the matter before Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and sought

urgent hearing, after which it was assigned to the bench of Justices Khanna and Bhatti. Six people, including two home guards, have died in the communal violence which broke out in Nuh after a mob tried to stop a VHP procession on July 31. Incidents of violence and arson were also reported from Palwal, Faridabad and Gurugram, areas that are close to Delhi.

GST COUNCIL MEETING '28% GST on online gaming stays'

New Delhi, Aug 02 (PTI):

The decision to impose a 28 per cent tax on the full face value of bets placed on online games will be implemented from October 1 even though there was demand for a review from states like Delhi and Goa, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday. The GST Council — the highest decision making body of the new indirect tax regime that comprises Union finance minister and representatives of all states — discussed the language of amendments that will be needed to enabling taxing online gaming, she said after the panel meeting. The panel had at its last meeting decided to levy a 28 per cent GST on full face value of bets placed and Wednesday's

meeting was to deliberate on the tax law changes that would be required to implement it. Sitharaman said Delhi finance minister opposed the levy of the tax on online gaming while Goa and Sikkim wanted the levy on GGR (gross gaming revenue) and not on face value. Sitharaman, however, said other states ranging from Karnataka to Gujarat, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh wanted the decision taken at the last meeting to be implemented. The new levy, after required changes are made in the central and state laws, is likely to come into effect from October 1, she said. There would be a review of the levy after six months of its implementation, she added.

'Forest bill 'bulldozed' in Parl, legislative process subverted'

New Delhi, Aug 02 (PTI):

The Congress on Wednesday alleged that the manner in which the forest bill has been "bulldozed" in Parliament reflects the Modi government's mindset and the "vast gap that exists between its global talk and domestic walk" on issues of environment, forests and tribal rights. The Rajya Sabha passed The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023, after a brief debate, amid protests by opposition members and a walk out by them over the Manipur issue. The bill seeks to exempt land within 100 kilometres of the country's borders from the purview of conservation laws and permit the setting up of zoos, safaris and ecotourism facilities in forest areas. It amends The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and was passed by



Lok Sabha on July 26 in the ongoing Monsoon session of Parliament. Congress general secretary and chief whip of the party in Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh said the bill was first introduced in Lok Sabha on March 29 (during the Budget session) and it makes several "far-reaching and radical" amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. "The journey of the bill to soon becoming a law is a

case study on how to completely subvert the legislative process," he said in a statement. Ramesh said the bill should have been referred to the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change, which he chairs. "I had taken serious objections to this (bill not being sent to the committee) and put them on record as well, not once but twice. Instead, a Joint Committee of Parliament (JCP) was set up with a ruling party MP as its chair," the Congress leader said. "Be that as it may, the JCP submitted its report on July 20, 2023. Extraordinarily and perhaps in an unprecedented move, the report suggested no changes whatsoever to the bill as introduced by the government," he said.

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Art director Nitin Desai commits suicide

At his studio near Mumbai



Mumbai, Aug 02 (PTI): Renowned art director Nitin Desai, the creator of lavish sets for films such as "Jodhaa Akbar" and "Lagaan" as well as the TV show "Kaun Banega Crorepati", was found hanging at his studio in Karjat near Mumbai on Wednesday. He was 57. Desai's company ND's Art World Pvt Ltd had defaulted on a Rs 252-crore loan to its financial creditor, according to an insolvency petition filed in a bankruptcy court last week.

"Desai's body was found hanging with a rope in the morning at N D Studios," Raigad Superintendent of Police Somnath Gharge told reporters, adding that it seemed to be a case of suicide and the case was being investigated from all angles. Police rushed to the studio in Maharashtra's Karjat area in Raigad, about 50 km from Mumbai, as soon as information of his death came in. Desai's company had borrowed Rs 185 crore through two loans from ECL Finance in 2016 and 2018, and troubles with repayments started from January 2020. Mahesh Baldi, an Independent MLA from Uran in Raigad, told reporters that the art director was in deep financial trouble and may have ended his life because of that. He may have taken the step around 4-4.30 am. "I met him one or two months ago where he spoke about the financial problems.

RUN FOR SAFETY



Commuters on a road during rain in Lucknow, Wednesday.

Finance deptt issues order as per CM's declaration

■ **For hike in DA, HRA to state govt employees and one-time contractual salary to all contractual employees**

Contractual employees call off their strike
Raipur: The contractual employees of the state government who were on strike for last one month with demand for regularization have called off their strike from today and information about this was given by Chhattisgarh Sarv Vibhagiya Samvida Karamchhari Mahasangh.

Raipur, Aug 02: The declarations made by the Chief Minister during the Monsoon Session of the Assembly have been fulfilled now. As per CM's declarations, the Finance Department has released orders for hike in DA, HRA for government employees and one-time hike in salaries of the contractual employees. In the order issued, there is hike in DA of pensioners as well. As per instructions by the Finance Department, the state government has hiked DA by 4% as per the 7th pay-scale from 1 July 2023 from 38% to 42%. The hiked DA will be paid from 1 July 2023. In the same way, the payment of DA as per the 6th Pay-scale from 1 July 2023 with 212% DA has been hiked by 9% to 221% and it will be payable from 1 July

2023. In the same way the Finance department has hiked the HRA to government employees as per the 7th pay-scale and sanctioned revised rates. For B-2 category employees of the state government, HRA of 9% will be paid for Raipur, Durg and Bilal city. In the 'C' category cities viz. Bilaspur, Korba, Rajnandgaon, Jagdalpur, Raigarh, Chirmiri, Dallirajhara, Dhamtari, Bhatapara and Janjgir-Champa, 6% HRA will be paid. In addition to this for other areas 6% HRA will be paid and for the employees in the government offices in Delhi, HRA of 27% will be paid. The new rates of HRA will be applicable from the date of the release order. **One-time hike in contractual salary for different posts**

The state government has fixed one-time contractual salary for different posts in the state govt services. This hike will be applicable from 1 July 2023. In the revise pay structure of contractual appointment for a post, for the employees of salary metric 1-16, one-time contractual payment of Rs 14,400 to Rs 1,19,715 has been fixed for the contractual employees. **Pensioners get hike in DA** The pensioners of Chhattisgarh state too have been sanctioned revised DA. The state pensioners and family pensioners will get DA as per the 7th Pay-scale at 38% and those of the 6th-pay-scale pensioners DA at 212% will be paid. The hiked DA rates will be application from 1 July 2023.

One more cheetah dies at KNP in MP

New Delhi, Aug 02 (PTI):

One more cheetah has died at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, making it the ninth feline to die since March, according to a statement from the state forest department. "On Wednesday morning, one of the female cheetahs — Dhatri (Tbilisi) — was found dead. A post-mortem is being conducted to determine the cause of death," the statement reads. Fourteen cheetahs — seven males, six females and a female cub — are kept in enclosures in Kuno. A team comprising Kuno wildlife veterinarians and a Namibian expert regularly monitors their health. One female cheetah is out in the open and is under intensive monitoring by the team. Efforts are underway to bring her back to an enclosure for a health examina-

tion, the statement said. Last month, two cheetahs died due to infection in wounds caused by the radio collars around their necks. However, the environment ministry said all cheetah deaths were due to natural causes. Experts involved in the cheetah reintroduction project had told PTI that heavy rain, extreme heat, and humidity may have caused the problems, "with the collars fitted around the necks of the cheetahs potentially causing additional complications". Following the deaths, all the cheetahs, except the two females, were brought back to their enclosures for examination. An expert veterinarian from South Africa cleaned up the wounds. All the cheetahs have been administered Fluralaner, a systemic insecticide and acaricide given orally or topically.

US national gangraped in Kerala

Kollam (Kerala), Aug 02 (PTI): An American woman, who had arrived in India recently and was staying at an ashram near here, was allegedly gangraped by two men. The accused men were caught on Wednesday and an FIR under various sections, including 376D (gangrape) and 376(2)(n) (repeatedly raping same woman), of the IPC, was registered against them, police said. "The arrest of the men is yet to be recorded. They are presently in custody," an officer of Karunagappally police station said. The incident occurred on July 31 when the 44-year-old woman was sitting alone at a beach near the ashram. Police said that according to the woman's complaint, the men came to her and offered to share cigarettes and when she refused, they offered her rum. On drinking the alcohol, she became intoxicated and thereafter, the men put her between them on a bike and took her to a nearby vacant house where she was gangraped repeatedly, police said referring to the woman's complaint.

Oppn leaders meet President on Manipur issue



President Droupadi Murmu in a meeting with a delegation of I.N.D.I.A MPs led by Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

New Delhi, Aug 02 (PTI): Opposition leaders on Wednesday met President Droupadi Murmu here to seek her intervention on the Manipur issue. Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge had sought time from President Murmu on behalf of the opposition parties. The opposition parties are seeking the

President's intervention in the matter, claiming that the violence in the BJP-ruled northeastern state is continuing unabated. Some MPs of the opposition Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) who visited Manipur on July 29-30 are part of the opposition delegation meeting the President.

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.

Man kills wife, hangs self

Korba, Aug 02: A 52-year-old man allegedly killed his wife before hanging himself in Korba city, police said on Wednesday. The man stabbed his 40-year-old wife with a sharp weapon on Tuesday night. He then hanged himself using rope in the yard of his house, a CSEB police station official said. The trigger for murder and suicide is under investigation, he said. In a separate incident, a 25-year-old man beat his 40-year-old aunt to death with a stick in Nakiya village in Korba district under the Lemru police station limits on Tuesday, another police official said. Prima facie, a family dispute led to the incident, he added. The accused man was arrested under section 302 of the Indian Penal Code for murder, the official said.

Bhilai Mayor takes review meeting of health department

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Aug 02: For the prevention of water-borne diseases, especially dengue, the health department of Bhilai Municipal Corporation has started an intensive campaign, wherein, the health staff is visiting door-to-door and distributing Temiphos solution to eradicate mosquito larvae and mosquitoes at the possible sites of dengue and in the localities. Malathion is being sprayed and fogging has been started.

Bhilai Mayor Neeraj Pal and member in-charge of Public Health Department Lakshmi Raju took a meeting of the health staff



of the corporation and reviewed the work being done to eradicate water-borne diseases, especially dengue. The mayor said that dengue should not spread in the corporation area. Special care should be taken for cleaning the drains and sprinkle

bleaching powder. The team engaged in door-to-door checking should take care that rain water does not get accumulated in empty junk in any house, and after emptying the coolers they should sprinkle Temiphos, as well as make people aware about

how to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes. There should be no rainwater accumulated in any vessel, pot, tire in the house as dengue larvae thrives in clean water. Giving information about the situation of dengue in the corporation area, the health officer

Law and order in state completely messed up: Dr Saroj Pandey

Central Chronicle News



Bhilai, Aug 02: BJP's National Vice President and Rajya Sabha MP Dr Saroj Pandey hit out at the Congress government in Chhattisgarh over the law and order situation in the state. Expressing her concern, she termed as sad the attempt of self-immolation by the Kabirdham rape victim in front of the SP office for inaction against the accused.

The leader alleged that the situation in the state has become such that daughters are not only being victimized due to increasing crime and anarchy in the state, but when they go to the administration seeking justice, instead of supporting the

victim, the administration supports the culprits.

This incident is an example of the shameless act of the administration in which a daughter is forced to commit self-immolation for justice. In Chhattisgarh, which was once called the island of peace, the morale of the criminal elements has become so high that they are openly playing with the

respect of sisters and daughters, she further alleged.

Saroj Pandey also stated that the Congress government in State has completely ruined the law and order situation. The governance is steeped in corruption and criminal elements have been given complete freedom. She further stated that it is futile to expect anything from the government which makes false promises by taking "Gangajal" in hand.

When the Chief Minister of the state calls the Congress government "Bharose ki Sarkar" then who broke the "Bharosa" of that victim daughter of Kabirdham and what action is he taking against those responsible for it?

Youth gets life imprisonment for raping juvenile girl

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Aug 02: A Fast Track Special Court in Durg sentenced a youth to rigorous life imprisonment for abducting and raping a 14-year-old girl. Additional District and Sessions Judge (Fourth, FTSC - POC SO) Sangeeta Naveen Tiwari convicted 26-year-old Jitendra Navrange, son of Lakhanlal Navrange a resident of Sirsakala, Satnamipara, Old Bhilai. The girl's father had

lodged a complaint at Old Bhilai Police Station on May 14, 2016. Special Public Prosecutor Santosh Kasar informed that the accused and the victim reside in the same village. The victim's father had gone to work in Raipur on May 09, 2016 while the victim's mother and brother had gone to attend a marriage. On May 10, 2016, the accused and his accomplice lured the girl to come with them and took her to some village near

Nizamuddin. The victim's father returned home on May 14, 2016 and came to know that her daughter was missing. He immediately rushed to the police station and lodged a complaint. During investigation, Police rescued the girl on May 22, 2016. The co-accused Sanjay Navrange was arrested and was punished by the court on August 26, 2017. The absconding prime accused Jitendra Navrange was arrested on May 03, 2022.

After trial, the Special Court found the accused guilty and awarded different jail terms for Section 366, 34 of IPC and Section 04 of POC SO Act under which the accused was tried. He was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment of three years and Rs 100 fine under section 366, 34 of IPC and rigorous life imprisonment and Rs 5000 fine under section 04 of POC SO Act, informed Special Public Prosecutor Santosh Kasar.

BSF conducts tree plantation drive

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Aug 02: A tree plantation drive was organised under the leadership of IG Indraj Singh (Border Security Force, Frontier Headquarters, Special Operations, Chhattisgarh) at Sector 9 under the tree plantation program 2023 with the objectives of keeping the environment green and clean.

Along with Border Security Force, the members of Salute Tiranga Sangathan Chhattisgarh and Paryavaran Mitra Division - Bhilai also participated in this campaign. During this drive, 1075 saplings of fruit bearing



and shady trees were planted.

The tree plantation program was highly appreciated by the common citizens. It needs to be mentioned here that this year a target has been set to plant

1,43,000 trees by the Frontier Headquarters and the Battalions working under it.

Along with the anti-Naxal operation, the Border Security Force is also committed to the pro-

tection of the environment. Every year in the rainy season, the Border Security Force conducts the work of planting trees in the surrounding areas of its deployment.

After the tree plantation programme, Indraj Singh, Inspector General, Frontier Headquarters Border Security Force, Bhilai gave the message that forest and environment are an integral part of our life and it is our utmost duty to preserve them.

Everyone should actively participate in this campaign and should make the earth prosperous by planting more and more trees around them.

Employees of Electrical Zone felicitated with Pali Shiromani and Karm Shiromani Award



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Aug 02: Employees belonging to Electrical zone of Bhilai Steel Plant were awarded with the 'Pali Shiromani' and 'Karm Shiromani Puraskar' on August 01, 2023 for their exemplary work performance under the 'Shiromani Puraskar Yojana' of Bhilai Steel Plant. The function was presided over by TK Krishna Kumar, CGM (Electrical).

Pali Shiromani Award winners of Electrical zone included S Narendra Rao, Assistant Manager (HME) and Karm Shiromani Award winners Pusp Narayan, MOCT(PSD) and Jayanta Kumar Pal, MOCT (PSD) were felicitated for their exemplary work.

Departmental HODs Prakash, GM (Telecomm), Akshaya Kumar Nayak, GM (CRME), S Lakshmi, GM (TPIE), Subhash Rathore, GM (ETL), Md

Ashraf Siddique, GM (HME), RR Thakur, GM (PSD), Ravindra Kumar, GM (PSD), Kuntal Baghel, DGM (ERS) and Yogesh Kumar Verma, AGM (PSD) presented the award winners with a certificate of merit, memento and appreciation letter for the spouse of the employee. The programme was compered by Girish Madharia, AM while vote of Thanks given by D Belsar of Personnel Office of P&E Zone.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Aug 02: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has once again achieved stellar performance in July and set a flurry of new records in all major Physical Parameters, right from CO&CCD, OHP and WRM, to MM and Dispatch, surpassing previous Best figures by good margins.

With the collaborative work culture and industrial harmony, the spirited Bhilai Collective put up a sterling performance as a result of which the Plant could achieve several best ever performance records consecutively.

For this achievement, Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c of the Plant and Anjani Kumar, ED

(Works) congratulated the workers and officers of the concerned departments for this stellar performance. At the same time, they also congratulated the whole collective and ancillary departments for their contribution.

Bhilai Steel Plant's Ore Handling Plant (OHP), which mainly dispatches the raw materials including iron ore and fluxes to its consumer shops inside the Plant including Sintering Plants, Blast Furnaces, Refractory Material Plants, and Steel Melting Shops has created three new records in the month of July 2023 in pursuance to best material dispatch, material handling, and unloading a record number of wagons in the

month of July. Record unloading of 14,475 wagons was recorded by OHP in July 2023, against the previous best of unloading of 13,083 wagons made in July 2021.

