



BRIEF



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being conferred with the Grand Cross of the Order of Honour by the President of Greece Katerina Sakellariopoulou, in Athens, Friday.

Greece Honour

Athens: Prime minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the prestigious Grand Cross of the Order of Honour by Greek President Katerina N Sakellariopoulou on Friday, becoming the first foreign Head of Government to receive the honour. The honour is bestowed by the Greek president to prime ministers and eminent personalities who, by reason of their distinguished position, have contributed to enhancing the stature of Greece.

Naxal camps

Dantewada: Security forces have destroyed two camps of Naxals, one of them spread over an area of two acres and being used for training, along the border of Sukma and Dantewada districts in south Chhattisgarh, police said on Thursday. The camps were busted during a two-day operation that concluded on Wednesday, an official said. Ammunition, substantial quantities of food materials and items of daily use along with Maoist literature were seized, he added.

Eight killed

Wayanad: Eight people, mostly women were killed when a jeep they were travelling in fell into a gorge in Wayanad district on Friday, police said. They said there were at least 12 people in the jeep when the accident took place at around 3.30 PM in the Valad-Mananthavady road. "The jeep was returning to Makkimala with women working in a private tea estate," a local resident told the media.

Illegal stay

Thane: The Navi Mumbai police have arrested two Bangladeshi nationals for staying in India without valid documents, an official said on Friday. Acting on a tip-off, the anti-human trafficking cell (AHTC) of the Navi Mumbai police raided a residential locality in Nerul on Thursday afternoon, the official said. The police apprehended Mofis Mansur Sheikh (61) and Vijayalakshmi Dineshkumar Ram (45), who were living there without valid documents, he said. An offence under various sections of the Passport (Entry into India) Rules 1950 and the Foreigners Act of 1946 has been registered against the duo, who were living in the locality for the last seven to eight years, the official said.

Weather
High 30 Low 24

MARKET
NIFTY 19,265.80
SENSEX 64,886.51

BULLION
GOLD 58,650
SILVER 73,300

Governor warns CM Mann

'President's rule can be imposed in Punjab'

Chandigarh, Aug 25 (PTI): In a major escalation of the tussle between Punjab governor and the chief minister Bhagwant Mann, Banwarilal Purohit on Friday warned the CM that he could recommend President's rule in the state and also initiate criminal proceedings if his letters are not answered. In his latest communication to Mann, Governor Purohit indicated he was upset over not getting any reply from him on his previous, and warned him that he could send a report to the President on "failure of constitutional mechanism." Purohit advised Mann

to act before he takes this "final decision" under Article 356 of the Constitution, and section 124 of the Indian Penal Code. A state is brought under direct rule of the Centre with the invocation of Article 356, usually after a report is sent by the Governor. The IPC section relates to assaulting or wrongfully re-

straining the President or a governor from exercising their lawful powers. "Before I am going to take final decision regarding sending a report to the President of India under Article 356 about the failure of the constitutional mechanism and take a decision about initiating criminal proceedings under section 124 of

the IPC, I ask you to send me the requisite information sought for under my letters referred to above, as also in the matter of the steps taken by you concerning the problem of drugs in the State, failing which I would have no choice but to take action according to law and the Constitution," the governor wrote.

SC transfers Manipur violence cases probed by CBI to Assam

Apex Court asks Gauhati HC CJ to nominate trial judges

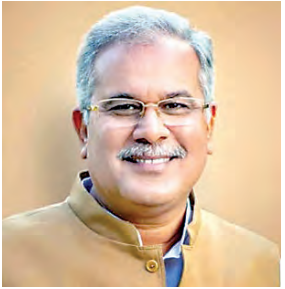
New Delhi, Aug 25 (PTI): In a significant development, the Supreme Court Friday transferred to neighbouring Assam 17 Manipur violence cases being probed by the CBI, including the sexual assault case of two women seen in a viral video being paraded naked, and asked the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court to nominate one or more judicial officers to deal with them. The top court passed a slew of directions on judicial procedures, including the virtual examination of victims and witnesses by courts, saying they have been issued "at the present stage, bearing in mind the overall environment in Manipur and the need for ensuring a fair process of criminal justice administration". A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and

Manoj Misra rejected the submissions of many lawyers, who were opposed to transfer of CBI cases to Assam, and accepted the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the Manipur government, that the suggestion has been made keeping in mind the better internet connectivity there. "We chose it for the connectivity and the maximum (internet) connectivity is in Assam," the law officer said. "Both sides (Kuki and Meiteis) have been hurt... There have been victims in valleys, and in hills. It would be difficult for people who suffered in valleys to travel to hills, and the other way round. We are not on who suffered more, just the practical difficulty," the CJ said, adding the top court will pass orders which will be fair to both sides.

'Congress' biggest challenge in Chh'garh is fighting ED and I-T dept, not BJP'

New Delhi, Aug 25 (PTI):

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Friday said his Congress party will replace some "weak" legislators with new faces in the upcoming assembly polls and asserted that their biggest challenge in the state was to fight the Enforcement Directorate and the Income Tax Department rather than the opposition BJP.



for the welfare of all sections of people. "The ED and the I-T Department are powerful wings of the BJP and they are trying to create a fear psychosis ahead of the Chhattisgarh assembly elections, but they would not succeed in their endeavours," Baghel told PTI, referring to recent raids by these central agencies against some of his close aides.

In an interview to PTI, he said there are no differences within the Chhattisgarh unit of the party and that the chief ministerial face will be decided by the party high command and everyone will abide by it. He noted that the BJP posed no challenge to the ruling Congress and there was no anti-incumbency against his government, which has been working

biggest challenge is fighting the ED and the I-T Department which are acting in an undemocratic manner in the state ahead of assembly polls," he claimed. Baghel said the party has been carrying out surveys of MLAs and indicated that some of them may not be renominated in the upcoming polls. Party office-bearers will be consulted before finalising candidates, he said, adding winning ability will be the sole criteria for candidate selection. "It is possible that in some seats, where our candidates are weak, we could change our sitting candidates. They could be given other responsibilities. That is the party's policy," he said. With the BJP having already declared 21 candidates, Baghel said the Congress will assess

who among its leaders are best suited to take on them. "We will see who is the better candidate... It is possible that some candidates would be changed, there are 71 sitting MLAs (of Congress), it is natural that some of them are weak," he said, without sharing details. Asked whether the leadership issue in the state has been resolved and who will be the chief ministerial candidate, he said, "Deciding the chief minister is the prerogative of the Congress high command and everyone will abide by its decision." The chief minister said there is no conflict in the Chhattisgarh unit of the party. "I have perfect relations with (deputy chief minister) T S Singh Deo and others. We had good ties earlier and even now," he noted.

NH Narayana Health

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR KNEE PAIN #TakeCare

KNEE SCREENING PACKAGE AT ₹999*

8821-818181

NH MMI Narayana Superspecialty Hospital, Raipur, Raipur

Four persons dead in two accidents

Bilaspur, Aug 25 (PTI): Four persons were killed in two accidents in Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh on Friday, police said.

In the first incident, a driver and his helper were killed and another person sustained injuries when a matador in which they were transporting fly ash bricks to Masturi town collided with a trailer truck, said Ravindra Anant, Station House Officer of Maturi.

"The deceased were identified as matador driver Mahendra Sahu (29) and Ravindra Sahu (19). Tigesh Kumar Maravi (29) is undergoing treatment at a nearby hospital," he said.

In another incident near Tikari village, two persons identified as Ranveer Markam (15) and Dhanraj Kushal (44) died when their motorcycle collided with a sport utility vehicle, Anand added.

'Will raise issues of people of Ladakh in Parliament'

Their 'political voice being suppressed': Rahul Gandhi



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during his visit to Sonamarg, in Ganderbal district, Friday.

New Delhi, Aug 25 (PTI): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday vowed to raise in Parliament the issues of the people of Ladakh as he alleged that their "political voice" was being suppressed and the promises of the central government on employment had turned out to be "false". Gandhi has been touring the Union Territory of Ladakh for the past week. "I went to every

corner of Ladakh and talked to the youth, mothers and sisters and the poor. There are other leaders who only talk about their 'Mann Ki Baat'. I want to listen to your 'Mann Ki Baat'," the former Congress president said in an apparent swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio broadcast. "China has snatched away thousands of kilometers of India's land. The prime min-

ister is lying by denying this and every person in Ladakh knows this," Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X.

He said the main issues of Ladakh are that the political voice of the people here is being "suppressed", all the promises of the government on employment have turned out to be "false" and the lack of mobile network and air connectivity.

"I will raise all these issues in Parliament in the next session," Gandhi said and thanked Ladakh for the welcome and love he had received.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh, in a post in Hindi on X, said that taking forward the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Gandhi met the people of Ladakh. In the spirit of the foot march, he listened to their thoughts, he said. "It is clear after listening to these problems that the Modi government has left Ladakh to fend itself.

Judiciary, Executive in an overdrive to deliver, scene in Legislature 'dismal': Dhankhar

New Delhi, Aug 25 (PTI):

Vice President and Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday lamented that while the Judiciary and the Executive are in an overdrive to deliver, the scene in the Legislature is "dismal".



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar during a meeting with Diaspora leaders participating in the Indiaspora G20 Forum at Upa-Rashtrapati Nivas, in New Delhi, Friday.

He also said while people in the political arena have all the rights to do politics, politicians must rise above party lines when it comes to nation's development. Presiding over the 25th annual convocation of the New Delhi Institute of Management here, Dhankhar said the country's justice system is very robust and performs at the highest level.

"Our Executive headed by the prime minister is delivering. We are having roads, railways, penetra-

tion of technology, we have world class structures. But when it comes to the Legislature, your representatives, the scene is dismal. As chairman, Rajya Sabha, I don't see debate, dialogue, discussion. I see disruption," he lamented.

Worker found hanging at NTPC's plant

Raigarh: A 28-year-old worker was found hanging at a plant of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Central public sector undertaking (PSU), in Chhattisgarh's Raigarh district, police said on Friday. Following the incident, the man's family stated a protest in front of the plant alleging that he had been murdered, they said. Dani Ram Gupta was found hanging from the stairs of a water tank in the coal handling unit of the NTPC's LARA Super Thermal Power Plant in Pusaur on Thursday evening, an official said. Gupta, a native of Kodpali area, had been a contractual worker at the plant for the last three years, he said.

A police team reached the spot and the body was sent for post-mortem, he said, adding that a case of accidental death has been registered. Gupta's family members, however, claimed that he was behaving normally till 5 pm on Thursday and alleged that he was murdered and then hanged.

Divya®

Just as India created history by being the first to reach the South Pole of the Moon, Patanjali has created history by going beyond allopathy and serving the suffering humanity.

