

BRIEF



Women celebrate on the eve of the festival of 'Tej', in Moradabad, Friday.

Bomb scare

New Delhi: A Delhi-Pune Vistara airlines flight was delayed for around eight hours at the IGI Airport here after a bomb threat call which later turned out to be hoax, security sources and police said. The bomb threat assessment committee declared the call, received at 7:38 am, non-specific or hoax at 2:15 pm. The airline was issued a security clearance for using the aircraft after extensive security checks, the sources said. Flight UK971 was to depart at 8:30 am and finally left at 4.30 pm, according to police.

Illegal stay

Thane: The Navi Mumbai police have arrested eight Bangladeshi nationals, three of them women, for allegedly staying in the country illegally without valid documents, an official said on Friday. Based on a tip-off, officials of the police's anti-human trafficking cell (AHTC) raided a residential locality in Ulve on Thursday afternoon and nabbed the Bangladeshi nationals, the official said. The eight accused, including three women, had been living in the locality since the last eight months and did not possess any valid documents, he said.

CGST bribe

New Delhi: The CBI has arrested a CGST official in Mumbai for allegedly demanding Rs 15 lakh as a bribe for settling tax issues related to a company based in China, officials said Friday. It is alleged that Hemant Kumar, a Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) superintendent, had demanded Rs 30 lakh from a tax consultant to settle issues related to Wellfull Inter-Trade Pvt Ltd based in Guangzhou, China, they said. The company had refused to pay the bribe and asked the middleman to report the issue to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) which conducted a verification of the allegation during which the tax consultant was asked to negotiate with Kumar, they said.

Coal scam

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Friday convicted a former official of the Ministry of Steel in a coal scam case related to alleged irregularities in the allocation of a coal block in Chhattisgarh. In the 14th conviction in the coal scam, Special Judge Arun Bhargava held Gautam Kumar Basak, former Executive Secretary, JPC (Joint Plant Committee), Ministry of Steel, guilty of corruption in the allocation of Vijay Central Coal Block.

Weather
High 30 Low 24

MARKET
NIFTY 19,310.15
SENSEX 64,948.66

BULLION
GOLD 60,250
SILVER 72,500

Centre opposes plea to replace term 'Central government' with 'Union government'

New Delhi, Aug 18 (PTI) The Centre Friday opposed in the Delhi High Court a plea seeking to replace the term 'Central government' with the 'Union' or 'Union government', as intended by the Constitution in all its orders, notifications, and correspondences. The Centre's counsel argued that it was unnecessary litigation and the PIL

should be dismissed as not maintainable. A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sanjeev Narula granted time to the Centre to respond to the petition filed by an 84-year-old man and listed it for further hearing on December 5. The court was also informed that the Department Related Parliamentary Standing

Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice has looked into the use of the expression Union of India' in place of Central government' and the matter is still pending. The Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeks a direction to the Union of India, through the Ministry of Law and Justice, to use the expression 'Union,'

'Union government' or 'Union of India' instead of 'Central government', 'Centre' or any other similar reference. In his petition filed through advocate Hemant Phalpher, Kolkata-resident Atmaram Saraogi said the term 'Union government' has a unifying effect on the relationship between the Union and all the states and would go a long way

in defying the false impression that there is a centralisation of power in the Union government and would further depict the right message in that regard. During the hearing, the high court said it cannot see any public interest in the plea and opined that there is no prohibition on using the term 'Central government'.

CoBRA commando kills himself with AK-47

Bijapur, Aug 18 (PTI):

An inspector of the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA), a jungle warfare unit of the CRPF, died after allegedly shooting himself with his service rifle in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Friday, the police said.

The incident took place around 11 am at the headquarters of the 170th battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Bijapur town, around 400 km from state capital Raipur, a senior police official here said.

The CRPF and its elite unit CoBRA are extensively deployed in south Bastar which comprises three districts, including Dantewada, for anti-Naxal operations.

"Inspector Safi Akhtar, belonging to CoBRA 210th battalion, shot himself with an AK-47 rifle. On

Naxalite carrying reward of Rs 8 lakh arrested

Balrampur: A Naxalite who carried a reward of Rs 8 lakh and was allegedly involved in many incidents of Maoist violence has been arrested in Jashpur district of Chhattisgarh, the police said on Friday. Sarjun Yadav, alias Putna, was apprehended on Thursday from Bhagalpur village by a team of the Special Intelligence Branch and the district police following a tip, an official said.

hearing the gunshots, his colleagues rushed there and found him seriously injured," the official said.

Akhtar was taken to a local hospital where he died, he said.

The commando, who was posted in the Mokur camp of CoBRA, had arrived in Bijapur and was scheduled to proceed to Delhi on leave, he said.

LeT terror module busted, 8 arrested



Security personnel display arms after busting a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror module in Baramulla district.

Srinagar, Aug 18 (PTI):

Security forces have busted a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror module in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district by arresting eight militant associates involved in cross-border smuggling of arms and ammunition at the best of their Pakistani handlers, police said on Friday.

A terrorist module has been busted in Uri in Baramulla and eight LeT terrorist associates have

been arrested, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Amod Nagpure told reporters in Baramulla.

Nagpure said arms and ammunition have been recovered and cases under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act & Arms Act have been registered.

Giving details, the SSP said that during patrolling and area domination at Churunda in Uri area of the north Kashmir district on August 8, security forces noticed a suspected per-

son who was roaming in the area.

He tried to flee while noticing the patrolling party, but was apprehended tactfully, the officer said.

During his personal search, two grenades were recovered and he was taken into custody immediately, the SSP said.

He identified him as Showkat Ali Awan, a resident of Churunda Uri.

During further questioning, Awan revealed the names of his accomplices — Ahmad Din and Mohammad Sadeeq Khatana — both of whom are residents of Churunda, Nagpure said.

The two were questioned and on their disclosure, two grenades, a Chinese pistol, a pistol magazine and four live rounds were recovered from them, he said.

Similarly, on Aug 11, during a naka checking at Powarian Thajal Uri, security forces signalled a vehicle to stop.

Desperate measure

Kota admin orders anti-suicide device' on ceiling fans to stop student suicides

Kota (Rajasthan) August 18 (PTI): Worried by a spate of suicides by hanging, the authorities in this coaching hub have taken a desperate measure ordering hostels to install a spring device on ceiling fans to stop students from taking their lives. Twenty students preparing for competitive exams in Kota have died by suicide so far this year, authorities say. Last year, the figure was 15.

The "anti-suicide measure" was discussed on August 12 at a meeting between Kota officials and other stakeholders. On Wednesday, Deputy Commissioner O P Bunkar issued the directions, demanding strict compliance. Action will be taken against hostel owners and their manage-

ments if the directions on fans are not followed, the administration said.

This is how the device works: If an object weighing more than 20 kilos is hung from the fan, the spring attached to it expands, making it impossible for someone to commit suicide by this method. Simultaneously, a siren goes off. Back in 2017, the Kota Hostels Association had discussed the measure. But it did not gain popularity with the estimated 25,000 paying guest facilities in the city, where thousands of students from across the country enrol at coaching centres every year to prepare for competitive exams. Experts are unsure how far a "suicide-proof" ceiling fan will help stressed students.

Five farmer suicides reported over three days

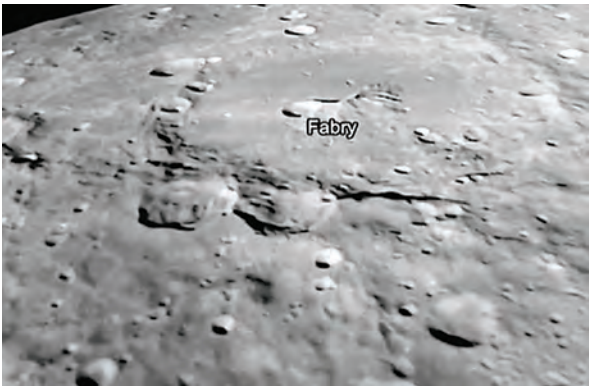
Nagpur, Aug 18 (PTI): Five farmers ended their lives on account of crop failure or agriculture-related financial issues in Yavatmal district of eastern Maharashtra from August 13 to 15, an activist claimed on Friday.

A local official confirmed the incidents but said the causes of these suicides were yet to be ascertained.

As many as 1,565 farmer suicides have taken place in Vidarbha (eastern Maharashtra) so far this year, claimed activist Kishore Tiwari, a former chairman of the state government's Vasant Naik Shetkari Swavlambi Mission for farmers' welfare.

A farmer named Manoj Rathod (35), resident of village Yerad in Yavatmal district, hanged himself due to financial crisis on August 15, he said.

Lander Module health normal, gets closer to Moon



The images, captured after the separation of the Lander Module from the Propulsion Module of the spacecraft, showed the craters on the Moon's surface that were marked on the photographs released by ISRO as 'Fabry', 'Giordano Bruno' and 'Harkhebi J'.

IST," ISRO said in a post on X (formerly Twitter)

The Lander Module of Chandrayaan-3 had successfully separated from the Propulsion Module on Thursday, 35 days after the satellite was launched on July 14.

ISRO sources had earlier said, that after separation, the lander is expected to undergo "deboost"

(the process of slowing down) operations to place it in an orbit, where the Perilune (the orbit's closest point to the Moon) is 30 kilometres and Apolune (farthest point from the Moon) is 100 km, from where the soft landing on the south polar region of the Moon will be attempted. At around 30 km altitude, the lander enters the

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Kejriwal, Mann to address AAP event today

Raipur, Aug 18 (PTI): Delhi Chief Minister and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal will be on a daylong visit to Chhattisgarh capital Raipur on Saturday, his third trip to the poll-bound state in the past five months.

Kejriwal will be accompanied by Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann and the duo will address an Aam Aadmi Party workers' convention here at Jainam Manas Bhavan opposite Raipur airport at 12 noon, AAP's state unit chief Komal Hupendi told reporters on Friday.

Kejriwal will also release "guarantee cards" for the people of Chhattisgarh on what his party will implement if voted to power in the state, he said.

Assembly elections in Congress-governed Chhattisgarh will likely be held in a few months.

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Massive dharna seeking reimbursement under Half Electricity Bill Scheme today

Lyness Club celebrates I Day in three schools

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Aug 18: Members of Lyness Club hoisted tricolour in 3 different schools on Independence Day and distributed biscuits and chocolates to the children. President Savita Srivastava hoisted the flag at Jyotiba Phule School in the presence of other members along with Area Officer Meena Singh, Secretary Nandini Hivse.

Thereafter, she distributed biscuits and chocolates to the children. Next the flag was hoisted in Prayas school along with the Lions Club members. The children performed a very beautiful mock drill. Treasurer Seema Kukhraniya hoisted the flag at Shanti Nagar



School in the presence of Sushma Upadhyay and Lata Mantri and distributed biscuits and chocolates to the children there. After that the children presented a cultural programme.

- Thousands of denizens to participate under the leadership of former VS Speaker Prem Prakash Pandey
- Demand for benefit of Rs 30,000 for every consumer of Bhilai Township

Bhilai, Aug 18: A huge dharna is being organized on August 19 to protest against the Chief Minister and Bhilai Nagar MLA for misleading the residents of Bhilai Township in the last four and a half years which prevented the benefits of Half Electricity Bill Scheme to pass on to the people of aforesaid area

since March 2019. Former Chhattisgarh VS Speaker Prem Prakash Pandey will lead the dharna which is being organized at Shri Ganesh Puja Manch near Sector 01, Central Avenue. Thousands of Bhilai residents, mainly from township, are expected to participate and register their protest and seek reimbursement of Rs 30,000 each.

Pandey explained that the Chief Minister and the MLA of Bhilai lied to the domestic consumers affiliated to BSP of Bhilai Townshi, which prevented them from getting the benefit of "Half Electricity Bill Scheme". He added that and that the assembly



election is round the corner; this scheme has been stated to be implemented from September 01, 2023. In this regard, initially both of them lied to the public that they would get

the benefit of the scheme only after handing over power supply to CSPDCL. Pandey sought answer to the question that when the Chief Minister can implement this scheme from September 2023, then why he did not do so from March 2019 and give benefits to the township denizens like lakhs of consumers of the state. Pandey said that if the scheme is implemented from March 2019, more than 28 thousand domestic consumers from the township will get a total benefit of Rs 80 crore and each consumer will get about Rs 30 thousand. That means they will not have to pay electricity bill for

next 2 years.

Former Minister demanded from the Chief Minister that now that the half bill scheme has been implemented then give the benefit of this scheme to the residents of Bhilai Township from March 2019. It is with this demand, along with thousands of Bhilai residents, they will stage a huge protest in Sector-1 and seek their rightful money. Pandey appealed to all the residents of Bhilai to join the dharna as the benefit of this scheme is the right of all of us, and claim of Rs 30 thousand rupees is the right of every consumer and we will have to fight for it.

Devendra Yadav to start 251 km Pragati Yatra from today

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Aug 18: Bhilai Nagar MLA Devendra Yadav since being elected has been continuously moving in public to stay in touch with people. After winning the election, he took out Bhilai Sankalp Yatra, then sat with the general public and had conversation over tea in various wards.

Even during the Corona period, he remained connected with the people through online medium and extended whatever help needed. He organized Chaupal in every ward and interacted with people. Now, he has planned to start "Pragati Yatra" from August 19 in his constituency.

This march will pass through every street and locality of every ward and



cover about 251 kilometres. MLA Devendra Yadav will tour all the wards on foot and this journey will begin from Sector 7 and end at Chhawani, Khursipar. During the Yatra Devendra Yadav will cover entire township. Along with this, Bhumi Pujan and inauguration of development work will be

done in the wards. Here it needs a mention that prior to Independence Day, he took out Tiranga Yatra during which he travelled a distance of 76 kilometers. Thousands of people joined him in this journey and traveled on foot with him. After the Tiranga Yatra, now MLA Devendra Yadav is about to start the Pragati Yatra.

BSP's SMS-II initiates 'Chetna' to spread awareness for safety

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Aug 18: Steel Melting Shop -No 2 of Bhilai Steel Plant conducted a unique initiative 'Chetna' to spread awareness on safety among the Plant personnel. 'Chetna - Suraksha ki bat, Shram Veeron ke sath' a unique and innovative safety initiative was launched by the Continuous Casting Shop of the Mechanical Section of SMS-II on August 16, 2023. Under this initiative, an interaction session was conducted by SMS-II where 100 contract workers along with their family members, were made aware of the rules of safety and were encouraged to adopt safe ways of working. The session was aimed at sensitizing the contract workers to the risks and hazards at the

workplace. SK Ghosal, CGM (SMS-II) was the Chief Guest on this occasion.

Addressing the gathering, SK Ghosal spoke on various safety initiatives being taken at SMS-II and encouraged the attendees to abide by safety standards at all times during work. Safety is a matter of common sense and alertness and our common mistakes like not using the safety gears properly may lead to major accidents. Therefore, we should be fully alert and conscious at the workplace. SMS-II is one big family, and we should work together to avoid every mishap. Appreciating the participation of workers, Ghosal said similar sessions shall also be organised in future and assured the workers to provide



every help they require in order to work safely.

In the Welcome Address, Yogesh Shastri, GM (MM-SMS-II) said that the basic aim of this programme is to emphasize the importance of Safety in day-to-day work at SMS-II and to engage families in the journey towards Safety excellence. SK Agarwal GM I/c (SED) said that Safety be-

gins at home and we have a lot to learn from how our homemakers keep things at home. Dr Anant Sontake, GM (SED) emphasized on various points of Safety at home and how our approach can help us to deal with risks and Hazards at home.

Aftab Alam, Safety officer (M/s Protective General Engineering) con-

ducted a Safety Quiz while Gaurav Singhal, DSO (SMS-II) explained cue cards along with examples. Madhavi, Anjali Singh, Neelam, Janaki, Deepshikha, Jessica, Usha and Pushpa Upadhyay and Gulshan Kumar, Vinod Kumar, Ravi Kumar Prasad, Ravi Deshlahre, G Shankar, Dinesh Kumar Sahu, Paswan, Anand Singh, Jasdeep, Sachin, Purenra, Raju Sagar, Ashish Hirwani were given-away attractive prizes for their participation in the Safety Quiz.

T Govind, GM (MM-CCS), Rakesh Asai, GM (MM-SBS) were also present on this occasion. The programme was compered by Sanjeev Singh while Nikunj Singhal, GM (MM-CCS) proposed the vote of thanks.

I Day celebrated in Guru Nanak English Senior Secondary School

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Aug 18: Guru Nanak English Senior Secondary School, Sector-6, celebrated 76th Independence day with great joy and pomp. On this grand festival the chairman of school education committee Sardar Tara Singh congratulated everyone. Chief guest S Vikrant Singh (Head Granth Gurudwara Sec-6, Bhilai) unfurled the flag. As soon as the flag was hoisted everyone sang the National Anthem. This event was successfully held in the presence of the president of Shree Guru Singh Sabha Sardar Kulwant Singh, Vice President of Shree Guru Singh Sabha Sardar



Gurudev Singh and Sardar Manjeet Singh (Vice President) SPPS Ahluwalia (Cashier), General Secretary Sardar Baljit Singh Ji, S Jasbeer Singh (J Secretary) and SGS Flora, (member of School Education Committee), Sardar

Amardeep Singh (Member) S Harmmeet Singh (G Secretary), Sardar Manjinder Singh (Member) Sardar Baldev Singh (Treasurer) Guest of Honour and Principal of Mona Singh. The programme ended by giving sweets to all the students.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Aug 18: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Jawahar Lal Nehru Hospital & Research Centre, Sector-09, celebrated India's 77th Independence Day with a series of programmes. Triparna Dasgupta, President (Bhilai Mahila Samaj) hoisted the National Flag in presence of Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP), Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects), AK Chakraborty, ED (MM), Dr AK Panda, ED (F&A), Pawan Kumar, ED (P&A), BK Giri, ED (Mines), and Dr Ravindranath M, CMO



I/c (M&HS), along with Chief Medical Officers of JLNHRC, Dr Pramod Binayake, Dr V Dwivedi,

Dr RK Pal, Dr K Thakur, Senior Doctors and Hospital Staff.