The OHP also recorded its highest raw material dispatch in the same month, with a record dispatch of 9,42,010 T of raw material, surpassing the previous best of 8,78,479 T achieved in July 2021. The total material handled by OHP in July is also an ever best record with 18,89,108 T material handled in July 2023, against the previous best of 17,30,420 T, achieved in July 2021.

On the other hand, Plant's Coke Oven & Coal Chemical Department (CO&CCD) has also recorded a best ever

monthly pushing records in July 2023 by pushing an average of 793 eq ovens on daily basis thorough the month of July, surpassing previous best of pushing 757 ovens in July 2005.

The Plant's Wire Rod Mill has scaled a new production day record on July 29, 2023, by rolling 1620 T plain wire rod coils in combination of 6/6/6 mm, surpassing the previous best production record of 1539 T in the same combination, made on January 08, 2023. New Shift & Day records of production have also been set by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Merchant Mill on July 30, 2023.

Merchant Mill that rolls out TMT Bars of different dimensions, chan-

nels and angles has set a new record by achieving the ever best day record by rolling 1575 T of channel in 100 mm segment, against the previous best of 1484 T, made on May 22, 2022. The Mill also achieved a best ever shift record of producing 594 T in the C shift of July 30, 2023, surpassing the previous best of 561 T, achieved on May 22, 2022.

These remarkable achievements were made with collective efforts and coordination of employees in the respective departments working together with utmost dedication with strict adherence to the technical & safety norms and operational efficiency, resulting in improved productivity and breaking of previous records.

Safety Awareness Week organised in Forge & Steel Structural Shop

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Aug 02: Safety Awareness Week was organised from July 24 - 29, 2023 in Forge and Steel Structural Shop of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant. SK Agarwal, GM I/c (SED) was the Chief Guest during the Valedictory function.

Jitendra Motwani, HoD & GM (Forge-SS Shop) offered guidance and suggestions technical standards on safety and other safety related issues on the occasion. SD Padwal, Adhikari Sahu, MS Baghel, Sr officers and all the personnel and workers present on the occasion.

Talks on Safety, competitions for safety slogan, best locker were held during the Safety week. Information was shared technical standards relat-



ed to Safety, communication forums on near miss cases, discussion on emergency preparedness plan, proper use of fire fighting equipment and precautions and first aid, occupational hazards etc. During the concluding

and prize distribution ceremony of the Safety Awareness Week organized in collaboration with the Safety Engineering Department, SK Agarwal, GM I/c (SED) and SK Mahato, GM (SED) appreciated the

planning and efforts and taken for individual and group participation in Safety related activities and also extended their best wishes for achieving the target of zero accident in future.

The winners of various competitions - Best Safety Man, Safety Slogan, Best Locker etc were awarded during the event held at the conference hall of Forge-SS Shop.

This program was conducted by Rajesh Singh Thakur while Jitendra Gupta, Assistant Manager (Forge-SS Shop) proposed the Vote of Thanks. During this week K Vikram, Akhilesh Upadhyay, RS Yadav, DP Devangan and Ashish Chakraborty, Vinay Sahu, KK Tiwari, Jyotnath, KK Verma contributed in making the programme successful.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Aug 02: Allotment of houses in a transparent manner through lottery was done at the Data Center Auditorium under "Mor Makan Mor Aas", a component of Municipal Corporation / Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana on Wednesday.

The lottery was taken by MLA Durg (urban) Arun Vora, Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal, Speaker Rajesh Yadav and Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar. As per the instructions of the government, senior citizens and differently-abled people were first allotted houses on the ground floor on priority basis.

Through lottery, 13 from Potiakala, 04 from Gokul Nagar, Pulgaon, 02 from Saraswati Nagar, and 01 each Ganapati Vihar and Maa Karma

Durg Mayor, MLA hand over 'Pakka Makan' to 21 new families



benefitted. Giving information, the Durg Mayor said that so far a total of 174 tenant category families have been allotted and a total of 296 people have been allotted with "Mor Makan Mor Chinhari (slum)".

At the same time, 10 beneficiaries have been provided with housing

loans up to 30 lakhs. Soon 07 more people will be handed over the possession in Fortune site. MIC in-charge Deepak Sahu, Vijendra Bhardwaj, Ratna Naramdev were specially present in the program.

Nodal Officer Dinesh Netam informed the beneficiaries that the allotment letter will be issued

soon by the Corporation. The program was conducted by Assistant Nodal Officer Jitendra Samaiya and Ashutosh Tamrakar subject specialist. Ganeshi Yadav, Ramdas Sahu, Pritesh Verma, Deepak Sancheti Shankardeep were present from the housing scheme.

CM Baghel draws PM's attention towards attainment of the target under PMAY

Raipur, Aug 02: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has written a letter to Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi requesting him to allot the target for the remaining houses of the waiting list under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in the state. Moreover, Chief Minister has requested the Prime Minister to allot a housing target for 8 lakh 19 thousand 999 beneficiary families of Awas Plus in the state.

CM Bhupesh Baghel has written in the letter that at present, a total of 18,75,585 beneficiaries under the PMAY are registered in the permanent waiting list (rural) of the Government of India's Socio-Economic Caste Census-2011 (SECC-2011). A total of 11,76,146 beneficiaries have been approved for housing from the above list till the year 2016-2023. After approval, about 73.5 percent (8,63,567) houses have been successfully allocated under the scheme. Thus, 6,99,439 are remaining on the permanent waiting list to achieve the target. Also, the target of 7,81,999 houses allotted for the year 2021-22 was withdrawn by

Baghel requested to meet the target of remaining 6.99 lakh houses in the waiting list

If Centre does not meet the aforesaid target, the state govt cannot approve the remaining houses

Gol has withdrawn the target of 7,81,999 houses that were allotted for the year 2021-22, Baghel requested to reallocate this target to the state

To meet the remaining target of housing, the state government has made a provision of Rs 3238 cr in the budget for the year 2023-24.

the Government of India. State Government, through the letter number 5026 dated 18/08/2022, had requested Government of India to reallocate these houses in installments. But till date no response or information in this regard has been received from the Government of India. In the year 2022-23, a target of only 79,000 houses was provided.

In the letter to Prime Minister, CM Baghel has drawn attention towards the fact that despite the challenging circum-

stances of COVID-19, Chhattisgarh has maintained its leading position in terms of completing the housing target. Since inception of the scheme, average annual expenditure for PMAY against the estimated annual budget has reflected the promising performance of the state. He also highlighted in the letter to Prime Minister that to meet the target of 2,36,813 houses approved by the state government in the year 2020-21 and 2022-23, a provision of Rs.3238.00 cr has been made in the budget of the year 2023-24, of which Rs.674.75 cr has been released. The amount of the first installment i.e. Rs 285.33 cr, second installment of Rs 270.66 cr; third installment of Rs 78.77 cr and fourth installment of Rs 19.20 crore have also been transferred to the beneficiaries.

Baghel has written in the letter that as Government of India did not sanction the housing target of 6,99,439 on the permanent waiting list State Government could not approve it either; and as a result 8,19,999 beneficiaries of Awas Plus were

also not approved. Therefore, I request that in addition to the remaining houses mentioned above, the target of housing plus should also be provided to the state, stated Chief Minister. Baghel emphasized that Chhattisgarh has done a performed commendably under PMAY (Urban) with its limited resources. Against the 2,62,677 houses sanctioned, 51% houses have been allocated and the process for remaining is in progress. Against the state's share amount of Rs 2,706.69 crore, state government has provided Rs 2,389.07 crore, i.e. 88%, to be spent on these houses. This shows that the performance of the state under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban is commendable. Therefore, in view of the aforementioned facts, Mr. Baghel urged that along with 6,99,439 families included in the existing permanent waiting list (Existing PWL), 8,19,999 families under Awas Plus should also be approved by the Centre, so that the objective of the scheme could be fulfilled.

BJP Core Group chalks out strategy for polls

Raipur, Aug 02: With the objective to speed up election campaign, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday chalked out strategy at the meeting of Core Group held in presence of National General Secretary (Organisation) BL Santosh, State in-charge Om Mathur and State BJP President Arun Sao.

Top leaders held discussion on the preparations for the upcoming Legislative Assembly polls as well as the Lok Sabha



elections scheduled early next year.

BL Santosh after listening to the leaders here, gave his guidance on key points and directed the office-bearers to take up those issues at the earliest.

Similarly, the central leaders also held separate meeting with the newly-constituted Election Committees constituted recently.

Newly-appointed National Vice President

Lata Usendi, MLAs Punnulal Mohile and Brijmohan Agrawal, former Rajya Sabha member Ramvihar Netam and other members of Core Group attended the meeting.

Six nabbed in clashes between two groups

During night in Moudhapara area

Two groups flash swords, knives, 'farsa' and other weapons; cause damage to vehicles as well

Raipur, Aug 02: The police has nabbed six in case of clashes between two groups in Moudhapara area of capital city on Tuesday late at night. The clash resulted in use of swords, knives and sharp edged weapons by the two groups and the rebels even caused damage to the vehicles kept outside the shop and damage to the shops. Entire incident has got captured in CCTV camera and case of 'balwa', attempt for murder and other serious crime has been filed against two groups and six have been taken into custody. As per information in this regard, this clash took place near Rajbandha Maidan in Moudhapara

thana of capital city on Tuesday night. The youths flashed swords, knives, 'farsa' (sharp edged weapon) and iron and wooden rods against each other. In this two Moudhapara resident viz. Asif and Firoz got injured and have been admitted in the hospital for treatment.

A CCTV footage of the incident has also come to fore, wherein the rebels of two groups are indulging in damaging the vehicles parked nearby and causing damage to shops as well. The police in this case has filed complaint under an attempt for murder, 'balwa' and other serious crime against the two groups and nabbed six accused in this clash and search for other absconding is in progress.

It is learnt that it was clash for supremacy between two history-sheeter Asif and Firoz that resulted in the clashes. The police is conducting search for other accused involved in this clash as per the CCTV footages.

ED seeks details of DMF expenditure

Central Agency to speed up investigation on the issue

Raipur, Aug 02: Enforcement Directorate (ED) has now started investigation into the expenditure of District Mineral Fund (DMF) after it received several inputs of malpractice over the years.

According to the information received, ED has sought the details of the expenditure being made during the last 7 years in all the Districts of Chhattisgarh. ED is likely to interrogate few Suppliers who have been involved in the government supply being done from DMF fund.

It is notable that ED had recently conducted raids in Korba and Raigarh District Collectorate office after it received inputs against the Bureaucrats over DMF expenditures.

Several irregularities

have been alleged in the expenditure from DMF scheme. Senior Congress Legislator Mohan Markam had also raised the issue of DMF expenditure in his Kondagaon constituency in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly. Similarly, several other MLAs too have raised such issues in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly to corner the Treasury bench against the Bureaucrats who have key role in the releasing of money under DMF fund.

ED has also collected significant information during the interrogation with the tainted IAS Officer and former District Collector Ranu Sahu who has been recently arrested. Now the level of investigation has been increased and several districts too would now fall under the probe. It is learnt that ED would speed up the investigation on DMF scheme as well as the Liquor scam in Chhattisgarh.

Accused in double murder case nabbed

Murdered his step-mother and brother over family dispute

Raipur, Aug 02: A double murder has come to fore and in this a youth had reportedly murdered his step-mother and brother in capital city on Wednesday.

The incident took place in Sarora and the name of accused is Rajkumar Sahu and he has been taken into arrest by the police. As per information in this regard, due to some family controversy the youth took this step.

As per information in

this regard, accused Rajkumar Sahu's father had two marriages and the accused was having controversy with his step-mother and brother. On Tuesday also they entered into some controversy and which later resulted in murder of step-mother and brother.

On the other hand, it is learnt that the condition of sister is also serious and she has been admitted in the district hospital. On the other hand, the Upla police reached the site of incident and has started the investigation. The accused Rajkumar Sahu has been taken into arrest

Baghel shedding crocodile tears: Sao



Raipur, Aug 02: State BJP chief Arun Sao on Wednesday slammed Baghel over the letter, saying that the chief minister "betrayed" 16 lakh families which did not get houses in the last four years though they were entitled to them under the PMAY. Baghel was shedding crocodile tears by writing a letter to the PM ahead of the assembly polls and he had "rubbed salt in the wounds" of 16 lakh families who were deprived of houses, Sao said.

Since the Congress came to power in the state, the Centre has written to the state government several times asking to contribute its share under the PMAY, but the Baghel government did not give consent to the allocation of funds for the PMAY in 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22, the BJP leader alleged.

In 2021, then Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Narendra Singh Tomar and subsequently current minister Giriraj Singh wrote to the state, asking it to release the state's share for the scheme and expedite its implementation, Sao said.

Even state minister TS Singh Deo, while relinquishing Panchayat and rural department portfolio last year, cited in his letter that the state government did not release funds, he said.

JCC(J) leader Dr Dewangan joins BJP with supporters

Likely to strengthen the saffron brigade in Raipur Rural segment

Raipur, Aug 02: In a significant political development, nearly thousand workers of Janta Congress Chhattisgarh (Jogi) led by former Chairperson of Birgaon Municipal Council Dr Om Prakash Dewangan joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in presence of prominent leaders including the National General Secretary in-charge of



party affairs in Chhattisgarh OP Mathur, Co in-charge Nitin Nabin, State BJP President Arun Sao here on Wednesday.

With the joining of Dr Om Prakash Dewangan into partyfold, the BJP would be further strengthened in the Raipur Rural Legislative Assembly con-

stituency as well as neighbouring Dharshiwa segment. Apart from OM Dewangan, the former Leader of Opposition in the Council Evaj Dewangan as well as Corporators of Birgaon Municipal Corporation (BMC) Digeshwari Evaj Dewangan, Bedram Sahu,

Aswhini Chandre also joined the BJP. It is notable that Dr Dewangan had contest the last Assembly elections as an JCC(J) candidate in a triangular contest which eventually resulted in victory of Congress candidate. After joining BJP, the new entrants were administered pledge to throw the ruling Congress government out of power in the next Legislative Assembly polls. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Dewangan said that they have received a platform of BJP to expose the wrong deeds of the Congress government.

INIFD Raipur marks historic moment with grand launch



Of Medhavi Skills University and NSDC-empowered Degree and Diploma Programs

Raipur, Aug 02: INIFD Raipur celebrates grand launch of INIFD with Medhavi Skills University and NSDC, paving the way for a New Era in Design Education INIFD Raipur; the Inter National Institute of Fashion Design, marked a historic moment on Wednesday

here with the grand launch of Medhavi Skills University and NSDC-empowered Degree and Diploma Programs along with orientation of new batch for the Academic Year 2023-24. This momentous event brought together esteemed guests and industry experts, signaling a transformative phase in design education and skill development. Distinguished personalities, including Mr. Pravesh Dudani - Founder and Chancellor, Medhavi Skill University, Mr. Aman

Verma- Bollywood Actor & Celebrity Host and Mr. Anil Khosla- Global CEO, INIFD along with Directors INIFD Raipur and all the INIFD Family graced the occasion. Addressing the scribes here Pravesh Dudani said that under the New Education Policy (NEP2020), these innovative programs in Fashion and Interior Design will be offered, combining the academic excellence of Medhavi Skills University with the skill-building prowess of the world's largest network of design institutes, INIFD.

The collaboration aims to empower students with creative arts and skills, making them employable in the rapidly growing design industry. All degrees, diplomas, and certificates will be authenticated by Skill India and the

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). Mr. Anil Khosla-Global CEO, INIFD expressed his belief that these courses will strengthen the fundamentals of degree and diploma students and provide them with practical exposure. The practical training offered will enhance their creativity, decision-making abilities, and employment prospects, ultimately granting them UGC-approved degrees of B.VOC, M.VOC, and B.Des, in line with the New Education Policy. Aman Verma - Bollywood Actor & Celebrity Host acknowledged the exceptional design skills of the students and inspired their creativity. He enthusiastically embraced the celebratory atmosphere and added excitement to the event with the students.