Modern medical science did not believe that the cells of the liver, kidney, heart, lungs, brain, etc. can be rejuvenated. But we have rejuvenated the cells of all these organs. By checking various types of inflammation and degeneration, we have worked to control even the gene expression. Patanjali has made available these research and evidence based medicines to remove diseases and make the liver healthy.

These are very beneficial medicines for instant benefit in fatty liver, alcoholic liver disease, non-alcoholic liver disease, liver cirrhosis, hepatitis, loss of appetite and all diseases of the digestive system.

For published research papers, visit -
www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9208489/ | www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7587968/
www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9097504/ | www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7109321/

LIVOGRIT VITAL
लिवोग्रिट वाइटल
60 Tablets

लिवामृत एडवांस
LIVAMRIT ADVANCE
60 Tablets

LIVOGRIT
लिवोग्रिट
60 Tablets

All our medicines are available at Patanjali Stores, leading medical, ayurvedic and other stores across India. The usage of the medicine mentioned above is suggestive in nature and it is the choice of the treatment in the management of above-mentioned diseases. Avoid self-medication and always take the medicines under medical supervision.

Malnutrition rate declines by 2.42 pc in a year

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Aug 25: A total of 1505 Anganwadi centers are being operated in the district from where the registered beneficiaries are being benefited from various departmental schemes as per the instructions of the government. District Program Officer Vipin Jain said that according to Vajan Tyohar 2022 (month August 2022), the percentage of malnutrition among children aged 0 to 06 in Durg district is 12.10 percent.

Ready-to-eat food, breakfast and hot food are being supplied regularly to children aged 0 to 06 years registered in Anganwadi centers in the district under the supplementary nutrition program. Under this programme, children aged 03 to 06 are provided hot food daily in Anganwadi centers.

The food items are supplied by local women self-help groups. According to the current menu, 02 small



roti, rice, lentils and vegetables are served to the children and there is no provision of pickle, papad, salad, chutney, milk etc. Presently 44635 children of 03 to 06 years are registered in Durg district.

Out of which children regularly attending Anganwadi centers are being benefited with hot meals. Till the last financial year, morengabar, fruits and milk etc. were provided to the selected

malnourished children from the local funds made available at the district level as additional nutritious food.

Presently malnourished children are being provided extra protein by providing ready-to-eat food in higher quantities as compared to normal children as per the instructions provided by the government. Ready-to-eat food and flour are being provided regularly in

Anganwadi centers of the district through the Chhattisgarh State Seed and Agriculture Development Corporation.

Out of the selected 4220 malnourished children of 01 to 03 years, who regularly come to Anganwadi centers, hot food and 01 fruit were given in the form of additional nutritious diet with the amount provided locally in the district.

Under the Mukhyamantri Suposhan

Abhiyan in the Anganwadi center, only the selected malnourished children are given extra nutritious food as compared to other normal children. It needs to be mentioned here that malnourished children in the district are being benefited through departmental nutritional supplements as well as through the Chief Minister's Nutrition Campaign and Nutrition Rehabilitation Centers.

Regular monitoring of all these programs and schemes is also done through departmental staff and district administration. The result of all these efforts is that at present the percentage of malnutrition among the children of 0 to 06 years in the district is 9.68.

In this way, there has been a decrease of about 2.42 in the percentage of malnutrition in the last 01 year and there is a continuous decrease in the percentage of malnutrition among the children of 0 to 06 years in the district.

131 master trainers appointed for assembly elections



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Aug 25: For the smooth conduct of Vidhan Sabha General Election 2023, a total of 131 master trainers have been appointed at district level and assembly level.

Training was given to the master trainers in the auditorium of BIT Durg

the other day. State level master trainer Vipul Kumar Gupta, Sub-Divisional Officer (R) Patan Vinay Kumar Soni, Sub-Divisional Officer (R) Dhamdha and Deputy Collector (Durg) Lavkesh Dhruv conducted the training session of the Master trainers. Deputy District Election

Officer Additional Collector BK Dubey said that out of total 131 master trainers at district and assembly level, 105 master trainers were present and 26 master trainers were absent in the training session. Show cause notice has been issued against the absent master trainers as per rules.

Iron ore transportation restricted on Anda-Funda-Utai road

DSP (Traffic) holds meeting with transporters

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Aug 25: After receiving complaints against the movement of heavy vehicles on the interior rural roads leading to Bhilai, the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police (Durg) had directed the Traffic Police to ensure that the heavy vehicles transporting iron from Dalli Rajhara to Bhilai travel only through the main and direct road instead of taking the Anda, Funda, Utai rural area road.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Satish Thakur and Inspector of Transport Department Vishnu Thakur chaired a



meeting of the members of Dalli Rajhara Transport Association at the traffic headquarters, Nehru Nagar. DSP Thakur explained to the truck owners that there are possibilities of fatal road accidents on the rural route from Anda to Utai, Funda, Selud and Motipur. To prevent road accidents, they were advised to avoid using these routes in view of public safety. The truck owners gave their consent for noting these routes.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (Traffic) asked the vehicle owners to instruct their drivers not to get indulged in drunken

driving, drive slowly and carefully near the school area, not to drive rashly at high speed as well as not to allow the helpers to drive. Thakur said that they will take plenary action if the iron ore laden trucks are found moving on the interior rural roads.

Transport Inspector Vishnu Thakur, Traffic Incharge (Civic Center) Inspector Kunj Bihari Nage, Traffic Incharge (Durg) Inspector Yashkaran Dhruv and Dalli Rajhara Transport Association members Vikramjit Singh, Indrajit Singh, Narendra Singh, Gurmel Singh Randhawa, Kuldeep Singh, Sandeep Saha and others were present.

driving, drive slowly and carefully near the school area, not to drive rashly at high speed as well as not to allow the helpers to drive. Thakur said that they will take plenary action if the iron ore laden trucks are found moving on the interior rural roads.

Transport Inspector Vishnu Thakur, Traffic Incharge (Civic Center) Inspector Kunj Bihari Nage, Traffic Incharge (Durg) Inspector Yashkaran Dhruv and Dalli Rajhara Transport Association members Vikramjit Singh, Indrajit Singh, Narendra Singh, Gurmel Singh Randhawa, Kuldeep Singh, Sandeep Saha and others were present.

Digital Planetarium Show organised at DAV, Hudco

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Aug 25: DAV HUDCO organized a four day astronomy outreach program for children in the school premises which was conducted by Gemini Planetarium, Bhilai in order to illustrate basic but difficult astronomical concepts which cannot be explained on the blackboard. All the shows showcased were exciting stimulating, informative, educative and above all a memorable journey tour to the night sky and prominent constellations.

The program was inaugurated by Prashant Kumar (Principal cum Deputy Regional Officer CG Zone A) on August 22, 2023. Expressing his valuable words he said that such shows and programs are designed to inspire and engage students, foster critical



thinking skills and encourage a lifelong love for learning and it plays an exceptional role in educating children about Universe and Astronomy Science. It was the show where children learned and enjoyed a 360 full dome immersive experience in a portable digital planetarium.

The aim behind the show was to develop interest about astronomy among the students. This show was scheduled for the entire school. About 2800 children witnessed the shows gathering information on stars,

planets, constellation and black hole as per their age & class criteria. Planets and moons loomed over the high school students' heads in the darkness: Mars rust-orange, Neptune an eerie blue, massive Jupiter with its pastel swirls and Saturn its icy rings.

The show, as the name suggests, 'Back to Moon' was an innovative new way of immersive learning which involved putting learners in an interactive learning environment to teach skills using situations and experiences that are as true to life

as possible. One highlight of the show was 'Night Gazing' where the students got the wonderful opportunity to observe celestial bodies. The show was found to be educational in terms of space and was well appreciated by the children as they were able to witness the space without being there by

enjoying it as a real time experience. It's a well known fact that the craze of children towards learning through digital education cannot be kept aside nowadays. By this mode of education, the children are able to understand things more clearly rather than following the traditional ways of learning books, said Prashant Kumar (Principal cum Deputy Regional Officer CG Zone A). The shows were successfully organized and coordinated by department of Physics.

BSP organises free Medical camp at Village Katro

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Aug 25: SAIL- Bhilai Steel Plant, conducts several public welfare activities as part of its organizational social responsibility towards the community in and around its areas of operations. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department of the Plant organized a one-day free Health Camp, at Village Katro, on August 22, 2023.

The Medical Team from CSR department, comprising of, Dr Nishi Minz, Pharmacist, AS Gaur, Firoza Joseph for Blood-Sugar and BP examination, Shambhu for registration, volunteered their services for the camp. Sita Sinha, from the CSR department was also present during the Health Camp.



A total of 43 villagers from village Katro, including 13 men, 24 women and 06 children, availed free health services at the day long Health Camp and free medicines were distributed to them.

It is noteworthy that Health Camp is one of the prime initiatives, through which BSP's CSR Department has con-

tributed substantially towards Public Health & Medicine.

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

NN Square beautification and road widening underway

- Mayor and Commissioner inspect development projects

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Aug 25: The busiest Nehru Nagar Square of the city is getting a facelift. A life-size statue of the country's first Prime Minister Pt Jawaharlal Nehru and a memorial of the Madanwada Martyrs is being constructed here. The Square is being made attractive with a fountain and the biggest clock in the state.

Nehru Nagar, the busiest square of the city, is being beautified. Along with constructing an ap-

proach road to ensure congestion free traffic movement, Pt Nehru's statue has also been removed from the middle of the road. This statue will be installed on the road side.

This step will facilitate traffic pressure control. On Friday, Mayor Neeraj Pal and Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas inspected the ongoing development works under Municipal Corporation Bhilai area and instructed to complete all the projects at the earliest so that the citizens can get the benefit of the facilities soon.

Mayor Neeraj Pal and Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas inspected the cricket ground being constructed in HUDCO and asked the



officers of Zone 05 to get the construction works of the cricket track, boundary wall, high mast light and the dome shed completed at the earliest.

After this, they inspected the ongoing beautification development work on the side of Nehru Nagar Square. They inspected

the fountains, martyrs' memorial and other works being conducted along the sides of the square and gave instructions to do all the works in a quality manner.

It is worth mentioning that Nehru Nagar Chowk is located on the National Highway and is used by a

large number of commuters. Traffic pressure increases considerably in the evening. Considering all the factors, the work is being done as per the detailed planning. Construction work is being conducted on a war footing and the square will be dedicated to the public very soon.

After beautification, the Nehru Nagar Square will become more attractive as the encroachments have been removed and enough space has been created for vehicle movement.

The Mayor and Commissioner also inspected the BPO center being constructed at Shanti Nagar Football Ground, Dabrapara Chowk, Power House and reviewed the progress.