Executive members of BMS, including Neerja Kumari Singh, Vice-President and Praniti Mukhopadhyay, Molly Chakraborty, and Meera Panda, and Smita Giri, Additional Vice-Presidents were also present, along with Sadhana Goyal, General Secretary, Sonali Rath, Co-Secretary, Shikha Jain, Treasurer and Deepanwita Pal, Co-Treasurer and other BMS

members. Anirban Dasgupta inaugurated two LED TVs at the hospital's OPD and Conference Hall, which will display public information. A presentation titled "Rishta Aasoon se Muskan Tak Ka" featuring the journey and achievements of BSP's M&HS department was also given by Md Zakir Hussain, Journalist. Appreciating the presentation, Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) said that our history is so glorious that it doesn't fail to mesmerize us. We sincerely endeavor to add to the legacy of JLNH&RC. Currently we are facing a few chal-

lenges such as shortage of doctors, however we are constantly engaged to improve the facilities. Dasgupta also appreciated the hospital's cleanliness and Organ Donation campaign held recently.

Triparna Dasgupta, President (BMS), and Neerja Kumari Singh, VP (BMS) also felicitated hospital-staff members from various Wards, who stood winners in the Cleanliness Contest. BMS members and Departmental Officers also distributed fruits among the patients to mark India's 77th Independence Day celebrations by the JLNH&RC Collective.

OBITUARY**Roop Narayan Singh**

Bhilai: Ex-serviceman Roop Narayan Singh, resident of House No 1A, Street 1, Sector 2, retired from the Fire Brigade Department of Bhilai Steel Plant, breathed his last at Ramakrishna Care Hospital Raipur during treatment on August 17 at 20:30 hrs. He was 88 years old. Last rites of his mortal remains will be performed at Ramnagar Muktidham at 11:30 hrs on August 19. He was the father of BSP employee Pradeep Kumar Singh and Satyendra Singh. Kshatriya Kalyan Sabha Bhilai Nagar has expressed condolences on his death and paid tributes to him.

Krishna Kumar Patil conferred with D Litt



KK Patil

Bhilai, Aug 18: Krishna Kumar Patil, an employee of MARS-2 Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has been conferred with the prestigious "Vaidya Vachaspti-Doctorate of Literature" by the Vikramshila Hindi Vidyapeeth, Bhagalpur, Bihar. Patil was conferred

D Litt for his book "Jai Chhattisgarh Dai" based on the Indian Classical Ragas in Chhattisgarhi language. He is a talented singer, composer and instrumentalist and has also performed at All India Radio and Doordarshan. The MARS-2 collective has congratulated him for this achievement.

Patil was also awarded with Sangeet Samman-2019 by State's Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. He has sung and composed several songs in Chhattisgarhi language, which are based on various Ragas. The musician fraternity of Chhattisgarh, his family and society has extended their wishes on his achievement.

Moh Akbar appointed Chairman Election Manifesto Committee

Raipur, Aug 18: The AICC National President Mallikarjun Kharge has constituted 23-member Chhattisgarh Election Manifesto Committee (CEMC) for PCC Chhattisgarh and in this Mohammed Akbar has been appointed as its Chairman.

The members of the Committee are - Mohammed Akbar-Chairman; members are-Ravindra Choubey, Dr Shiv Kumar Daharia, Amarjeet Bhagat, Umesh Patel, Dr Premsai Singh Tekam, Dhnendra Sahu, Phulodevi Netam; Shailesh Pandey, Arun Vora, Shishupal Sori, Dewarkadheesh Yadav, Kunwar Singh Nishad, Rajesh Tiwari, Chunni Lal Sahu, Idrish Gandhi, Hema Deshmukh, Atal



Shrivastava, Ajay Tirki, Rajendra Jaggi, Vani Rao, Shesh Raj Barbans, Aakash Sharma.

AICC has also approved formation of Election Management Committee and its members are as follows:

Dr Shiv Kumar Daharia-Chairman; Ramgopal Agrawal - Convener; Arun Singhania; Rajesh Tiwari; Girish Dewangan; Milkit Singh Gaindu; Gajraj Pagria;

Chairman of Election Management and Strategy Samiti is Tamradhwaj Sahu, Ravindra Choubey, Mohammed Akbar, Kawasi Lakhma, Jaisingh Agrawal, Mohan Markam, Dhanendra Sahu, Laksheshwar Baghel, Anand Kukreja, Arun Singhania, Malkit Singh Gendu, Jatin Jaiswal, Pankaj Mahawar, Arun Batra, Safi Ahmed, Uma Shankar Shukla, and Gajraj Pagaria.

President of Disciplinary Committee is Dhanendra Sahu; Jyotsna Mahant, JP Shrivastava, Pratima Chandrakar, Dhanesh Patila, Ravi Ghosh, Malkit Singh Gendu, Deepak Mishra and Naresh Thakur.

11 new District

Presidents appointed
AICC National President has approved the proposal of appointment of Presidents of various District Congress Committees in PCC Chhattisgarh and the names are:

Shakti-Trilok Chand Jaiswal; Bilaigarh-Sarangarh - Arun Malaka; Mahendragarh- Chirmiri-Bharatpur - Ashok Shrivastava; Mohala-Manpur- Ambagarh Chowki- Anil Manikpuri; Koriya- Pradeep Gupta; Rajnandgaon (rural) - Bhagwat Sahu; Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi- Uttam Vasudev; Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan- Gandai - Adv. Gajendra Thakre ; Bastar (City) - Sushil Mourya; Narayanpur - Rajnu Nigam; Kawardha - Hori Ram sahu

Employment cum skill fair today

Raipur, Aug 18: Employment cum skill fair has been organized by the District Placement Cell and Employment and Self-Employment Guidance Center on August 19, 2023 for the Industrial Sector at Advani Oerlikon School, Birgaon. A total of 301 posts will be filled with recruitment for industrial sector in the city. Candidates can apply from 10:30 am to 1 pm. Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure has appealed to the youth of the district to participate in this employment cum skill fair and apply according to their eligibility and get employment. The employment cum skill fair is being organized with the objective of providing employment opportunities to the beneficiaries of Unemployment Allowance Scheme. Qualification, experience and pay scale have been fixed according to all the posts. The employment cum skill fair is completely free for the applicants. Facility of online registration and application is also available through Raipur Rozgar Sangi Portal <https://raipurrozgarsangi.com> and mobile app.

Workshop on TB-free Panchayat Initiative

Raipur, Aug 18: A one-day state-level workshop on TB-free Panchayat Initiative was organized by the Department of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with Reach India. Officials of Health and Family Welfare Department and Panchayat and Rural Development Department were sensitized for effective implementation of Tuberculosis eradication program in villages, in the workshop organized at a private hotel in capital city Raipur.

Under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), a target has been set to make Chhattisgarh TB-free by the year 2025. TB Free Panchayat Initiative has been started as an important strategy to achieve this goal. District Tuberculosis Officers, District Program Coordinators/PPM Coordinators and

Panchayati Raj Officers/equivalent officers of District Panchayats of Panchayat and Rural Development Department of all the districts of the state participated in the workshop.

Addressing the workshop, Joint Director of Health Department, Dr SK Pambhoi said that to get rid of tuberculosis, a campaign was launched upto the village level. In the past, India has been made polio free through the Pulse Polio campaign with the coordination and cooperation of various departments. Similarly, once again in campaign mode, with the joint efforts of various departments and citizens, Tuberculosis has to be eliminated.

State Tuberculosis Officer Dr Dharmendra Gahwai told in the workshop that by the year 2025 all gram panchayats will have to be made TB-free. To this end, there is a need to work by preparing

a plan at the village level, he emphasised. The TB-free Panchayat Initiative seeks to create a spirit of healthy competition among Gram Panchayats for the elimination of TB.

Under the TB-free Panchayat Initiative, Gram Panchayats will have to claim TB-free Panchayat every year in the month of January by fulfilling various criteria set for TB-free Panchayat. After verifying the claim by the district level team, the concerned gram panchayats will be declared TB-free panchayats on March 24. Such gram panchayats will also be rewarded. Some districts prepared and presented an action plan up to the village level to make their district TB free. Dr Kshitij Khaparde, Regional Head, WHO, Subrata Mohanty, Senior Advisor, Reach India and Ms Amrita Goswami, US-Aid were also present in the workshop.

National meeting of Builders Association for the first time in Raipur: Kanwaljit Singh Oberoi

Raipur, Aug 18: For the first time in Chhattisgarh, the State and Western Zone meeting of the Builders Association of India is going to be held at Raipur on August 19. More than 400 contractors and officials will participate in this meeting. Contractors from five states Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat and Maharashtra will participate in the meeting. Through this meeting, the contractors will put their problems on the table, informed by Kanwaljit Singh Oberoi, State President BAI, Rupesh Singhal, President, Raipur Center BAI while speaking to the scribes here. Mr Oberoi said that in Chhattisgarh, BAI has active centers in Ambikapur Bilaspur



Durg-Bhilai, Jagdalpur, Kanker, Raipur and Rajnandgaon.

He said that the main motive of the Builders Association of India is capacity building through training of contractors for quality work.

He said that National Academy of construction (NAC) has been formed in other states, efforts should be made for this to be started in Chhattisgarh also and setting up and working of health related camps at the construction sites and to provide higher education to the children of labourers. To establish 20000 square feet of land in Naya Raipur at a low rate for basic training of construction businesses in which uneducated and educated technicians, machinists will be given training to operate other machines, so that the youth of Chhattisgarh get employment opportunities. Along with this, it is a helpful step in the development of the state. He alleged that earlier GST was applicable at 12% in construction. At the time when GST was implemented by removing VAT, the difference amount of GST 12% and VAT 5% was paid to the contractors in the ongoing works,

but last year the slab of GST 12% was changed to 18%. But the department of Chhattisgarh like Public Works Department is not paying the amount of 6% of the difference, in this regard some contractors went to the High Court, in which the High Court calculated the difference of 12% to 18% GST and an order has been passed to pay the difference amount but department is taking interest in it. While the difference amount is being paid in all the departments of the center and other departments of Chhattisgarh.

Association is also facing royalty issues with the state government which it will discuss in the meeting, he said.

PK Mudad (Preeti) appointed President RSS

Raipur, Aug 18: Pradeep Kau Mudad (Preeti) has been appointed as the President of Ramgarhia Sewa Sabha (RSS) (women's wing) for 2023-25. In this Ramgarhia Sewak Sabha (RSS) the Board of Directors in the Women Wing are - Balwinder Kaur Bhamra, Harsharan Kaur Rana, Kamaljit Kaur Bhamara, Kuldeep Kaur Virdhi, Baljit Kaur Bacchu, Mini Virdi, Tejendra Kaur Bhui, Narinder Kaur Missan, Sanjeet Kaur Sandhu elected Pradeep Kaur Mudad (Preeti) as the President unanimously. For the post of Vice President- Anshu Rana,



Secretary- Simran Kaur Nanaire, Asst. Secy. Jaswinder Dadiyal, Mandeep Kaur Saggi, State Secy- Kanwaljeet Kaur (Sonu), Mona Virdi;

Treasurer- Nitu Bhui, Cultural Secy- Jeet Kaur Sokhi, Manju Bhamara; in the PR section- Roma Virdi, Sweety Saggi were appointed.

स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं..

खण्ड शिक्षा अधिकारी
कार्यालय विकासखण्ड बकावण्ड
जिला-बस्तर (छ.ग.)

स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं..

भारतीय जनता पार्टी
जगदलपुर, जिला बस्तर (छ.ग.)

संतोष बाफना
पूर्व विधायक जगदलपुर

स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं..

अबुल हाशिम खान
सदर, अंजुमन इस्लामिया
कमेटी जगदलपुर
जिला-बस्तर (छ.ग.)

स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं..

खण्ड शिक्षा अधिकारी
कार्यालय विकासखण्ड बस्तर
जिला-बस्तर (छ.ग.)

स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं..

मान. दीपक बैज
सांसद बस्तर,
अध्यक्ष प्रदेश कांग्रेस कमेटी

स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं..

रामेश्वर बिसाई
उप सरपंच, ग्राम पंचायत कुरुदवाडा सेमरा
ज.पं. जगदलपुर, जिला बस्तर (छ.ग.)

Youth should be dedicated to nation building: Prof. Chakrawal

77th I-Day celebrated with enthusiasm in CU

Bilaspur, Aug 18: Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University) celebrated 77th Independence Day on 15th August, 2023 with gaiety and enthusiasm. Vice-Chancellor of the University Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal while addressing the members of the University family on the occasion of 77th Independence Day said that the youth should not waste their time and dedicate themselves to nation building.

At the beginning of the program, V-C Prof. AK Chakrawal and former V-C of Saurashtra University, Prof. Nilambari Dave and the Registrar, Prof. Manish Srivastava first offered flowers before the statue of Baba Guru Ghasidas ji. After offering flowers before the statue of Maa Saraswati and the portrait of Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, Honorable Vice-Chancellor hoisted the national flag.

Addressing the gathering at the 77th Independence Day celebrations, V-C after hoisting the flag, Prof. Chakrawal inaugurated the selfie points of "I love GGV" established at four



different places inside the university. Extending best wishes and hearty congratulations on the 77th Independence Day to all the teachers, officers, employees and students of the university, he said that we have got freedom as a result of tireless struggle and lakhs of sacrifices. "We should," Prof. Chakrawal said, "understand the value of our freedom and should discharge our responsibilities with utmost dedication and devotion—this will be our true service and devotion towards the nation".

The V-C Prof. Chakrawal, congratulated all at the submission of the Self Study Report (SSR) by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of the University and called for cooperation and coordinated efforts

from all for making the university excel and get a good grade in NAAC evaluation. He said, referring to Green Metrics that we are constantly striving to reduce our carbon emissions while doing better. This year, a target has been set to plant 25,000 saplings in the university campus.

The Vice Chancellor Prof. Chakrawal said that teachers should be inspired to feel like guardians towards the students and establish themselves as ideal models so that mutual cordiality is ensured with the progress of the institution. The ideal behavior and inspirational conduct of teachers establish them as gurus. Parents are the first teacher, but the teacher has an important contribution in the moral

and professional growth of the students. He expressed confidence that our positive and sensitive efforts will bring the university in the category of best universities not only in the country but also in the world.

Earlier, the Vice-Chancellor took salute of the parade of NCC, NSS volunteers and University security personnel.

At the end of the program, the Registrar, Prof. Manish Srivastava expressed his gratitude to everyone while giving thanks. The program was conducted by the Dean Student Welfare, Prof. Shailendra Kumar. Prasad was distributed on this occasion. Deans, heads of departments, teachers, officers, and employees of the university were present in the programme.

ITM University marks 77th I-Day with spirited celebration

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Aug 18: ITM University Raipur reverberated with patriotic fervor as it commemorated the 77th Independence Day at its Naya Raipur-based campus. Colonel Mark Arland from Indian Army's Chhattisgarh and Odisha Sub Area located at Naya Raipur was the chief guest of the Independence program here. Colonel Mark Arland hoisted the tricolor at the ITM University campus on Tuesday on the 76th anniversary of India's freedom.

The ceremonial proceedings were presided over by ITM University's esteemed Vice-Chancellor, Professor (Dr) Sumer Singh, alongside Director General Ms. Lakshmi Murthy, Registrar Saurav Chatterjee, IQAC Director Dr. Yaseen Sheikh, Joint Registrar Vikas Bhonsale, and an honorary assembly of Indian Army personnel.

Soon after, addressing the university students and teachers, Colonel Mark Arland paid homage to the sacrifices of India's freedom fighters and the enduring contributions of its heroes. He emphasized the strength



derived from India's cultural diversity and its robust democratic system. Urging active participation in nation-building, he called upon all to engage in civic duties such as voting, community service, and public welfare.

Vice-Chancellor Dr. Sumer Singh inspired the audience with a powerful message, invoking the legacies of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who played pivotal roles in shaping India's destiny. Dr. Singh underlined the significance of embracing their philosophies in contemporary life and stressed the responsibility of realizing their vision for India's future. Adding a

touch of eco-consciousness, the program included a plantation drive within the university premises. Noteworthy contributions to the green and clean city campaign were acknowledged, with Director General Dr. Lakshmi Murthy felicitating members of the Bunch of Fools, a notable non-governmental organization.

The event was punctuated with vibrant cultural performances that celebrated the essence of independence.

Students and university faculty delivered eloquent poetry, speeches, melodious songs, and captivating group dances, captivating the audience, and infusing

the atmosphere with patriotic zeal.

The celebration was impeccably coordinated by Associate Professor Dr. Khushboo Sahu, Prof. Spurthi Pathak, Prof. Rajesh Ubale, Prof. Akanksha Sharma, and Dr. Shishir Vind Sharma. The crescendo of the cultural extravaganza was marked by a heartfelt vote of thanks, eloquently proposed by Registrar Sourav Chatterjee.

The 77th Independence Day celebration at ITM University Raipur remains a poignant reminder of the indomitable spirit that propels the nation forward, rooted in its past and united in its aspirations for a brighter future.

Forest Department seize huge quantity of teakwood



Takes action on illegal transportation of wood

Team of Forest Department took the action while patrolling Koriya Forest Division at night

wood worth about Rs 69 thousand and the luxury vehicle in which the said wood was being smuggled.