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Chit fund victims had tears of joy in their eyes, when they received their money

In their bank accounts when CM refunded it

After losing money to chit fund fraud, I was in huge debt for my daughter's education: Shashi

'I will be grateful to you all my life Chief Minister: Patel'

Raipur, Aug 02: Because of you Chief Minister, today it is like we have got a second chance at life. I was in debt for my daughter's education. I had lost Rs 15 lakh after being duped by a chit fund company. Today, because of you, I have got back Rs 8 lakh 55 thousand, my hard earned money. With this amount received, I will clear my loan and now I will be able to educate my daughter without any worries", said Shashi Soni, a resident of Dhamtari to Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel during their virtual interaction. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel spoke to the beneficiaries of the NYAY Yojana (to return the



amount of chit fund investors), from his residence office via virtual mode today. While interacting with the Chief Minister, Ramchandra Nishad of Mohla Manpur Ambagarh Chowki told that his father had invested his entire life's earnings of Rs 14 lakh in a chit fund company and they lost everything to the fraud. Nothing was left with his family. But today Rs 4 lakh 18 thousand was returned in his account. Ramnaresh Patel, a resident of Manendragarh Chirmiri in Bharatpur district, told the Chief Minister that he is tearing

CM Baghel refunded the money to the investors duped by chit fund companies

Raipur: As part of the 'Nyay' programme for chit fund affected investors, today, 35,378 investors received relief, with an amount of Rs 4 crore 13 lakh 88 thousand 996 returned to them. Since its initiation, the Chhattisgarh Protection of Depositors Interest Act, 2005, has resulted in a total sum of Rs 37 crore 92 lakh 99 thousand 656 being disbursed to 81,204 affected investors. Actions have been taken under the relevant Act to protect investors in Chhattisgarh.



In response to the issue, actions have been taken against 208 chit fund companies, leading to the filing of 462 cases and the subsequent arrest of more than 700 directors/officials.

victims of this forgery, including government employees and other educated people. While talking to the victims, Chief Minister Baghel said that people had invested money in hope of better return and better future, but instead they were ripped off their hopes and hard earned money by the fraud chit fund companies. Chief

Minister assured them that the victims will get justice. Strict action is being taken against the culprits, which will continue in the future as well. Meanwhile, Chief Minister also directed the officials to complete legal action in the remaining cases at the earliest so that the money of the aggrieved investors could be returned.

CM offers prayers at Dudhadhari Math



Wishing happiness, peace, and prosperity of the state's residents

Raipur, Aug 02: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel offered prayers to Lord Shri Ram-Janki, Shri Balaji and Shri Hanuman

Ji in Dudhadhari Math on Wednesday, wishing for happiness, peace, prosperity and well-being for the people of the state.

President of Mineral Development Corporation, Girish Dewangan, President of Chhattisgarh Building and Construction Workers

Board, Sushil Sunny Agrawal, Chairman of Gauseva Ayog, Rajeshri Dr. Mahant Ramsundar Das, Mayor of Municipal Corporation Raipur, Aijaz Dhebar, Speaker of Municipal Corporation Raipur Pramod Dubey and others were present on the occasion.

Research must be used to solve social problems says IGNTU- VC

Amarkantakh, Aug 02:

While inaugurating 10-day research methodology course being jointly organized by the IGNTU and ICSSR, Prof. Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi Vice Chancellor of Indra Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU) underlines the important of social science research further stressed that society is plagued of social issues these can be mitigated through the research. Further, said IGNTU being the National university engaged in teaching research and capacity building activities, as a part of the capacity building the university encouraged and engaged in such activities for the last few years. He also stressed that during corona time many numbers of such programs conducted for the young researchers, while concluding his speech congratulated the Organizers for taking up red research methodology course is being organized by the Department of Education collaboration with the Department of statistics and department of Tourism Management IGNTU. In this program 30 PhD scholars from different states includes,



Kerala, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, MP, UP, Maharashtra are registered, senior and specialized experienced faculty members from NITS, IIMS, CUS, are invited to deliver lectures. The Course Director of the event Prof. MTV Nagaraju, Dean (Education) in inaugural speech shared that IGNTU is always proactive to carry out such programs which help the young researchers. Also explained these ten days course is a residential program designed to impart knowledge on latest software's used in social science research, also lectures will be on scheduled on latest techniques, latest application used in Research with special emphasis on R programme. This program is highly useful to the young re-

searchers. Also thanked ICSSR for sponsoring this program. The inaugural session was taken by Prof. Dilip Kumar Dey Vice Chancellor Bhabha university, Bhopal delivered a session on research on population. The second session was dealt by Dr. Vinod Sen, he highlighted about the importance of research in social sciences. The participants of the program shared their experiences about the sessions and also expressed their happiness stated that they felt happy to see the IGNTU in the beautiful ambience. Dr. Jaya Prakash the coordinator of the event explained the training course of action for the next ten days. The program ended with the vote of thanks by Dr. Balaswami Assistant Professor of statistics and the Course Co Director.

CM Baghel pays tribute to Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla, Martyr Vidyacharan Shukla

On their birth anniversary

Raipur, Aug 02: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel paid homage to the first Chief Minister of undivided Madhya Pradesh, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla, and former Union Minister Martyr Vidya Charan Shukla on their birth anniversary by paying floral tributes at his residence office today. Recalling the contribution of Pandit Shukla Ji to Chhattisgarh, the Chief Minister, Bhupesh Baghel, said that he played a leading role in the national movements



of the Indian freedom struggle. He did important work in bringing public awareness for the independence of the

also called the builder of modern Madhya Pradesh. The Chhattisgarh government has instituted the Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla Samman in his memory for his innovative efforts in the social, economic, and educational fields. His teachings as a leader will always show us the way. The efforts of Ravi Shankar ji for the progress of Chhattisgarh and maintaining social harmony here will be remembered forever. Remembering Vidya Charan Shukla, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that Vidya Charan is known as an efficient politician and administrator. He represented

Chhattisgarh for many years as a Union Minister. As a Minister to the Government of India, he held important responsibilities in the Ministries of Communications, Home, Defence, Finance, Planning, External Affairs, and Parliamentary Affairs. As a Union Minister, Vidya Charan paved the way for the development of Chhattisgarh and the country. Chhattisgarh will never forget the martyrdom of Vidya Charanji in the Jhiram Valley Naxalite attack. His contribution to Chhattisgarh will always be remembered.

Big decision taken in the interest of youth preparing for competitive exams

Category-wise cutoff list will be issued along with the result only for objective (multiple-choice) examinations

Number of interviews will be lower in the upcoming Ch'garh PSC exams

Bilaspur, Aug 02: Based on the demand of the candidates in the objective type (multiple-choice) examinations to be conducted by the Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission, it was decided that in future examinations, the category-

wise cut-off list of the candidates will be released along with the objective test results. Along with this, the number of interviews in the examinations conducted by the PSC will also be reduced. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel informed the youth about these decisions of the PSC during the divisional-level youth Bhent Mulakat program at Bahtarai Stadium in Bilaspur on Tuesday. The Chief Minister said to the youth that the state government is running many schemes while keeping in mind the interests of the youth. We have waived the fees for VYAPAM and

PSC. An unemployment allowance of Rs 112 crore was given to the youth in 4 months. The recruitment process is underway for 41 thousand posts. SI recruitment results will be out soon. Hostel to be established in Bilaspur for CGPSC preparation A student told the Chief Minister that a large number of students from other districts of the state come to Bilaspur to prepare for the CGPSC exam. A hostel facility would provide convenience to the students. Welcoming this suggestion, the Chief Minister said that they will provide the hostel facility in the next session.

Five-day PDP held in Amity University

With deliberations on 'Innovative Approaches in Fashion System'

Raipur, Aug 02: A five-day Professional Development Programme (PDP) was conducted on 'Innovative Approaches in Fashion System' by the Amity School of Fashion Technology, Amity University Chhattisgarh. The objective of the event was to induce multimodal perspective while approaching fashion to the academicians, researcher, industry professionals and budding designers and industry people belonging to Fashion, Textile Designing and Technology of various



organizations across India. It focused on major areas where innovation can be achieved to contribute fashion in designing and manufacturing of clothes while caring for the people and communities involved in the process, minimizing the impact on environment. Vice-Chancellor of

Institute for Research on Cotton Technology, Mumbai deliberated on 'Sustainable Processing of Cotton for Fashion System' and emphasized on the importance of the sustainability processing by highlighting the key details of cotton manufacturing. Dr. Seiko Jose, Scientist, Textile Chemistry, Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute (CSWRI), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Govt. India, focused on 'Sustainability in Fashion Industry' throwing light on the impact of fast and slow fashion on ecosystem as well as sustainability in longer run. Dr. C. Prakash, Director, Indian Institute of Handloom Technology,

Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, West Bengal deliberated on 'Innovative Approaches in Fashion Journal Publications', elucidating how to start research in fashion system, publication process, and sustainability ideas in fashion trend. Dr. Vandana Gupta, Professor & Head, Parul University, Gujarat expressed her views on 'Fashion Innovation with Industrial Revolution 5.0'. 243 participants from 25 states and UT participated in the event with great zeal and enthusiasm. The event was convened by Prof. (Dr.) Indrani Singh Rai, coordinated by Rajeev Kumar and Dipti Chaturvedi, moderated by Dr. Pratyush Ranjan Padhi and Ms. Annie Ali.

NTPC Korba achieves 40 years milestone of Commercial Operation of Unit-I

Korba, Aug 02: NTPC Korba, on August 1, 2023, welcomed C. Sivakumar, RED WR-II & USSC on the occasion of celebrating 40 years of Commercial Operation of Unit I. The Unit I of NTPC Korba marked its Commercial Operation Declaration Date as 01.08.1983. Since then it has been lighting up millions of lives. "Such milestones can only be achieved when all the employees, their families, service departments, everyone contribute their hard work and energy. The small pieces of art work help the whole to grow and prosper in totality," remarked C. Sivakumar, RED (WR-II & USSC).

Walkathon, Tree Plantation, Guest House Inauguration, Cultural Program, etc were some of the itineraries of the full day program. The convoy that accompanied the respected Executive Director included B. Ramachandra Rao (BUH, Korba), Madhu S. (GM O&M), S.P. Singh (GM Fuel Management), Somnath Prabherjee (GM Maintenance), Banerath Ram (Head of HR), Lokesh Mahindra (Chief Medical Officer) and other senior officials. To celebrate the milestone, NTPC Korba started with Walkathon along with the employees and their family members inside the township and marked the occasion with mass tree plantation. Following this, the convoy and employees headed towards the inauguration of the new guest house-Shabri Bhawan of NTPC Korba. The Shabri Bhawan was inaugurated by Gurdeep Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, NTPC Limited, in the auspicious presence of Dilip Kumar Patel, Director (HR), Ramesh Babu V., Director (Projects), Ujjwal Kanti Bhattacharya, Director (Operations), Jaikumar Srinivasan, Director (Finance) and Shivam Srivastava, Director (Fuel) live digitally via a virtual platform in the gracious presence of C. Sivakumar, RED WR-II & USSC and B. Ramchandra



Rao, CGM, Korba. The curtains were raised for new beginnings. As NTPC Korba now marks 40 years, we hope that Korba will shine for another 20 years with proper maintenance and safety requirements, remarked Gurdeep Singh, CMD, NTPC Limited.

He also congratulated everyone on this memorable occasion and gave special thanks to the employees who were a part of the 40 years journey since the beginning. Following the program schedule, all headed towards the hospital for blood donation. The blood donation

camp was in association with Bilasa and headed by Lokesh Mahindra, CMO, NTPC Korba. All the employees along with the convoy then headed towards the plant premises towards Unit I of NTPC Korba which completed 40 years of Commercial Operation. A small Puja and a cutting ceremony was held there. Further, the 40 years logo of Korba was unveiled by RED, C. Sivakumar at the Unit I Control Room commemorating the occasion. In the same line, the sports council of NTPC Korba also conducted a football match among Delhi Public School, NTPC Korba students and C. Sivakumar and B. Ramachandra Rao initiated

the match by kicking the football. Afterwards, a tug of war was organised between CISF, Security Wing and CISF, Fire Wing. Wherein, the Security Wing emerged as the winner. Bright and blooming NTPC Korba also organised a laser lighting show at dusk continuously projected at the Stage I Chimney marking the 40 years milestone. Last but not least, a cultural program in the evening was also organised. The participants included students of Delhi Public School, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Central Government School, Bal Bhawan, Saraswati Sishu Mandir and members of Maitri Mahila Samiti. The participants showcased their talents in various

forms of art namely dance, drama, and music. The auditorium was filled with joy, glamour and energy. During the program, employees who have served Korba for 40 years since 1983 and were from the beginning were also felicitated. Korba Super Thermal Power Station has been at the top performer for consecutively three years among NTPC Limited and standing tall for 40 years for a company in the industrial world is a great thing in itself, said B. Ramachandra Rao, CGM, Korba. Not limiting to only celebration, RED also headed the Station Review Meeting and visited the Ash Dykes of NTPC Korba.

GPT-3 matches undergraduates in reasoning abilities

■ Posing Fascinating Questions for AI Research

GPT-3, the renowned AI-powered language model, has demonstrated remarkable reasoning capabilities comparable to college undergraduate students, according to recent findings by researchers from the University of California - Los Angeles (UCLA), USA. In a series of tests, the AI behemoth was tasked with solving complex reasoning problems akin to intelligence and standardized tests such as the SAT, commonly used for college admissions. Notably, GPT-3 showed impressive aptitude in predicting the next shape following intricate arrangements of shapes, securing an 80% accuracy rate—surpassing human test-takers who averaged just below 60%. The researchers further tested GPT-3's ability to handle



SAT analogy questions, where it outperformed the human average. Analogical reasoning, an essential cognitive process, involves solving novel problems by comparing them to familiar ones and applying similar solutions. GPT-3's aptitude in selecting word pairs with shared relationships showcased its prowess in this domain. However, the AI displayed some limita-

tions when it came to solving analogies based on short stories. Human students outperformed GPT-3 in identifying different narratives that conveyed similar meanings after reading a passage. UCLA psychology professor Hongjing Lu, the senior author of the study published in *Nature Human Behaviour*, expressed surprise at the AI's reasoning capabilities, noting that

language learning models typically focus on word prediction. Despite the remarkable results, researchers remain curious about GPT-3's inner workings. The intricacies of its reasoning abilities remain guarded by its creator, OpenAI, leaving scientists eager to explore whether language models like GPT-3 are "thinking" akin to humans or merely employ-

ing strategies that mimic human thought processes. UCLA psychology professor Keith Holyoak, a co-author of the study, emphasized the vast difference in training methods between AI models and human learning. While GPT-3 ingests vast amounts of data, human cognition develops through more targeted and contextually-driven experiences.

The study has opened new avenues for AI research and the exploration of AI's cognitive capabilities. Understanding the extent to which AI models like GPT-3 engage in human-like reasoning or pave the way for novel and distinct artificial intelligence approaches could revolutionize the field. As AI continues to evolve, probing the depths of GPT-3's reasoning capacities promises to reveal groundbreaking insights, reshaping our understanding of the relationship between AI and human cognition.



Jordanian restaurant offers Post-Meal naps in comfortable rooms

Imagine indulging in a delicious meal and then being offered a cozy bed for a refreshing nap right at the restaurant. Well, this dreamy experience has become a reality at Moab, a restaurant in Jordan's capital city, Amman. After savoring the country's national dish, Mansaf, diners can now unwind in air-conditioned rooms for a restful nap. Mansaf, a traditional Levantine dish renowned for its richness, is made of lamb cooked in fermented dried yogurt sauce and served with rice. Due to its satisfying nature, it often induces a sense of sleepiness in those who enjoy it. The creative idea of adding beds to the restaurant was initially intended as a playful decoration to reflect

the typical post-Mansaf drowsiness, as shared by Musab Mubeideen, the son of the restaurant's owner. However, the idea took off when customers expressed their desire for a place to nap after indulging in the lavish dish. "We brought beds and set them up in a separate section in the restaurant. Customers now really use them for a quick nap after they have Mansaf," Mubeideen stated. One satisfied customer, Mohammad al-Ouqdah, pointed out the significance of taking a nap after a Mansaf meal. He emphasized that the dish's richness can sometimes leave one feeling dazed, making a nap essential. According to him, it's almost a tradition to rest

after indulging in Mansaf, and it would be unusual not to feel the need for sleep. The innovative concept has captured the attention of social media users, with a video showcasing the unique dining experience garnering nearly 65,000 views. Moab's thoughtful approach to providing a place for post-meal relaxation has earned the restaurant recognition and appreciation from patrons and beyond. Moab's offering of a restful space adds a new dimension to the dining experience, transforming it into a holistic and enjoyable affair. As word spreads about this extraordinary initiative, Moab's reputation as a restaurant that cares for its customers' comfort is sure to grow.