CCET students visit Doordarshan Kendra Raipur

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Aug 25: The Industry Institute Interaction (III) Cell of CCET Bhilai organized a significant educational visit for the students pursuing B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineering. On August 24, 2023, the students were given the opportunity to visit Doordarshan Centre Raipur, a renowned broadcasting organization. This visit aimed to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, a crucial aspect of any professional course.

Accompanied by faculty members Akash Dewangan and Chandrashekhar Sahu, the

students were divided into four groups, each guided by a representative from Doordarshan. The visit was an eye-opening experience for the students, as they got to witness the inner workings of a television studio. The itinerary included visits to various key areas, such as the Art Station Room, PVR Room, Studio, and Editing Room. In each space, the students received concise explanations about the functioning of the equipment and the technical processes involved.

The significance of this visit was manifold. Firstly, it provided a platform for students to apply their classroom knowledge to real-world scenarios. This practical experience is invaluable as it bridges the



gap between theory and application. Secondly, the hands-on training with the equipment gave students a chance to familiarize themselves with the tools used in the industry. This exposure prepares them for future roles and responsibilities in their respective fields.

Furthermore, the visit

aimed to cultivate a professional attitude among the students. Witnessing the meticulous processes and high standards of the broadcast industry instilled a sense of discipline and professionalism. Additionally, the trip served as a motivation booster for those interested in pursuing careers in

broadcast media. Exploring the history and evolution of Doordarshan, being the first channel in Indian television, inspired students to consider the vast opportunities in the field.

The visit to Doordarshan was an enriching experience for the students of CCET Bhilai. It offered them insights into the practical aspects of their chosen fields, equipped them with hands-on training, fostered professionalism, and kindled their passion for the broadcast industry. Overall, this trip served as a bridge between academia and industry, preparing the students for their future endeavors and allowing them to explore their areas of interest more deeply.

Special Assembly organised for students to watch soft landing of Chandrayaan-3



- At St Thomas College Kailash Nagar

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Aug 25: St Thomas college, Kailash Nagar organised special assemblies for students to watch the live streaming of the historic Chandrayaan-3 landing on the moon on August 23, 2023 in the evening. The college principal Dr Mariam Jacob along with the faculties made all arrangements for the live telecast of Chandrayaan-3 soft landing on the

moon. Principal encouraged the students and faculties to actively participate in the event to mark the proud moment of the nation.

All faculties and maximum students were present in the college by 17:00 hrs and were assembled in the seminar hall of the college to witness the live streaming of this extraordinary event and became a part of the nation in observing the historic moment. Fr Dr Joshi Varghese, administrator of the college appreciated the students and faculties for their enthusiastic participation.

OBITUARY

Chhath Parmeshwari Devi

Bhilai: Sector 1, Avenue B, Qr No 3-A resident Chhath Parmeshwari Devi left for heavenly abode at the age of 85 years on Aug 23. Last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Ramnagar Muktidham. She was the mother of Dayanand Sharma, Mayanand Sharma and grandmother of Sharad Kumar Sharma.

Revise voter list with full seriousness, delicacy and care: EC

EC asks for strict vigil on transportation of liquor, drugs, cash and freebies to monitor election expenditure

Commission held a meeting with the Collectors and Superintendents of Police and reviewed the district-wise preparations for the Assembly General Elections



special summary revision of voter list currently going on in the state and stressed on making the electoral roll pure and error-free. The commission asked to revise the voter list with utmost seriousness, delicacy and care. The commission also inquired about the printing and distribution of EPIC cards.

The Election Commission of India directed strict monitoring of the transportation of liquor, drugs, cash and freebies in the state to monitor the election expenditure. They asked to act promptly in such cases without waiting for the implementation of the

Model Code of Conduct. In a day-long meeting on Friday, the Commission reviewed the arrangements, availability and storage of EVMs and VVPATs in polling stations, human resources, vehicles and grievance redressal management.

Chief Election Commissioner and senior officials of the commission also reviewed the requirement of postal ballot for assembly elections, communication plan, training of officers and employees conducting elections, law and order situation and SVEEP activities in the meeting. Senior Deputy Election

Commissioners of the Election Commission of India Dharmendra Sharma and Nitesh Vyas, Deputy Election Commissioners Mr. Hridayesh Kumar, Manoj Kumar Sahu, R.K. Gupta and Ajay Bhadoo, Director General, B. Narayanan, Directors, Yashvendra Singh and Ashok Kumar, Senior Principal Secretaries, N.N. Butolia, Principal Secretary S.B. Joshi, Joint Director Anuj Chandak, Under Secretary Ritesh Singh, Chief Electoral Officer of Chhattisgarh, Reena Babasaheb Kangale and Security Nodal Officer O.P. Pal also attended the meeting.

Raipur, Aug 25: The Chief Election Commissioner of India Mr. Rajeev Kumar and two Election Commissioners Mr. Anoop Chandra Pandey and Mr. Arun Goyal on Friday held a meeting with the Collectors and Superintendents of Police of all the districts of the State, Commissioners of all Divisions and Inspector General of Police Ranges to discuss the preparations and district wide review for the General Elections to the Legislative Assembly. They inquired about the progress of the second

COLOURFUL ATTIRE



Women dress in colourful attire celebrates 'Sawan-Utsav' here on Friday.

Congress manifesto will fulfill public aspirations: PCC chief

Raipur, Aug 25: 'Congress does what it says. This time also the Congress manifesto will be fulfilling the aspirations of the people. Implementing its 2018 manifesto, Congress fulfilled its promises to farmers, tribals, youth and women. In 2023 manifesto also interests of every section will be considered', said Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) President and MP, Deepak Baij. People take manifesto of the Congress and the promises made to them seriously, he said, adding that



people know that the manifesto of the Congress is the vision document of its government. He said that plans would be chalked out for empowerment of the common man. Baij said that

soon after the formation of the Congress government in 2018, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel started implementing manifesto of the Congress. He said that 10 thousand crore loan of 20 lakh farmers was waived. He said that the Bhupesh government fulfilled 34 out of 36 promises in a quarter to five years.

Baij said that BJP did not fulfill 25 of the 31 promises it had made in the front pages of its manifesto thrice in 2003, 2008, 2013 elections. This is the differ-

ence between Congress and BJP, he said. For the Congress, the manifesto is a sacred document for keeping promises whereas for the BJP it is just an election tool, he said, adding that BJP had made more than 150 promises in three elections in 2003, 08, 13, out of which even 30 percent was not fulfilled. This time also the BJP was trying to make a manifesto to cheat the public, he said adding that public considers the manifesto of BJP as a bundle of lies.

Cong trying to save suspects of Mahadev App: Brijmohan

Questions App's connection with CM, Durg-Bhilai



Raipur, Aug 25: Former Minister and senior BJP MLA Brijmohan Agrawal addressing a press conference charged that the way CM Bhupesh Baghel is looking so helpless after ED's raid, clearly reflects as to who is the kingpin and political master behind all these scams in the state. CM Baghel did not appear so perturbed and low even after his Dy. Secretary was sent to jail and this clearly shows that there is something fishy in Congress working. The way the party's state and national office is being

used by the accused, criminals/ suspects is indeed very much surprising, he added.

Speaking further Brijmohan ED started this action when the police took action against the Mahadev Book App online betting and filed an FIR. Though it is known to all that the FIR was filed just to save the main accused and to write off the matter taking action against limited few. Prior to this the

Visakhapatnam Police too had conducted detailed investigation into the case and in which the methodology of the entire gang and transactions worth crore were unearthed. In all the FIRs there is an odor of money laundering and under IPS section, the state police cannot carry out investigation and it can be done only by a central agency and then why CM Baghel is having objections? Even in a

similar case in Andhra Pradesh, the AP's CM had not created any hue & cry about it, Brijmohan added.

Brijmohan said that if at all CM has not done anything wrong, then instead would have welcomed ED's action and extended whole-hearted support in the investigations and would have greeted the agency for taking action against those looting the people of the state. Contrary to this CM is holding press conference in Raipur and Delhi and other place and are even using foul words and damaging property of ED officials. The way the goons of Congress created violence in Bhilai against the officials of ED and tried to damage their

vehicles, is lowering Chhattisgarh's image. CM should take action against the accused trying to take action under protection of Congress, Brijmohan demanded.

Charging the Congress and its party leaders of involvement in this 'satta' case, Brijmohan raised seven questions to CM asking as to who the CM is trying to save and what is the connection of Mahadev Satta App with CM, Durg and Bhilai? Why CM is losing patience over action on Mahadev App bookies and why there is 'Satta' wherever there is Congress party? Why no action is being taken by DGP and SP against the 'satta' operators in state and other such questions.

7-storey state-of-the-art Super Specialty Hospital to be established in Raipur

Significant step towards making state-of-the-art health facilities available to state residents

Raipur, Aug 25: In a significant step towards providing modern healthcare facilities to the citizens, a state-of-the-art super specialty hospital will be established soon in Raipur. To strengthen the healthcare infrastructure and offer multi-speciality services, a budget allocation of Rs 325 crore is made for establishing an integrated modern hospital building at Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital. This

700-bed hospital has a basement, lower ground floor, and ground floor in addition to seven more floors.

This integrated new hospital building will span an area of 70,896 square meters. The building will be equipped with firefighting systems, HVAC systems, IBMS systems, and more. The structure comprises an 8,828 square meter basement, a 7,500 square meter ground floor, 7,274 square meters from the first to fifth floors, an 8,728 square meter atrium roof structure on the sixth floor, and a 640.57 square meter seventh floor. The foundation has been prepared in a manner that allows for the potential development of the seventh

and eighth floors in the future, as per the requirements.

A modern and efficient healthcare infrastructure will be available in the state capital Raipur with the construction of the integrated new hospital building, a visionary initiative led by Chief Minister Shri Bhupesh Baghel. This endeavour is aimed at providing state-of-the-art health facilities, ensuring the well-being of patients. The building will have all the essential amenities required for optimal patient care. Upon the completion of this hospital, patients will have access to a comprehensive range of services offered by a super speciality hospital.

CPR's role important in saving patient's life in emergency: Dr Pratibha Jain Shah

Day 2 of the 13th Workshop of Basic Life Support and Advance Cardiac Life Support Course



Raipur, Aug 25: In case of a heart attack, a person's life can be saved in time by the process of heart / lung resuscitation ie cardiopulmonary resuscitation, said experts on the second day of the 13th workshop of the Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support course, conducted and certified by the American Heart Association, in the Department of Anesthesia and Pain Medicine of Pt Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College and Dr Bhimrao

Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, Raipur.