The joint team of Forest Department took the aforesaid action on instructions of PCCF (Principal Chief Conservator of Forest) Srinivasa Rao and Forest Division Officer, Koriya Prabhakar Khalkho. During the night patrolling in Baikunthpur area of Koriya Forest Division, the joint team seized 11 logs of teakwood and the pick-up vehicle CG 15 ZB 0129 in which the teakwood was being illegally transported. Forest Department officials have informed that further action is being taken in the matter.

BALCO celebrates India's 77th I-Day with pride and enthusiasm



Balconagar, Aug 18: Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), India's iconic aluminium producer and a subsidiary of Vedanta Aluminium, marked the nation's 77th Independence Day with grand celebrations involving employees, family members and business partners within the BALCO plant premises.

Rajesh Kumar, CEO & Director, BALCO, initiated the celebration by hoisting the national flag, followed by the singing of the national anthem. Mr. Kumar addressed the audience and took the opportunity to recognize and applaud the gathered participants for their dedicated efforts towards BALCO's

operational excellence.

He highlighted all the important benchmarks that BALCO has achieved so far in its journey and the important part that it has played in the growth and development of the nation through its community development endeavors, environmental & social initiatives as well as cutting-edge business ecosystem. He shared the future growth roadmap for BALCO, aligned to the national vision of making India a global manufacturing powerhouse, and urged everyone to be a part of this journey and fulfill their responsibility towards the nation.

The event concluded with an oath-taking ceremony inspiring the atten-

dees to participate in voting and enhance the principles of democracy. Kumar also paid a visit to BALCO hospital, where he distributed fresh fruit baskets to several patients and took the time to personally enquire into their well-being.

Speaking about BALCO's contribution to India's growth story, Mr. Rajesh Kumar, CEO and Director, BALCO, said, "BALCO has made significant contributions to the state of Chhattisgarh and our country over its journey spanning more than five decades. In our endeavor to establish self-reliance in the Indian aluminium industry, we remain steadfastly committed to striving for opera-

tional excellence. Our aim is to drive unprecedented national growth through domestic production and value addition. By prompting innovations in our manufacturing processes and maintaining a strong focus on sustainable development, we are dedicated to positioning the nation as a global leader through manufacturing excellence."

Celebrating the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign initiated by the Government of India, members of the BALCO family enthusiastically joined the campaign by sharing selfies with saplings, soil, and earthen lamps, representing BALCO's role as a significant contributor to national progress. The Independence Day event also included the recognition of outstanding security guards and employees for their exemplary performance and enthusiastic engagement in cultural activities. The event also showcased films portraying BALCO's diversity and pride for the nation, along with capturing its enthusiasm for Independence Day.

IIT Bhilai celebrates 77th Independence Day



Raipur, Aug 18: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhilai celebrated Independence Day 2023 for the first time at its permanent campus.

Prof. Rajiv Prakash, Director, IIT Bhilai, hoisted the flag in the Academic Zone in the presence of members of the campus community. This was followed by the singing of the National Anthem and a grand parade by students and security guards.

Prof. Prakash addressed the gathering by remembering the sacrifices of countless people of Chhattisgarh in the quest for freedom – stalwarts

such as Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh, Shri Hanuman Singh, Shaheed Veer Gundadhar, Shri Birs Munda, and Smt Radha Bai.

He also expressed pride in the continuing growth of the institute and urged the institute community to pledge to work harder to scale greater heights of success and renown in the field of education and research in the year to come. The programme concluded with the distribution of sweets and refreshments. Students, faculty and staff members of IIT Bhilai along with employees of CPWD and L&T attended the celebration.

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day event held



Raipur, Aug 18: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur's National Service Scheme (NSS) organized a series of engaging events in observance of the "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day". The series of events took place on 14th August. The program aimed to remember the brutalities and tragedies that unfolded

during the partition of India in 1947. The events were smoothly coordinated by Dr. Govardhan Bhatt, Professor In-charge, NSS.

A Poster-making competition was held in which students showed their creativity using colors portraying the situation during the partition of India in 1947 whereas Poster ex-

hibition on "3rd Partition Horrors Remembrance Day" was also organized.

Further, Team NSS observed the "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day" and briefed about the impact and terrors of the Partition on the country of India by illustrating a PPT presentation to the attendees. The presentation depicted the struggles and sufferings of the refugees. Some of the remarkable freedom fighters from the state of Chhattisgarh were also mentioned.

On the completion of the event, the poster exhibition was inaugurated by the dignitaries. Posters and articles depicting the critical situation of the "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day" and also the handmade posters by the participants were showcased to the guests and attendees.

Skit Staged on 'Unity in Diversity'



Raipur, Aug 18: The students of Adarsh Vidyalaya Devendra Nagar conducted a thought-provoking skit on the theme of Unity in Diversity in order to highlight the strength of India as a nation. Our motherland is the home of several religions, castes, creed, languages, culture, food and dress habits. However, the country remains one with her unity as a nation; the people keep a strong bond of fraternity and brotherhood. This is the core of our strength and a live message for our time.

The daily school assembly pledge becomes cemented further with the most beautiful ideal of 'all Indians are our brothers and sisters.....' in the tender minds of school children. The beautifully enacted skit and the enthusiastic applause it received from the school assembly is a

firm assurance of the future generation that India is and will remain united, despite its diversity.

The student-artists also used the medium of colours to drive their ideas home into the spectators. Different shades of colours constitute the enchanting rainbow as people with varied culture make a capable, complete and determined nation. People love, respect and have concern for each other which is the real strength of this biggest democracy in the world.

The principal of the school Suman Shanbag congratulated the students and the teachers of class 9 for the motivating skit with unity as a theme. The theme and concept of unity despite differences is a real ray of hope in the modern world of strife and bitter struggles and an answer to many of the ills confronting many societies of the world.

Sant Dnyaneshwar School celebrated 77th I-Day



Raipur, Aug 18: Sant Dnyaneshwar Hr. Sec. Vidyalaya, a project of Maharashtra Mandal, celebrated 77th Independence Day. In which as Chief Guest Secretary of Maharashtra Mandal Chetern Dandwate, School Incharge Niranjan Pandit, Paritosh Dongaonkar, Mr & Mrs. Prasanna Nimonkar, Prashant Deshpande and other dignitaries of Maharashtra Mandal gave their presence. During the pro-

gramme motivational speech of Chief Guest as well as cultural programmes were given by

the students of the school. The programme concluded with vote of thanks by Stuti Robinson.

CM Baghel announces financial assistance of Rs. 11 cr

CM said that we stand with the people of Himachal Pradesh in this crisis

Raipur, Aug 18: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has announced Rs. 11 cr as

financial aid for people affected by heavy rains and landslides in Himachal Pradesh. He expressed solidarity with the affected people. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had a discussion with Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Mr. Sukhvinder

Singh Sukhu over the phone yesterday, acknowledging the natural calamities that the state is currently experiencing. He assured that the country stands with the people of Himachal Pradesh in these difficult times and that all necessary efforts will be made.

'Ch'garh Govt will provide all possible support and guidance to Assam: Sharma

Raipur, Aug 18: Members of the Bodoland Territorial Committee (BTC), on a one-day study tour in Chhattisgarh, have expressed admiration for the impactful Rural Industrial Park (RIPA). The committee visited the Serikhedhi Multi Utility Centre as well as the RIPA facilities in Lakholi and Kosragi within the Raipur district. They observed various livelihood-related activities conducted in these centres and gathered comprehensive insights. During a meeting with the Chief Minister's Advisor, Pradeep Sharma, at the State Planning Commission office in Nava Raipur, the BTC members shared their tour experience. They lauded RIPA as a commendable measure to bolster the local economy and provide



grassroots employment opportunities. The committee members acknowledged that after hearing about Chhattisgarh's initiatives, witnessing them firsthand left a strong impression. The Bodoland Territorial Committee members praised the systematic approach of RIPA's implementation, spanning production to marketing and yielding everyday-use products. They hailed the scheme for enhancing

rural skill development and local employment. Recognising its potential, they expressed interest in adopting a similar model in Bodoland, where substantial hand-looms and goods are produced. In discussions with Mr. Pradeep Sharma and the State Planning Commission, the BTC members received answers to their queries and concerns about RIPA, aiming to glean insights for potential implementation in their region.

Common cold virus unveils alarming association with severe blood clotting disorder



A seemingly harmless common respiratory virus, known for causing mild cold and flu symptoms, has been startlingly linked to a potentially life-threatening blood clotting disorder. Researchers from the University of North Carolina (UNC) School of Medicine have identified a concerning connection between the common cold virus and severe thrombocytopenia – a critical drop in platelet levels – as well as blood clot formation.

This breakthrough finding not only provides valuable insights into the flu virus's impact but also offers the potential for earlier diagnosis, tailored treatment, and improved

patient outcomes in cases of this perilous disorder. Published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the study unveils a novel perspective on the influenza virus, exposing its role in triggering an anti-platelet factor 4 (PF4) disorder.

The research signifies a significant advancement in medical understanding, paving the way for comprehensive investigations into the underlying mechanisms and potential risk factors associated with this condition. Key questions remain unanswered, including the intricacies of its occurrence and the individuals most susceptible to developing this disorder. In anti-PF4 disor-

ders, the body's immune system generates antibodies against a protein called platelet factor-4 (PF4), which is released by platelets. When these antibodies bind to PF4, a cascade of events can ensue, leading to platelet activation, swift platelet removal, blood clot formation, and reduced platelet levels.

Remarkably, the formation of anti-PF4 antibodies can be triggered by exposure to heparin, a blood-thinning medication (heparin-induced thrombocytopenia or HIT). Alternatively, it can manifest as an autoimmune condition without heparin exposure, termed "spontaneous HIT." The discovery

stemmed from the case of a young child who, after being diagnosed with an adenovirus infection, faced an alarming health crisis. The child's condition rapidly escalated, culminating in an aggressive blood clot in the brain (cerebral sinus vein thrombosis) and severe thrombocytopenia. Intriguingly, this occurrence could not be attributed to traditional triggers like heparin or the adeno-vector COVID-19 vaccine.

Jacquelyn Baskin-Miller of UNC recounted the urgency of the situation: "Our interdisciplinary team of ICU physicians, neuro-intensivists, and hematologists worked tirelessly to devise a care plan for the child. Despite their efforts, the child's condition was deteriorating rapidly. The idea of a link between the adenovirus and the disorder was considered, though no existing literature supported such a connection at the time."

This groundbreaking revelation serves as a stark reminder of the complex interactions between viruses and the human body, driving researchers to uncover novel pathways and enhance our comprehension of intricate health challenges.

Scientists recreate iconic pink floyd song using listener brain activity

In a groundbreaking study, researchers from the University of California (UC), Berkeley, have tapped into the brain activity of individuals listening to Pink Floyd's legendary track "Another Brick in the Wall" to reconstruct the iconic rock song. The study highlights the remarkable potential of decoding brain waves to extract intricate musical components embedded within speech.

The team's innovative approach uncovered that brain waves can be meticulously captured and processed to unveil musical nuances concealed within spoken language. Elements like rhythm, stress, accent, intonation, and syllabic patterns, which contribute to conveying meaning beyond words alone, were discerned through this novel methodology.

Through meticulous analysis, the researchers successfully identified recognizable musical elements in the recreated song segment, including the distinct rhythm and somewhat intelligible lyrics of the phrase "All in all it was just a brick in the wall." This pioneering achievement was documented in a study published in the journal *PLoS Biology*.

The study involved 29 patients undergoing epilepsy surgery at Albany Medical Center, New York, over a decade ago. Neuroscientists meticulously recorded



electrical activity from electrodes placed on the patients' brains as they experienced a roughly 3-minute excerpt from Pink Floyd's 1979 album "The Wall."

The implications of this research stretch beyond music appreciation. "As the field of brain-machine interfaces evolves, this avenue offers a way to infuse musicality into future brain implants for individuals who require it," noted Robert Knight, a neurologist and UC Berkeley psychology professor involved in the study. This approach could aid those with neurological or developmental disorders affecting speech output, decoding not only linguistic but also emotional aspects of

communication.

Prior studies have focused on reconstructing heard words from brain activity or translating brain signals into visible text on a screen. However, this study uniquely sheds light on the auditory cortex's role in capturing the intricate auditory aspects of speech, adding a vibrant dimension to the understanding of human communication.

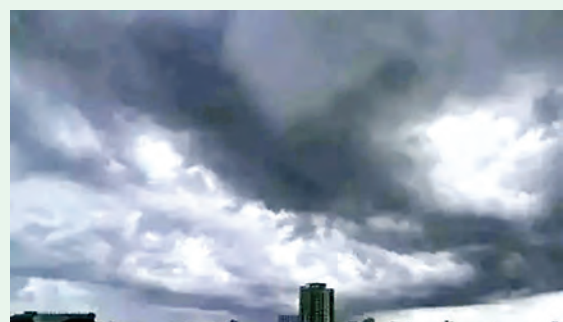
By delving into brain recordings from 2012 and 2013, Ludovic Bellier, the lead researcher, harnessed artificial intelligence to decode brain signals and craft a remarkable reproduction of the Pink Floyd masterpiece. This analysis also revealed previously

unidentified brain regions associated with rhythm detection, uncovering the intricate layers of musical perception.

Furthermore, the study reaffirmed the notion that music engages the right side of the brain to a greater extent than language, which predominantly activates the left side. This revelation further underscores the intricate interplay between music, cognition, and brain activity.

In essence, the study pioneers a pathway to fusing neuroscience and music, demonstrating the awe-inspiring potential of decoding brain activity to recreate intricate musical compositions hidden within speech.

River Delta Dust: A crucial factor in cloud ice formation and climate modeling



Recent findings from the University of Leeds and the National Centre for Atmospheric Science in the UK shed light on the pivotal role of dust particles from river deltas in the formation of ice crystals within clouds. This discovery underscores the importance of incorporating these factors into climate models for a more comprehensive understanding of their impact on global climate dynamics.

In cloud formation, ice-nucleating particles play a crucial role, enabling the aggregation of ice particles even at low temperatures. These particles prompt the crystallization of ice in clouds, influencing sunlight reflection and, consequently, the Earth's energy balance. The extent to which this ice formation contributes to global warming or cooling hinges upon various factors, including the quantity of ice, the presence of ice-nucleating particles, and their unique characteristics.

Traditionally, desert-derived dust particles were believed to be the primary influencers of ice-nucleating particles. However, the current study shifts the spotlight to dust from river deltas, particularly evident during the dry seasons. Winds lift microscopic fragments of rock, minerals, and vegetation from river deltas, such as the Copper River Valley in Alaska, to higher altitudes where they facilitate cloud ice formation. These findings challenge the prevailing assumption that desert dust alone dominates

the process. Contrary to previous assumptions, the study reveals that dust from river deltas exhibits higher efficacy in cloud ice formation compared to its desert counterparts. Notably, the biological richness of delta dust contributes to this enhanced effectiveness.

It has become evident that these microscopic fragments, abundant in substances crucial for life, act as catalysts for ice crystal growth. In contrast, ice formation facilitated by dust from arid regions like the Sahara is predominantly driven by particles of potassium feldspar, a mineral.

The implications of this research are significant. Climate models, as they stand, often overlook the contribution of high-latitude sources of dust like river deltas. Incorporating these findings into climate models is essential for more accurate predictions of global climate patterns. Benjamin Murray, a supervising atmospheric scientist from the University of Leeds, emphasizes the necessity of integrating such high-latitude dust sources into climate models.

In conclusion, the study demonstrates that river delta dust is a critical factor in cloud ice formation and consequently, climate dynamics. A comprehensive understanding of the diverse origins of ice-nucleating particles is vital for refining climate models, ultimately leading to more precise predictions and informed climate-related policies.

A fascinating new trend is sweeping across China's younger generation, as they increasingly turn to "temporary partnerships" to fulfill their need for companionship without the complexities of traditional relationships. This unique phenomenon, dubbed "da zi" in Mandarin, meaning "everything can be matched," is reshaping the dynamics of social interaction among Chinese millennials.

According to a recent report in the *South China Morning Post* (SCMP), the trend finds its roots in the desire for shared interests rather than conventional factors like gender or familiarity. Young individuals are leveraging social media platforms such as Xiaohongshu to connect with like-minded "temporary partners" who share their passions and hobbies.

From culinary aficionados and gaming enthusiasts to fitness buffs and travel aficionados,

Rise of Temporary Partnerships: A Unique Social Trend Among China's Youth



these temporary partnerships are flourishing around shared interests. However, what sets them apart is the lack of necessity for face-to-face

encounters. Instead, partners often engage in meaningful daily conversations using platforms like WeChat. One participant, speaking to SCMP,

highlighted the benefit of having a stranger as a temporary partner, stating, "Having a stranger supervise ensures both of us take it seriously. If I ask a friend or family member to do it, I might not take it as seriously and even argue with them."

The trend gained traction as young individuals sought companionship while preserving their personal space and independence. A participant explained, "I am truly very lonely, but I don't like initiating social interactions. I hope to have a stranger who won't delve into my life but can keep me from watching movies or eating hotpot all alone."

While the concept mainly revolves around shared interests, it isn't devoid of emotional nuances. Instances were shared of individuals developing unexpected feelings within these temporary partnerships, blurring the lines between friendship and romance.

UAE Astronaut's poignant chat with son offers insight into space journey

thing that I love most about Earth," Sultan Al Neyadi lovingly expressed, his heart connecting across the cosmic expanse.