Women and children lag behind adult men in anaemia progression

The global burden of anaemia has persisted, with a new study published in *The Lancet Haematology* reporting nearly 2 billion people affected in 2021. Startlingly, women face twice the prevalence of anaemia compared to men, and the gender gap widens even further during their reproductive age, reaching more than three times the prevalence of men. The study, which spans three decades of anaemia data from 1990 to 2021, uncovers regional disparities, highlighting Western sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Central sub-Saharan Africa as the areas with the highest prevalence of anaemia. Conducted by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) in the US and its Global Burden of Disease anaemia collaborators, the study reveals that progress in combating anaemia has been slower for women and children compared to adult men. While the global picture shows improvement, the focus on geography, gender, and age



exposes significant disparities. In 2021, 31.2 per cent of women suffered from anaemia, while only 17.5 per cent of men were affected. When comparing reproductive-age individuals, anaemia prevalence in women soared to 33.7 per cent, in stark contrast to the 11.3 per cent prevalence in men. To address this critical health issue, researchers modelled 37 underlying causes for anaemia, emphasizing the need for comprehensive intervention and treatment plans, particularly for vulnerable populations

like women of reproductive age, children, and the elderly. The findings underscore the importance of addressing factors beyond dietary iron deficiency, the leading cause of anaemia in 2021, accounting for 66.2 per cent of cases. Other major contributors include gynaecological disorders and maternal haemorrhage in women of reproductive age, while haemoglobinopathies and infectious diseases play significant roles in anaemia cases among children under five, particularly in regions with a higher prevalence of these conditions.

Notably, the study also highlights a concerning educational gap among young women and girls regarding blood loss during menstruation, limited options for managing menstrual problems, and insufficient knowledge on how to identify and treat anaemia effectively. Anaemia has previously been associated with various adverse outcomes, such as increased rates of anxiety, depression, preterm labour, postpartum haemorrhage, low birthweight, short gestation, stillbirth, and infections for both mothers and children. IHME researcher and lead author of the paper, Will Gardner, emphasizes the need for multisectoral approaches and increased cultural awareness to ensure that women and children are not left behind in the fight against anaemia. As the global community seeks to reduce anaemia's burden, addressing these gender and age-based disparities becomes paramount in achieving equitable and improved health outcomes worldwide.

■ Bride Walks Down Flooded Aisle in the Philippines

A heartwarming video of a determined bride and groom pushing through with their wedding amidst flooding caused by Typhoon Doksuri in the Philippines has gone viral on social media. The touching clip captured the bride, Dianne Victoriano, bravely wading through ankle-deep floodwaters at the Barasoain Church in Malolos. Despite the devastation brought on by Typhoon Doksuri, known locally as Typhoon Egay, the couple was unwavering in their decision to proceed with their special day. "We just resolved to push through with the ceremony, no matter what," the bride shared, as reported by *The Independent*. Typhoon Doksuri's relentless rains intensified the monsoon season and triggered widespread flooding in various parts of the province of Bulacan. The storm's fury caused power outages and destruction throughout the region,

Love Triumphs Over Typhoon



as reported by the BBC. In the days leading up to their wedding, the couple admitted feeling anxious due to the heavy rainfall. Nevertheless, the determined pair exchanged vows at the Barasoain Church, with their courageous guests joining them by wading through the flooded venue to witness their union. Ms Victoriano expressed that the presence of their loved ones was what truly mattered. "It didn't matter if the guests refused to

come because of the situation. What's important is that we wanted to be married, that the two of us were there, and that our families were with us," she stated, according to *The Independent*. The couple's high-spiritedness and unwavering love earned them admiration and praise on social media. A Facebook post with pictures and short clips from their eventful day garnered numerous comments applauding their resilience. One

user remarked, "There's no storm or flood for two people in love, so the wedding continues!" Another playfully joked, "It's like a beach wedding, the sand is lacking." Meanwhile, Typhoon Doksuri made landfall on an island and unleashed its wrath on northern Philippine provinces with fierce winds and heavy rainfall. The storm caused extensive damage, displacing thousands of people in several regions.

What happens if someone dies in space?

Emmanuel Urquieta

Sending humans to space is a challenging and hazardous endeavor. Over the past 60 years, 20 people have lost their lives during human space exploration, with incidents like the NASA space shuttle tragedies, the Soyuz 11 mission, and the Apollo 1 launch pad fire. As space missions become more frequent, the possibility of someone dying in space raises an important question: What happens to the body? Currently, on low-Earth-orbit missions, such as those on the International Space Station, if someone were to die, the crew could return the body to Earth within a matter of hours. Protocols are already in place for such events. On a Moon mission, the body could be brought back within a few days. In these scenarios, the priority is ensuring the safe return of the remaining crew. However, if an astronaut were to die during the 300 million-mile trip to Mars, the crew likely wouldn't be able to turn back.



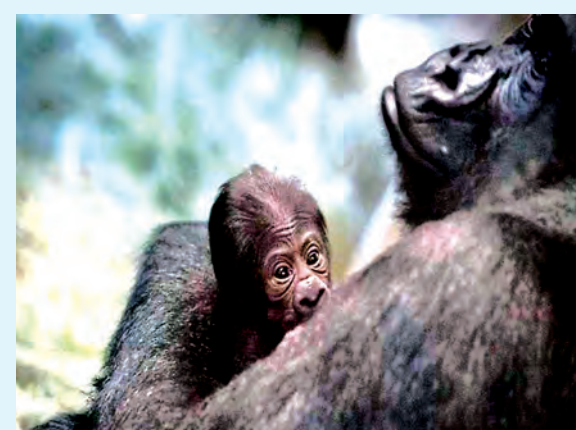
The body would likely return to Earth along with the crew at the end of the mission, which could be a couple of years later. During this time, the body would be preserved in a separate chamber or specialized body bag inside the spacecraft. If someone were to venture outside into space without a

spacesuit, they would die almost instantly. The exposure to the vacuum of space would prevent them from breathing, and their blood and other bodily fluids would boil. On the Moon or Mars, the thin or non-existent atmosphere would result in a similar outcome. Without a spacesuit, the

astronaut would suffocate and experience boiling blood due to the lack of pressure and oxygen. Regarding burial, cremation would require too much energy needed for survival, and traditional burial could contaminate the Martian surface. Instead, the body would likely be preserved in a specialized body bag until it could be returned to Earth. Dealing with death in space goes beyond handling the remains. Supporting the crew in coping with the loss and assisting grieving families on Earth are equally crucial aspects. To truly establish colonies on other celestial bodies, meticulous planning and protocols will be necessary to address this somber scenario. As space exploration becomes more ambitious, ensuring the well-being of astronauts, both in life and death, will remain a crucial focus for space agencies. (Writer is a Professor of Space Medicine and Emergency Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine)

Male Gorilla gives birth to a baby girl at US zoo

A heartwarming and extraordinary tale unfolded at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium in Ohio, United States, leaving the staff astonished. For four years, they believed a gorilla named Sully to be male, only to discover that Sully was, in fact, a female. The astonishment didn't end there - Sully surprised everyone by giving birth to a beautiful baby girl. In an Instagram post, the zoo shared the delightful news, expressing their joy at the unexpected arrival of a female baby gorilla. However, the real surprise came when the dedicated keepers, called in to investigate, realized that Sully, the proud mother, was misidentified as a male all along. The zoo's blog explained that determining the sex of gorillas before the age of 8 is challenging since males and females are similar in size and lack prominent sex organs. It is only as they grow



older that sexual dimorphism becomes apparent, with males developing distinctive features like larger size, silver backs, and prominent head bumps known as sagittal crests, typically around age 12 or later. The Congo and Animal Health care teams have been diligently monitoring Sully and her newborn, and everything is going well, according

to the Instagram post. The heartening story of Sully, once believed to be a male gorilla, proving herself as a loving mother to a baby girl, has touched the hearts of many at the zoo and captivated the world. This surprise twist highlights the complexity of animal behaviors and serves as a reminder of the wonders that nature has in store for us.

Beijing record heaviest rainfall, severe flooding in cities

Zhuozhou (China), Aug 02 (AP):

China's capital has recorded its heaviest rainfall in at least 140 years over the past few days after being deluged with heavy rains from the remnants of Typhoon Doksuri.

The city recorded 744.8 millimetres of rain between Saturday and Wednesday morning, the Beijing Meteorological Bureau said Wednesday.

Beijing and the surrounding province of Hebei were hit by severe flooding because of the record rainfall, with waters rising to dangerous levels. The rain destroyed roads and knocked out power and pipes carrying drinking water. Overflowing rivers surrounding the capital left some cars waterlogged, while lifting others onto bridges meant for pedestrians.



Residents are evacuated by rubber boats through in northern China's Hebei province, south of Beijing, Wednesday, Aug. 2. China's capital has recorded its heaviest rainfall in at least 140 years over the past few days. Among the hardest hit areas is Zhuozhou, a small city that borders Beijing's southwest.

workers fanned out across cities in the north as government repair crews got to work.

Among the hardest hit areas is Zhuozhou, a small city in Hebei province that borders Beijing's southwest. On

running water, gas or electricity since Tuesday afternoon.

"I didn't think it would be that severe, I thought it was just a little bit of water and that it would recede," said 54-year-old Wang Huiying. She ended up spending the night on the third floor of her building as the water seeped into the first floor, which holds her steamed bread shop. All the machinery is now underwater.

It's unknown how many people are trapped in flood-stricken areas in the city and surrounding villages. Rescue teams from different provinces in China were on the scene in Zhuozhou to assist with evacuations.

"We have to grasp every second, every minute to save people," said 48-year-old Zhong Hongjun, who was the head of a rescue team from coastal Jiangsu province.

POPE FRANCIS IN LISBON



Pope Francis is welcomed by the honour guard as he arrives at the Figo Maduro airbase in Lisbon, Wednesday, Aug. 2. Pope Francis arrived Wednesday in Lisbon to attend the international World Youth Day on Sunday that is expected to bring hundreds of thousands of young Catholic faithful to Portugal.

Powerful typhoon pounds Japan's Okinawa

● Injures more than 30 people

Tokyo, Aug 02 (AP):

A powerful typhoon slammed Okinawa and other islands in southwestern Japan Wednesday with high winds injuring more than 30 people as it moved west making its way toward mainland China. The Japan Meteorological Agency said the typhoon is heading to the East China Sea, but may change course and head back to Japan later this week.

Typhoon Khanun, which means jackfruit in Thai, was heading west at speeds of 15 kph, packing surface winds of up to 162 kph. It was at sea southwest of Okinawa's main island, according to the agency.

Thirty-four people were injured, with three seriously hurt, according to the Okinawa prefecture-

al government. The typhoon damaged several homes and forced transportation to halt and stores to close as it slowly moved west. Many hospitals were only receiving emergency cases.

The storm also left nearly 200,000 homes, or about 30 per cent, of those in Okinawa, without power, according to the Okinawa Electric Power Company.

In the Ogimi village in northeastern Okinawa, a man was found without vital signs after a garage

collapsed on him possibly due to violent wind, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency said. The 90-year-old man was later pronounced dead in hospital. Officials said they are investigating his death to see if it was due to the typhoon. Several other

homes were also damaged. Hundreds of domestic and international flights in and out of the Naha airport were cancelled, and public transportation, including buses, light rail transit systems and ferries connecting the region's islands, were suspended.

Pakistan PM plans elections based on digital census

Islamabad, Aug 02 (PTI):

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said the next general election will be held on the basis of the new digital census, a move that is likely to be opposed by other political parties in the coalition government as it will lead to delayed polls.

In an interview on Tuesday, the prime minister said elections will be held according to the digital census conducted earlier this year, the Dawn newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Pakistan's first-ever nationwide population and housing digital census was carried out in March this year.

"We have to hold the elections on the basis of



the new census. When a census has been conducted, the [polls] should be held on its basis unless there is an obstacle that cannot be overcome. But I don't see [any such hurdle]," Sharif was quoted as saying.

Parties like Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) have been demanding elections on its basis, but others like the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) are opposing the move as it might delay the polls.

EC defers Imran Khan's indictment in contempt case again

● Next hearing on August 22

Islamabad, Aug 02 (PTI):

Pakistan's election commission on Wednesday deferred the indictment of Imran Khan again in a case linked to the contempt of the top electoral body and its head till August 22 after the former prime minister failed to appear before it in person.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) initiated contempt proceedings against Khan, 70, and former leaders of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, Asad Umar and Fawad Chaudhry, last year for allegedly using "intemperate" language



against the chief election commissioner and the electoral watchdog.

The electoral body's four-member bench, headed by Nisar Ahmad Durrani, deferred Khan's indictment till August 22 on Wednesday as he failed to appear before them, Geo News reported.

Khan's representative, Shoaib Shaheen, filed an application seeking exemption from personal appearance on his behalf and requested an adjournment till September.

Mideast countries fear price hikes after Russia's grain deal exit

Cairo, Aug 02 (AP):

Ahmed Salah grew anxious when he heard the news that Russia had suspended a crucial wartime grain deal. The bakery owner in Egypt's capital is concerned it could mean global food prices soar.

"There mightn't be immediate impact," the 52-year-old said last week as he oversaw workers baking bread in his shop in Cairo, "but if they didn't find a solution soonest, things would be very difficult."

Russia pulled out of the deal brokered by the U.N. and Turkey to allow Ukraine's grain to flow during a global food crisis. It helped stabilize food

prices that soared last year after Russia invaded Ukraine two countries that are major suppliers of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other food to developing nations.

Egypt, the world's largest wheat importer, and other lower-income Middle Eastern countries like Lebanon and Pakistan worry about what comes next. Struggling with economic woes that have driven more people into poverty, they fear rising food prices could create even more pain for households, businesses and government bottom lines.

Many have diversified their sources of wheat, the main ingredient for flatbread that is a staple of

diets in many Mideast countries, and don't expect shortages. Pakistan has even seen a bumper crop despite unprecedented flooding last year.

But the end of the grain deal is creating uncertainty about price hikes, a major driver of hunger.

It "is an unnecessary shock for the 345 million acutely food insecure people around the world," said Abeer Etefa, a spokeswoman for the U.N.'s World Food

Program. Russia also has launched attacks on Ukrainian ports and agricultural infrastructure following the collapse of the accord, leading global wheat prices to zigzag. Despite the volatility, the costs are below what they were before Russia invaded Ukraine, and there is enough production to meet worldwide demand, said Joseph Glauber, senior research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute.

चयन समिति, कार्यालय- जिला एवं सत्र न्यायाधीश, बलौदा बाजार, जिला-बलौदा बाजार-भाटपारा (छ.ग.)

--: साक्षात्कार/कौशल एवं शारीरिक दक्षता परीक्षा की सूचना --:

कार्यालय जिला एवं सत्र न्यायाधीश, बलौदाबाजार छ.ग. में आकरिमिक निधि (साट्रमेन, चौकीदार, स्वीपर) के पद पर आवेदन करने वाले पात्र अभ्यर्थियों को सूचित किया जाता है कि वे दिनांक 06/08/2023 को कार्यालय जिला एवं सत्र न्यायाधीश, बलौदाबाजार छ.ग. में प्रातः 09-00 बजे साक्षात्कार/कौशल एवं शारीरिक दक्षता हेतु आवश्यक रूप से उपस्थित रहें।

नोट:- पात्र अभ्यर्थियों को निर्देशित किया जाता है कि वे अपने साथ अंकसूची अनुभव प्रमाणपत्र (ड्रायविंग का अनुभव रखने वाले अभ्यर्थी अपने साथ मूल ड्रायविंग लायसेंस साथ में लायें), परिचय पत्र (जैसे आधार कार्ड, ड्रायविंग लायसेंस, राशन कार्ड व अन्य) तथा वांछित दस्तावेजों की मूल प्रतियाँ के साथ उपस्थित होंगे।

अध्यक्ष चयन समिति, कार्यालय जिला एवं सत्र न्यायाधीश, बलौदाबाजार (छ.ग.)