According to Dr Pratibha Jain Shah, Head of Department of Anesthesia and Chief Trainer of Life Support Course the role of CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) is important in saving the life of the patient in an emergency. If any patient is found in an unconscious state, then the response is checked by tapping patient's

shoulder. If there is no response, it is necessary to check carotid pulse without delay. If pulse is not found, emergency medical service should be activated and chest compression should be done. Chest compression has to be done 30 times and artificial breath has to be given 2 times. A total of 100 to 120 compressions have to be given in a minute. During this, the carotid or central pulse is checked again every two

minutes. By doing this the patient can be brought back to consciousness.

Experts also explained high quality CPR in which chest compression is given to a depth of 5 to 6 cm. During the workshop, the experts told about the importance of push hard and push fast. Information was given about handling the medico-legal case. Experts also explained how to take care of critical patients in case of cardiac arrest.

According to Emergency medicine specialist Dr Shivam Patel there has been a decline in the number of people dying of cardiac arrest (accidental heart attack) as people are trained in Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support courses.

Raipur, Aug 25: Ramakrishna Care Hospital Chhattisgarh is organising a workshop of doctors related to Neurosurgeon, Neurology and related to neuro in which discussions were held regarding various diseases related to brain and nerve. In this workshop, live surgery of patients of brain tumor operation, throat nerve, suppressed nerve of waist and pituitary operation done through nose. The surgeries were done by Ram Krishna Care, Neurosurgeon, Dr SN Madharia, Dr Manas Panigrahi, Hyderabad, Dr YR Yadav and Dr Shailendra Ratre from Jabalpur.

Addressing the scibres here Dr SN Madharia said that operation will be done with the modern method,



due to which the patient feels less pain and will be done by making a small hole. Neurosurgeon Dr. Madharia said that the operation of sciatica, back pain will be done through binoculars without making unconscious in the size of a finger tip. The aim of such workshop is to inform the neurosurgeons of Chhattisgarh about the state-of-the-art method of treatment to facilitate the people of Chhattisgarh.

Otherwise, this type of facility will remain confined to big cities only. State of the art medical practice does not run on the principle of trial and improvement it is based on science and done with perfection and motivation is by seeing a good operation if a surgery looks good it does not mean that it is easy or difficult, it means that it is being done by planning well and this is necessary for every surgery which is informed

in such workshops, said Dr Madharia. Dr Sandeep Dave said that the new technology and machines that are being invented in modern times are changing the way of operation, which needs to be known and understood, but the structure of the human body has remained the same for thousands of years, so it is most important to learn the new technology under the supervision of specialist.

Dr. Sandeep Dave, Medical and Managing Director of Ramakrishna Care Hospital, who is reputed as an experienced and skilled surgeon for more than 30 years, is devotedly engaged in achieving the status of the best hospital with his hard work and efforts to Ramakrishna Care Hospital. He continues to demonstrate such new techniques to the people.

50 new posts created for safety and maintenance of dams in the state

Recommendation received for creation of these new posts in the WRD

Posts created for State Dam Safety Organisation

Water Resources Department. These positions include one each of Superintendent Engineer (Civil), Superintendent Engineer (Electrical/Mechanical), and Chief Engineer. These positions were created under the State Dam Safety Organization formed under the Dam Safety Act 2021. This organization is responsible for preventing dam-related

disasters, monitoring dams, inspecting their condition, and overseeing their operation and maintenance. A meeting of the post-creation committee was held on August 3 to address this matter.

In addition to these positions, other posts that were created include three for Executive Engineer (Civil), two for Executive Engineer (Electrical/Mechanical), one for Geologist (through deputation), six for Assistant Engineer (Civil), three for Assistant Engineer (Electrical/Mechanical), one for Personal Assistant, one for Assistant Cartographer (Civil), six for Assistant Cartographer (Electrical/Mechanical), eight for Assistant Grade 3, eight for Driver, six for Peon, and one post of Farrash.

one for Geologist (through deputation), six for Assistant Engineer (Civil), three for Assistant Engineer (Electrical/Mechanical), one for Personal Assistant, one for Assistant Cartographer (Civil), six for Assistant Cartographer (Electrical/Mechanical), eight for Assistant Grade 3, eight for Driver, six for Peon, and one post of Farrash.

Food assistance rate for students increased

In tribal hostels, Rs 87 lakh approved

Raipur, Aug 25: The Chhattisgarh government has increased the student food subsidy rate in the hostels run by the Department of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The finance department has sanctioned Rs. 87 lakh for the smooth operation of the scheme.

It is worth mentioning that the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, has given instructions regarding the proper arrangements for the students living in the hostels. Accordingly, it was decided to increase the student food assistance rate for proper food arrangements and to give an additional amount for the successful implementation of the scheme.

Grand opening of CREDAI Property Expo-2023 held



Raipur, Aug 25: The three-day CREDAI Property Expo had a grand inauguration on Friday evening at the Indoor Stadium, Budhapara, Raipur. The Expo will continue till August 27. 50 builders are participating in the expo with more than 250 properties at one place. This is the

best opportunity to visit and book the desired property of every budget, every location at the expo.

There are many options available for flats, bungalows, houses, villas, plots and commercial offices. A large number of property buyers arrived on the inauguration day itself. While giving the welcome speech at the opening ceremony of CREDAI Expo, Chairman Sanjay Raheja said that this is the fourth expo.

BJP for action against BLOs working at behest of unauthorized persons

Delegation calls on visiting ECI Officials

Raipur, Aug 25: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday submitted a memorandum to the visiting Election Commission of India (ECI) team diverting the attention towards the reported inclusion of outsiders' name in bulk under the patronage of unauthorized persons after working hours at several regions. BJP also sought action against the Booth Level Officers over reportedly ignoring the protocol and ignoring the com-

plaints filed by the BJP Booth level agents during the enrolment of voters for the upcoming Legislative Assembly polls.

A delegation led by Raipur Lok Sabha member Sunil Soni, MLA Brijmohan Agrawal and Co Convenor of BJP's Election Committee Dr Vijayshanker Mishra called on ECI Officials to register complaint against the BLOs who remain absent from their respective booths and were reportedly including several names through the unauthorized persons. BJP delegation raised de-

mand that the process of inclusion of names should be extended till September 15. They further alleged that the Chhattisgarh Officials are not following the ECI directives on the issue and added that the name inclusion should also continue on forthcoming Saturday and Sunday to ensure speedy process.

BJP leaders said that ECI should take effective steps to check bogus voting attempt. They also raised demand for the transfer of administrative officers who have been in same position for more than three years.

Subodh Haritwal PCC general secretary

Raipur, Aug 25: National Spokesperson of Youth Congress



S u b o d h Haritwal has been appointed as General Secretary in Pradesh Congress Committee. On getting the place as General Secretary in PCC, Subodh Haritwal thanked AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, In-charge Kumari Selja, PCC President Deepak Baij, Cabinet Minister Mohan Markam, in-charge secretary Chandan Yadav, Saptagiri Ulka, Vijay Jangid and Amin Memon.

Date for filling form for admission in nursing courses extended till 27th

Admission to be available in BSc Nursing, MSc Nursing, Post Basic Nursing and Psychiatric Nursing courses

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Aug 25: The last date to apply for admission to various nursing courses in government and private colleges in Chhattisgarh for the year 2023 academic session has been extended till August 27. Now the can-

didates desirous of admission in these courses can fill their applications online till 5 pm on August 27. Earlier this date was fixed for August 24.

Admission will be allowed in BSc Nursing, MSc Nursing, Post Basic BSc Nursing and Post Basic Diploma in Psychiatric Nursing courses through online applications received by the Medical Education Department. Candidates can fill the application through login in the website of Medical Education Department www.cgdme.in.

According to the infor-

mation received from Medical Education Department Nursing Course Counseling Committee Chairman Dr Devpriya Rath, online application fee has also been fixed for admission in nursing courses. Candidates belonging to unreserved and other backward classes will have to pay an application fee of Rs 1000 and candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will have to pay an application fee of Rs 500. Candidates will also have to choose the institution along with the online ap-

plication. No extra time will be given for institution selection.

After filling the online application, the candidates will have the facility of change till the last date even after locking and submitting. For changes in such applications, an additional fee of Rs 1000 will have to be deposited. E-mail and mobile number will not be changed while editing. The scrutiny and admission process will be done under the provisions of Chhattisgarh Nursing Course Admission Rules 2019 and Amendment Rules 2022.

Walkathon 2023 today

Voter awareness will be organized on Marine Drive

Collector calls upon people to join Walkathon in large number

Raipur, Aug 25: A walkathon is being organized at Marine Drive Telibandha on August 26 to make voters aware about voting during the upcoming assembly elections in the state. The walkathon will ensure 100% polling and motivate all people who are 18 years of age or above to be included in the voter list.

A large number of gov-

ernment officials, employees and citizens including representatives of social organizations will participate in this walkathon being organized with slogan 'Raipur will run, Raipur will vote'. This walkathon will start from 6 am on August 26 from Marine Drive located at Telibandha Talab.

After passing through Anand Nagar Chowk, Canal Link Road, Chhattisgarh Club and Gandhi Chowk and walkathon will return and culminate at Marine Drive. Collector and District Returning Officer Dr Sarveshwar Bhure has appealed to people to participate in this walkathon in large number.

Democracy is beauty of Congress party: Rathore

BJP supporter dictatorship

Bijapur, Aug 25: The Congress party has started preparations for the forthcoming Vidhan Sabha (VS). In the meantime, District Congress Committee (DCC) President Lalu Rathore issued a press release saying that there is internal democracy in the Congress party; here everyone has the right to express their views and make a claim. Dissent is fully respected in the Congress party.

Rathore further said that from Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to common workers have applied



to become assembly candidates in all block organizations and this is the biggest beauty of Indian democracy. On the other hand, BJP leaders and workers are wandering from street to street taking applications to stake claim in the assembly elections and no one is ready to take

applications in the BJP from Mandal to District Organization and State Organization Office.

Seeing the application forms, the BJP leaders have started hiding their faces. There is no such thing as democracy in BJP. Expressing desire to the workers in BJP, expressing disagreement is considered a crime. There is dictatorship in BJP and there no one works in front of Modi and Shah. Modi-Shah do not listen to the workers, they directly issue 'Tughlaqi' orders. Be it JP Nadda, Raman Singh or Arun Sao, all are basically office bearers for name sake only.

Actually all these are puppets in the hands of

Modi and Shah, they will do whatever Modi and Shah want. There is no questioning of workers in BJP. District Congress Committee President Lalu also charged that BJP state president Arun Sao has not even been asked about the list of 21 candidates released by Modi and Shah, let alone the likes and dislikes of the workers.

The central leadership of the BJP is working in the election system of the state by removing the leaders of the state BJP and calling leaders from outside, their opinion is not taken even in the candidate selection and the workers in the BJP are only issued orders.