Continuing the dialogue, Sultan Al Neyadi ventured into the unique wonders of space. Explaining the microgravity environment, he shared the fascinating abilities they possessed: "We can do everything, like flying from one place to another." The wholesome interaction, shared by the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre, showed



cased the duo's profound bond and the astronaut's ability to bridge the ce-

lestial and familial realms. The video, titled "A Call from Space -

AI tool can steal passwords with 93% accuracy by listening to keystrokes



A recent study has unveiled a concerning cybersecurity threat, indicating that entering passwords while participating in video conferencing sessions, such as those on Zoom, could expose individuals to potential cyberattacks. Hackers have devised an innovative method that employs artificial intelligence (AI) to 'listen' to keystrokes and steal sensitive credentials with an alarming accuracy rate of 93%, according to the findings. In a collaborative effort involving researchers from Durham, Surrey, and Royal Holloway universities, a startling discovery has been made. The AI tool in question possesses the ability to discern specific keys being pressed merely by analyzing the sounds generated during typing. The researchers' paper, published on August 3, underscores the heightened risk of sound-based cyber threats due to the growing usage of video conferencing platforms. With the widespread availability of microphones on devices and the increasing reliance on video communication tools like Zoom, the

study highlights a concerning avenue for potential security breaches. The researchers' AI model exhibited a remarkable accuracy rate, surpassing 90%, in accurately interpreting text, including passwords, from keystroke sounds. To arrive at these unsettling conclusions, the research team meticulously trained the AI model. They embarked on a comprehensive process, pressing each of the 36 keys on a MacBook Pro while meticulously recording the accompanying sounds. The captured sound data was then meticulously integrated into the AI model, enabling it to distinguish the unique sound patterns linked to each keystroke. Notably, the AI model's performance was evaluated through interactions with the Zoom video conferencing software, where it displayed an impressive accuracy rate of 93% in deciphering keystrokes from recorded MacBook typing sounds. This accuracy rate escalated to an even more concerning 95% when the experiment was extended to the iPhone 13 mini.

ther and two of his six children participated in his 'A Call from Space' event in Umm Al Quwain, where he engaged with heads of state and space enthusiasts through a live link from the International Space Station.

As September approaches, Sultan Al Neyadi, alongside his fellow astronauts, is set to conclude his transformative expedition and return to Earth. Their science-focused mission, spanning six months, has contributed to our understanding of space and its implications. Notably, in April, Sultan Al Neyadi achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first Arab to embark on a spacewalk during Expedition 69, further elevating the UAE's contributions to space exploration.

Imprisoned Imran Khan says ready for 1,000 years in jail if necessary: Report

Islamabad, Aug 18:

Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan on Friday said he was ready to endure imprisonment even for 1,000 years and continue to stay incarcerated for his country, according to a media report. Khan, 70, was sentenced to three years in jail by a sessions court on August 5 for hiding proceeds from the sale of state gifts (Toshakhana). He is currently incarcerated in Attock Jail in Punjab province.

A division bench, comprising IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, will take up the hearing next Tuesday

(August 22). Speaking to reporters on Friday after meeting Khan in Attock jail, Umair Niazi, a member of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief's legal team, said the former prime minister was in "good health, although he had grown a beard." The Express Tribune newspaper reported. "He [Imran] was provided with a mirror and shaving kit today," the lawyer said. Niazi asserted that among a team of six, only he was granted permission to meet Khan. The lawyer expressed his intention to file a contempt of court petition against the "jailer's conduct" for denying the legal team access to the former premier,



despite possessing court orders. "I do not care about not being given facilities [in jail]. It does not matter even if I am kept in jail for 1,000 years, but I am ready for it because [one has to] make sacrifices for freedom," Niazi quoted Khan as saying. Khan is facing more than 140 cases across the country and faces charges like terrorism, violence, blasphemy, corruption and murder since his ouster in April

2022. The lawyer confirmed that the Federal Investigation Agency questioned Khan in Attock jail regarding the cipher (confidential diplomatic cable) issue on Wednesday, during which the former premier reiterated his previous stance. He said Khan also spoke about the "disappearance" of his nephew Barrister Hassaan Khan Niazi, the report said. The Lahore High Court directed authorities to produce Hassaan before the court by August 18 with regard to a plea seeking his recovery and an inquiry against officials over his "illegal detention". Meanwhile, police have informed the Lahore High

Court on Friday that Hassaan Niazi, Khan's nephew and his focal person on legal affairs, has been handed over to a military court for trial. In a police report submitted to the court, Hassaan will be investigated and tried by the military after he was named as the prime suspect in the case pertaining to the Jinnah House attack in Lahore, which was triggered after Khan was arrested in Islamabad on May 9.

The police arrested Hassaan from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. He was later handed over to the Quetta Police and then to the military at the commanding officer's request, Geo News reported.

China confirms Xi will attend economic summit in South Africa followed by state visit

Beijing, Aug 18:

Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend next week's summit of the BRICS nations in Johannesburg, to be followed by a state visit to South Africa, the Foreign Ministry said Friday. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying also said in a statement that during his Aug 21-24 visit to South Africa, Xi will co-chair the China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue with his South African counterpart, Cyril Ramaphosa. China is a core member of the BRICS nations, which also include Brazil, Russia and India. The grouping was predicated on linking the interests of the world's leading emerging economies but has sought to expand into other civil and governmental fields.



Russian President Vladimir Putin has decided not to attend the summit because of an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court for him, according to South African authorities. The development could be viewed as embarrassing for Putin, who is expected to be the only leader of a country in the bloc not to attend. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said Putin "has decided to take part" in the

summit via video link, without confirming if he had intended to attend in person. The BRICS summit is the first to be held in person since 2019 and comes as the bloc seeks new relevance amidst Russia's war in Ukraine, South Africa's crashing economy and sharpening competition between Asian giants China and India.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has said that he supports more countries joining the group and intends to raise the topic at the summit. Around 20 countries have formally applied to join, Brazilian Foreign Affairs Minister Mauro Vieira said following the comments by Lula, who since taking office has repeatedly bucked the existing Western-dominated international structure.

Iran's foreign minister visits Saudi Arabia's powerful crown prince as tensions between rivals ease

Dubai, Aug 18:

Iran's foreign minister met Friday with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as part of his visit to the kingdom, a sign of how the two countries are trying to ease tensions after years of turmoil. Images of Iran's top diplomat, Hossein Amirabdollahian, sitting with Prince Mohammed would have been unthinkable only months earlier, as the long-time rivals have been engaged in what officials in both Tehran and Riyadh have viewed as a proxy conflict across the wider Middle East. The prince even went as far as to compare Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to Adolf Hitler at one point in 2017. But since reaching a Chinese-mediated truce in March, Iran and Saudi Arabia have moved toward re-opening diplomatic mis-



In this picture released by the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, right, speaks with Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Friday, Aug. 18, 2023.

sions in each other's countries. Saudi King Salman has even invited Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, a hard-line protégé of Khamenei, to visit the kingdom as well. Challenges remain, however, particularly over Iran's advancing nuclear program, the Saudi-led war in Yemen and security across the region's waterways. Meanwhile, the US is still trying to finalize a deal with Iran to free de-

tained American citizens in exchange for the release of billions of dollars frozen in South Korea, while also bolstering its troop presence in the Persian Gulf. Saudi state television aired images of Prince Mohammed sitting with Amirabdollahian in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah. The state-run Saudi Press Agency offered few substantive details of their conversation, saying merely that they re-

viewed relations and "future opportunities for co-operation." In a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, Amirabdollahian said the two men talked for 90 minutes at their meeting in Jeddah. "Honest, open, useful and fruitful talks based on neighborly policy," the foreign minister wrote in his post. "Through the wills of heads of the two countries, sustainable bilateral ties in all fields have persisted. We agree on security and development for all in the region." Amirabdollahian arrived Thursday in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, for meetings with his counterpart, Prince Faisal bin Farhan. The kingdom broke ties with Iran in 2016 after protesters invaded Saudi diplomatic posts there. Saudi Arabia had executed a prominent Shiite cleric with 46 others days earlier, triggering the demon-

Indian-origin ex-minister Tharman among three people qualified to run in Singapore's presidential election

Singapore, Aug 18:

Singapore-born Indian-origin Tharman Shanmugaratnam and two Chinese-origin former executives of government-linked companies have qualified to run for the city-state's presidential election on September 1, it was announced on Friday.

The Presidential Elections Committee (PEC) received a total of six applications for the Certificate of Eligibility by Thursday's deadline, the Elections Department (ELD) said. Singapore had earlier said it would hold the presidential election on September 1 if more than one person qualifies for the presidential run. Incumbent President Halimah Yacob's six-year term will end on September 13.

The two Chinese origin who have qualified as candidates for the presidential election are Chief



Investment Officer Ng Kok Song and former NTUC Income Chief Executive Tan Kin Lian. The department noted that Tharman submitted his bid under the public sector service track while Ng applied under the public sector deliberative track, and Tan under the private sector deliberative track. Tharman who launched his bid for the presidency on July 26 met the public sector service requirements, having held office as a minister

for at least three years. Tharman, 66, resigned from public and political posts last month to run for the presidency. Tharman was an economist and civil servant, mainly at the Monetary Authority of Singapore, before joining politics in 2001. He served as Minister for Education and Finance and was Deputy Prime Minister from 2011 to 2019. The next step for Ng, Tan and Tharman is to be nominated as candidates.

They must deliver their nomination papers along with the Certificate of Eligibility, community certificate and political donation certificate - on Nomination Day on August 22.

Although the ELD has not named the candidates who could not qualify to run for the Presidency, media reports said businessman George Goh, who had been campaigning for the past month, was among those who did

not meet the qualification requirements. The six-member PEC, headed by Public Service Commission chairman Lee Tzu Yang and including two Supreme Court judges, was satisfied that Ng, Tan and Tharman were men of "integrity, good character and reputation", said ELD.

The PEC was satisfied that Ng had the experience and ability comparable to that of a person who has served for three or more years as the chief executive of a Fifth Schedule entity, namely key statutory boards and government companies such as the Central Provident Fund Board, Temasek, and GIC. Ng, 75, worked in the public service for 45 years, first in the Finance Ministry and then the Monetary Authority of Singapore, before becoming the chief investment officer at Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC.

US, Japan and South Korea boosting mutual security commitments over objections of Beijing



South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol arrives at Camp David, the presidential retreat, Friday, Aug. 18, 2023, near Thurmont, Md.

Camp David, Aug 18:

The United States, Japan and South Korea have agreed to a new security pledge committing the three countries to consult with each other in the event of a security crisis or threat in the Pacific, according to Biden administration officials. Details about the new "duty to consult" commitment emerged as President Joe Biden on Friday welcomed South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida for a summit at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland. The agreement is one of several joint efforts that the leaders are expected to announce at the daylong summit, as the three countries look to tighten security and economic ties amid increasing concerns about North Korea's persistent nuclear threats and China's provocations in the Pacific.

"Suffice it to say, this is a big deal," Biden's national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters on Friday shortly before the start of the summit. "It is a historic event, and it sets the conditions for a more peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific, and a stronger and more secure United States of America," Kishida, before departing Tokyo on Thursday, told reporters the summit would be a "historic occasion to bolster trilateral strategic cooperation" with Seoul and Washington. "I believe it is extremely meaningful to hold a Japan-US-South Korea summit where leaders of the three countries gather just as the security environment surrounding Japan is increasingly severe," he said.

Before it even began, the summit drew harsh public criticism from the Chinese government. "The international community has its own judgment as to who is creating contradictions and increasing tensions," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told reporters Friday. "Attempts to form various exclusive groups

and cliques and to bring bloc confrontation into the Asia-Pacific region are unpopular and will definitely spark vigilance and opposition in the countries of the region," Wang said. Sullivan pushed back against the Chinese concerns.

"It's explicitly not a NATO for the Pacific," Sullivan said. "This partnership is not against anyone, it is for something. It is for a vision of the Indo-Pacific that is free, open, secure and prosperous." The "duty to consult" pledge is intended to acknowledge that the three countries share "fundamentally interlinked security environments" and that a threat to one of the nations is "a threat to all," according to a senior Biden administration official.

Pakistan appoints separatist Kashmir leader Yasin Malik's wife as special advisor to caretaker PM

Islamabad, Aug 18:

Pakistan has appointed Mushaal Hussain Malik, wife of the jailed Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik, as a special advisor to the country's newly appointed caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar. Her name was included in the five Special Advisor to Prime Minister (SAPM) list unveiled late on Thursday night after President Arif Alvi administered an oath to the 19-member caretaker Cabinet at Aiwan-e-Sadr, the presidential house. Mushaal, a Pakistani national married to Malik, was appointed special advisor to the caretaker Prime Minister Kakar on human rights and women em-



powerment. A special advisor has a lower status than a junior minister but provides assistance to the prime minister on key relevant issues.

Among other four special advisors, Jawad Sohrab Malik has been appointed SAPM for overseas Pakistanis, vice admiral (retired) Iftikhar Rao as an advisor on maritime affairs, TV anchor and writer Wasih Shah on

tourism, and Syeda Arifa Zehra as an advisor on federal education and professional training. Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin married Pakistani artist Mushaal in Rawalpindi in 2009. The two met while Yasin was on a tour of Pakistan in 2005. Mushaal and her daughter reside in Islamabad. Born in 1985, Mushaal graduated from the London School of Economics. Yasin was sentenced to life imprisonment by a trial court in a terror funding case in May. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has approached the Delhi High Court seeking the death penalty for Yasin, who is serving his sentence in Tihar Jail in Delhi.

Drone shot down over central Moscow, no injuries reported



Investigators work at the site of a damaged exhibition hall at a business district after a reported drone attack in Moscow, Russia, Friday, Aug. 18

Moscow, Aug 18:

Russian air defenses shot down a Ukrainian drone over central Moscow early Friday and some fragments fell on an exposition center, officials said. The Defense Ministry said in a statement that the drone was shot down about 4 a.m.

and there were no injuries or fire caused by the fragments. Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said some of the fragments fell on the grounds of the Expocentre, an exhibition complex adjacent to the Moscow City commercial and office complex that was hit twice by drones in the past month.

छत्तीसगढ़ लोक सेवा आयोग
 नाथ ब्लाक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर (छ.ग.)
 दूरभाष (का.) 0771-2439564, फैक्स: 0771-2331525, 2446556
 वेबसाइट: www.psc.cg.gov.in

क्रमांक 2238/12/परीक्षा/2023 रायपुर, दिनांक 16 अगस्त 2023

जिला आयुर्वेद अधिकारी (चिकित्सा शिक्षा (आयुष) विभाग) एवं सहायक संचालक (तकनीकी) (चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग) परीक्षा-2023 के संबंध में महत्वपूर्ण सूचना

छत्तीसगढ़ लोक सेवा आयोग द्वारा जिला आयुर्वेद अधिकारी (चिकित्सा शिक्षा (आयुष) विभाग) एवं सहायक संचालक (तकनीकी) (चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग) परीक्षा-2023 दिनांक 20.08.2023 (रविवार) को पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे से अपराह्न 02.00 बजे तक जिला रायपुर में आयोजित की जाएगी।
 जिसकी समय सारिणी निम्नानुसार है:-

DATE	DAY	TIME
20.08.2023	SUNDAY	11:00 A.M. TO 02:00 P.M.

उक्त परीक्षा हेतु आयोग द्वारा प्रवेश पत्र दिनांक 10.08.2023 को जारी कर दिया गया है। अभ्यर्थी आयोग की वेबसाइट www.psc.cg.gov.in से प्रवेश पत्र डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं। आयोग द्वारा किसी भी अभ्यर्थी को पृथक से प्रवेश पत्र व्यक्तिगत नहीं भेजा जायेगा।

सचिव
 छत्तीसगढ़ लोक सेवा आयोग,
 नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर (छ.ग.)

G-04414/1

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
MAHANADI CIRCLE, RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
 eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

(First Call)

System Tender No. 144358/NIT No.: 18/SAC/23-24
 Dated : 16.08.2023

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 06.09.2023 at 17:30 Hours.

Name of work: Renovation work of Reewa Bandhawa (Feeder Tank) Reservoir under Distributary No. 20 at Block Arang, District Raipur.

Probable Amount of Contract: - Rs. 184.94 Lakhs
 (As per S.O.R dated 01.08.2010 and amended upto dated 22.08.2022)

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 23.08.2023, at 17:31 Hours, (IST) onwards.

NOTE :- All eligible/intrested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Executive Engineer
 Water Management Division No. 1, Raipur
 For, Superintending Engineer
 Mahanadi Circle, Raipur (C.G.)

G-04350/1

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION, SUKMA (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
 eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

(SECOND CALL)

System Tender No. 144633/NIT No.: 01/SAC/2023-24
 Sukma, Dated : 17.08.2023

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 04.09.2023 at 17:30 Hours.

Name of work: Cement Concrete lining of Main Canal, construction of 08 No's Structures, Fixing of Colaba Pipes between R.D. 0 m to 1050 m and Renovation of Head Work of Gaganpalli Tank Scheme in Konta Block of Sukma District.

Probable Amount of Contract: - Rs. 75.90 Lakhs
 (As per S.O.R dated 01.08.2010 and amended upto dated 22.08.2022)

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 24.08.2023, at 17:31 Hours, (IST) onwards.