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक निर्माण विभाग (भ/स) कांकेर संभाग-कांकेर

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

क्रमांक- 3161/NIT-03/2023-2024/ व ले लि दिनांक : 31/07/2023

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम / No Of Calls	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)	कार्य की अवधि
T0021	लो.नि.वि. अनुविभाग चारामा अंतर्गत विभिन्न मार्गों में डबल्यू.एम.एम. पेव रिपेयर कार्य।	4.00 3000.00 60000.00	03 माह वर्षा ऋतु सहित
T0025	कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, लोक निर्माण विभाग मण्डल कांकेर के छत में सभा कक्ष का निर्माण कार्य। (बचत कार्य) दिव्यतीय आमंत्रण	13.32 9990.00 199800.00	03 माह वर्षा ऋतु सहित

निविदा संबंधी शर्तें विभागीय वेबसाइट www.pwd.cg.nic.in में Live Tender के अंतर्गत निविदा प्रपत्र में उपलब्ध है। इनका अवलोकन संबंधित संभाग कार्यालय में किया जा सकता है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता, लोक निर्माण विभाग (भ/स) कांकेर संभाग-कांकेर

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tender No: Sr.DEE-G-R-OTP-23-24-06 Date: 25/07/2023
Work: Electrical (G) portion of work- (1) Improvement of power supply arrangement including 33 & 11KV sub-station at WRS/Raipur. (2) Creation of infrastructure and test set up facilities for homing of electric locomotives at Diesel Loco Shed, Raipur.
Tender Value: Rs.85,45,844.00/- EMD: Rs.1,71,000.00/- Submission of Tender: Up to 11:45 hours on 25.08.2023
For further details/purchase of tender document, eligibility criteria & the complete details for the above work, please contact office of Sr.DEE/G/R or refer/download tender document which is available on our website: www.treps.gov.in Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offers received shall be rejected.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/R5&G PRR/Sr.DEE (R5&G)/APB S.E.C.R., Raipur
South East Central Railway @scrail

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक निर्माण विभाग संभाग कवर्धा (छ.ग.)
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
क्रमांक - 3259/NIT-10/2023-24/ व ले लि दिनांक : 31/07/23
निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय करने हेतु आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि :- 11/08/2023 अपराह्न 5.30 बजे तक
टेकेंदारों द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदायें प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि :- 17/08/2023 अपराह्न 5.30 बजे तक
निविदा खोलने की तिथि :- 18/08/2023 पूर्वाह्न 11.30 बजे तक
निविदाकारों की श्रेणी :- 'द' श्रेणी से 'अ' तक

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम / NoOfCalls	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)	कार्य की अवधि
T0034	पंडरिया उप संभाग के अंतर्गत विभिन्न मार्गों में डबल्यू.एम.एम. पेव रिपेयर का कार्य	19.67 14760.00 295050.00	प्रथम आमंत्रण
T0035	पंडरिया उप संभाग के अंतर्गत मटेरियल सप्लाई का कार्य	10.00 7500.00 150000.00	प्रथम आमंत्रण
T0036	लोक निर्माण विभाग उप संभाग बोडला के अंतर्गत मटेरियल सप्लाई का कार्य	20.00 15000.00 300000.00	प्रथम आमंत्रण
T0037	लो. नि. वि. उप संभाग कवर्धा के अंतर्गत 45mm, 22.4mm, 11.2mm, 6.7mm में विभिन्न मार्गों में मेटल सप्लाई का कार्य	10.00 7500.00 150000.00	प्रथम आमंत्रण

निविदा संबंधी शर्तें विभागीय वेबसाइट www.pwd.cg.nic.in/pwdraipur में Live Tender के अंतर्गत निविदा प्रपत्र में उपलब्ध है। इनका अवलोकन संबंधित संभाग कार्यालय में किया जा सकता है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक निर्माण विभाग संभाग कवर्धा

Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
Room No. 517, 5th floor, Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex New Delhi 110003
National Awards for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, for the year 2023

Applications for National Awards in the field of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for the year 2023 were earlier invited by this Department on 15th June 2023. The last date for submitting applications/nominations was upto 31st July, 2023.

- It is for information of General Public that the last date for submission of applications/nominations on the common award portal (www.awards.gov.in) for National Awards for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, for the year 2023 has now been extended from 01.08.2023 to 15.08.2023.
- It is once again brought to the notice of all concerned that applications/nominations for the above award for the year 2023 may be submitted only through online mode on the password protected centralized portal (www.awards.gov.in) by 15th August 2023. Applications in physical form/e-mail will not be considered.
- Eligibility criteria and other details are available on the website of the Department at the following link: <https://disabilityaffairs.gov.in/>

CBC 38117/11/0027/2324

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN, RAIPUR (C.G.)
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
CORRIGENDUM No - 01
In System Tender 141826/NIT No. :01/G/MB/2023, Raipur, Dated: 18.07.2023
Whose G-Number is 03461 dated 19.07.2023
following amendments are made :-

S.No	Earlier Published	Amendments Now Read as
1	Disclaimer (3rd para) - Time and Quality is of essence. It is not bound to accept the lowest financial offer and may negotiate with the most technically qualified bidder.	Time and Quality of Work is of essence. Govt. is not bound to accept the lowest financial offer and may negotiate with the most technically qualified bidder.
2	2. Section 11 - Instructions to the Bidders- Instructions 1. Definitions - (a) "Competent Authority" means the Office of CHIEF ENGINEER, MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, RAIPUR (C.G.) FOR Engineer-in-Chief, Water Resource Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur	"Competent Authority" means the Office of Engineer-in-Chief, Water Resource Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur
3	11.1 Bid Document Fee :- (i) Bidder shall make payment of Rs. 311.00 (Online participation fee) and Rs. 10,000 (Rupees Ten Thousand only) towards RFP document fee as Demand Draft (non-refundable) payable at Raipur (C.G.) in favour of CHIEF ENGINEER, MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, RAIPUR (C.G.)	(i) Bidder shall make payment of Rs. 311.00 (Online participation fee) and Rs. 10,000 (Rupees Ten Thousand only) towards RFT document fee as Demand Draft (non-refundable) payable at Durg (C.G.) in favour of THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TANDULA WATER RESOURCES DIVISION DURG (C.G.)
4	11.2 Earnest Money Deposit :- (i) An EMD of Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rs. Five lakhs only), an irrevocable and unconditional is required to be submitted in form of DD payable at Raipur (C.G.) or FDR in favour of CHIEF ENGINEER, MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, RAIPUR (C.G.)	(i) An EMD of Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rs. Five lakhs only), an irrevocable and unconditional is required to be submitted in form of DD payable at Durg (C.G.) or FDR in favour of THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TANDULA WATER RESOURCES DIVISION DURG (C.G.)

Note :- All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.
CHIEF ENGINEER, MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, RAIPUR (C.G.) FOR Engineer-in-Chief Water Resource Department, Government of Chhattisgarh.



CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 48 No. 298

Ticking Time Bomb

Glacial Melting in Ladakh

The accelerated melting of the Himalayan Parkachik Glacier in Ladakh has sounded the alarm among scientists from the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun. Their observations reveal a chilling reality - the potential formation of three glacial lakes. This development poses a severe risk of catastrophic flooding, prompting deep concern among experts and local authorities. The Ladakh administration must not underestimate the gravity of this situation and should immediately devise a comprehensive strategy to address any untoward incidents. At the heart of these distressing environmental changes lies climate change, primarily driven by global warming. The rapid pace of unchecked development and rampant deforestation has contributed significantly to exacerbating this crisis. Trees, acting as nature's carbon dioxide sponges, play a crucial role in neutralizing greenhouse gas emissions. However, in the relentless pursuit of development projects, vast numbers of trees are felled, and the promised afforestation efforts often fall short of expectations. Consequently, our lush green forests continue to diminish, rendering us increasingly vulnerable to the devastating effects of global warming. To compound matters, the burning of fossil fuels and the relentless expansion of urban areas, characterized by concrete structures, have further escalated carbon emissions. The ever-increasing reliance on fossil fuel-dependent vehicles and air conditioners has worsened the impact of global warming on our environment. The consequences of climate change, spanning extreme weather events to melting glaciers, rising sea levels, and erratic weather patterns, are now unmistakable worldwide. These changes not only pose a significant threat to human lives but also jeopardize the delicate balance of ecosystems and biodiversity. The time has come for societies, governments, and individuals to acknowledge the urgency of the situation and take immediate and proactive measures to invest in environmental conservation and sustainability. To combat carbon emissions and preserve critical habitats, we must intensify efforts in reforestation and afforestation. Reforestation projects aim to replant trees in areas that were previously covered with forests, while afforestation refers to planting trees in areas that have not been previously forested. Both these initiatives can significantly contribute to offsetting carbon dioxide levels, mitigating the impact of climate change. Furthermore, transitioning to renewable and cleaner energy sources is paramount in reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. The promotion and adoption of solar, wind, hydroelectric, and other sustainable energy alternatives are essential components of the solution. The consequences of inaction or delayed action will be severe and far-reaching. To safeguard the planet for future generations, we must act decisively and collaboratively. It is not merely the responsibility of a select few but a shared obligation that transcends borders and political boundaries. Governments must lead the way by implementing robust policies and regulations that incentivize sustainable practices and disincentivize activities that contribute to environmental degradation. At the same time, businesses and industries must take the initiative to adopt eco-friendly practices, embracing the principles of corporate social responsibility. Moreover, individuals play a pivotal role in this endeavor. Each person must embrace a sustainable lifestyle, making conscious choices in consumption, waste management, and energy usage. This climate crisis requires us to unite as a global community. International cooperation, knowledge sharing, and technological advancements will be instrumental in finding innovative solutions to combat climate change. Forums and conferences, such as the United Nations Climate Change Conferences, provide platforms for nations to come together, exchange ideas, and formulate joint strategies.

Chip Revolution

India's Semiconductor Ascent with Quad Allies

India's vision of becoming a global powerhouse in semiconductor design, manufacturing, and technology development is rapidly gaining momentum, thanks to its strategic partnership with fellow Quad members - Japan, the US, and Australia. At the recently concluded SemiconIndia Conference 2023 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India showcased its impressive progress in the semiconductor industry. With the collaboration of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar, India's semiconductor mission is evolving into a serious endeavor aimed at establishing a robust platform for 'trusted manufacturing'. The key to India's semiconductor ambitions lies in attracting significant investments to bolster its nascent semiconductor ecosystem. Several American companies, including Micron Technology, Applied Materials, and Lam Research, have already committed substantial investments in the country. Micron Technology pledged up to \$825 million to establish a semiconductor assembly and test facility with Indian government support. Applied Materials committed to investing \$400 million to set up a collaborative engineering center, while Lam Research plans to train 60,000 Indian engineers to bolster the nation's semiconductor education and workforce development goals. Moreover, India has finalized a semiconductor supply chain pact with Japan and is actively working with Australia on critical minerals projects involving lithium and cobalt, underlining the country's commitment to semiconductor growth. However, India faced a setback when Taiwanese major Foxconn withdrew from a \$19.5-billion joint venture with Indian mining conglomerate Vedanta last month. This episode highlights the importance of compatibility and synergy between partners for the success of significant projects. To achieve its semiconductor ambitions, the Indian government must play a proactive role as an enabler and facilitator. The \$10-billion fiscal incentives offered to chip-making factories setting up in the country could be a game-changer, provided that ease of doing business remains a top priority. Collaboration and cooperation among various stakeholders are crucial to achieving the twin goals of 'Make in India' and 'Make for the World.' Reducing dependence on Taiwan and China for expensive semiconductor imports is a pivotal aspect of India's mission. By diversifying its semiconductor supply chain through strategic alliances with Quad members, India can strengthen its position in the global semiconductor landscape. This diversification not only ensures access to crucial resources but also enhances national security by reducing vulnerability to geopolitical tensions. To make this vision a reality, the Indian government needs to create an environment that fosters innovation, research, and development in the semiconductor sector. By investing in cutting-edge technologies and nurturing talent, India can create a thriving semiconductor ecosystem that attracts global players and contributes significantly to the country's economic growth. Strategic collaborations, substantial investments, and a focus on reducing dependency on certain regions for imports are crucial factors in realizing India's semiconductor dream. By pursuing these avenues diligently and fostering a conducive business environment, India can position itself as a formidable force in the semiconductor industry and pave the way for a brighter technological future. The time is ripe for India to embrace this chip revolution and carve a distinct identity as a global semiconductor hub.

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

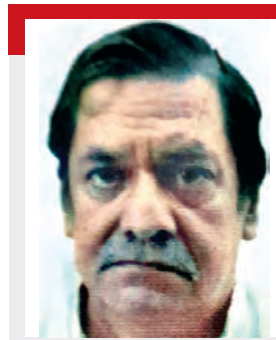
COLLAPSED BRIDGE



People pass through the remaining parts of a collapsed bridge after heavy monsoon rains, at Ichadih village, about 70 km from Ranchi, Wednesday, Aug 2.

Artistic Freedom Under Threat

Unpacking the Parliament Committee's Medal Recommendation



YASH PAL RALHAN



In recent times, the Indian artistic community has witnessed a growing trend of artists threatening to return their prestigious awards as a form of protest against various issues plaguing the nation. The uproar reached its peak when boxers in Delhi declared their intent to throw their medals in the Ganga, only to postpone the act later due to the intervention of farmer leaders. Recognizing the significance of this issue, a Parliament standing committee has put forth a recommendation that national award recipients should provide a written undertaking never to return their prizes. While the intention behind this move may be to discourage such protests, it raises important questions about freedom of expression and the role of artists in society.

The Suppression of Independent Thought

The standing committee's suggestion implies that the government's support for award recipients is conditional on their silence regarding issues that may criticize the authorities or highlight social injustices. Such a condition suppresses the expression of independent thoughts and curtails an artist's right to voice their concerns. In a democratic country like India, where the freedom of expression is a fundamental right, this recommendation raises concerns about the erosion of democratic values.

History of Award Protests

The recent wave of award protests has been fueled by instances of violence and inaction on the part of the government. In 2015, writers and artists returned their awards to protest against the murder of writer M.M Kalburgi by vigilantes, signaling the government's failure to address such issues adequately. This act of protest was an expression of their anguish and concern for the well-being of society. The standing committee's proposal disregards the underlying causes of such protests and instead seeks to label them as 'political,' at-

tempting to undermine their legitimacy.

Freedom of Press and Democratic Image

India's record on freedom of press has been a subject of concern, with instances of media censorship and restrictions on journalists. The committee's recommendation, which seeks to stifle artistic dissent, adds another layer of constraint on freedom of expression in the country. This, in turn, might further impact India's democratic image on the international stage. The nation's reputation for valuing diverse viewpoints and promoting artistic expression is at stake, and it is crucial to strike a balance between respecting the government's awards and upholding the right to express dissenting opinions.

Questioning the Notion of 'Non-Political' Awards

The notion that awards given by academies are apolitical is open to debate. In reality, any award bestowed by a government body inherently carries some degree of political influence. Artists, as citizens and human beings, have the right to be politically engaged and address issues that concern society. Dismissing their protests as 'political' in a derogatory manner not only undermines their role as critical thinkers but also devalues the power of art as a tool for social change and reflection.

Artistic Integrity vs. Government Patronage

The crux of the matter lies in the balance between artistic integrity and government

patronage. Award recipients should be celebrated for their artistic prowess and contributions to society, not merely as patrons of the government's ideologies. The insistence on no-return undertakings implies that awards are not a recognition of talent and creativity but a means of control and coercion.

Conclusion

The Parliament standing committee's recommendation on medals has sparked a significant debate on the role of artists in society and the freedom of expression they should enjoy. The proposal, if implemented hastily, may have adverse effects on India's democratic ethos and artistic integrity. It is essential for the government to engage in open and thoughtful consultations with all concerned stakeholders, including artists, academics, and the public, before making any decisions. The focus should be on nurturing a society that values diverse perspectives, encourages artistic expression, and upholds the principles of democracy, rather than stifling the voices that speak for change and justice. Only then can India continue to be a thriving hub of creative expression and uphold its reputation as a vibrant democracy on the global stage.

(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

Hypocritical Gesture

Opposition MPs visited violence-hit Manipur to gain leverage against the government in Parliament. However, their failure to visit other affected states like West Bengal, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh raises concerns about double standards and hints at vote-bank politics. Regardless of the state, society must unequivocally condemn crimes like rape against women. It's disheartening to witness such selective actions from the Opposition, which should prioritize condemning crime and supporting justice over political gains.

Sudensh Shandravanshi, New Delhi

Women's Complicity

The role of women leading and offering protection to terrorists in Manipur needs acknowledgment and accountability. Treating them as accomplices is vital, as they can be held responsible for the main perpetrator's crimes. Exploiting the ethical values of the Indian Army, known for fair fighting, is unacceptable. The situation is complex, especially with the revocation of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA). Thus, it becomes imperative for the Army and Central forces to adhere to conflict management norms and international humanitarian laws while operating in the region.

Gangadharan K P. Kannur

Empowering Women

The distressing rise in heinous crimes and sexual assaults against women and minors is an affront to their rights and dignity. To promote comprehensive development and well-being, integrating sex education and awareness campaigns into the academic curriculum is vital. Sex education should go beyond biology, addressing sexual health, relationships, consent, gender equality, and responsible decision-making. Ensuring dignity for women is paramount in building a safer and more equitable society.

Shiv Kumar Mishra, Raipur

Parliamentary Chaos

The continuous disruption of parliamentary proceedings leads to a wasteful use of the country's resources. The constant hubbub hinders the legislative process, delaying crucial debates and discussions, and undermines the effective functioning of the institution. While the lack of promptness from the Central Government regarding the Manipur violence is a concern, suspending Parliament is not a suitable solution. Stalling House proceedings disappoint the people and hinder progress on various issues. It is essential to find more constructive ways to address grievances and hold the government accountable without compromising the functioning of the Parliament.