CM releases special edition of 'Ch'garh Janman'



Raipur, Aug 25: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel released the special edition of 'Chhattisgarh Janman', a monthly magazine published by the Public Relations Department, titled 'Gadaha Bharosa' on his birthday, August 23. This special edition focuses on the delivery of the commitments made by the

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in the Jan Goshna Patra for the Chhattisgarh Government, along with significant public welfare activities and achievements. It resonates with the resolute determination - "Fauladi Iraada: Kiya Vaade Se Zyada" (Delivered More Than What Was Promised).

Villagers holds demonstration, give 48 hrs ultimatum

To the police for action against the converts

Converts thrashed father and son who went to return to their original religion, tension in Taragaon

Jagdulpur, Aug 25: As per the decision of the Gram Sabha at Taragaon in Bastar district, Pandku and Panchu were counselling the converted members of their family. Meanwhile, other Christian converts from the village also came there. After this a situation of dispute was created and it resulted in a fight. After a dispute between the Christian convert and the villagers, the Christian converts thrashed two villagers fiercely. In which the head of villager Pandku Kashyap S/o



Rama and Panchu Kashyap S/o Gangu have been beheaded. Since then, a tensed situation prevailed in Taragaon. The above two villagers demonstrated together with the villagers in Taragaon on Friday, demanding action against the Christian converts who assaulted them. The protesters have given the police an ultimatum of 48 hours to take action against the converts.

The villagers informed that two months ago, a gram sabha was convened in the village and it was decided that the families converted to Christianity could return to their original religion. In the event of

not doing so, the Christian converts were told to bury dead bodies within the village limits, ban the use of traditional water sources, use of land and forests. At the same time, people of other religions were prohibited from working in the fields of Christian converts, having any kind of relation with the converts. As per the decision of the Gram Sabha, the responsibility was given to the family members for the return of the Christian converts to their original religion, so that the tradition and culture of the village can be protected in a peaceful manner. According to this decision, Pandku and

Panchu were giving advice to the converted people of their family. Meanwhile, other Christian converts of the village also came there and the dispute that followed resulted in a fight. The villagers of Taragaon alleged that no action was taken by the police till the medical examination of the injured villagers after the incident of assault. Even in the hospital, without cutting the slip, the police left him in the village after giving him medicine. The villagers allege that this is being done by the police to give protection to the Christian converts. If action is not taken against the culprits in the next 48 hours, strict decisions will be taken by calling a meeting in the village.

It is noteworthy that a day before, the newly appointed state president of Congress, Deepak Baij, had arrived with full preparation on the BJP's allegation regarding religious conversion.

Odisha BJP MLAs interacted directly with Nangur Mandal workers



Jagdulpur, Aug 25: Under Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP)'s 'Vidhyak Prava Yojana', the BJP

MLAs of Odisha who have come to Bastar are reaching the booth level by intensively visiting various mandals and are establishing direct communication with the workers. BJP MLA from Rengali Odisha, Nauri Nayak took a meeting of rural workers at Sadgud and Niyandar Shakti Kendra in Nangur Mandal of Jagdulpur Assembly constituency. In the meeting, talks are being held in different ways to understand the mind of the workers. Workers from eleven booths were involved in the meeting held at village Sadgud. MLA Nauri Nayak said that to ensure BJP's victory in the upcoming assembly elections, each and every booth has to be empowered. Every worker should work in his own booth by taking an oath to

make BJP victorious. Former BJP State General Secretary Kiran Dev and Vidhan Sabha Convener Srinivas Mishra addressed the meeting. The programme was conducted by Nangur Mandal in-charge Rajneesh Panigrahi and the vote of thanks was proposed by Mandal President Satish Sethia. A large number of workers including Yogendra Pandey, Ramashray Singh, Sanjay Pandey, Rajesh Srivastava, Daulatram Yogi, Neelambar Sethia, Sonsai Kashyap, Manohar Sethia, Hari Madavi, Lakhmu Kashyap, Shyam Chowdhary, Damru Bharti, Rishi Sethia etc. are prominently involved in the program.

Women Supervisor recruitment exam on Aug 27

Raipur, Aug 25: Chhattisgarh Professional Examination Board will conduct the recruitment examination of women supervisors on August 27. The exam will be held in two shifts from 10 am to

12.15 pm and in the afternoon from 2 pm to 4.15 pm. As many as 89 examination centers have been set up in Raipur district for the first shift and 6 for the second shift. More than thirty seven and a half thousand candidates

are likely to appear in this examination in both the shifts. Necessary preparations for the conduct of the examination have been completed by the district administration. An examination-related control room has also

been set up in room number 06 located in the Collectorate. The telephone number of the control room is 0771-2413233. Deputy Collector Uttam Kumar Rajak has been appointed as the nodal officer for this examination.

'Nagarnar Steel Plant scripts history'



Produces final product-HR Coil -9 days after production of Hot Metal

Nagarnar, Aug 25: In what is being described in steel circles as unprecedented, Nagarnar Steel Plant has today achieved the feat of producing its final product - HR Coil - 9 days after production of Hot Metal. Coming as it does from a min-

ing major with no prior experience of steel making, the feat is nothing less than astounding.

An elated Amitava Mukherjee, Acting CMD and Director Finance of NMDC who along with other functional directors of the company arrived for the event, expressed satisfaction in fulfilling NMDC's commitment to Bastar. "For over 6 decades we had been playing a pivotal role in the domestic steel market as

a supplier of quality iron ore. With today's development we emerge as the newest entrant in the domestic steel market and have put Bastar on the steel map. Today NMDC joins the coveted league of Indian steel makers. This is the fulfilment of a dream that the local community of Bastar had long looked forward to. It gives me immense pleasure to have fulfilled our commitment to make their dream a reality." On 12th August, Mukherjee

had blown in Nagarnar Steel Plants' blast furnace and set the ball rolling for the final commissioning. It may be mentioned that the pace of commissioning had gathered momentum in the recent past under Mukherjee's leadership and the Board had been constantly visiting Nagarnar to sort out bottlenecks and motivate the team towards their goal and highlighting the significance of adherence to safety norms.

Industry veterans remarked that it is a rare feat to commission three critical units in the hot zone - Blast Furnace, Steel Melting Shop and the Mills (Thin Slab Caster - Hot Strip Mill) - in such a short period of time. Mukherjee commended the solid support of all stakeholders that helped the Project gain pace, "Even as we faced innumerable challenges, over the years we have been fortunate to have been supported at every stage by the Central and State governments, the Steel Ministry, the steel industry, other CPSEs, technological

Domestic Steel Industry calls it an unprecedented achievement

Nagarnar Steel Plant has the unique distinction internationally of being the only steel plant to be set up by a mining company. With the roll out of the first Hot Rolled coil today, 9 days after hot metal production began on 15th August, Nagarnar steel plant has managed to set another unmatched precedence, feel industry veterans.

Technocrats who have been associated with the steel industry for decades aver that this is the result of a well-planned sequencing schedule that has been executed brilliantly to achieve

this unprecedented feat. It may be recalled that Nagarnar Steel Plant had conducted cold trials of its Steel Melting Shop months before initiating blast furnace commissioning. Though there have been instances of faster steel making, Nagarnar Steel Plant's production of HR Coil within nine days of hot metal production is unusual. This was made possible by testing the capability of the Mills by rolling slabs and producing HR Coil even as preparations were underway for commissioning of blast furnace. This prior planning paid rich dividends.

Nagarnar Steel Plant project and his team Mukherjee said, "The smooth commissioning of several critical units in the past few days which culminated in production of HR Coil from iron ore mined in Bastar is a testimony to the commitment and

dedicated hard work of the team led by K Praveen Kumar who galvanized the small band of professionals into a powerful force that delivered timely results."

The 3 million tonne per annum capacity steel plant has been built at a cost of approximately Rs. 24000 crores. The Plant is set to establish its mark in the Hot Rolled market with its repertoire of high grade Hot Rolled steel that is slated to meet the requirements of several key consuming sectors on the strength of its technology that includes its most modern Mill. Nagarnar Steel Plant's competitive advantage also stems from its iron ore supply linkage with Bailadila mines, barely 100 kms. from Nagarnar.

The product mix of Nagarnar Steel Plant consists of low carbon steel, HSLA & Dual Phase Steel and API quality steel that can be rolled in to thickness range from 1mm to 16 mm. With its capability to roll 1650mm wide HR, the Thin Slab caster at Nagarnar Steel

Plant is the widest Mill in the public sector. HR Coils, Sheets and Plates coming off India's latest and most modern mill are expected to meet the growing demand for quality HR required in the manufacture of LPG cylinders, bridges, steel structures, ships, large diameter pipes, storage tanks, boilers, railway wagons and pressure vessels and in construction of tanks, railway cars, bicycle frames, engineering and military equipment and automobile and truck wheels, frames and body parts. The plant will also be producing special type of steels to be used in manufacture of generators, motors, transformers and automobiles at a later stage.

Today's historic event unfolded in the presence of K Praveen Kumar, Executive Director & Head of Nagarnar Steel Plant, Sanjay Kumar Verma, Director (Comm.) & Addl. Charge Director (Technical) of MECON, Neeraj Kumar, Executive Director MECON, senior officials and trade union representatives.

Instructions to complete the construction works within time limit

Central Chronicle News

Sukma, Aug 25: Instructions were given to complete the construction of Aganwadi, PDS building and Devguri shed by the District Collector Harris S in the time limit meeting.

The Collector also gave instructions to ensure that the beneficiaries of the public welfare schemes of the state government, apart from this, the government asked to ensure the purchase of cow dung in all the gothans of the district.

The Collector expressed his displeasure over the non-fulfilment of work in the RIPA operated in the district and said that in



order to continue the work like egg production, spice packaging, soap manufacturing in RIPA, and ensure electrification and availability of raw materials. Under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, he reviewed in detail the e-KYC

instructions were given to collect DD within the stipulated time. Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, Gobard Paint, Godhan Nyaya Yojana, disputed, undisputed transfer, demarcation, Rajiv Gandhi Rural Landless Agricultural Laborer Justice Yojana, caste-resident certificate, forest rights certificate and other schemes of governance were reviewed. In the meeting, CEO District Panchayat DN Kashyap, Joint Collector DR Thakur, SDM Chhindigarh Vijay Pratap Kesh, SDM Sukma Preeti Durgam, SDM Konta Shrikant Koram, Deputy Collector Ajay Modim, Deputy Collector Madhu Teta and other officers and employees were present.