NOTE :- All eligible/intrested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Executive Engineer
 Water Resources Division, Sukma

G-04364/2



CENTRAL Chronicle

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Vishwakarma Yojana

Reviving Traditional Crafts and Artisan Livelihoods

The green signal from the Union Cabinet for the Vishwakarma Yojana, a comprehensive scheme worth Rs 13,000 crore, comes as a ray of hope for the country's traditional craftspersons. While political considerations might have played a role in its timing, the initiative to bolster traditional artisans is indeed commendable. Set to be launched next month, this scheme encompasses 18 traditional trades across both rural and urban regions, with a goal to empower approximately 30 lakh artisans and craftspersons. From weavers to goldsmiths, blacksmiths to barbers, the program aims to uplift and empower those who have been the custodians of traditional crafts. The Vishwakarma Yojana is set to provide a multifaceted lifeline to these artisans, addressing critical challenges that have been eroding the vitality of their professions. By offering opportunities for skill enhancement, access to marketing support, and the provision of collateral-free credit, the policy interventions seek to breathe new life into time-honored crafts. Central to the success of this initiative will be the synergy between the central and state governments. While the Centre is committed to funding the scheme, effective cooperation and shared objectives with state governments are essential to ensure its smooth implementation. Political considerations should never hinder the welfare of the artisans or the sustenance of traditional crafts. Hence, it is imperative that any potential political roadblocks be preemptively navigated, placing the welfare of artisans above all. The struggles faced by traditional artisans are indeed disheartening. With the younger generation often opting out of carrying forward their family legacies in favor of seemingly more lucrative opportunities, the very essence of traditional crafts is under threat. Rising raw material costs and the transition from handmade goods to mass-produced alternatives further exacerbate these challenges. In such a scenario, a well-structured support system like the Vishwakarma Yojana can serve as a lifeline for these hardworking artisan families, providing the means to sustain and nurture their age-old crafts. It's a paradox that while the demand for artisanal curios for home decor is on the rise, the craftspersons themselves have not been reaping the rewards of this trend. Therefore, any initiative focused on their upliftment and empowerment deserves widespread backing. Equally laudable is the Rajasthan Government's move to preserve and promote folk art by creating opportunities for artists to perform in their local areas for 100 days. The Vishwakarma Yojana stands as a testament to the recognition of our rich cultural heritage and the need to ensure its survival and prosperity. As the scheme takes shape and begins to roll out, it is essential that both central and state governments remain steadfast in their commitment to this cause, transcending political considerations to empower those who have been the backbone of our traditional crafts. In doing so, we not only preserve our artistic legacy but also provide a path to economic empowerment for countless skilled artisans across the nation.

Modernizing Justice

SC's 'SuSwagatam' Portal Sets a Bold Technological Precedent

In a decisive leap towards modernizing court procedures, the Supreme Court has introduced the 'SuSwagatam' portal, a groundbreaking initiative that promises to revolutionize the way individuals engage with the hallowed halls of justice. With 'SuSwagatam,' the Court not only embraces cutting-edge technology but also extends a welcoming hand to advocates, litigants, interns, and others seeking access for various court-related activities. This digital innovation, emblematic of Chief Justice's commitment to bolstering access to justice through technology, is nothing short of a game-changer. The portal serves as an open gateway, streamlining entry into the Supreme Court complex for a multitude of purposes - from attending court hearings to meeting legal practitioners. At the core of this initiative lies a profound shift in visitor management, replacing the cumbersome manual systems with a streamlined digital process. Advocates, litigants, and other stakeholders can now seamlessly request e-passes for their specific needs. Whether it's engaging in court proceedings, consulting with legal experts, or utilizing the press lounge, 'SuSwagatam' offers an array of e-pass options with varying validity periods. The portal's architecture is designed with precision, incorporating features that guarantee both security and user-friendliness. The role-based secure logins, coupled with identity proof verification and live photo captures, ensure the integrity of the system while making the registration process seamless. The inclusion of police clearance certificates further adds a layer of authenticity, reaffirming the Court's dedication to creating a safe and secure environment. The 'SuSwagatam' initiative is not merely a technological advancement; it's a conscientious step towards addressing the challenges faced by visitors to the Supreme Court. The long-standing ordeal of enduring queues under scorching Delhi sun, drenched during monsoons, or shivering in harsh winters is now being replaced with a convenient, user-centric approach. It's an acknowledgment that technology can and should be harnessed to alleviate the burdensome aspects of accessing justice. While 'SuSwagatam' undoubtedly marks a significant milestone, it is part of a larger narrative of judicial modernization. The Supreme Court has consistently embraced technological solutions to enhance efficiency and transparency. Online case filing, fee payments, and the dissemination of court decisions are just a few examples of how the Court has leveraged technology to make legal processes more accessible and comprehensible. Furthermore, live streaming of court proceedings has opened the doors of the courtroom to a wider audience, including aspiring law students eager to witness the dynamics of litigation firsthand. This shift towards transparency and accessibility not only bridges the gap between the legal system and the public but also promotes a culture of learning and understanding. The resounding success of 'SuSwagatam,' as evidenced by the issuance of thousands of e-passes, underscores the significance of its implementation. It showcases a Court that is not only attuned to the needs of ordinary citizens but is also willing to take bold strides to ensure justice is not just served but also accessible. This initiative sets a precedent for other State High Courts to follow suit, fostering a culture of digital accessibility and simplification of court-related tasks. Indeed, the 'SuSwagatam' portal embodies a broader ethos of modernization, reshaping the legal landscape for the better. It is a testament to the collaborative efforts of the judicial system and the government, as well as an embodiment of the Chief Justice's vision. As technology continues to reshape the world around us, the Supreme Court's 'SuSwagatam' portal paves the way for a future where justice is not only dispensed but also seamlessly accessed by all.

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

DEVOTEES AT SANGAM



Devotees dry their clothes after taking bath in the River Ganga during the holy month of Shraavan, at Sangam in Prayagraj.

Where are we standing today?



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH



Despite being the world's emerging dominant power, India is often mired in ideological tussle. This is the reason why there seems to be a difference between the country's bright future and reality. Although India meets the key points in the process of becoming a superpower, the wider international In the context, due to domestic issues, it becomes weak. Without literacy, no country can move forward. In such a situation, only if everyone is educated, freedom from all problems can be found. Along with literacy, increasing unemployment across the country is affecting the youth. Gives a feeling of slavery, when will he be free from this.

India took small steps to become one of the largest democracies in the world, overcoming many challenges to gain global recognition. India has come a long way since independence, avoiding many right and wrong decisions, and leaving behind many landmarks that define its journey from the agony of partition to a strong, powerful, and developing nation. In recent decades, India is gradually climbing up the international space and due to its global influence as a major superpower of the world is also visible. In the last four decades, it has emerged as a formidable force and India has also achieved great heights. Due to this, the center of economic power in the world has started shifting from Europe and North America to Asia.

Despite emerging as a dominant force, India is often mired in ideological bickering. This is the reason why there is a difference between the bright future of the country and reality. While India meets key points in the process of becoming a superpower, it falls short due to domestic issues in the wider international context. Although many of India's leaders failed to carry the momentum and avoid a socio-political crisis, it was also a matter of lack of political will and commitment. Due to the diversity in India, it is hard to come across anywhere. However, efforts to incorporate Article 44 into the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), ie

Uniform Civil Code, faced resistance from conservative sections, who claimed that it would lead to communal disharmony.

Like water, language changes over kilometers in India. Hence, bringing Hindi as the only official language was difficult and saw violence and heated debates such as the Tamil Nadu anti-Hindi agitations in 1965. The Population Control Bill of 2019, which was to be withdrawn in 2022, is the Population Control Act. The two-child policy has been introduced in Parliament 35 times since independence. These drafts were heavily criticized by the general public. Agricultural economists and other stakeholders have been advocating agricultural market reforms for decades. This made the government hesitant about going ahead again in stealth mode with three major farm reform laws that were repealed to avoid a crisis. Rules on labor code deferred to date. The code would result in lower take-home pay and easier layoffs. Undoubtedly, the government will have to tread very carefully on the path of reform.

The first in the success of a democracy is to make voting compulsory, as has been done in at least 30 democracies, which has increased the turnout to more than 90 percent. At present, the voting percentage in India is low. The blatant misuse of IPC section 124A is a travesty but most political parties do not want this provision of the

law to be removed. The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act must use the State Armed Police and the Central Para-Military Police. There is a strong case for repealing the Act to move armed forces from civilian areas of Jammu and Kashmir and the Northeast near the international border to deal with infiltrators, mercenaries, terrorists, and terrorists.

Given the political interference and inadequacies in the police investigation, the time has come for India to make a structural change from the accusatory system to the inquisitorial system practiced in Europe since colonial times. Justice VS. Malimath has also suggested the same in his report on the Reform of the Criminal Justice System. India is still undecided on genetically engineered or genetically modified organism (GM) crops for GM food crops. Political will is lacking to adopt and implement a modern agricultural policy framework including biotechnology to address the country's food security concerns. The political establishment has distanced itself from the political activist movement. Despite the socio-political unrest in India many hard decisions and reforms were taken by the leaders during the 1991 reforms the political will of the leaders should be remembered. We applaud the leadership that saved India from "falling off the cliff" and managed reforms under compulsion to fund and bank with the looming balance of payments crisis.

The Green Revolution in India in the 1960s saw an increase in food grain production with the development of high-yielding varieties of wheat and pulses. The 1976 mass vasectomy campaign was started by Sanjay Gandhi and in one year around 6.2 million men were sterilized, in which around 2000 people died due to the surgery. In 1990, the whole country was in the grip of protest against the VP Singh government giving government jobs based on the birth reservation to some castes, yet the decision continued. India conducted nuclear bomb tests at Pokhran in 1998, with the codename "Operation Shakti", a tough decision under global pressure to disarm. This made India a complete nuclear nation. In 2016, the government announced the demonetization of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes. Many farmers, traders, and youth sections were all agitating but as a step against black money it was pushed forward the Goods and Services Tax: It was the resultant tax after subsuming the major central and state taxes. Solving the Kashmir Riddle The abrogation of Article 370 for the full integration of the state was long overdue and should have been done years ago to set the record straight on the situation J&K.

One of the most important lessons post-

independence is that the process of reforms has to be more consultative, more transparent, and better communicated to potential beneficiaries. It is inclusiveness that is at the heart of India's democratic functioning. Given the argumentative nature of our society, it takes time and humility to implement reforms. But doing so ensures that everyone wins. To make India develop, we need to work sincerely and sincerely in five major areas. These include agriculture and food processing, education and health security, information and communication technology, reliable electronic power, and self-reliance in critical technology. These five areas are not only related to each other but also influence each other. So there should be better coordination among them. It is also very important for the economic and national security of the country. Along with this, we should also have this positive thinking that we can bring good change in our country only by inventing something new because only science and technology can bring human welfare, peace, and prosperity.

Even the smallest corruption has a direct impact on the public. India has started talking about realizing the dream of a corruption-free India. India, once interested in films and sports, now wants to become a corruption-free country. Even today there are many places in India where girls are not allowed to study just because they are girls. Even so, it would not be wrong to say that every citizen of this country is not free. If the country is really to move forward, then gender discrimination has to be abolished. Today's India is troubled by many small crimes along with big crimes like murder, rape. Somewhere unemployment is also a big reason behind these crimes, but crime can be controlled by changing thinking and providing employment.

The country is not as Hindu-Muslim as it appears on social media. Today's India is not going to be misled by anyone. Things like giving priority to the country by taking decisions based on their conscience came to the fore in the people of changing India. No country can progress without literacy. In such a situation, only if everyone is educated, freedom from all problems can be found. Along with literacy, increasing unemployment across the country gives the youth a feeling of slavery, when will they be free from it? Immersed in the celebration of Amrit Mahotsav, where do we stand today? would think.

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

Himachal's Alarming Crisis

Himachal Pradesh faces yet another tragic blow as the monsoon season relentlessly inflicts death and destruction, unveiling the consequences of ecological interference. The devastating toll underscores the flawed development model embraced by the state. Landslides, road collapses, and structural failures are no longer the norm. Urgent internal change is imperative. Himachal must enforce stringent regulations, inviting all stakeholders for collective action. A united front, including political, civil, and bipartisan efforts, is vital to confront this shocking reality of perpetual peril.

Mohammad Taukir, West Champaran

'Modi-2': A Forward-looking Address

In his tenth and final speech of 'Modi-2' from the Red Fort, the Prime Minister's approach resonated with public sentiments, avoiding technical jargon. Notably, the shift from addressing the public as 'brothers and sisters' to 'my family members' caught attention, likely to persist till the elections. Condemning familism and corruption, the speech hinted at future attacks on certain regional parties, including the Congress. Amid emotional appeals, the PM's emphasis on 'I' over 'we' hinted at the upcoming election's focus on his leadership. As dreams and credibility intertwine, the promise to fulfill them becomes a pivotal measure of a leader's integrity.

N Ashraf, Mumbai

Rising Food Prices

India's headline inflation has surged to a 15-month high of 7.4% in July, propelled by a shock in vegetable prices. Despite a slowdown in core inflation, which excludes food and fuel, essentials like cereals and pulses continue their uncomfortable ascent. This poses a barrier to achieving the Reserve Bank of India's 4% CPI target. Particularly burdensome for the impoverished, high food inflation triggers political concerns. As elections loom within a year, increased governmental intervention in food markets is expected, potentially affecting farm incomes due to price-containment efforts.

Tauqueer Rahmani, Mumbai

A Landslide of Consequences

In Himachal Pradesh, unchecked construction under the pretext of promoting tourism has triggered extensive landslides. While tourism offers economic gains, the surge in construction strains resources and infrastructure. Over the years, the landscape has transformed dramatically, with a continuous stretch of lavish hotels lining the roads from Dharampur to Kasauli, far surpassing the modest beginnings of 1985. Moreover, the construction of a four-lane highway and upscale food plazas along the Parwanoo-Sanawar route compounds the challenges. The alarming trend warrants careful consideration to strike a balance between tourism-driven development and environmental sustainability.

Ramesh Gupta, Narwana

Initiative to make the economy stronger



Satish Singh

To maintain the pace of growth, it is necessary that the repo rate should not be increased further, therefore, the Reserve Bank has kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 percent for the third consecutive time in the monetary review on 10 August. Earlier, the repo rate was kept unchanged at 6.5 percent in two consecutive bi-monthly monetary reviews in April and June this year. The Reserve Bank started increasing the policy rates in the month of May last year, but at the time of the bi-monthly monetary review of April and June this year, the retail inflation situation in the country was not uncontrollable, due to which the repo rate was kept unchanged.

The Reserve Bank's objective behind not

changing the repo rate on August 10 was that the cost of borrowing should remain stable, and the growth rate should also be maintained, but this time the Reserve will have to be cautious about inflation, because it is continuously on the rise mode. On the other hand, despite keeping the repo rate unchanged by the Reserve Bank, some government and private banks have increased the lending rate, which may defeat the objective of the central bank. However, banks are also forced to raise lending rates, as their cost of capital has increased and the spread between deposit and loan rates has narrowed, reducing their profits, and compel them to make a strategy to expand the deposit base. The banks will have to run a campaign for making it possible. Though, some banks are doing this on priority basis.

After a continuous decrease in retail inflation for the last 4 months, the consumer price index (CPI) or retail inflation in June 2023 reached a level of 4.81 percent, while it was 4.31 percent in May, whereas it was 4.7 percent in April 2023, while it was 5.66 percent in March. However, even in the month of June, the retail inflation rate is below the Reserve Bank's tolerance level of 6 percent, but this year heavy rains in many states of the country have adversely affected the production of Kharif crops and vegetables and expected that the situation will worsen in the coming months. The threat of El Nino remains intact. In such a situation, there are chances of further increase in retail inflation in the coming months.

According to statistics ministry data, the Consumer Food Inflation (CPI) or food inflation rose to 4.49 per cent in June from 2.96 per cent in May, compared to 7.75 in the same period of last year. Whereas in the month of April, it was 3.84 percent. The prices of almost all green vegetables including tomatoes are shoot up at present. It is noteworthy that food items account for half of the CPI basket.

The RBI tries to fight inflation mainly by increasing the repo rate. When the repo rate is high, banks get loans from the Reserve Bank at a costlier rate, due to which banks also give loans to customers at a costlier rate. By doing this, the liquidity of money in the economy decreases and due to lack of money in the pockets of the people, the demand for goods decreases and due to the high price of goods and products, their sales decline, which leads to decreasing of inflation. Similarly, to speed up the developmental works when the economy is slow, efforts are made to increase the liquidity of the currency in the market and for this the repo rate is cut, so that the banks get loans from the Reserve Bank at a cheaper rate & also give loan to the customers at a cheaper rate.

According to Reserve Bank Governor, Shri Shakti Kant Das, banking, and non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs) remain strong in India despite the corona pandemic, geo-political crisis, inflation, slow-down in the global economy. The financial performance of the banking sector is continuously improving. In the first quarter of

the current financial year i.e., during April-June 2023, the profit of 12 public sector banks increased to Rs.34,774 crore, while the profit of State Bank of India increased by 178.24 percent to Rs 16,884.29 crore. At the same time, an increase of 12.3 percent was registered in the country's industrial production in the month of June. In comparison, in June 2021, a growth rate of 13.8 percent was seen in the industrial production of the country. It shows that there is great need to improve the situation in this regard.

In the last quarter of the financial year 2022-23, the gross domestic product (GDP) was estimated to be 4.2 percent, but it was 6.1 percent. Due to the improvement in the GDP growth rate in the fourth quarter of the financial year 2022-23, there has been an improvement in the growth rate of the entire financial year. During the financial year 2022-23, the MPC had earlier estimated 6.8 percent of GDP, which was 7.2 percent.

Right now, the target of the Reserve Bank is to follow the path of development, so that the economy gets strengthened, at the same time it is also keeping an eye on retail inflation, because of this, the pace of GDP growth slows down. For the past years, retail inflation remained at a high level continuously, however, there was a partial decline in retail inflation during the last few months, but now again retail inflation is on the rise. Therefore, speculations are being made that India's growth rate may remain low in the long term, due to which the economy may slow down. Slower economic growth may result in lower tax collections.

The year 2024 is an election year. Therefore, this year the fiscal deficit may increase instead of decreasing, as the government may increase government expenditure to woo the public for getting vote. Right now, the government is stressing on capital expenditure. It is also necessary because India needs huge investment in infrastructure. Only through this, the vehicle of development can move forward at a fast pace. In such a situation, the government will have to accelerate both capital expenditure and revenue collection and work towards fiscal consolidation by striking a balance between the two, as there are dangers of strengthening infrastructure by taking more loans.