MK Nair, Raipur

Popularising Sports and Games Through Banners and Posters

In the pursuit of promoting sports and games among the youth, Prof. Vasishth, Former Head of the Department, History, at Malabar Christian College, Calicut, has taken a proactive approach. An avid sports enthusiast himself, he and his students seize the opportunity of important sporting events to create banners and posters that serve as powerful tools for popularizing and introducing various sports and games to the younger generation.

On the cusp of prestigious events like the FIFA Women's World Cup, Asian Games, Wimbledon, Asia Cup Hockey, Durand Cup, and others, the creators enthusiastically delve into crafting these eye-catching displays. These creative masterpieces serve not only as decorative elements but also as channels to ignite interest and curiosity about different sports and games in the minds of youngsters.

Beyond mere physical activity, the belief resonates that sports and games inherently carry profound messages that extend to communal harmony, freedom, and internationalism. Through these expressive banners and posters, the essence of such messages finds resonance with the impressionable minds of the youth, leaving a lasting impact on their perspective towards sports and life in general.

Transcending cultural and geographical boundaries, these banners and posters act as bridges, connecting people from diverse backgrounds through the spirit of unity and cooperation inherent in



sports. They encourage individuals to embrace sportsmanship and camaraderie, fostering a sense of belonging and shared experience.

The initiative of popularizing sports and games through banners and posters also plays a crucial role in steering

young minds away from sedentary lifestyles and digital distractions. The vibrancy and energy emanating from these visually captivating displays are compelling enough to inspire the youth to venture out and actively engage in physical activities, leading to healthier and more active lifestyles.

Moreover, these banners and posters have proven to be instrumental in fostering a sense of pride and enthusiasm among students and sports enthusiasts. They instill a sense of ownership and active participation in various sports events, encouraging in-

dividuals to not only support but also actively engage with the sporting community.

The efforts made by Prof. Vasishth and his students to popularize sports and games through banners and posters exemplify a commendable approach towards nurturing a generation that values the importance of physical activity, sportsmanship, and cultural diversity.

As these creations continue to make a significant impact in promoting sports among the youth, they serve as an inspiring example for educational institutions and sports enthusiasts alike to foster a sporting culture that transcends borders and brings people together in harmony. By celebrating the spirit of sportsmanship and the joy of participation, these banners and posters become catalysts for instilling a lasting love for sports and games among the younger generation.

BRIEF

Appointment



New Delhi: Tech giant Microsoft on Tuesday announced the appointment of Puneet Chandok as Corporate Vice President of Microsoft India and South Asia. Effective September 1, 2023, Chandok will assume the operational responsibilities from Anant Maheshwari, Microsoft said in a release. "Supported by a strong leadership team, Puneet will oversee the integration of Microsoft's businesses across South Asia, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, further boosting the company's presence in the region, while deepening its focus on key industries through a customer-centric approach with generative AI (Artificial Intelligence) at its core," it added.

Alternative fuels

New Delhi: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday asked the construction and equipment industry to reduce their fuel cost by using alternative fuels like ethanol and methanol. The Minister for Road Transport and Highways was speaking at the annual session of the Indian Construction and Equipment Manufacturers Association (ICEMA) here. "You can bring down your cost by 15-20 per cent by usage of methanol which comes at Rs 25 a litre.

Fruit market



Shimla: The Himachal Pradesh government is in the process of developing fruit hubs to increase production as per region-specific conditions, chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said while inaugurating a Rs.28.38-crore fruit market in Solan district on Tuesday.

RBI likely to maintain status quo on interest rates: Experts

Kolkata, Aug 02:

With inflation inching up, experts feel that the Reserve Bank of India is likely to maintain the status quo on key interest rates.

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee, headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, will hold the meeting from August 8 to 10. Prof N R Bhanumurthy, Vice Chancellor, Dr B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics University, Bengaluru told PTI, "Though the consumer inflation is inching up mostly fuelled by food inflation, the demand for credit remains healthy I do not think the RBI will spoil the party. It will probably go in for a status quo on interest rates." Bhanumurthy, formerly of the National Institute for Public

Finance and Policy, a think tank funded by the Union finance ministry, said that his belief was that the RBI would study the nature of inflation and its trajectory and take a call in the October monetary policy review. "International factors lead me to believe that the CPI which may be around 5.5 per cent is impacted by a seasonal variation and if we cut that out it may come down to nearer 4-4.5 per cent," the economist said. Bandhan Bank's chief economist Siddhartha Sanyal said curiosity around the next MPC meeting has certainly increased. "After a spell of rate hikes during the large part of the last financial year, the MPC maintained the status quo on rates in April and June. This pause was vindicated by softening of CPI infla-

tion to below five per cent during the summer months," he said. Since May 2022, RBI had hiked the short-term lending rate (repo) cumulatively by 250 basis points to check inflation, before hitting the pause button in April. In the previous bi-monthly policy reviews in June, the benchmark rate was retained. Of late, inflation has again inched higher and the key global central banks, such as Fed, have again embarked on raising rates reflecting concerns on the rate of price hikes, Sanyal said, adding that this backdrop has certainly led to a rise in the probability of future monetary tightening in the near term. Recently, the US Federal Reserve increased interest rate by 25 basis points to 5.25-5.5 per cent, taking it to a multi-year high.

Markets crash: Investors' wealth falls by Rs 3.46 lakh cr

New Delhi, Aug 02:

Investors' wealth eroded by Rs 3.46 lakh crore on Wednesday as equity markets took a sharp tumble amid weak global trends and foreign fund outflows. The 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 676.53 points or 1.02 per cent to settle at 65,782.78. During the day, it plunged 1,027.63 points or 1.54 per cent to 65,431.68. In line with the weak trend in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms eroded by Rs 3,46,947.54 crore to Rs 3,03,33,258.69 crore. "After the euphoric June and July, we are witnessing some healthy corrections today in Indian markets, due to the downgrade of the US rating by Fitch. Frankly, the market was waiting for some reason to correct in the last few days as it was in an extremely over-bought zone, and it found its reason. The impact on the Indian market should also be short-lived, soon focus will come back on earn-



ings, infra investments, and fund flows," said Vikram Kasat, Head Advisory at Prabhudas Lilladher. Fitch Ratings has downgraded the US government's credit rating, citing rising debt at the federal, state, and local levels and a "steady deterioration in standards of governance" over the past two decades. The rating was cut on Tuesday one notch to AA+ from AAA, the highest possible rating.

"The Indian market witnessed a broad sectoral slide, affected by weak global market trends. Negative news regarding the US rating downgrade on fiscal concerns, coupled with weak factory activity data from Eurozone and China, led to widespread worries across the globe. Additionally, prolonged FI selling, triggered by a rise in US bond yields, has disrupted the mood of the domestic market," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. From the Sensex pack, Tata Steel declined 3.45 per cent, followed by Tata Motors 3.19 per cent. Bajaj Finserv, NTPC,

Himalaya launches 'The OG Pimple Solution' campaign

Mumbai, Aug 02: Himalaya, a leading wellness company, is thrilled to announce the launch of its latest campaign, "The OG Pimple Solution," showcasing the strong bond between mothers and their teenage daughters. In this campaign, Himalaya highlights the role of mothers as the original OG influencers in their daughters' lives, particularly when it comes to skincare and acne remedies.

At the heart of the campaign lies the star product, Himalaya Purifying Neem Face Wash is an iconic and trusted name in the skincare category. Since its inception, Himalaya has continuously strived to embrace natural ingredients and sustainable practices, and Himalaya

Purifying Neem Face Wash has played a pivotal role in this brand journey. Himalaya Purifying Neem Face Wash is backed by rigorous scientific research and testing. The face wash is a clinically proven solution enhanced with 100% naturally derived Neem, sourced using sustainable growing methods that protect the environment and nurture communities. Gayatri Kabilan, Category Manager, Himalaya Wellness Company, shared insights into the concept and creative direction behind the campaign, emphasizing its alignment with the brand's overall goals and values. "Our inspiration stems from the rich legacy and brand story of Himalaya Purifying Neem Face Wash.

Sensex, Nifty plunge 1 pc amid weak global trends, foreign fund outflows

Mumbai, Aug 02:

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty fell by 1 per cent on Wednesday on weak global market trends and continuous foreign fund outflows. Fitch Ratings has downgraded the United States government's credit rating, citing rising debt at the federal, state, and local levels and a "steady deterioration in standards of governance" over the past two decades. The rating was cut on Tuesday one notch to AA+ from AAA, the highest possible rating. The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 676.53 points or 1.02 per cent to settle at 65,782.78. During the day, it cracked 1,027.63 points or 1.54 per cent to 65,431.68. The NSE Nifty fell by 207 points or 1.05 per cent to end at 19,526.55.



"The Indian market witnessed a broad sectoral slide, affected by weak global market trends. Negative news regarding the US rating downgrade on fiscal concerns, coupled with weak factory activity data from Eurozone and China, led to widespread worries across the globe. "Additionally, prolonged FI selling, triggered by a rise in US bond yields, has disrupted the mood of the domestic market," said

Public sector coal companies to invest Rs 2.5 lakh crore: Prahlad Joshi

New Delhi, Aug 02:

Public sector coal companies have made an investment plan of Rs 2.5 lakh crore by 2030 towards "new business", Union Minister Prahlad Joshi said on Tuesday. The investment will be utilised to increase their capacity and usage of green energy, the Union Minister for Coal and Mines said at a session of Indian Construction and Equipment Manufacturers Association (ICEMA) organised by industry body CII. "Coal PSUs have made an investment plan of Rs 2.5 lakh crore by 2030 in the new business like developing renewable energy (projects), clean coal technologies and new mine development projects," he



said. They will also increase their respective capacities as well, Joshi said speaking to the players of construction and equipment industry. The minister further said that India has set an ambitious target to produce over 1 billion tonnes of coal by 2023-24, and construction and equipment industry will play a crucial role in meeting this goal. As the mining industry aims to in-

crease production of different minerals in the country, the role of the construction equipment (CE) industry would therefore assume greater importance in helping the mining industry meet its goals, Joshi said.

The equipment industry can contribute towards the growth objectives of the mining industry through supplying new-age green machines. These machines would help in performing mining activities more efficiently while helping the mining industry achieve its safety and sustainability goals. The mining industry uses a range of equipment like dump trucks, large excavators, bulldozers, drag lines etc. for excavation and transportation of coal and minerals.

Amazon announces Great Freedom Festival

Bengaluru, Aug 02:

To welcome the month that sets the tune for freedom in India, Amazon India announced the 'Great Freedom Festival'. This year, the shopping event will start from midnight at 12 AM on 4th August, 2023, with great deals and offers until 8th August, 2023. Prime members will get 12 hours of Prime Early Access starting 12 noon on 3rd August, 2023. Customers can explore offers on millions of products and shop from a wide selection to embrace their independence and discover a world of endless possibilities. They can shop for products from sellers including artisans & weavers, women entrepreneurs, start-ups, brands, and local neighbourhood

stores across categories including smartphones, consumer electronics, grocery, fashion & beauty essentials, home & kitchen, large appliances, TVs and much more.

During the Great Freedom Festival, customers can look forward to great value offers from brands such as Xiaomi Smart TV, Samsung TV, TCL, LG TV, Hisense, Pampers, Ariel, Whisper, Microsoft, L'Oréal Paris, Lakme, Tresemme, Dove and Ponds among others. All the exciting offers will be made available to Prime members 12 hours prior allowing them to exclusively shop, avail great deals and offers ahead of others.

Customers can tune in to exciting live streams during the Great Freedom Festival on Amazon.

Amit Mitra highlights countrywide' GST frauds; urges Sitaraman to call Council meet

Kolkata, Aug 02:

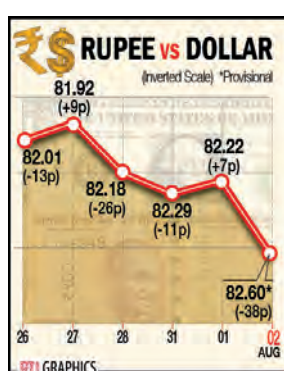
Alleging that GST frauds are proliferating across the country and MSMEs are facing problems due to a web of regulations, Dr Amit Mitra, principal chief advisor to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, on Monday urged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to convene a GST Council meeting to discuss these issues. Mitra, a former state finance minister, referred to the central government's admission in the Lok Sabha that Rs 1.15 lakh crore of fraud have been detected from GST invoices between 2018-19 and 2022-23. "I write this letter



with great anguish and deep concern. On one hand, GST frauds are proliferating across the country penetrating each and every State. On the other, the web of regulations is so overpowering for the MSMEs, that they are on the verge of deregistering back to their informal status," Mitra said. The humongous' fraud taking

place in the country and the suffering of the MSME in the current GST system require a total rethink by the Centre and the GST Council on the structure and GST, he added. In the letter, Mitra also stated that out of 69,426 GST Identification Numbers verified during the last two months, 20,893 were found to be non-existent, and the amount of GST evasion detected in that period came to the tune of Rs 19,638 crore. "May I point out that out of the 1.4 crore businesses registered with GST, only 0.42 per cent of registered taxpayers were verified, which yielded the shocking 30 per cent non-existent and fraudulent registrations," he said.

Rupee falls 38 paise to close at 82.60 against US dollar



Mumbai, Aug 02:

The rupee fell 38 paise to settle at 82.60 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday on weak domestic equities and elevated crude prices in international markets. Rupee is trading in a negative note on risk aversion in global markets and weak Asian currencies. There is also downside pres-

sure on the local unit due to foreign fund outflows. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 82.38 against the dollar and finally ended the day at 82.60 (provisional), registering a fall of 38 paise from its previous close. During the session, the local unit touched a peak of 82.37 and hit the lowest level of 82.62.

On Tuesday, the rupee had settled at 82.22 against the dollar. "We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on risk aversion in global markets and weak Asian currencies. "Though the US dollar declined on a credit rating downgrade by Fitch, safe-haven demand amid risk aversion in global markets is providing a shield to the greenback," Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said.

India to emerge as one of the world's largest solar module makers: R K Singh

New Delhi, Aug 02:

India is set to emerge as one of the largest solar module manufacturers and has the fastest growing capacity in renewable energy, Union Power Minister R K Singh said on Tuesday. Stating that India has a considerable existing solar manufacturing capacity, he pointed to "even larger capacities under construction, including polysilicon". "India is poised to become a global powerhouse in renewable energy, including green hydrogen, fostering a robust ecosystem. "With one of the largest manufacturing ecosystems in wind energy and rapidly growing capacity in solar energy, India is the world leader in



this regard," Singh said while speaking at an ICRA event in the national capital. The minister said the country has the fastest growing capacity in renewable energy and is also set to emerge as one of the largest solar module manufacturers. India has achieved the Nationally Determined Contribution

(NDC) target of 40 per cent capacity from renewable sources, he said. Further, he said the country is on course to meet the target of 50 per cent capacity share from renewable energy well ahead of NDC's 2030 timeline.

Singh said India is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, yet the per capita emission of greenhouse gases is substantially lower than the global average. The country is striving to achieve a fine balance between meeting its surging energy needs and reducing carbon emissions, he said and added that the country remains steadfast in its commitment to sustainable growth, renewable energy expansion and electric vehicle adoption.

One day workshop organized in Chouksey Group of College

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Aug 02: A one day workshop on "Bio-assay study and phytochemical extraction techniques" was organized at School of Pharmacy, Chouksey Engineering College. About 100 students participated in the program organized by the department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, School of Pharmacy.

In which Managing Director of Chouksey Group of College Dr. Ashish Jaiswal, OSD Sharad Kaushik, Principal of School of Pharmacy Dr. Dheeraj Ahirwar, Principal of Chouksey College of Pharmacy Dr. Sweety Lanjhiyana and Administrative officer Dr. Nitin Jain were present as Chief guest School of Pharmacy.

The program was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp. After that Dr.



Ashish Jaiswal Managing Director of Chouksey Group of College, provided information about how drug performance is studied on living tissue under in-vitro condition. He extended his best wishes for organizing a successful workshop on this important topic and inspired to

organize such program in future.

Principal of School of Pharmacy Dr. Dheeraj Ahirwar gave a brief description on how to study the biochemical reaction of the extracted active biomolecules. Program co-ordinator pravin Sahu and Kuleshwar Sahu threw

light on the outline of the workshop.

Teachers like Bhagyashree Agarwal, Reneesh Jaiswal, Rajesh Meshram, Pankaj Kathle, Anju Mishra, Geetanjali Sahu and Neelima Sahu etc. played important role in making the workshop successful.