Tarun Khattar submits candidature for assembly election

Central Chronicle News

Katgi, Aug 25: As the state assembly elections draw closer, the Congress party wrapped up the application phase for candidature in the legislative assembly seats within the designated blocks. The window for submitting applications spanned from August 17 to August 22, witnessing enthusiastic participation from aspirants. On the last day, August 22, Tarun Khattar, the State General Secretary of Chhattisgarh Kisan Congress, made a significant move. In a poignant display of commitment to party values, Tarun Khattar conducted a ceremonial puja and archna at the revered site of Pawan Dhara

Sant Shiromani Baba Guru Ghassidas Ji in Bilaigad. It was here that he formally presented his candidature to Yudhishtir Nayak, the President of Sonakh?n Block Congress Committee. This event also marked his tribute to Veer Narayan Singh, the pioneer martyr of the 1857 movement.



Tarun Khatter

Organizational (INSO) in 1999, he has progressed to significant roles such as the Youth Congress Block President, Lok Sabha General Secretary, and State General Secretary of the Youth Congress. His current responsibility includes overseeing Balodabazar, Bhatapara, and the newly formed district Sarangarh Bilaigad. Beyond his political engagement, Tarun Khattar's contributions extend to journalism and sports. His association with renowned newspapers like Hari Bhoomi and Nai Duniya adds another facet to his versatile personality.

His candidature, backed by strategic acumen and alignment with public sentiment, was notable in the 2008 and 2013 elections. With an established reputation for constructive engagement, a deep understanding of governance, and dedicated community service, Tarun Khattar's application resonates with his goal of creating positive change. His approachable demeanor, respectful interactions, and dedication to unity across party lines make him a notable leader. The aura of enthusiasm he generates among constituents and fellow party members underscores his prominent status as a respected figure in the political arena.

Chief Justice HC conducts inspection

Of Bhatapara and Baloda-Bazar Courts

Central Chronicle News

Bhatapara, Aug 25: Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court, Ramesh Sinha, after hearing cases in the High Court on August 23, 2023, visited Bhatapara and Baloda-Bazar for an inspection. At first, he inspected Bhatapara Subordinate Court and during the inspection, he heard judicial officer's cases.

The washroom facility in the court premises was found to be inadequate. Administrative officials present there informed that the government has allocated 6.25 acres of land for construction of a new building for the court, where 06 new courtrooms will be built. It was also mentioned



that the PWD has not yet sent the revised estimate, which is causing delays in the building construction process. During the inspection, Collector Mr. Chandan Kumar and SP of Balodabazar-Bhatapara

district, Mr. Deepak Kumar Jha, were present. Chief Justice directed Collector Chandan Kumar to take prompt action in this regard. Collector has assured that the revised estimate will be presented within two days.

Following the inspection in Bhatapara, Chief Justice Sinha conducted inspection in Baloda-Bazar District Court. He was satisfied with the cleanliness, vehicle parking, seating arrangement for advocates, and the waiting area for litigants. Advocates present

Congmen offer rich tributes to Rajiv Gandhi



PCC member Nilambar Verma, Giridhari Pal, and other dedicated members of the Congress party.

On his birth anniversary

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Aug 25: On the commemoration of the birth anniversary of the late Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi, members of the Congress party gathered at the Department of Public Works Rest House to pay their profound respects.

Amidst the presence of notable figures including MLA Yashoda Nilambar Verma and the newly appointed District President Gajendra Thakre, the Congress members offered heartfelt floral tributes to the portrait of Rajiv Gandhi, reflecting on his significant contributions to the nation. The event also marked a warm welcome extended to the newly appointed District

President Gajendra Thakre by the Congress members. The tribute event was graced by esteemed personalities such as MLA Yashoda Nilambar Verma, former MLA Girivar Jhagel, Municipal Council President Shailendra Verma, Vice President Rajak Khan, State Congress Secretary Nileendra Sharma, City President Bhikhm Chand Chhajjed, Block President Akashdeep Singh Goldy, Chuikhadan Block President Ramkumar Patel, Senior Congress member Pt. Mihir Jha,

न्यायालय कलेक्टर एवं जिला दण्डाधिकारी, रायपुर

क्रमांक/25/1-बी-121/2022-23/1104 रायपुर, दिनांक 16 अगस्त, 2023

1. श्री राजेश सिंह बस्ती व. जगदीश बस्ती (बस्ती) 2. मेसर्स श्री हस्तार एवं लिटिक्स, प्रो. राजेश सिंह बस्ती 3. श्री जगदीश सिंह बस्ती व. पद्म सिंह, कसेरपाड़ा, महादेव घाट, जिला-चांपा

आवेदन प्राधिकृत अधिकारी युनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया (आन्ध्र बैंक) शाखा मंडली तालाब, रवेचन रोड, चांपा की ओर से मानवैद यून्या अधिवक्ता ने आवेदन पत्र/प्रार्थना पत्र मय दस्तावेज प्रस्तुत कर आवेदन पत्र से आपको बैंक ने 13,50,000.00 रुपये का ऋण दिया था, और जगदीश सिंह बस्ती के स्वामित्व की अचल संपत्ति बैंक के पक्ष में बंधक रखी गयी है।

2/ आपने प्राधिकृत अधिकारी युनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया (आन्ध्र बैंक) शाखा मंडली तालाब, रवेचन रोड, चांपा से 13,50,000.00 रुपये का ऋण प्राप्त कर मौजा पुर्ना, प. ह. नं. 113, रा. नि. सं. रायपुर-2, जिला- रायपुर स्थित आवासीय परिवर्तित भूमि ख. नं. 215/2 का भाग, रकबा 1500 वर्गफुट, प्लाट नं. 44 पर निर्मित मकान बैंक के पक्ष में बंधक रखा है।

3/ अतः आपके द्वारा लिये गये ऋण के षड में उक्त बंधक रखी गई अचल संपत्ति को विलीय अस्तित्व का प्रतिभूतिकरण और पुनर्गठन और प्रतिभूति हित प्रवर्तन अधिनियम 2002 की धारा 14 में प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुये वकील न. अधिवक्ता में लेने की कार्यवाही की जावे। आप स्वयं अथवा अपने नियुक्त अभिभाषक के माध्यम से ऋण से संबंधित एवं बंधक रखी गई संपत्ति से संबंधित दस्तावेज लेकर पक्ष प्रस्तुत करने हेतु इस न्यायालय में पेशी दिनांक 28.08.2023 को ठीक 3.00 बजे उपस्थित होना सुनिश्चित करें।

नियम लिखि में उपस्थित नहीं होने की दशा में आपके विरुद्ध एक पक्षीय कार्यवाही की जाकर प्रकरण में निर्णय ले लिया जावेगा।

आज दिनांक 16 अगस्त, 2023 को मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं न्यायालय की मुहर से जारी किया गया।

कलेक्टर एवं जिला दण्डाधिकारी रायपुर

सौल

MUTHOOT HOUSING FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Registered Office: TC NO.14/2074-7, Muthoot Centre, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 034. Corporate Office: 12/A 01, 13th floor, Parinee Crescenzo, Plot No. C38 & C39, Bandra Kurla Complex- G Block (East), Mumbai-400051, Email Id: authorised.officer@muthoot.com

Table with 5 columns: S. No., Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor, Date of NPA, Date of Demand notice, Total Q/s Amount (Rs.) Future Interest Applicable. Includes details for Loan Account No. 18600011249 & 1860124633.

Under Section 13 (2) of The Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Whereas the undersigned is the Authorized Officer of Muthoot Housing Finance Company Ltd. ("MHFCL") under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) to discharge in full their liability to the Company by making payment of entire outstanding including up to date interest, cost and charges within 60 days from the date of respective Notices issued and the publication of the Notice as given below and in way of alternate security you. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) has been mortgaged to MHFCL by the said Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) respectively.

Table with 5 columns: S. NO, Name of Borrower(s) (A), Particulars of Mortgaged property/ (ies) (B), Date Of NPA(C), Outstanding Amount (Rs.) (D). Includes details for Loan Account No. 0080002014/ Raipur Branch.

Bank of India BOI Bhatapara Branch

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties) Under Rule-8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of the Bank of India, Bhatapara Branch under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the following borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notices being detail as mentioned here under, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Table with 4 columns: Branch Name/Borrower Name, Description of the Properties, Demand Notice, Amount Due. Includes details for Bhatapara Branch - M/s. Bajaj Sales Agency.

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

Corporate Office: Unit No. 802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V. Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400069

POSSESSION NOTICE Appendix IV (for immovable property) Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Table with 4 columns: S. N., Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co Borrower(s) (Name of the Branch), Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property), Demand Notice Date & Amount, Date of Possession. Includes details for Loan Code No. 0080002014/ Raipur Branch.

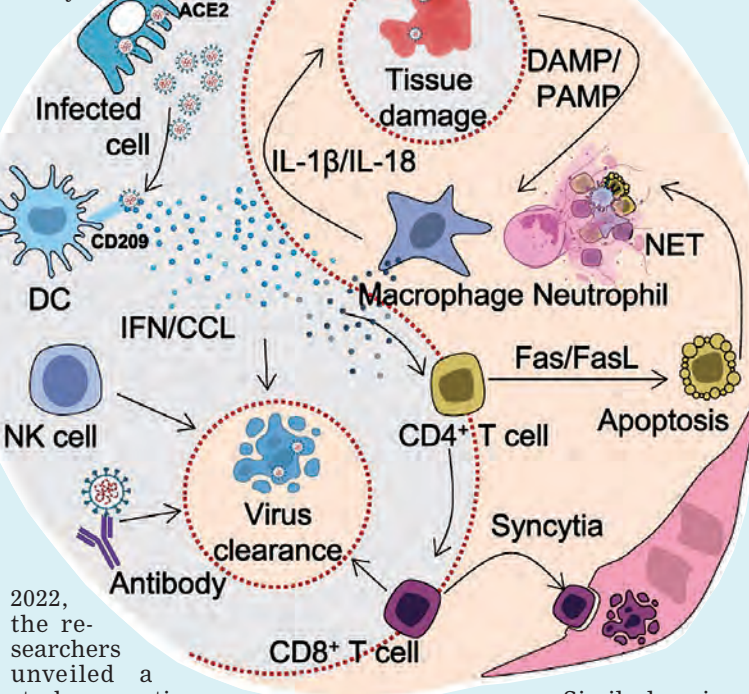
Exposure to SARS-CoV-2: Unveiling the Complex Dynamics of Immunity

High levels of exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus might hold the power to compromise the protective shield offered by both COVID-19 vaccination and prior infection, as indicated by a recent study conducted in the United States. The findings, unveiled in the esteemed journal *Nature Communications*, illuminate the intricate interplay between exposure and immunity, urging a reevaluation of preventive measures in densely populated settings.

In the labyrinth of densely crowded environments, the armor of immunity can be weakened, the study reveals. Controlling the levels of virus exposure through effective strategies like masking, enhanced ventilation, and physical distancing could emerge as crucial guardians against fresh infections among individuals who have either been vaccinated or have recovered from prior infections.