In such a situation, it can be said that due to rising inflation, the Reserve Bank may be forced to increase the policy rates in the upcoming monetary reviews and subsequently, banks will increase the loan rate and demand will decrease due to costlier loans. Due to rising inflation, the spending capacity of the people has also reduced, due to which private expenditure is coming down in strengthening the infrastructure. Therefore, keeping the repo rate unchanged by the Reserve Bank is an immediate step. Stability will come in this only when the retail inflation is low. Nevertheless, this decision of the Reserve Bank can be called expedient & suitable keeping in the view of present circumstances.

(Writer is Ahmedabad based Senior Columnist, Views are personal.)

BRIEF

Modern management



Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday directed officials to focus on micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to incorporate modern management systems being followed overseas to support and market their products. Chairing a review meeting on MSMEs, ports, fishing harbours and fish landing centres, he asked officials to pay attention on transfer of technology to ensure that MSMEs produce quality and innovative products.

New members

New Delhi: The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) added 20.27 lakh new members under the Employees State Insurance Scheme in June. Around 24,298 new establishments were registered and brought under the social security umbrella of the ESIC in June. The provisional payroll data from ESIC reveals that 20.27 lakh new employees were added in June 2023, a labour ministry statement said on Thursday. As per the data, more jobs were generated for the youth. Out of the total 20.27 lakh employees added in June, 9.77 lakh employees were up to the age group of 25 years, which translates to 48.22 per cent of the total number.

Fodder shortage



New Delhi: The animal feed industry should take serious steps in an innovative manner to address the current shortage of fodder in the country, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala said on Friday. It is an irony that on one hand farmers are burning stubble, while on the other they are facing the fodder problem, he said, and asked the industry to look into these two issues and find a new solution.

Mining biz

New Delhi: State-owned power giant NTPC on Thursday inked a business transfer agreement (BTA) to hive off its mining business, comprising six coalfields, to its arm NTPC Mining Ltd. "NTPC Ltd and NTPC Mining Ltd (NML) have executed the BTA on August 17, 2023, in New Delhi. The BTA shall become effective upon completion of the conditions precedent mentioned in the BTA," a BSE filing stated.

Using all platforms to flag non-tariff barriers impacting trade: Commerce Secretary

New Delhi, Aug 18:



India is using all multi-lateral and bilateral platforms including G20 to flag concerns with regard to non-tariff barriers (NTBs) which are impacting the free flow of trade, a top government official said on Friday. India has already raised its concerns on issues like the European Union's (EU) carbon tax on different platforms, including the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Such measures by G20 member countries are likely to figure in the trade ministers' meeting of the grouping next week in Jaipur. "Definitely, we are discussing those NTBs and we are also discussing how to find a good solution, how to find a platform where we can coordinate on these issues and we can understand these issues,"

Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal told reporters here. The two-day Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting (TIMM) is scheduled on August 24 and 25 in Jaipur. The secretary also said that on the sidelines of TIMM, several high-level bilateral meetings will be held with countries such as the UK, Canada and the EU to discuss progress with regard to proposed free trade agreements. Negotiations

on such agreements are underway with all these countries. The five priority areas which will be discussed in the meeting are trade for growth and prosperity; trade and resilient global supply chain; integrating MSMEs in global trade; logistics for trade; and WTO reforms. Strengthening mutual cooperation in the G20 to increase transparency in the use of non-tariff measures will be discussed in the meeting. Barthwal said that "all platforms will be used" to discuss these barriers. Citing an example of the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which is going to impact exports of certain sections of Indian industry, he said there will be compliance with this mechanism and there are certain regulatory requirements.

Rupee below 83 not abnormal: FinMin official

New Delhi, Aug 18: The rupee dipping below 83 to a US dollar is not abnormal and the fluctuation in currency rate is not exclusive to the Indian currency, a finance ministry official said, hoping that RBI's inflation control steps will factor in exchange rate volatility. The rupee hit an all-time intra-day low of 83.16 to a US dollar on Thursday and settled at a record closing low of 83.10 on Friday. The fall in the rupee made imports on which India is dependent for meeting its oil, electronics and fertiliser, costlier, fuelling inflationary concerns. The Finance Ministry official told PTI that the rupee movement as of now was not of any concern as exchange rates are always volatile when US yields change it has an impact on all currencies and the rupee is no exception. Asked if the fluctuation would impact inflation as imports will be costlier,

the official said: "That is, of course, an issue but I'm sure the Reserve Bank will keep it under consideration when they take their decisions." The official further said fluctuations in foreign exchange markets "are normal and nothing abnormal or exclusive to the Indian rupee". "These things can also reverse as exchange rates are very volatile... It is too early to say that this rate will hold for a long time," the official added. After appreciating for the most part of this year, the Indian rupee started depreciating this month as global investors reduced their exposure to emerging markets on expectations of higher interest rates in the US and deepening concerns over the Chinese economy. The rupee which was at 82.6 to a dollar as of December 2022 end, depreciated to an all-time closing low of 83.10 on Friday.

Govt will adhere to fiscal deficit target of 5.9 pc for FY'24

New Delhi, Aug 18: The government will stick to the fiscal deficit target of 5.9 per cent of the GDP as robust tax, non-tax collections will help meet the spending requirement and make up for any shortfall in disinvestment proceeds, Finance Secretary T V Somanathan said on Friday. Although there would be a shortfall with respect to disinvestment, he said, this shortfall would be met by non-tax revenue mobilisation. "Disinvestment target is unlikely to be met. However, I would say in aggregate the collective amount between disinvestment and non-tax revenue is likely to be very close to the budget," he told PTI in an interview. The total of disinvestment receipts,

Moody's affirms India's sovereign rating; says GDP growth to support increase in income level

New Delhi, Aug 18: Moody's on Friday affirmed India's sovereign rating at 'Baa3' with a stable outlook and said high growth will support a gradual increase in income levels, which will further contribute to economic strength. Moody's said it expects India's economic growth to outpace all other G20 economies through at least the next two years, driven by domestic demand. "Moody's Investors Service has today affirmed the Government of India's long-term local and foreign-currency issuer ratings and the local-currency senior unsecured rating at Baa3. Moody's has also affirmed India's other short-term local-currency rating at P-3. The outlook remains stable," it said in a statement. Baa3 is the lowest investment grade rating on India, with a stable outlook.

Laptop can be a quite potent source of leakage: Piyush Goyal on laptop import restriction

New Delhi, Aug 18:



Union minister of commerce and industry Piyush Goyal said that there are security concerns involved in the decision to restrict import of laptops. The minister said that there will be no disruption in the availability of the price and the government will be ready to engage with industry and look at other options also. "Here is an issue, which is a serious security matter. Even Tesla car is not allowed anywhere near where Xi Jinping (President of China) is present. Because they're very conscious of the risks of security, even for a car being present in the vicinity of the premier of China. India also has to protect ourselves from countries who are antagonistic to India," Goyal said. While speaking at an event of book launch of journalist Nalin Mehta, Goyal said that the present government is a listen-

ing and accessible government. "We are conscious that laptops are our continuous companion. Laptops are being used for all our privileged and confidential information. And they can be quite a potent source of leakage," Goyal said. The minister shared an anecdote that while watching news, his television suddenly went to HDMI 1 port. "I don't know, we had not touched any instrument...like what happened just now...now I am even scared about my phone, will have to get this

checked too," Goyal said, in reference to his phone going in emergency mode during the event. Talking about ONDC platform, Goyal said he has contacted three large e-commerce companies' owners directly and he has got feedback that their progress is slow. "I personally call all three of them. And they are personally giving me messages back on the progress that their companies are doing on ONDC," Goyal said.

He said ONDC has touched about 100,000 transactions a day but "I still call it a beta testing phase". "Some people ask me that it's meant for the small retailers. So why are you taking Amazon, Flipkart, Tatas and Airtel and Reliance and all of these also on ONDC, because I believe we are trying to socialise it and make it a success. We need big and small things to co-exist. And that will give choice to consumers," Goyal said.

Amazon Business continues to empower business customers

New Delhi, Aug 18:

With approximately 10 lakh sellers on the platform and more than 19Cr GST enabled products, Amazon Business continues to act as one stop destination for business customers. Started in 2017, Amazon Business has seen an upward trajectory in tier II cities including Raipur with a 11% YoY increase in customer registration. With the vision to empower micro customers, medium and large enterprises, Amazon Business continues to simplify the procurement process and help them buy from the seller that best fits their procurement budget. Amazon Business currently houses India's largest GST-enabled selec-

tion and plans to sustain the momentum by catering to their existing and potential users through its customer backward approach and easing the way of doing businesses further.

In line with these efforts, Amazon Business saw an 11% increase in the customer registrations and 43% increase in the orders received, ensuring increased customers' trust in the services.

Since its launch, Amazon Business has succeeded to drive digitization for its customers and simplify the procurement process for them.

Keeping up with the evolving needs of the customers, it continued to innovate and add features including 'Bill to Ship to' allowing

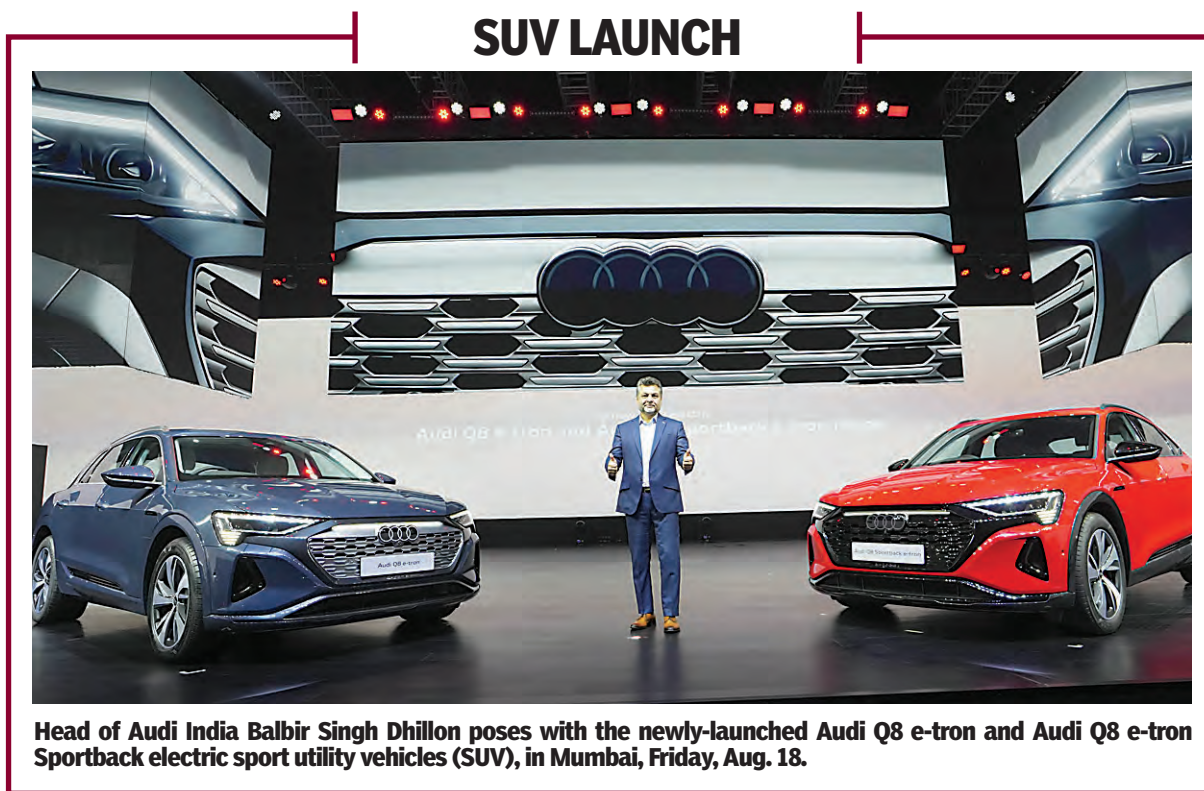
Licious launches Infiniti Program to mark the brand's 8-year anniversary

Mumbai, Aug 18:

Licious, the one-stop shop for all your meat and seafood requirements, recently completed 8 years of serving meaty delights. Gratifying consumers for their continued love and patronage, the brand today announced the launch of Licious Infiniti- an exclusive rewardsbased program for Licious consumers. As the name suggests, the program offers infinite benefits to users, with absolutely no terms & conditions attached! Subscribers to the program can now enjoy an assured 10% cashback on all orders, irrespective of order value. Making the deal 'meatier' is free deliv-

ery on all orders, along with a money back guarantee. Why wait - join in the Licious 8-year celebration and let the Infiniti benefits roll! Sharing about the brand's journey and gratifying consumers with Licious Infiniti, Vivek Gupta, Co-founder, Licioussaid, "8 years on, we continue in our endeavour to redefine the category, powered by our strong belief that India deserves better meat. One key learning in our journey has been how distinct this category is from every-thing else in the consumer's grocery cart. Meat & seafood witness high engagement with consumers feeling person-

ally involved right from buying to preparation & consumption. Even coming together over a meal of choicest meat & seafood dishes is a celebration in itself. Vakul Agarwal, Vice President, Growth at Licious, tells us more about the Infiniti program, "The Licious App has always been the exclusive meat store offering an extensive range of meat & seafood products. And now with LiciousInfiniti our aim is to offer exclusive benefits every time you order from the App. The program is rewarding in more ways than one, with unlimited benefits & without any hidden terms & conditions.

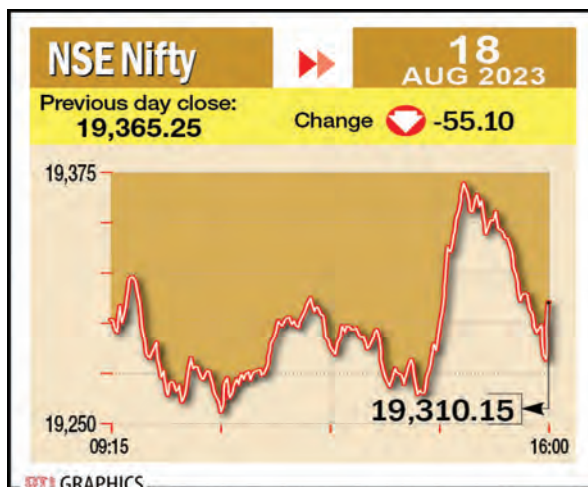


Head of Audi India Balbir Singh Dhillon poses with the newly-launched Audi Q8 e-tron and Audi Q8 e-tron Sportback electric sport utility vehicles (SUV), in Mumbai, Friday, Aug. 18.

Sensex falls below 65k; IT, metal stocks weigh on weak global trend

Mumbai, Aug 18:

Equity benchmark index Sensex buckled under selling pressure for the second straight session to close below the 65k mark on Friday, as investors offloaded IT, tech and metal stocks amid a bearish global trend. Besides, fresh foreign fund outflows also hit investor sentiments, traders said. In a volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 202.36 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at 64,948.66. During the day, it fell by 396.3 points or 0.60 per cent to 64,754.72. The NSE Nifty dipped 55.10 points or 0.28 per cent to end at 19,310.15. On a weekly basis, the BSE gauge fell 373.99 points or 0.57 per



cent, and the Nifty declined 118.15 points or 0.60 per cent. "It turned out to be a roller coaster ride on Friday as Nifty oscillated on both sides and ended

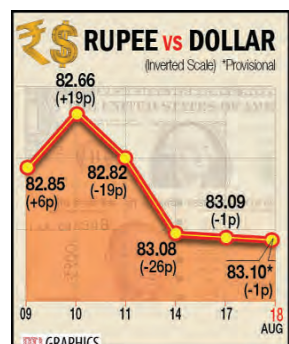
lower. Meanwhile, majority of sectors felt the heat, wherein IT and realty were among the top losers. The broader indices too traded in sync and lost

nearly half a per cent each. "Fresh weakness in the US markets is largely weighing on the sentiment, however, the pace of decline is still capped," said Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd. Tata Consultancy Services was the biggest laggard in the Sensex list, falling 2.14 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, Mahindra & Mahindra, Infosys, Power Grid, Wipro, Bajaj Finserv and Bajaj Finance. In contrast, Reliance Industries, Maruti, Nestle, Axis Bank, Hindustan Unilever and Tata Motors were among the gainers. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 0.41 per cent, and smallcap index dipped 0.23 per cent.

Rupee falls 1 paise to close at all-time low of 83.10 against US dollar

Mumbai, Aug 18:

The rupee edged lower by 1 paise to settle at an all-time low of 83.10 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, weighed down by a negative trend in domestic equities and foreign fund outflows. Forex traders said the rupee is likely to trade with a negative bias on risk aversion in global markets and a rising US dollar. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 83.03 against the dollar and moved in a range of 83.02 to 83.13 in the day trade. It finally ended the day at 83.10 (provisional), registering a fall of 1 paise from its previous close. On



Thursday, the rupee settled lower by 1 paise at a record low of 83.09 against the US dollar. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.11 per cent to 103.46. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, declined 0.32 per cent to USD 83.85

per barrel. The rupee declined marginally on weak domestic markets and foreign fund outflows, said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. However, the softness of the US dollar cushioned the downside. The US dollar eased as the Chinese central bank intervened after the Yuan fell to a 16-year low. The US dollar gained on Thursday as US weekly unemployment claims declined to 239,000 as compared to 250,000 in the previous week showing a tight labour market. "We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on risk aversion in global markets and overall strength in the greenback."

Int'n'l level badminton player wins FISU World University Games

Supported by NTPC Korba

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Aug 18: International Badminton player Harshit Thakur, supported by NTPC Korba represented India in Fajjakistan Future Series International Tournament from 31st May 2023 to 3rd June 2023.

The national-level badminton player was selected for the APACS World Series in Kazakhstan and knocked out the UAE player in the first round. Now Harshit Thakur also won the FISU World University Games representing India in Chengdu.