Ahirwara Kanwad Yatra on Aug 6

Nandini-Ahirwara, Aug 02: Bol Bum Samiti (BBS) Ahirwara will be organising a massive 'Kanwad Yatra' on August 6 and would perform Jalabhishek of Lord Shiva at Ahirwara Sheetal Mandir near Triveni Sangam Sagani. Convener of Yatra Natwar Tamrakar informed that 'Mahakal ki Sawari' will be atop five while houses and in this there will be wonderful presentation of 'Mai Kripa Dhumal'. Raj Kumar Tamrakar informed that during this 'yatra', wearing of saffron coloured clothes is compulsory and nobody would be allowed to take part if he is in state of intoxication. The devotees have been asked to carry rice, 'puja', 'supadi', 'phool', 'Belpatra' and other items from their house itself to be poured into Kanwads' water.

New student's council formed in GHSS



● In Ataria Bazar

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Aug 02: The elections for student's council in Government HS School, Ataria-Bazar was held on Tuesday. In this the President School Management Samiti JR Verma, member Lala Gupta, Jagdish Dhurve welcomed the newly appointed office bearers of student's council by apply-

ing 'tilak' with 'gula' and the Principal Ramkumar Bakshi administered oath of secrecy to them.

In High School, the formation of student's council was done in the High School through polling and in this Class Representative (CR) and Class Vice Rep (CVR) were elected. In the new student's council- Yogesh Verma was elected as CR; Aman Jain and Aryan Verma of commerce wing as CVR; Ramakant Sahu as Sports secy (Arts); Rakhi Verma as Student's Representative from Commerce); Khemraj Sen (Arts) as Discipline Secy; Daneshwar Verma of (Arts) as Asst. Secy. Discipline; Manish Verma as Science Secy; Ravina Verma as cultural secy; Tushar Sahu as Asst. Cultural Secy; Parmeshwar Verma as Literary Secy; Umesh Verma as 'Swachhata Secy'; and Lomesh Verma as Asst. 'Swachhata Secy'.

SECR conducts safety seminar

● At Electrical Loco Training Centre, Uslapur

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Aug 02: Safety Seminar was organized by South East Central Railway, Safety Department (HQ) on 31st July, 2023 at Electric Loco Training Centre, Uslapur. Chief Safety Officer, South East Central Railway, Pradeep Kumar was present as the chief guest in the safety seminar.

About 120 trainees and instructors of the training institute participated in the seminar. In the seminar, there was a detailed discussion about the reasons for the incidents of crossing the red signal by



the loco pilot and its solutions.

In South East Central Railway, a detailed study was done of accidents due to crossing of red signal at 'ON'. The loco pilot informed the safety department about the problems

occurring during the work. Deputy Chief Safety Officer (Electrical) kept his points in the seminar. Pradeep Kumar, Chief Safety Officer, South East Central Railway as the chief guest, while addressing the loco pilots ex-

plained the measures to avoid SPAD (Signal Passing at Danger) and elaborated on the measures. Along with this, he advised the loco pilot to include proper eating habits and yoga-exercise in daily life to stay healthy.

Non-existent road hinders student access to college

Struggle for accessible education continues

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Aug 02: The state government's tall claims of providing quality education through college openings stand exposed in Setganga Fasterpur, Mungeli. For an appalling decade, the college building remains disconnected by a non-existent road, leaving students and staff struggling to commute.

Setganga Fasterpur was meant to be a beacon of education for marginalized and scheduled caste communities when established in 2013-14. Yet, the lack of a proper road has



left students grappling with severe hardships.

Despite repeated appeals for road construction, the administration remains apathetic. Students must trudge through muddy paths in pursuit of education, while memorandums to

the authorities yield empty promises.

ABVP Nagar Minister Ashish Yadav's assertions of a college's establishment ring hollow as the road remains conspicuously absent. Travelling through treacherous muddy paths has become

the norm for students seeking higher education. ABVP's persistent memorandums have yet to bear fruit, as the administration neglects the pressing need for accessible education.

Ashish Yadav and Soni Divakar, second-year B.Sc. students, endure countless difficulties reaching the college premises due to the road's absence. Third-year B.Sc. student Durgeshwari Chandrakar sheds light on the appalling reality-after a decade, the road construction remains pending, forcing students to navigate muddy paths to access their place of study.

Road full of potholes, leaving riders in trouble

● 15.1 km patch from Gram Mohbhatt to Bhedani (Hadgaon)

Central Chronicle News

Berla, Aug 02: The 15.1 km long road from Janpad Panchayat Berla to Gram Panchayat Mohbhatt to Bhedani (Hadgaon) was built under PMGSY-2 and its maintenance period started from 14 Aug 2019.

In-between the condition of the road deteriorated with potholes at many places and posing problems to commuters and vehicle-riders from nearby villages viz. Mohbhatt, Maniyari, Khamariya M, Saldha, Dadjara and Bhedani (Hadgaon) and others. In the name of repair works, only minor repair of levelling of pot-



holes has been done, posing loss worth lakh to the government and this has raised eyebrows among villagers.

In the meantime, with road construction from Gram Mohbhatt to Bhedani, the department failed to put the sign board for its strength, level and standards laid. It

is worthwhile to mention here that the place from where the road construction work started from Mohbhatt, the staff forgot to take standard-level itself.

Due to this as & when there is rainfall, it will be clogged with rainwater upto knee-deep and it would turn into a pond.

This condition causes lots of problems to the pedestrians and vehicle owners. In this way the engineer and contractor of this road are under controversy over the waterlogging taking place in the road.

This at one place where is allowing rampant corruption in road construction work, on the other it

is exposing the irresponsible behaviour of the officers, employees and contractual firm as well.

On the other hand, in the road from Gram Khamaria M, there are big pot-holes in the middle of the road, posing threat to any major road accident some day, as with pot-holes levelled with rainwater it is difficult to assess the depth of water-level and in small rains also it turns into pool of water, leaving the vehicle riders and passengers in state of shock.

The question here is as to who will take the matter seriously and impose penalty or fine on the firm involved in this construction work and get the repair work done as to bring relief to denizens of these villages.

Judiciary complex to undergo renovation for enhanced facilities

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Aug 02: The Judiciary Complex in Mungeli is set for a major transformation as the district and session judge, Chandra Kumar Ajgalle, alongside Collector Rahul Dev, led an inspection to assess necessary arrangements for organized parking, shaded areas, drainage, gardening, repairs, and maintenance.

Firm directives were issued to concerned officials, demanding swift completion of these crucial tasks. The Collector stressed that all works must be finished within the stipulated timeframe, emphasizing efficient coordination among



officials.

Earlier, Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court, Ramesh Sinha, had conducted a thorough assessment of the district and session court premises, compelling authorities to enhance facilities, including cleanliness and necessary arrangements. Subsequent efforts have been relentless in creating

a clean and orderly environment within the judiciary complex.

Present during this inspection were Chief Judicial Magistrate, Balram Kumar Devangan, Deputy Collector Vijendra Patle, and other relevant officials, further demonstrating the seriousness and dedication towards the renovation project.

Hundreds of youth join BJP-fold

● From Ahirwara VS area

Central Chronicle News

Nandini-Ahirwara, Aug 02: In the Ahirwara Vidhan Sabha area of Durg district, being influenced by the PM Narendra Modi's works, hundreds of men and women and youth from Gram Birebhat under leadership of Gendal Joshi joined BJP fold here on Tuesday.

Similarly in Bagdumar, Dinesh Sahu got his youth friends enter BJP and from Banbarad Ashish Kosare along with his colleagues joined BJP fold under leadership of Ahirwara VS area, former MLA Sanwalram Dahare and BJYM state working committee member Dau



Anand Tamrakar. All the new party workers were presented with saffron coloured stole and got their entry into BJP. In this programme, State V-P Pichada Varg- Khilawan Sahu, state working committee member

Ravishankar Singh, Ahirwara Nagar Palika President Natwar Tamrakar, Satish Sahu, Ahirwara Mandal President Liman Sahu, BJP leader Chanchal Bafna, Sanjay Pandey, corporator Anoop Sahu,

Laxman Kshatriya, corporator Shibbu Agrawal, corporator Bhagwan Singh Netam, Mahila Morcha District Secy. Mamta Janghel, Raja Sharma, Puneeta Raut, BJYM Durg district Special invitee member Rahul Chandel, Mandal V-P Sahil Khan, Raunak Tamrakar, Lokesh Sendare, Saumya Mirche, Sohil Khan, Shreyas Soni, Pradeep Nirmalkar and others were present.

Ex-MLA Sanwalram Dahare charged that Congress has cheated people from all sections of the society and today getting influenced by good works of PM Narendra Modi that youth, men and women are joining BJP fold, as BJP is always ready for service to its people.

SP felicitates police employees for remarkable works

For taking prompt action under NDPS Act and solving crime

Central Chronicle News

Gaurella-Pendra-Marwahi, Aug 02: Taking effective action under NDPS Act and for doing remarkable works in solving crime and theft cases promptly, SP Yogesh Patel felicitated by presenting citation certificate to Cyber Cell in-charge Inspector Anil Agrawal, Pendra Thana in-charge Dharm Narayan Tiwari, SI Sujan Jagat, ASI Rajendra Singh, head constable Arun Tirki, inspector Ashish Kumar, Rajesh Sharma, Ram Lal Khurana, Surendra Vishwakarma and to



Mahendra Paraste, in a simple programme held at SP's office here on Tuesday. He also motivated them to do similar works in the near future and wished them all the best in their future endeavours.

SP Yogesh Patel said that today the personnel involved in taking action

under NDPS Act and solving theft and crime cases have been felicitated and in the near future this trend will continue for officers and employees giving remarkable performances while on duty, then be it at the level of crime analysis or for nabbing the accused in other crimes or extend-

ing helping hand to the needy in the society and those injured in road-accidents and the one which reflects good example of Police before the general public. This felicitation will be done so as to boost the morale of the employees and to carry out good works always.

Sindhu, Srikanth, Prannoy enter second round

Manjunath secures upset win

Sydney, Aug 02 (PTI):

Unheralded Indian Mithun Manjunath stunned fourth seed and world number seven Kean Yew Loh of Singapore in the opening round while PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth secured straight-game wins at the Australia Open badminton tournament here on Wednesday.

Manjunath, ranked 50th in the world, beat Loh 21-19 in the men's singles first round match that lasted 41 minutes.

Manjunath faces the winner of the match between Lee Zii Jia and Leong Jun Hao -- both Malaysians -- in the second round of the BWF Super 500 tournament.

Meanwhile, Lakshya Sen conceded his men's singles match against compatriot Kiran George due to an injury. Sen was trailing 0-5 in the opening game when he decided to quit. Fifth seed Sindhu,



who has lost in the first round at seven different tour events this season and is playing under a new personal coach in Malaysia's Muhammad Hafiz Hashim, defeated

compatriot Ashmita Chaliha 21-18 21-13 in 36 minutes in her opening women's singles match.

In other men's singles opening round matches, Srikanth, world No.19, defeated Japan's Kenta Nishimoto 21-18 21-7, while sixth seed HS Prannoy had to dig deep to beat Cheuk Yiu Lee of Hong Kong 21-18 16-21 21-15.

Rising shuttler Priyanshu Rajawat also tasted success as he beat Australia's Nathan Tang 21-12 21-16. Among other Indians in the fray on Wednesday, Aakarshi Kashyap beat Malaysia's Jin Wei Goh 21-15 21-17, but it was curtains for Malvika Bansod as she lost 20-22 11-21 against Yu Po Pai of Chinese Taipei.

Only one Indian will survive after the second round in the women's singles as Sindhu and Kashyap are pitted against each other.

All-round India trounce Windies to seal series



Tarouba (Trinidad), Aug 02 (PTI): A clinical India outclassed West Indies by a whopping 200 runs in the third ODI, securing a series victory of 2-1. Despite the emphatic result, uncertainties persist over the team's combination ahead of the World Cup, with several players vying for key positions. Shubman Gill, who had a subdued series in the Caribbean, found his form and notched up a well-compiled 85 off 92 balls. His impressive

opening partnership of 143 with Ishan Kishan (77 off 64 balls) laid the foundation for India's imposing total of 351 for 5 after being asked to bat first. Sanju Samson's entertaining innings of 51 off 41 balls further strengthened his case for a reserve middle-order position. Skipper Hardik Pandya's explosive knock of 70 not out off 52 balls added the finishing touches on a good batting pitch. West Indies' chase was always out

of reach, as Mukesh Kumar's three-wicket burst during the first Powerplay dented their hopes, leading to their eventual dismissal for 151 in 35.3 overs. Despite the comprehensive victory, the series has raised questions regarding the team's composition for the upcoming Asia Cup and the subsequent World Cup to be held in India. Youngsters like Ishan Kishan have impressed but face uncertainties over their batting positions, espe-

cially if KL Rahul returns to the team. The matter of Rohit Sharma sacrificing his opening slot to accommodate players like Kishan remains a challenging decision for the team management. Additionally, the middle-order slot for Samson, in case Shreyas Iyer is not fit for the World Cup, adds complexity to the selection process. While the batting performances have showcased potential, bowling combinations also need careful

consideration. Not selecting Yuzvendra Chahal in any game seemed puzzling, with limited matches remaining before the World Cup. Ravindra Jadeja's assured place as the primary spinner makes it challenging for Axar Patel to make the playing XI.

Similarly, the race for the fifth seamer position revolves around left-arm variation, with Jaydev Unadkat likely to persist despite certain limitations.

Chhetri, Jhingan, Gurpreet named in Indian football team for Asian Games

New Delhi, Aug 02 (PTI): Talisman Sunil Chhetri, senior defender Sandesh Jhingan and first-choice goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu were on Tuesday named in a 22-member Indian men's football squad for the upcoming Asian Games.

In Hangzhou, China, the host city for the Games, the Indian squad will be under the charge of national senior team head coach, Igor Stimac. PTI had earlier reported that the All India Football Federation (AIFF) was bullish about sending its first team to the Asian Games led by Chhetri and



coached by 1998 Croatian World Cup semifinalist

Stimac. It is learnt that this Indian squad has got

approval from the Asian Games organisers and the

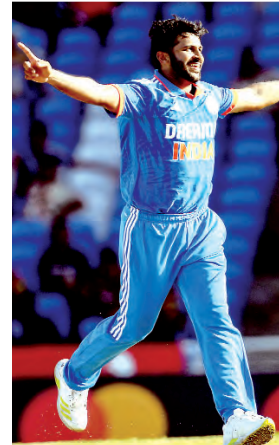
Olympic Council of Asia.

The participation of the Indian men's and women's football sides in the Hangzhou Games was earlier in doubt as per the sports ministry's criteria of sending teams which are ranked in top-8 in the continent. The ministry later cleared both the teams by relaxing the criteria after an appeal from the AIFF. Head coach Stimac had also sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention in the matter. The Indian men's team are placed alongside hosts China PR, Bangladesh, and Myanmar in Group A.

There are 23 teams, who have been divided into six groups. Group A, B, C, E, and F have four teams each while Group D has three teams. Twice Asian Games champions India are participating in the football event of the continental games for the first time in nine years.

The Asian Games' football competition is a Under-23 affair but due to the one-year delay in hosting this edition of the event, the organisers have allowed those who are 24 years old to participate, with the cut off date of birth being fixed at January 1, 1999.

I never play for spot, always play for team's success: Shardul



to team success rather than playing to secure a spot, stating, "If I am not picked in the World Cup squad, it's their call, I cannot do much about it. I always try to perform for the team and play according to the situation of a match."

Acknowledging his role as a right-arm seamer and a lower-order batsman, Shardul believes that his consistency and the team's confidence in him have earned him a place in the ODI squad for the last two years. His ability to contribute across different departments of the game makes him a valuable asset, especially with India's deep batting lineup. Looking ahead to the upcoming games before the World Cup, Shardul emphasized their importance in the team's preparations and individual players' bid for selection. He underlined the significance of every match in assessing performances and building momentum as the team approaches the tournament. Praising the team's complete performance in the series-deciding ODI, Shardul commended the batting exploits of Ishan Kishan and Shubman Gill, who provided a strong start in the powerplay to set up a formidable total. While Yuzvendra Chahal did not feature in the tour so far, Shardul lauded the leg-spinner's abilities and proven track record. He expressed confidence that Chahal's talent and capability to pick wickets will shine through whenever he gets a chance to play.

Tarouba (Trinidad), Aug 02 (PTI): Shardul Thakur's exceptional performance in the ODI series against the West Indies has significantly strengthened his case for a spot in India's World Cup squad. However, the seam-bowling all-rounder remains steadfast in his commitment to contributing to the team's success rather than solely securing his place.