This revelation stems from meticulous research that endeavored to dissect the strength of immunity in the face of formidable virus exposure. Margaret Lind, lead author of the research paper and an associate research scientist at Yale University, emphasized the rarity of finding a population with known exposure types, vaccination history, and prior infection status, thus making the research conducted among the residents of Connecticut Department of Correction a significant mile-

stone. Observing infections among 15,444 correctional facility residents in Connecticut from June 2021 to May 2022, the researchers unveiled a stark connection between exposure and immunity. The tumultuous waves ushered in by the Delta and Omicron variants presented the perfect backdrop to investigate this intricate dance between immunity and virus exposure. During the Delta wave, vaccination showcased a 68 percent efficacy in preventing infection for residents without documented exposure.



Similarly, prior infection demonstrated 79 percent effectiveness without exposure but dipped to 41 percent when exposure occurred within the cell environment. The synergy of vaccination and prior infection, known as hybrid immunity, stood as the most robust guardian. It exhibited a commendable 95 percent and 71 percent effectiveness for residents without doc-

umented exposure and those with cell exposure, respectively. Transitioning to the Omicron variant, the essence of exposure-dependent immunity persisted. The same trends were observed, albeit with lower levels of protection due to Omicron's higher transmissibility. Vaccination demonstrated 43 percent efficacy against infection for residents without documented exposure, but this effectiveness drastically plummeted to a mere 4 percent for those sharing a cell with an infected person.

A previous infection fared better but still showcased compromised effectiveness: 64 percent without exposure versus 11 percent with cell exposure. Hybrid immunity, albeit a strong shield, displayed its vulnerability when exposure was introduced. Its protection rate plummeted to 20 percent when residents encountered exposure within their cell, compared to a resilient 76 percent for those without documented exposure.

This pioneering research serves as a beacon, casting light on the complex and exposure-dependent nature of immunity conferred by vaccination and prior infection. It underscores the intricate dynamics that underscore the broader battle against COVID-19, calling for a nuanced approach to preventive measures that encompass both vaccination and minimizing exposure.

Amidst the throng of connoisseurs and enthusiasts, the occasion was graced by the presence of Mrs. Sonia Khullar Haryana, Director General Health, who adorned the evening as the esteemed chief guest. Distinguished dignitaries lent their aura to the event, adding an air of grandeur to the affair. Dr. Shobha Koser, Registrar of Pracheen Kala Kendra, radiated the institution's spirit of artistic pursuit through her presence. The stage was set

15th Swar Jhankar Edition

A Fusion of Artistic Excellence and Melodic Mastery

Organized by Pracheen Kala Kendra and Violin Academy Pune

Shilpa Mitra



The harmonious strains of music wove an enchanting tapestry at the Tagore Theater as the 15th edition of "Swar Jhankar" unfolded its captivating symphony. This musical extravaganza, a confluence of talent and passion, was orchestrated by the collaborative efforts of Pracheen Kala Kendra and Violin Academy Pune. A bewitching evening awaited the city's audience, as the renowned violin maestro Pandit Atul Upadhyay, accompanied by his prodigious son Rajas Upadhyay, embarked on a mesmerizing jugalbandi. The mellifluous journey continued with the ethereal vocal prowess of Pt. Jayateerath Mivundi, who cast a spell on music aficionados with his soul-stirring melodies.

Amidst the throng of connoisseurs and enthusiasts, the occasion was graced by the presence of Mrs. Sonia Khullar Haryana, Director General Health, who adorned the evening as the esteemed chief guest. Distinguished dignitaries lent their aura to the event, adding an air of grandeur to the affair. Dr. Shobha Koser, Registrar of Pracheen Kala Kendra, radiated the institution's spirit of artistic pursuit through her presence. The stage was set

ablaze by the entrancing strains of Pandit Atul Upadhyay's violin, a harmonious partnership with his son Rajas Upadhyay. Their musical odyssey embarked with the resonant notes of Raga Kirwani, interweaving an elaborate alap, a jod alap, and a crisply resonant jhalla. The audience was transported through a cascade of compositions, as the jugalbandi flourished, enthralled all with the symphony of their melodic craftsmanship. This duet found their rhythmic anchor in the skillful hands of the eminent Tabla exponent, Mithilesh Jha, who lent his rhythmic prowess to the performance. The evening's aura transformed as Pandit Jayateerath Mivundi graced the spotlight, infusing the stage with his vocal magic. The program opened with the melodic embrace of Raag Jog, with a traditional alap paving the way for the mellifluous "Woh Balma," adorned with the rhythms of Rupak Taal. A tapestry of compositions unfurled—Tarana in teen taal, followed by the poetic resonance of "Kuch Na Suhawe" in Raag Shiv Abhogi, set to the rhythmic cadence of Aada Teen Taal. An invocatory crescendo followed with "Man Mandir Jagamgaye," set to Aada Chautal, leading to a resounding crescendo with "Gobind Ke Gun Gao." The vibrant symphony found its orchestral companionship in Vinod Lela on Tabla and the harmonious strains of Sumit Mishra on Harmonium, sculpting the sonic landscape with finesse. As the curtains drew close on this melodic saga, Registrar Dr. Shobha Koser took center stage to honour the artists, their contributions etched as a luminous testament to the symphonic celebration of artistry. The 15th edition of "Swar Jhankar" reverberated with an echo that transcended time, weaving the legacy of music and mastery into the cultural fabric of the city. As the audience dispersed, their hearts resonated with the melodies, and the legacy of "Swar Jhankar" continued to etch its harmonious notes into the annals of artistic fervour.

WALK THE TALK

Kajal Chatterjee

Mere words mean nothing unless the "talk gets walked". Those who have launched an "undiluted tirade" against corruption must also take on Vyapam scam and Ventilator scam in BJP-led states of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat respectively and see to the end of it unless all culprits are awarded exemplary punishment. What about the practice of "Electoral bonds" (the most fertile ground of corruption due to its opaqueness). Why no questions are being answered revolving around the alleged corrupt practice of an industrial honcho! Has the PMCAES Fund (opened during the pandemic through public donation) been brought under the domain of audit. Next, the party which is acting as the "conscience of the nation" and "epitome of democracy" by relentlessly mocking Congress and various parties as "family enterprise" possesses no scarcity of families with political power getting handed down through generation. What do the Dhimals Mahajans Mundes Khandus Chowhans represent. What about the progeny of Raman Singh Rajnath Singh Kalyan Singh Maneka Gandhi B.S.Yediurappa Yashwant Sinha Vasundhara Raje in this regard. Why have the "anti-dynasty" force gleefully brought the likes of Jyotiraditya Scindia and Jitin Prasad in their fold. And what about the "latest catch" -- Anil Antony, son of Congress stalwart A.K.Antony. And in the last Assembly election in Karnataka; BJP has created a record of sorts, as far as sponsoring of dynasties is concerned, through liberal distribution of tickets to the children, spouse, uncles of the political high and mighty of the state. Perhaps "dynasty doesn't kill democracy" when it gets pursued by the BJP. Why did BJP trade with PDP, Shiromani Akali Dal, Shiv Sena in the recent past though family members of the original patriarch of those parties enjoy an upper hand. Why has BJP aligned with "dynastic" Jannayak Janta Party and enjoying power in Haryana. All dialogues of "dynasty" promptly vanish in thin air if even a faint scent of power gets perceived in the political horizon. Hypocrisy to the power infinity. BJP must remember that if they point a finger at the Congress in terms of "dynasty", three fingers are pointing back at them! What a gem of hypocrisy. As for zealous "jihad" against "appeasement" is concerned, it must be asked whether such a policy gets "discovered" only when the "Sickulars" embrace Muslims Christians Dalits as own fellow citizens! Perhaps the stone-laying ceremony of any temple (led by the State honchos), that too right upon the spot where a mosque had stood for centuries, does not deserve to be tagged as "appeasement"! Do barbaric assault upon religious practices of minorities in this secular country of all, infringing upon their attire dietary rights and "criminalising" religious "conversions" get counted as "war" against "appeasement". It would be better if the self-declared guardians of the country kindly enlighten the "dark minds" about the exact definition of corruption dynasty and appeasement.

Chandrayaan-3's Lunar Triumph Sparks Socioeconomic Discourse

The resounding success of Chandrayaan-3's landing on the Moon's south pole captivated global attention, celebrating ISRO's triumph over the seemingly impossible. Amid the chorus of accolades, a single comment from a journalist set off a vigorous discourse on social media, intertwining the UK's aid to India with its space exploits. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Sophie Corcoran ignited a discussion by suggesting that the UK should halt aid to India due to its advanced space program, remarking, "It's time we get our money back." This innocuous

comment quickly gained momentum, drawing Indian users into the fray who deftly pointed out the historical context. They countered by asserting that the UK should repay the wealth it had allegedly siphoned from India—a staggering \$45 trillion.

This remarkable figure initially surfaced in research by economist Utsa Patnaik, published by Columbia University Press. Patnaik's study contended that the British colonial regime drained approximately \$45 trillion from India during the span of 1765 to 1938. To contextualize this



Unpacking the '45 Trillion' Trend

Osteoarthritis: A Looming Global Health Crisis by 2050

A grim prediction emerges from recent research published in *The Lancet Rheumatology* journal: by 2050, an alarming one billion people across the globe are expected to grapple with osteoarthritis, a debilitating joint condition. The study, conducted by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) in Washington, US, delved into three decades of osteoarthritis data (1990-2020) from over 200 countries, uncovering a distressing trajectory.

The study disclosed that at present, 15 percent of the global population aged 30 and above experiences osteoarthritis. Shockingly, the data illustrates that in 2020 alone, a staggering 595 million individuals were afflicted by this condition—a stark 132 percent increase from the 256 million recorded in 1990. The prime culprits behind this surge are aging, popu-

lation growth, and the escalating scourge of obesity. Jaimie



Steinmetz, the lead research scientist at IHME, voiced concern over the impending stress on health systems across the world due to the interplay of longer life expectancies and burgeoning populations. Obesity emerged as a pivotal risk factor for osteoarthritis, with its influence expanding over time in tandem with the rise in obesity rates. The study demonstrated that in 1990, obesity contributed to 16 percent of osteoarthritis-related disability, a number that escalated to 20 percent by 2020.

Addressing obesity on a global scale could potentially alleviate 20 percent of the burden im-

posed by osteoarthritis, according to the study's estimations. Liane Ong, lead research scientist at IHME, underscored the paradox of physical inactivity and joint pain, highlighting the importance of staying active despite joint discomfort. Osteoarthritis predominantly targets the knees and hips, a trend that is projected to persist until 2050. The gender aspect of this affliction revealed a distinctive bias. The study indicated that women would bear the brunt of osteoarthritis,

constituting 61 percent of cases in 2020 compared to 39 percent in men. Possible factors contributing to this discrepancy include genetics, hormonal variations, and anatomical distinctions.