Earlier, Harshit Thakur represented India in the Fajistan Future Series



International Tournament from 31 May 2023 to 3 June 2023. National-level badminton player Harshit Thakur, supported by NTPC Korba, has been selected for the APACS

World Series in Kazakhstan and made it past the UAE player in the first round.

Harshit Thakur's aim was to perform well and win the World University

Games. Indian International Badminton player Harshit Thakur has been trained and sponsored by NTPC Korba under Corporate Social Responsibility.

3 distributors of CNDA Korba honoured by Korba MP

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Aug 18: Newspaper distributors of Chhattisgarh Newspaper Distributors Association (CNDA) Korba were honoured by Korba MP on Independence Day. Vinod Sinha, Lakshmi Rathore and Rama (Ramayan Singh) were honoured by Jyotsna Mahant, Member of Parliament and she honoured them with certificates and shields.

On this occasion, District President Vipendra Kumar Sahu said that the Chhattisgarh Newspaper Distributors Association (CNDA) performed their duties in the Corona period by risking their lives by the newspaper distributors while performing their duties as an essential service, so that



during the Corona period, due to the lockdown The reason was that the common readers were in homes, which were completely banned from going out, so that the epidemic could be prevented.

Even in such dire circumstances, the newspaper distributors made the readers aware of the news of the country and the

world. Even in these difficult circumstances, along with paper distribution, paper collection was also done by going to every reader's house, which was a difficult and risky task, yet did not back down in discharging his duty, although 2 years have passed since the Corona period.

For the first time on the

occasion of Independence Day, the newspaper distributors in Chhattisgarh were honoured by the Korba district administration for their essential service during the Corona period, at the hands of LS MP Jyotsna Mahant, the chief guest of the program. Local people and readers thanked Collector Korba for this.

Rakhi's prepared by women in RIPA for this Rakshabandhan

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Aug 18: Women working in Mahatma Gandhi Rural Industrial Park (RIPA) established in village Majhgawan of Baikunthpur district are engaged in making rakhi's for the upcoming festival of rakshabandhan.

It may be noted that paper cup making, sack bag stitching and printing, natural paint unit from cow dung are produced in RIPA located in village Majhgawan and more than 50 women from about five women self-help groups are working in this unit.

This time too, very beautiful and attractive rakhis are being prepared by



these women self-help groups, and about 8 thousand rakhis are being prepared

this time by the women of these self-help groups.

Savita Rajwade, Sadhna, Pushpavati, Urojatha, Manisha, Dhaneshwari, Rekha, Anjali, Meena, Savitri and Phuleshwari are preparing Rakhis with great enthusiasm. Savita Rajwade said that Rakhi was not prepared in the year 2021 due to COVID 19, but Rakhi is being made again since last year.

Our ready-made rakhis are very much liked by local traders, that are why we have started the work of making rakhis from last 15 days, she said. Along with this, Manihari items are also being prepared at the RIPA centre located in Majhgawan, which is very much liked by the

rural women, she informed.

Mrs. Suman Rajwade also told that in the last six months, 5300 liters of paint made from cow dung has been prepared and 4200 liters of paint has been sold and there are 4 women working in this work.

The rate of distemper is Rs 141 per liter and the cost of plastic paint is Rs 265 per litre, she said. It is noteworthy that Korba Lok Sabha MP Smt. Jyotsna Charandas Mahant went on a one-day tour to RIPA center located in Majhgawan and met the women of these self-help groups and encouraged them.

Festival of independence reminds us of freedom fighters: Tiwari

Central Chronicle News

Berla, Aug 18: To celebrate Amrit Mahotsav of the country's independence, a Tiranga Yatra was taken out on behalf of farmer leader Yogesh Tiwari, and thousands of youth participated in the Yatra taken out on motorcycles in 150 villages of Bemetera assembly.

During this, youths were raising slogans of Vande Mataram and Bharat Mata Ki Jai, on which the Yatra starting from Karokanya temple of Berla, passing through Karamal, Sodh, Navagaon, Bhatsoori, Siwar, Parpada, Nardi, Danganiya (B), Salhepur, Kodwa, Keshadbari, Mohbhatha, Maniyari, Khamaria, Singhouri, Devarbija, Bhedni, Saldha, Sandi, Baijalpur, Danganiya, Bahinga, Jewri, Amora, Bijabhat, Sarada, Deori,



Tiwari said that this day reminds us of the struggles of freedom fighters and their sacrifices in achieving independence. It also inculcates the feeling of patriotism in every citizen of India, he said. Ram Sahu, Vinesh Sahu, Mukesh Sinha, Ranjit Sonkar, Ganesh Sahu, Raju Nishad, Bunty Sahu, Saurabh Mishra, Tikaram Sahu and hundreds of youths including Ashok Sahu, Dilu Sahu, Sanju Barle participated.

Remembering Atal Bihari Vajpayee: A tribute of reverence and inspiration

Bharwadih's Govt HS School pays homage to legacy of great leader

Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Aug 18: In a solemn and heartfelt commemoration, Bharwadih's Government Higher Secondary School marked the memorial day of the esteemed late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

A moment of silence, lasting two minutes, enveloped the school as students and teachers gathered to honor the memory of the visionary leader, reflecting upon his profound contributions.

The event saw the school's children and educators immerse themselves in Shri Vajpayee's illustrious journey. Mr. Dinesh Kumar Verma, the head of the organization, took on the role of a storyteller, vividly illustrating



the life story of Shri Vajpayee to the young minds. He emphasized the multi-faceted personality of Shri Vajpayee, a remarkable parliamentarian, an eloquent poet, a perceptive journalist, and a master-

ful orator. The audience was reminded of his exceptional achievements, including prestigious awards like Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant Award, and Lokmanya Tilak Award.

Highlighting his remarkable legislative career, it was revealed that Shri Vajpayee served as a Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha for an astounding eleven terms, while also contributing significantly in the Rajya Sabha on two occasions.

Veerendra Kumar Verma, a respected teacher at the institution, offered deeper insights into Shri Vajpayee's character, portraying him as a modern-day Bhisma Pitamah due to his steadfast commitment to remaining unmarried.

Engaging the students with excerpts from Shri Vajpayee's literary compositions, he illuminated the poetic prowess that flowed from the heart of this remarkable statesman.

Farmers block State Highway demanding water

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Aug 18: Farmers of several villages in the region blocked the state highway for hours here alleging water scarcity in their fields. There was a traffic jam at Mohad Chowk, and the traffic towards Rajnandgaon, Chowki and Churia was completely disrupted and the passengers had to face a lot of trouble.

Even after the ultimatum to deliver water to the canals a day ago, due to the indifference of the officials of Mongra, the common people had to face the problem of chakkajam. As per information, although farmers face this type of problem every year in this canal, but such a serious situation has never happened.



The SDM, Tehsildar arrived with the police force, to pacify the farmers and the canal drain was inspected and the entire gate of the related drain was opened, after which the protesting farmers calmed down. The farmer's alleged that there is enough water in the reservoirs and this water is not

reaching the drying fields of the farmers.

In this regard, Mongra's Chief Executive Engineer Aftab Alam said that due to scanty rainfall, the water requirement of the farmers is high, but due to the blockage in the canal drain at various places, water is not reaching the entire canal.

According to the demand of the farmers, the obstructed supply of water in the canal has been rectified and soon the water will be able to reach the last end and sufficient amount of water is available in the dam and there will be no shortage of water for the farmers, he said.

'Meri Mati, Mera Desh' inspires patriotism at Polytechnic's I-Day celebration

Govt Polytechnic Khairagarh unites in honour of 'Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav'

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Aug 18: The Government Polytechnic Khairagarh campus radiated patriotic zeal as it celebrated the Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav with a poignant flag hoisting ceremony. As part of the nationwide "Every Home a Flag" initiative, the event brought together officials, faculty, staff, and students in a solemn display of unity and reverence for the nation's heroes. Meri Mati, Mera Desh theme inspires patriotism among the students at polytechnic's I-Day celebration.

Amidst the gathering, participants held soil in their hands, symbolizing a pledge to uphold Indian traditions, contribute to national



progress, and embrace dedication and diligence. The occasion also witnessed the symbolic planting of saplings on the campus, reflecting the institution's commitment to environmental responsibility. SV Varathe, the institution's head and esteemed chief guest, shared insights into India's journey to freedom, highlighting the sacrifices of martyrs and the nation's enduring spirit. He emphasized Indian culture's essence, unity in diversity, and the vision of a harmonious and undivided India.

His words kindled a sense of duty and love for the nation among the students. The ceremo-

ny recognized exceptional students with certificates, encouraging their pursuit of excellence. The event reverberated with patriotic melodies performed by students like Madhu Yadav, T. Shailaja, Ishwar Verma, Neetu, and Sanju Sahu. The stage came alive with plays and patriotic dances, portraying the nation's vibrant spirit. Eminent dignitaries graced the celebration, fostering a collective sense of pride and commitment to India's journey. This commemoration at Government Polytechnic Khairagarh epitomized unity and unwavering devotion to the nation's values.

Women and RIMS youth drive voter awareness campaign

Arang witnesses dynamic initiative by RIMS College Students

Central Chronicle News

Arang, Aug 18: Arang resonated with a powerful voter awareness campaign led by Women Power from Arang town and spirited students of RIMS College and Hospital. Under the guidance of Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) Atul Vishwakarma and SDM Arang, Ramamurthy Diwan, the event engaged Deputy Tehsildar N.S. Pisdha, Tehsildar Mandir Hasaud Vinod Kumar Sahu, and Deputy Tehsildar Shruti Sharma.

The village Godhi area became a hub of activity as the campaign unfolded, with RIMS College hosting an illuminating Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) demonstration for nearly 200 students. This interac-



tive session introduced the essence of democracy, enabling students to partake in a mock voting exercise through the EVM and express choices via the VVPAT (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail) system.

Insights were shared on voter registration, amendments, deletions, continu-

ed the importance of sound leadership. Prospective voters turning 18 by October 1, 2023, were urged to actively participate. The occasion saw notable figures such as Mahesh Chandrakar, Ramkumar Sahu, Rakesh Sahu, alongside women leaders Shail Sharma, Parvati Nishad, Gayatri Lodhi, Pushpa

Sahu, Geetanjali Yogi, Santoshi Chandrakar, and Dr. Gambhir Dean of RIMS Medical College Raipur. Rahul Indurkar, Election In-charge of Mandir Hasaud, Rajkumar Sahu R.I., Anjan Mishra Patwari of Gondi, and others affirmed the collective commitment to fostering an informed electorate.

Indian clinches mixed team air pistol gold at World Championship

Baku (Azerbaijan), Aug 18 (PTI): Shooters Esha Singh and Shiva Narwal brought cheers to the India camp, clinching the 10m air pistol mixed team gold by defeating Turkey in the final of the ISSF World Championship here on Friday.

The Indian duo defeated the Turkish pair of Ilayda Tarhan and Yusuf Dikec 16-10 in the gold-medal match to take the country's medals tally to two.

India are currently placed second on the medals table with a gold and a bronze medal, while China is leading the tally with five gold and two bronze medals.

The Indians shot superbly in the qualification round with Esha notching up 290 and Narwal 293. Their aggregate score of 583 helped them top the qualification round and push Turkey to second spot with an aggregate of 581.

China and Iran both aggregated 580 each but the former was third after the qualification round owing to better "inner 10s".

However, India's rifle shooters came up with below-par performances, failing to cross the qualification stage in the 10m air rifle mixed team event. The women's skeet team too failed to make it

to the medals bracket, finishing fourth. The rifle mixed team pair of Mehuli Ghosh (316.0) and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (314.2) aggregated 630.2 to finish ninth in the qualification round, while the second Indian pair of Ramita (313.7) and Divyansh Singh Panwar (314.6) aggregated 628.3 to end at 17th place among 77 teams.

Only the top four teams in the event make it to the finals. The Chinese pair of Huang Yuting and Sheng Lihao, with an aggregate score of 632.7, topped the qualification followed by Iran (632.5), Israel (631.4) and France (631.4).

China went on to seal gold defeating Iran 16-2, while France won the bronze beating Israel 17-9.

Following China's victory in the event, they have taken their gold medal tally to five. In women's skeet, the team comprising Parinaaz Dhaliwal (118), Ganemat Sekhon (118) and Darsha Rathore (115) aggregated 351, finishing fourth behind Slovakia, who won the bronze with a score of 359.

The USA opened their account in the tournament with a top podium finish in the event, aggregating 365, while Italy clinched the silver medal with 360 points.

Neeraj eyes top podium finish in World C'ships

Budapest, Aug 18 (PTI):

A World Championships gold is the only medal missing in Neeraj Chopra's decorated cabinet and the superstar Indian javelin thrower will fancy his chances as no clear-cut favourite has emerged ahead of the showpiece beginning here on Saturday.

The 25-year-old Chopra has won gold medals in Olympics (Tokyo in 2021), Asian Games (2018) and Commonwealth Games (2018), besides becoming the Diamond League champion last year. He won a silver in the 2022 World Championships in USA and he would be one of the gold medal contenders this time here.

If Chopra wins a gold, he will become only the second Indian after shooter Abhinav Bindra to win a yellow metal each in the Olympics and World Championships in individual sport. Bindra, the first Indian individual event Olympic gold



winner in 2008, had also achieved a World Championships top podium finish in 10m air rifle in 2006 in Zagreb. Going by the current form of the top javelin throwers, there is no hot favourite to stand on the top of the podium after the August 27 final. The qualification round will be held two days earlier. Chopra competed in only two top class competitions this season, win-

ning gold in both of them — Doha and Lausanne Diamond League Meetings on May 5 and June 30 respectively. He had an injury lay-off of one month in between the two events after straining his muscles while training. With nearly two months of rest and training, Chopra said he's ready for the big event, which is of identical stature as the Olympics. "Competing and being consis-

tent at the highest level against the world's best athletes is definitely challenging. I want to give it my best, and if that happens, I will come back better than before," said Chopra ahead of the showpiece. "I got injured which led me to skip a few competitions. After that, I returned and participated in the Lausanne Diamond League, where my performance was good. Since then, everything has gotten better, and I am happy with my performance and training."

Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch, who won silver behind Chopra in Tokyo and bronze in 2022 World Championships, Germany's Julian Weber and defending champion Anderson Peters, would be among the gold medal contenders. Chopra's winning throw of 88.67m in Lausanne puts him third on the world list but he enters the World Championships with an unbeaten record.

Dutee to challenge four-year NADA ban

New Delhi, Aug 18 (PTI):

Double Asian Games silver medalist Dutee Chand will challenge the four-year ban imposed on the celebrated Indian athlete by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for failing two out-of-competition dope tests for a banned substance.

The 27-year-old 100m national record holder was on Thursday served the ban after two samples taken in December last year were found to contain "other anabolic agents/SARMS", which is listed under "WADA's 2023 prohibited list of non-specified substances".

The samples were taken on December 5 and 26 respectively and both returned positive for almost identical substances.

SARMS, or selective androgen receptor modulators, are non-steroidal sub-



stances commonly used to treat osteoporosis, anaemia and wound healing in patients.

Dutee's ban will be effective from January 3 this year and all her competitive results will be scrapped from the date the first sample collection took place (December 5, 2022).

Dutee's counsel Parth Goswami told PTI on Friday that the sprinter had been a "clean athlete"

all her professional career and it was a case of "unintentional consumption". The athlete had won silver medals in 100 and 200m at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games and holds the national record of 11.17 sec in 100m (2021).

"For us, this is a clear case of unintentional consumption of a banned substance. We were clearly able to establish the source of the substance in the body, which is a substantial proof of lack of intent. The substance was never used to gain any sporting advantage," said Goswami.

"We are in process of filing an appeal. We are hopeful that we will be able to convince the appeal panel," he added.

"Dutee is the pride of India and is a clean athlete. She has had an illustrious career of over a decade.

KL Rahul underlines return to fitness; bats and keeps wickets at NCA

Bengaluru, Aug 18 (PTI): India received a boost ahead of the Asia Cup and the ODI World Cup as KL Rahul on Friday underlined his readiness to return to international cricket while batting and wicketkeeping for an extended period during the match simulation at the NCA.

In this scenario, Rahul will, in all probability, travel to Sri Lanka for the Asia Cup and the India team for the tournament will be selected on August 21. "(KL) Rahul showed impressive fitness levels over the match simulation programme (at the NCA) while batting and doing the wicketkeeping duties for an extended period (today). "He has started batting from earlier this week and has now added wicketkeeping as well," a source close to the development told PTI. While Rahul's return to top-flight cricket seems imminent, Shreyas Iyer,



who also has been recuperating at the NCA, might just have to wait a bit longer.

Shreyas too has been undergoing a match simulation process at the NCA and the middle-order batsman has shown marked improvement in fitness. However, a final call on Shreyas could only be taken over the next couple of days.

The return of Rahul will spare the Indian team management a major headache as they can seal one spot in the middle-order.

Shastri, Patil back Tilak Varma to be included in middle-order

New Delhi, Aug 18 (PTI):

Former stars Ravi Shastri and Sandeep Patil on Friday batted for the inclusion of the talented Tilak Varma in India's middle-order for the upcoming ICC ODI World Cup 2023.

The mega event will be held in India from October 5 to November 19.

Shastri said the 20-year-old Varma is at an advantageous position because he is a left-hander.

Speaking on Star Sports, Shastri said, "I'm very impressed with Tilak Varma. Very, very impressed. And I want a left-hander. So, if I'm looking for a left-hander in the middle order, like Yuvraj Singh and before that was Suresh Raina at five, I would really look in that direction (of



runs. "So, when I look at the way he has got his runs over the last three months, whether it was for Mumbai Indians, for India, whether it was handling pressure, opposition, or different situations of the game, he has ticked all the boxes for someone so young," said Shastri. Varma impressed everyone with his fine performances during his debut international series against the West Indies recently, scoring well in all the three T20I matches. "When it comes to shot selection, when it comes to the range of shots, the ability to be unorthodox, he (Varma) has everything at that current form, looking at how he's getting his

runs. "So, when I look at the way he has got his runs over the last three months, whether it was for Mumbai Indians, for India, whether it was handling pressure, opposition, or different situations of the game, he has ticked all the boxes for someone so young," said Shastri.