With eight wickets from three games, including a remarkable 4/37 in the decider, Shardul proved to be the standout bowler in the series. The upcoming ODI World Cup, scheduled from October 5 to November 19 in India, offers an opportunity for players to cement their positions in the squad. Speaking after the match, Shardul expressed his satisfaction with his performance and the valuable experience he is adding to his career. He emphasized his dedication

Pandya emphasizes on youth exposure

Tarouba (Trinidad), Aug 02 (PTI): Star all-rounder Hardik Pandya lauded the decision to rest veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli during the second and third ODIs against West Indies, stating it was crucial to provide opportunities to young players ahead of the World Cup.

In the series-deciding final ODI, with Hardik leading the team, India secured a resounding 200-run victory, clinching the series 2-1. Reflecting on the absence of Kohli and Kohli, Hardik highlighted the significance of giving exposure to emerging talents like Ruturaj Gaikwad and Axar Patel.

"It was very important for someone like Ruturaj (Ruturaj Gaikwad) to get a game or Axar (Patel) to get a game



because they've been playing cricket for so many years, they know how exactly all these situations have been. So kind of giving the youngsters exposure and kind of making sure that if we want to check something,

we have the opportunity to do it," Hardik expressed during the post-match presentation ceremony. Hardik himself played a pivotal role in the final ODI, blazing an unbeaten 52-ball 70, thanks in part to a valuable chat with Virat Kohli. The Indian skipper shared valuable insights with Hardik, who expressed his gratitude for Kohli's guidance.

"I had a very wonderful chat with Virat a couple of days back, and the kind of input he gave me, he has seen me throughout the years. It's been almost seven or eight years of international cricket, and he has seen me from day one. He just wanted me to spend some time at the crease and get used to the 50-over game.

India can pick even a third XI: Lara tells Gill, Kishan

Tarouba (Trinidad), Aug 02 (PTI): India's abundance of young cricket talent has caught the attention of batting legend Brian Lara, who believes the country's senior team could field not only a second XI but even a third XI due to the talent pool. During a conversation with Shubman Gill and Ishan Kishan after India's dominant victory over the West Indies in the third ODI, Lara expressed his pride in witnessing these young players excel on the international stage.

Lara, who considers India a second home, praised the promising cricketers in the country and the various teams they have. India's success in the absence of star players like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma



further reinforced the depth of their talent pool. Kishan, while speaking to Lara, highlighted the importance of hunger and performance in the game. He felt privileged to have Lara as a mentor and acknowledged the value of learning from experienced players like him at the

cricket academy. Gill, on the other hand, revealed that Lara's aggressive batting style inspired him as a child, motivating him to dominate the game across formats. Lara was delighted to have the two young cricketers at the academy bearing his name.

Diani scores a hat trick as France beats Panama 6-3

Sydney, Aug 02 (AP): Kadidiatou Diani scored a hat trick as France advanced to the knockout stage of the Women's World Cup on Wednesday after a 6-3 win over Panama.

The world's No. 5-ranked team recovered from the shock of going behind to Marta Cox's 30-yard (meter) free kick after two minutes at Sydney Football Stadium to finish atop Group D. Jamaica placed second in the group after a 0-0 draw with Brazil.

France, which had also been held to a 0-0 draw against Jamaica in its opening game, advanced after back-to-back wins against Brazil and Panama.

The French only needed a draw to guarantee their place in the round of 16 for the fourth time in succession. But France was given an



France's forward #11 Kadidiatou Diani controls the ball during the Australia and New Zealand 2023 Women's World Cup Group F football match between Panama and France at Sydney Football Stadium in Sydney on August 2.

early scare when Cox whipped the ball into the top corner, beyond the reach of goalkeeper

Pauline Peyraud-Magnin.

France responded impressively to that early

setback by going into the break with a 4-1 lead.

Panama's Deysire Salazar lashed the ball into her own net when trying to clear Maelle Lakrar's header in the 21st. Diani scored her first goal seven minutes later, and converted from the spot in the 37th after a handball.

Lea Le Garrec's made it 4-1 in the fifth minute of first half stoppage time.

Diani scored her second penalty seven minutes after the break after another handball.

Panama, ranked 52nd by FIFA, pulled a goal back with a penalty, converted by Yomira Pinzon in the 64th.

Lineth Cedeno scored another for Panama with a header in the 87th and Vicki Becho hit France's sixth in the 10th minute of stoppage time.

Kgatlana scores late to send South Africa into the last 16

Wellington, Aug 02 (AP):

Thembi Kgatlana scored early in stoppage time Wednesday to give South Africa a 3-2 win over Italy and send it into the knockout rounds of a Women's World Cup for the first time. On a night of high drama and low temperatures, Hilda Magaia scored in the 67th minute to put South Africa 2-1 ahead before Arianna Caruso equalized with her second goal of the match from a Cristiana Girelli corner, briefly denting South African hopes.

A draw would have been enough to put eighth-ranked Italy into the knockout rounds.

Instead, South Africa will play Netherlands in a round of 16 match on Sunday. Sweden finished atop Group G after beating Argentina 1-0 and will next play the defending champion U.S. team.

Italians in tears after shock loss



South Africa's forward #11 Thembi Kgatlana celebrates scoring her team's third goal during the Australia and New Zealand 2023 Women's World Cup Group G football match between South Africa and Italy at Wellington Stadium in Wellington on August 2.

Italy's players dropped to their knees, buried their faces and tearfully wondered how their tournament had suddenly ended following a shocking upset to South Africa in the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023. The 54th-ranked team in the world stunned Italy, ranked 16th by FIFA, with a 3-2 victory over the Italians in Wednesday's Group G fi-

nale. South Africa won with a stoppage-time goal by Thembi Kgatlana. South Africa was ecstatic as players screamed and danced and said thankful prayers in the hallway leading to their locker room. The Italians left in tears and were unable to explain the upset.

"I really don't know," goalkeeper Francesca Durante said after the

match. "I don't know what didn't work."

Nearly every player took the blame for the early elimination, even Arianna Caruso, who scored both of Italy's goals. "I don't think I can find the right words at this moment," Caruso said. "I am not happy because we scored two goals and we didn't do anything."

Italy's problems against South Africa began before Wednesday night's game: a brutal 4-0 loss to Sweden was perhaps too difficult to overcome, even with a spot in the round of 16 at stake. "I'm sure that the game against Sweden and all the goals we conceded affected our trust, our confidence, our peace of mind," said Italy coach Milena Bertolini. "I think it's clear that today the emotional side was actually an important factor." The Italians were slowed by more than their emotions.

'Delhi govt to ensure best educational facilities for poor'

New Delhi, Aug 02 (PTI) :

The AAP government will ensure that the poor and the underprivileged have access to the best educational facilities in Delhi government schools, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the inauguration of a new school building in Deoli Pahari, Sangam Vihar, the chief minister said that for the development of the nation, every child should have access to quality education.

"B R Ambedkar always said that if you want to develop the country, you need to educate each and every child. He too belonged to a very poor family but had the finest education from abroad," he said. Kejriwal further stated that the school will be of "great benefit" for stu-



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal with Delhi Education Minister Atishi Singh and others during the inauguration of a new school building at Sangam Vihar, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

dents living in the densely populated region of Sangam Vihar-Deoli.

"Two to three new government schools are being inaugurated in Delhi every month and several poor and underprivileged children are studying there now," he said.

have surpassed private schools in terms of quality.

"Our government has given the people of Sangam Vihar and Deoli a modern and fantastic school. Even children from poor families will get world-class education here. Government schools have surpassed private schools in terms of quality under the CM's education revolution," Atishi said. The newly built four-storey school consists of 62 classrooms, four labs, two libraries and a lift among other facilities.

While the morning shift will cater to girls, the evening shift will cater to boys. The school will offer science, commerce, arts and vocational studies as well. According to the Delhi government, the new senior secondary school will benefit over 6,000 students in the area.

PROTEST MARCH



Bajrang Dal supporters protest against the recent communal violence in Haryana, in Bikaner, Wednesday.

'Over 60 % people from rural areas go out of state for better medical treatment'

New Delhi, Aug 02 (PTI) :

More than 60 per cent of people from rural areas chose to "migrate" out of their state for availing treatment for major diseases, according to a report.

The 'State of Healthcare in Rural India-2023' study had 6,478 respondents, 75 per cent men and 25 per cent women, across six regions — north, south, northeast, east, central and west.

The report also stated that at an all-India aggregate, a little over 10 per cent of rural India went to a public primary healthcare facility for serious ailments.

The majority used government-run secondary-level facilities (around 60 per cent), about 22 per cent went to a private facility,

mostly hospitals, and just over five per cent consulted a private medical practitioner, the study by Transform Rural India and Sambodhi Research Pvt Ltd found.

People in northeastern states have the highest preference for "migration" for health facilities and 84 per cent respondents in this region said they would go out of their states in search of better medical treatment, it stated.

The percentage for the eastern region was 66 and for the central region 61 with respondents expressing similar intentions, the report stated.

On the contrary, more than two-third of the respondents from the south region felt no need to "migrate out" for treatment, it stated.

NEW STUDY

The all-India level findings of the report showed that "almost 63 per cent of people from rural areas chose to migrate out of their state for availing treatment for major diseases".

The report stated that "at the same time, a large majority of participants, accounting for more than 90 per cent, had expressed a preference for moving to a different district within their state rather than to a different state when faced with a serious illness".

It stated that "among those with chronically ill household members, the driving factor for going out of state for treatment was the destination having better treatment facilities". For those without

any chronically ill members at home, the majority did so because of a referral given from the place they were receiving treatment, the study found.

It stated that among the households that "migrated out of their home district for treatment, 51.6 per cent of the households spent less than Rs 25,000 and about 25 per cent spent between Rs 25,001 and Rs 50,000". The report stated that according to income categories, nearly two-third of the respondents in the lower-income group prefer to go to a public secondary-level facility as compared to just over 15 per cent who preferred private hospitals.

It also showed that around 58 per cent of rural India rarely depend on home-based traditional medicine. Nearly one in

three people use home-based care or traditional medicine in selective and specific cases, while just over nine per cent did so with some degree of regularity, the report stated.

"It is evident that there are no alternatives to improve, modernised and transformed healthcare services at primary level with a specific focus on under-developed regions to improve patient satisfaction and reducing the need of long-distance travel for treatment," Shyamal Santra, associate director for public health and nutrition, Transform Rural India, said.

The report was prepared by the Development Intelligence Unit (DIU), a collaboration between Transform Rural India and Sambodhi Research Pvt. Ltd.

HARYANA VIOLENCE

SC orders enhanced deployment of security forces

New Delhi, Aug 02 (PTI) :

With communal clashes claiming six lives in parts of Haryana close to Delhi, the Supreme Court Wednesday ordered enhanced deployment of security personnel in sensitive areas and a crackdown on hate speech but refused to stop the proposed rallies by VHP and Bajrang Dal in the NCR.

Observing that hate speeches vitiate the atmosphere, a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and S V Bhatti also ordered installation of CCTV cameras in vulnerable places.

The CCTV footage and the video recording will be preserved, the apex court said. "During the course of hearing, it is accepted and admitted that the directions given in the order dated October 21, 2022, as

extended have to be complied. "We hope and trust that the state governments, including the police authorities, will ensure that there are no hate speeches against any community and there is no violence or damage to properties. Wherever required, adequate police force or paramilitary forces will be deployed," the bench said.

The top court directed that the order be communicated by the Registry to the standing counsel for the state governments of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.

The apex court directed Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the Centre, to immediately get in touch with authorities and ensure no untoward incident takes place anymore.

Raju submitted he has not gone through the averments made in the plea and sought time from the court to seek instructions. Reiterating that rule of law has to be maintained, the top court said. "This cannot be treated as an adversarial litigation. The law and order is basically a policing issue which must be taken care of. The apex court has posted the matter for hearing on Friday. The top court passed the order after senior advocate C U Singh, appearing for journalist Shaheen Abdullah, said 23 demonstrations have been announced by Hindu right groups Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal in various parts of the National Capital Region (NCR).

'SC can only uphold supremacy of Constitution'

Srinagar, Aug 02 (PTI) :

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday said the Supreme Court was the only institution left in the country that can ensure that India is governed as per its Constitution.

Her remarks came as the Supreme Court commenced hearing on the petitions challenging the Centre's decision to revoke Article 370 that provided special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing media persons at the PDP office here, she said the entire world was watching the proceedings before the



PDP President Mehbooba Mufti addresses a press conference, at party headquarters in Srinagar, Wednesday.

Supreme Court. "Entire world is watching Supreme Court proceedings in Article 370.

Jammu and Kashmir, despite being a Muslim majority state, rejected the two-nation theory based on religion and joined hands with India. We were granted assurances under the Constitution. These guarantees were not given by China, Pakistan or any neighbouring country," the former chief minister said.

"The Supreme Court will have to see how the institutions in the country have been subverted and the apex court remains the only institution that can save the Constitution. BJP is not only playing with the Constitution based on its brute majority in

Parliament but ignoring everything including the SC rulings. They brought an ordinance after SC ruling on Delhi which is unconstitutional," she added. Mehbooba said the Supreme Court will have to take a bold stand for upholding the majesty of the Constitution.

"The Supreme Court is the only institution left that can save the Constitution and the country. The question is 'are you ready to take risks?' Is the Supreme Court ready to take risks like the Allahabad High Court did at the time of Indira Gandhi (in 1975)?" she asked.

1997 Uphaar Fire Tragedy

Delhi court orders de-sealing of Uphaar cinema hall

New Delhi, Aug 02 (PTI) :

A Delhi court on Wednesday ordered the de-sealing of Uphaar cinema hall, where 59 cinemagoers were killed in a massive blaze in 1997, saying "absolutely no purpose would be served to keep the property sealed".

The court noted that the CBI, Delhi Police and Association of Victims of Uphaar Tragedy (AVUT) president Neelam Krishnamoorthy have already given their "no objection" to the Supreme Court to return the theatre to the applicant.

The application was moved by Ansal Theatres and Club Hotels Private Ltd, whose former directors were real estate barons Sushil Ansal and Gopal Ansal, who were convicted in the fire tragedy case.

"Since the trial has reached finality, absolutely no purpose would be served to keep the property sealed. The application is hereby allowed and property in question be de-sealed and released to the applicant being the rightful owner," the judge said. The judge rejected Krishnamoorthy's sub-

mission seeking appropriate action against the applicant for filing a copy of a judgment of the Supreme Court in the case but deliberately, to misguide the court, leaving out a few lines at the bottom of a page. The judge said it was done "inadvertently". Krishnamoorthy alleged the applicant tampered with the judicial record. She pointed out that an FIR was registered against the directors of the applicant company for tampering with judicial records in the case for which they were even convicted.

SOWING SEASON



A farmer prepares a field for planting paddy saplings after monsoon rains, in Nadia, Wednesday.

Javed Akhtar in court against order in Kangana case

Mumbai, Aug 02 (PTI) :

Veteran lyricist Javed Akhtar has approached a sessions court here against summons issued against him by a magistrate in a case filed by actor Kangana Ranaut, and claimed the order was passed in a hasty and inappropriate manner resulting in "grave miscarriage of justice".

Akhtar has moved a revision petition before the sessions court in suburban Dindoshi and the matter will be heard on August 8. Metropolitan magistrate (Andheri court) R M Shaikh on July 24 issued the summons against Akhtar, asking him to appear before the court on August 5. The magistrate dropped

the extortion charges against Akhtar, but said there is sufficient ground to proceed against him for criminal intimidation.

Akhtar's plea claimed the order (for issuance of summons) has been passed "erroneously" as the same is in contravention to the settled law as well as facts. The magistrate has failed to deliberate over the case at hand and jumped to conclusions in a "hasty and inappropriate manner" which has resulted in "grave miscarriage of justice," it said.

The plea, filed through advocate Jay Bharadwaj, further claimed that prima facie there is nothing on judicial record which shows that there was sufficient material available with the magistrate for

passing the impugned order.

"The magistrate simply proceeded on the bald and unsubstantiated averments made in the complaint without ascertaining the overall factual matrix and the judicial record," it said.

The plea also said the magistrate failed to record any reasons whatsoever for issuing summons against the petitioner. The magistrate court only relied on the verification statement of the complainant (Ranaut) and witnesses, the petition said, claiming "this is clearly indicative of lack of application of judicial mind."

"The magistrate failed to appreciate that serious prejudice shall be caused

to the rights of the petitioner if he is made to face the trial in a time-barred matter, that too where the ingredients of all the sections alleged in the complaint are not applicable," the application said.



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