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Chennaiyin FC beat Delhi FC 2-1 in Durand Cup

Guwahati, Aug 18 (PTI):

Chennaiyin FC beat Delhi FC 2-1 for their third consecutive victory in a Group E fixture of the Durand Cup, here at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium on Friday.

Chennaiyin FC thus finished the group unbeaten, securing nine points from three matches and head into the quarterfinals high on confidence.

On the other hand, Delhi FC finished with two points from three matches courtesy two draws against Hyderabad FC and Tribhuvan Army FC.

Rafael Crivellaro and Vincy Barretto scored for the winners while Pape Alassane Gassame scored one back for Delhi FC.



Players of Chennaiyin FC (white) and Delhi FC vie for the ball during a Durand Cup 2023 match at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium, in Guwahati, Friday.

Tribhuvan Army FC. Defenders Ankit Mukherjee, Aakash Sangwan, Bikash Yumnam and Captain Jordan Murray maintained their place in the team.

Delhi FC Coach Israil Gurung made five changes to the side with foreign im-

ports Sergio Barboza and Gassame starting. In search of full points from the game to keep their knockout qualification hopes alive, Delhi FC took the attack to the Chennaiyin defence. They managed to trouble the Chennaiyin defence but could not make full use of

the chances. Chennaiyin FC took full advantage of the single chance they got in the first half. Crivellaro received the ball from Sangwan and the Brazilian foxed three Delhi FC defenders to finish calmly past the goalkeeper and put his team ahead.

In the second half, Chennaiyin doubled their lead in the 51st minute through Barretto. Sachu Siby made a good run down the left and found Barretto inside the box, who finished in the bottom right corner past goalkeeper Nitish Mehra.

Delhi FC halved Chennaiyin's advantage soon after as Gasaame's free kick curled above Samik Mitra and landed inside the goal.

Chennaiyin FC could have put the match beyond Delhi but they could not convert the chances.

'Bazball' left Australians scratching their head during Ashes

Hobart, Aug 18 (PTI):

Legendary Australian cricketer Ricky Ponting said England's 'Bazball' approach had left the Australians a befuddled group during the Ashes, which saw the Englishmen making a remarkable comeback from 0-2 down. Australia led the series 2-0 after the first two Tests at Edgbaston and Lord's but England bounced back to make the series scoreline 2-2 with wins in the third Test at Headingley and in the fifth Test at the Oval.

The rain-marred fourth Test at Manchester ended in a draw.

Though the Aussies managed to retain the Ashes urn, former captain Ponting said the home side gave them a tough ride. Australia are yet to win a



Test series in England since 2001. Talking to SEN Radio, Ponting explained, "The two contrasting styles of play were great to sit back and watch. There was a lot of talk about Bazball and how England would approach it, and would that style stand up against the quality of the Australian attack."

"It probably had some of the Australian players, coaches and the captain at different times scratching their heads as to how they were going to combat it."

Ponting was all praise for the quality of cricket played during the Ashes.

"I think the 2-2 result, albeit probably slightly biased with a bit of controversy in that last Test with the ball changed, the way that it was, that gifted England some conditions they probably shouldn't have got."

"I think the level of cricket played across the series, the 2-2 result was probably fair," he added.

Meanwhile, Ponting lauded Aussie Test skipper Pat Cummins for playing six successive Tests, including the victorious ICC World Test Championship Final against India at The Oval. However, Ponting said it could be time for the Kangaroos to introduce some new faces in the bowling attack over the next 12 months.

Lanka accepts Lahiru Thirimanne's retirement from international cricket

Colombo, Aug 18 (PTI):

Left-hand batter Lahiru Thirimanne's retirement from international cricket has been accepted, the country's cricket board said in a statement on Friday.

Having made his international debut in January 2010, the 34-year-old Thirimanne had called time on his international career in July during an announcement made on social media.

"Sri Lanka Cricket's Executive Committee accepted the resignation of Lahiru Thirimanne from playing all forms of international cricket," Sri Lanka Cricket said.

Thirimanne's last appearance for the island nation was in March 2022, when he played against India in the Bengaluru Test in March 2022.

Messi says he's happy with his choice

Fort Lauderdale (US), Aug 18 (AP): Fans line up outside Inter Miami's practice facility to watch Lionel Messi's car drive away after training sessions. Players from opposing teams wait for matches to get his signature or just a simple handshake. His No. 10 jersey is everywhere in South Florida.

For Messi, these are reminders that he made the right choice. He could have continued his acclaimed career with another stint in Barcelona, where he rose to stardom. He could have signed a lucrative deal to play for Al-Hilal in Saudi Arabia. He chose the unfamiliar to travel stateside and play soccer in the United States, and he's glad about it. "From the beginning, from my arrival, it's been an impressive welcome that we've



Inter Miami's Lionel Messi holds up his team jersey during a news conference.

received," Messi said through an interpreter. He spoke publicly Thursday for the first time since announcing on June 7 that he'd join Inter Miami of the MLS. "Today I can tell you that I am very happy with the decision we

made," Messi said at Miami's DRV PNK Stadium in a room so full of reporters that some sat on the floor. The 36-year-old said he's still adapting to his new surroundings. His family is in a temporary place in South Florida while they search for a permanent home. His three sons will start school soon.

He's still getting used to "hot and humid" Florida, but overall, the transition has been "much easier than expected" compared to his move from Barcelona to Paris Saint-Germain, where he played the past two years.

"Me going to Paris was neither planned nor desired," Messi said. "I did not want to leave Barcelona, and it became difficult. But it is the opposite of what is happening to me now, thanks to God."

Injured Smith, Starc to miss South Africa tour



Sydney, Aug 18 (PTI):

Injured Australian stalwarts Steve Smith and Mitchell Starc will miss the limited-overs tour of South Africa but are expected to be fit for the ODI series in India ahead of the World Cup. Australia captain Pat Cummins is recovering from a wrist fracture

suffered during the Ashes in England, while Smith is nursing a tendon injury on his left wrist, which has sidelined him for four weeks, according to Cricket Australia.

Both will miss the three T20Is in South Africa from August 30 to September 3, which will be followed by five ODIs from September 7-17. The pair will return for the three-match ODI series against India beginning September 22 along with left-arm pace bowler Mitchell Starc, who is also not in the squad for the South Africa series. Starc, who played a crucial role in Australia's 2-1 ODI series victory against India in March, suffered "groin soreness" upon his return from the Ashes, where he also suffered a shoulder injury.

Top seeds Alcaraz and Swiatek overcome adversity to advance to the quarterfinals

Mason (Ohio), Aug 18 (AP): Carlos Alcaraz and Iga Swiatek, the top-ranked players in tennis, got past adverse weather conditions and challenging opponents to reach the Western & Southern Open quarterfinals.

Alcaraz overcame two rain delays totalling 2 hours, 35 minutes and 14th-seeded American Tommy Paul, who beat him last Friday in Toronto, for a 7-6 (6), 6-7 (0), 6-3 win in a match that lasted 3 hours, 9 minutes. "You've got to stay focused," said Alcaraz, the defending U.S. Open champion from Spain. "It's not easy to play and stop and play and stop. You can't do anything but be ready to play." Alcaraz recovered after losing three match points



during the 12th game of the second set, which lasted 24 points and more than 15 minutes. Blanked in the tiebreaker, he came right back to break Paul's serve in the first game of the final set. "The main difference is

he won and I lost," Paul said, distinguishing between Thursday and his victory last week. "It was a great match. Conditions were less than ideal, but he handled it like pro. He kept a great attitude."

Swiatek adjusted to a stiff wind and came from behind to advance to a match up with 10th-seeded Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic with a 3-6, 6-1, 6-1 win over China's Zheng Qinwen, who'd eliminated Venus Williams on Wednesday. Vondrousova moved on with a 7-5, 6-3 win over American Sloane Stephens.

PM Modi calls on G20 nations to open innovations for public good

'We must be ready to prevent next health emergency'

Gandhinagar, Aug 18 (PTI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday urged the G20 nations to facilitate "equitable availability" of technology and "open innovations" for public good.

Addressing the G20 Health Ministers' meet in Gujarat capital Gandhinagar via video link, he also said the global community must be ready to prevent and respond to the next health emergency.

India will eradicate tuberculosis (TB) well before the global deadline, he informed the audience.

"Global initiatives on global health will bring together various digital health initiatives on a common platform. Let's open our innovations for public good. Let us avoid duplication of funding. Let us facilitate equitable availability of technology," the prime minister said. Emphasizing the role of digital solutions and innovations in making

healthcare accessible to all, Modi said they are a useful means to make our efforts equitable and inclusive as patients from far and wide can receive quality care through tele-medicine. "Let us facilitate equitable availability of technology. This initiative will allow countries in the global south to close the gap in healthcare delivery. It will take us one step closer to our goal of achieving universal health coverage (UHC)," he added.

He said this initiative will allow countries in the Global South to close the gap in healthcare delivery and will take us one step closer to our goal of achieving Universal Health Coverage.

India will eradicate tuberculosis (TB) well before the global deadline with the help of people's participation, the prime minister said.

Highlighting the importance of public participation as a key factor in the



success of health initiatives, the PM said it was one of the main reasons for the success of India's leprosy eradication campaign. The country's ambitious programme on TB elimination also encourages public participation, he added.

"We have called upon the people of the country to be Nikshay Mitra or Friends for Eradication of TB. Under this, nearly 1 million patients have been adopted by citizens. Now we are on our way to achieve TB elimination well ahead of the global target of 2030,"

Modi said.

Calling resilience one of the biggest lessons learnt during the COVID-19 pandemic, the prime minister said global health systems should be resilient.

"We must be ready to prevent, prepare, and respond to the next health emergency. This is especially important in today's interconnected world. As we saw during the pandemic, health issues in one part of the world can affect all other parts of the world in a very short time," said Modi.

Mahatma Gandhi considered health to be such an important issue that he wrote a book titled 'Key to Health' on the subject, the prime minister said.

The COVID-19 pandemic reminded us that health should be at the center of our decisions and also showed us the value of international cooperation, whether in medicine and vaccine deliveries or in

bringing people back home, he said.

The PM informed the audience that under the Vaccine Maitri initiative during the pandemic, India delivered 300 million vaccine doses to more than 100 countries, including many in the Global South.

"In India, we are following a holistic and inclusive approach. We are expanding health infrastructure, promoting traditional systems of medicine, and providing affordable healthcare to all. We believe that holistic health and wellness can help enhance everyone's resilience," he said. Linking the environment with human health, PM Modi said clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient nutrition, and secure shelter are major factors of health. He congratulated the dignitaries for the steps they have taken towards the launch of the Climate and Health Initiative.

SHRAVAN SANKRANTI



Devotees wait to sacrifice ducks to goddess Manasha at a temple as part of a ritual on 'Shraavan Sankranti', in Birbhum district, Friday.

Himachal devastation

Sukhu targets BJP MPs and own party's Pratibha Singh

Shimla, Aug 18 (PTI)

Targeting BJP MPs from Himachal Pradesh and his own party leader Pratibha Singh, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Friday asked if the four parliamentarians had raised in Delhi the issue of devastation caused by the rains in the state.

Responding to a remark on "Bihari architects" allegedly made by him, Sukhu told PTI that the BJP should stop playing politics.

He then took a swipe at the four "elected representatives" in Lok Sabha from the Congress-ruled state.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J P



Nadda at least called him up and inquired about the situation in the state, he said.

He then pointedly questioned the role of the four MPs from the state, suggesting that they failed to voice the concerns of the people.

He did not name them, but was apparently referring to the three BJP MPs — Anurag Thakur (Hamirpur), Suresh

Kashyap (Shimla) and Kishan Kapoor (Kangra). The fourth MP representing the hill state in the Lower House of Parliament is Pratibha Singh. Singh represents Mandi and is also the Congress state unit president.

Notably, Singh was also eyeing the chief minister's post and had last month aired her grievances with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge regarding 'non-coordination' between the party and the state government.

On Thursday, Union minister Anurag Thakur claimed that the Congress had shown its true colours by insulting people of Bihar by blaming them for the destruction in Himachal Pradesh.

He was responding to Sukhu's reported remarks in which he blamed the construction workers from Bihar for the destruction in Shimla, one of the worst-affected districts in the hill state.

Sukhu had reportedly said, "The houses collapsing these days have not gone through the standards of structural engineering, the migrant architects (masons) whom I call Bihari architects come here and construct floor to floor. We do not have local masons."

The chief minister has refuted the claims. "Show me the statement. I have not given any such statement and asked the opposition to stop politics in this hour of distress," he told PTI.

HC directs magazine to remove 'defamatory' article on Christian school principal from website

New Delhi, Aug 18 (PTI)

Delhi High Court has directed 'Organiser' magazine to remove from its website an "offending" and prima facie "defamatory" article with allegations of sexual intimacy and exploitation of nuns and Hindu women associated with a church by the principal of a Christian minority school here.

Observing that the right to reputation has been recognised as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution, the court said prima facie there was merit in the contention of the plaintiff, the school principal, that the article has been published in a "reckless manner" without any factual verification. It said the right to freedom of

speech and expression cannot be taken as an unfettered right to defame and tarnish the reputation of another person. "I am of the prima facie view that the contents of the article are defamatory. There is prima facie merit in the contention of the plaintiff that the article has been published in a reckless manner without any factual verification and is tarnishing the image and reputation of the plaintiff, who is a respectable citizen of this country and associated with several educational institutions," Justice Jyoti Singh said in an ex-parte interim order. "It needs no gainsaying that it takes years to build a reputation and therefore, the right to reputation has been recognised as a fun-

damental right under Article 21 of the Constitution," Justice Singh said.

The court directed Bharat Prakashan (Delhi) Ltd and the magazine 'Organiser Weekly - Voice of the Nation' to remove the offending article from their website and issued summons to them in the main suit, asking them to file their written statements within 30 days.

The court, in its August 16 order, said Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution provides the right of freedom of speech and expression to all people, however, it cannot be overlooked that the same is subject to restrictions under Article 19(2) which includes defamation. It has been repeatedly held by courts

that the fundamental right to freedom of speech has to be counterbalanced with the right to reputation of an individual, the court said.

The high court's interim order came on a plea by the principal of a reputed unaided recognised minority school.

The plea said to malign the image of the plaintiff, the defendants posted/published objectionable and obscene articles comprising allegations related to sexual intimacy and exploitation of nuns and Hindu women associated with the church on their website on June 9/June 10, titled Indian Catholic Church Sex Scandal: Priest exploiting nuns and Hindu women exposed'.

ROAD SHOW



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan during a road show, in Panna district, Friday.

J'khand well cave-in: 6 bodies recovered

Ranchi, Aug 18 (PTI) The toll in the cave-in of a well in Jharkhand's Ranchi district rose to six as four more bodies were recovered from there on Friday, police said.

Two bodies were recovered till this morning from the well, a portion of which caved in at Piska village a day before, Ranchi Senior Superintendent of Police Kishor Kaushal said.

"The 15-hour-long rescue operation carried out by a team of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) came to an end on Friday noon," Ranchi SP (Rural) HB Jama told PTI. Two persons were rescued from the well during the operation, Kaushal said.

'BJP alone can realize aspirations of Telangana statehood agitation'

Hyderabad, Aug 18 (PTI)

Alleging that the ruling BRS ignored the promises made to people of the state, Union Minister G Kishan Reddy on Friday said BJP alone can realize the aspirations of the Telangana statehood agitation. The BRS government remembered the farm loan waiver after four and half years, just before the elections. This has forced many farmers to take loans from moneylenders, while many others ended up as defaulters during the last four and half years, he told reporters at Khammam. The farm loan waiver implemented in the state was grossly inadequate, said

New Delhi, Aug 18 (PTI)

Two men were arrested for allegedly kidnapping a Class 9 girl on the pretext of luring her to settle in Nepal for fashion designing and demanded Rs 50 lakh from her father, police here said on Friday. The accused have been identified as 18-year-old Ravi Kumar, a resident of Behta, Uttar Pradesh; and 24-year-old Akash, a resident of Hapur, Uttar Pradesh, they said.

The girl's mother, a res-

ident of Tahirpur, lodged a police complaint on Wednesday that her 14-year-old daughter went for tuition class at Janta colony, but did not return.

A senior police officer said that the girl's mobile phone was found switched off.

The family searched for her at the tuition centre and nearby areas, but could not locate her.

They received a ransom call of Rs 50 lakh from their daughter's

phone number at night and an unknown person threatened them that she

would be harmed if they do not pay, the officer said.

JU sends detailed report to UGC on student's death

Kolkata, Aug 17 (PTI)

Jadavpur University (JU) has sent an exhaustive report to the University Grants Commission (UGC) on multiple queries about alleged ragging and sexual harassment of a 17-year-old undergraduate student that led to his death, as directed by the statutory body.

Registrar Snehmanju Basu told PTI that the university sent a detailed

compliance report answering queries regarding alleged ragging and sexual harassment of the fresher backed by documentary evidence before the deadline of 12 am on Thursday.

"Proactive steps being taken by the university to curb the evil of ragging were extensively elaborated in our report, as sought by UGC. They have acknowledged having received the same," Basu said.

Basu said that another action taken report will be sent to the UGC soon and made known to the public.

The UGC had voiced dissatisfaction after getting the preliminary report from the university on the incident, labelling it as a "generic" report, an official of the statutory body said in Delhi.

It had noted that no proactive measures have been taken by the university to curb ragging on campus.

कालड़ा बर्न एवं
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बनी रहे मुस्कान

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Ajay Advt.

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