With the absence of a definitive cure, the focus shifts to prevention and early intervention strategies. The authors of the study emphasize the urgency of making effective treatments like joint replacements affordable, especially in low- and middle-income countries. Health care systems and governments possess a pivotal role in identifying vulnerable populations, tackling obesity drivers, and devising comprehensive management strategies to halt or slow down the progression of osteoarthritis. The study's revelations serve as a clarion call for immediate action to avert the impending global health crisis

Fostering Critical Thinking Through Fun Experiments

Bureaucrat's Inspiring List Goes Viral



Divya Mittal, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Officer, has ignited a wave of interest on the internet with her ingenious approach to promoting critical thinking and scientific curiosity among children. Recognizing the significance of nurturing a curious mind, she has shared a captivating list of at-home experiments aimed at making science both educational and entertaining. In a thought-provoking Twitter thread, Ms. Mittal, an IIT Delhi graduate, emphasized that while academic degrees hold their value, the real-world skills of critical thinking, scientific temper, and curiosity are paramount. She remarked, "I had made a list of experiments I want to do with my daughters to inculcate the same. Sharing it with you."

Among the experiments she shared is a captivating demonstration on how to craft a "human sundial," ingeniously teaching children about the Earth's rotation. Another experiment involves a "sink and float" exploration using oranges and water,

vividly illustrating principles of buoyancy and density. Since her tweet's inception, it has resonated deeply, amassing over 700,000 views and sparking a cascade of comments. Praising Mittal's initiative, one user hailed her for guiding young minds toward becoming creators and problem solvers, elevating her to the status of a role model for parents everywhere.

Another contributor commended her approach, sharing their own perspective on encouraging scientific inquiry by allowing children to explore the concept of God independently. The sentiment resonates with the overarching theme of fostering independent thinking and exploration.

The enthusiastic response extended further, with a user applauding the compilation of hands-on, engaging experiments that make learning both enjoyable and easier to comprehend. They lauded Mittal's daughters as fortunate recipients of such an engaging learning experience.

Navigating Nomophobia and Promoting Healthy Habits in Children

Dr. Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

In recent years, the escalating addiction to digital devices, particularly mobile phones, has become a pressing concern. From children to adults, the dependence on electronic gadgets has given rise to "nomophobia" – the fear of being without one's cell phone. While children often shoulder blame for this addiction, it's vital to recognize the role adults play in shaping these behaviors. Adults must set an example by cutting down on screen time at home, serving as role models for younger

generations. Through activities like reading and writing, adults can inspire children to explore diverse forms of enjoyment. Encouraging children to visit libraries during leisure moments is paramount, given that children often imitate adults by reaching for pen and paper to create.

Excessive phone use by parents directly impacts children, fostering secondhand obsession and disrupting parent-child interactions. Often, parents introduce mobile phones to children as mealtime distractions, inadvertently nurturing addictive tendencies. A more substantial concern is



the lack of quality time spent with children, leading them to seek solace in digital devices. Recognizing our contribution to this predicament, rather than solely blaming children, is vital. Despite the World Health Organization's guidelines on limited screen time for various ages, many parents remain unaware. Research indicates that parents often underestimate the negative impacts of excessive smartphone use, praising their children's techno-

logical prowess instead. In today's digital landscape, restraining children's screen usage proves challenging. Despite smartphones and tablets offering educational benefits, their addictive nature can hinder child development. Experts advise strategies like promoting physical activity, prioritizing tasks, and integrating activity-based learning to counterbalance the pitfalls of excessive screen exposure.

To combat smartphone addiction, parents can adopt strategies such as encouraging physical activity, task prioritization, creating media usage

plans, avoiding using phones as rewards, and embracing activity-based learning. These measures enable children to strike a balance between screen time and other activities, fostering healthier digital habits.

Ultimately, parents must proactively address digital device addiction in children. By advocating a well-rounded technological approach, parents can guide their children toward healthier and more rewarding digital experiences in today's age.

Writer is a Professor & Principal (Retd.) Rajiv Nagar, Hyderabad

India, Greece commit to double bilateral trade by 2030

Athens, Aug 25 (PTI):

India and Greece on Friday agreed to upgrade bilateral ties to a strategic level and double the two-way trade by 2030.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid an official visit to the Hellenic Republic at the invitation of Prime Minister of Greece Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

Both leaders held high-level talks in a warm and friendly atmosphere and they noted the ongoing cooperation between the two sides and exchanged views on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest, said an India-Greece joint statement.

Building on the foundation of the long-standing warm and close relationship between their countries and peoples, the two leaders decided to upgrade Greek-Indian bilateral ties to the level of a "Strategic



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with the Prime Minister of Greece Kyriakos Mitsotakis, at Maximos Mansion, in Athens, Friday, Aug. 25.

Partnership" and agreed to work to further expand bilateral cooperation in political, security and economic spheres, it added.

"The two Prime Ministers also decided to take steps to further strengthen people-to-people ties between the two countries. Appreciating the increase in bilateral trade and economic engagement in recent years,

the leaders also directed that both sides shall work to double bilateral trade by 2030," the statement said.

The bilateral merchandise trade stood at about USD 2 billion in 2022-23, according to Indian government data. Prime Minister Mitsotakis and Prime Minister Modi reiterated the need for further broadening and deepening bilateral engagements, in the

field of defence, shipping, science and technology, cyber space, education, culture, tourism and agriculture.

"They took note of the signing of the MOU on cooperation in the field of agriculture, including the establishment of a Hellenic-Indian Joint Subcommittee on Agriculture for facilitating sectoral cooperation for mutual benefit," the joint statement said. Both leaders directed their senior officials to ensure regular dialogue in the areas including political, economic, defence, security and public diplomacy, it said, and the two leaders also agreed to encourage direct flights between Greece and India.

Prime Minister Modi welcomed Greece into the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and looked forward to Greece's membership of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

GIANT PUPPET



An actor from the Royal de Luxe theatre group wipes off the paw of the Bull Machin giant puppet in Antwerp, Belgium, Friday, Aug. 25. As part of the Summer of Antwerp festivities the giant puppets Bull Machin and his friend Xolo will wander the streets of Antwerp for three days as the general public follows the route.

No evidence of religious violence in Manipur: US-based thinktank

Washington, Aug 25 (PTI):

There is no evidence of religion-based violence in Manipur, a US-based India-centric think tank has said in a report, listing historical baggage, inter-tribe distrust, fear of economic impacts, drugs and insurgency among the factors responsible.

In a report released this week, the Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIIDS) said that "some even alleged that a foreign interference cannot be ruled out".

The FIIDS said both the state government of Manipur and the government of India have deployed all their resources to establish peace and provide relief to those affected.

"In summary, the violence has historical baggage, inter tribes distrust, fear of economic impacts,

drugs and insurgency as factors. However, it is important to note that, although religious polarization exists among the tribes, we did not find evidence of religious violence. Instead, it is based on an ethnic divide and historical distrust and rivalry between the tribes," said the report.

"Various dormant insurgency/extremist groups took advantage to revive themselves with gun violence. This was further fueled by funds and arms from drug mafias who grow opium and process heroin for export through Myanmar. Some even alleged that a foreign interference cannot be ruled out," the agency said in a press release issued Thursday.

While the violence and protests have calmed down in the recent weeks, the underlying distrust

still exists, and displaced people are not yet comfortable to return to their origins, they said in the release.

Further steps, such as discussions, negotiations, major trust-building exercises, and help to rebuild their lives, are necessary to carry forward, it said.

The report will be shared with the US-based policymakers and think tanks, FIIDS said.

Clashes broke out on May 3 in Manipur with its competing tribe Meities and Kukis attacking each other over the issue of tribal status to majority Meitie community.

Wide social media circulation of fake news of graphic videos and pictures sparked lethal violence and resulted in over 100 deaths and thousands of people displaced from their villages, the FIIDS media release said.

Vivek Ramaswamy's popularity surges with impressive fundraising post-debate



Indian-American US presidential aspirant Vivek Ramaswamy with his wife and children.

Washington, Aug 25 (PTI):

Indian-American multi-millionaire biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy's popularity rating and online fundraising have surged, a day after his impressive performance at the first Republican presidential

primary debate. According to the Ramaswamy campaign, the 38-year-old presiden-

tial aspirant raised more than USD 450,000, with an average donation of USD 38, in the first hour after the debate on Wednesday.

The entrepreneur-turned-politician was being hit hard by three of his top rivals former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, former Vice President Mike Pence and South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley.

"In Trump's absence, Ramaswamy drives the GOP debate," popular Axis reported on Thursday.

The first poll that came out after the debate said

that 28 per cent of the 504 respondents said that Ramaswamy performed the best. He was followed by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis with 27 per cent, and Pence (13 per cent). Indian-American Haley received the vote of seven per cent. According to Fox News, Ramaswamy was the most Google-searched GOP candidate for the first Republican presidential debate. He was followed by

fellow Indian-American Haley. Both the Indian-Americans were standing next to each other on the debate stage. "Vivek Ramaswamy Grabs Spotlight at First Republican Primary Debate," reported The Wall Street Journal. Its editorial board in its editorial was critical of his foreign policy proposals and said this will not get him to the White House.

Lanka pledges India to unite for eastern transformation

Colombo, Aug 25 (PTI):

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe has pledged to transform the Tamil-dominated Eastern Province, particularly the Trincomalee district, into a multifaceted hub and underscored the need to engage Indian assistance for it.

Addressing a special committee meeting on the developmental initiatives within the province on Thursday, the president asserted the acceleration of the Eastern Development Project and emphasised fostering a conducive environment to reinvigorate the island nation's cash-

strapped economy.

Stressing the need to engage India's assistance for this project, Wickremesinghe highlighted its strategic importance, a release by the President's Office said. He underscored the comprehensive vision for Trincomalee's transformation into a multifaceted hub encompassing energy, transportation, maritime commerce, naval operations, aviation, industry, and tourism.

Wickremesinghe, who is also the finance minister, stressed India's collaborative role in the transformation.

"Presently, a comprehensive plan formulated

by Subana Jurong (Singapore-based major infrastructure consulting firm) pertains to the Trincomalee district's development, supported by an established agreement between Sri Lanka and India," Wickremesinghe said.

"It is vital that this accord is executed," he added.

The development strategy entails a meticulously crafted programme aimed at enhancing the Kumana coastal stretch extending from Verugalaru to Panama.

This expanse is envisioned to be harnessed for the advancement of the tourism sector.

Simultaneously, a blueprint is in place for establishing modernised agriculture within this vicinity, and this model is intended to be extended to other areas within the Eastern Province.

Anticipating an evolution in Trincomalee's fishing, agriculture, and tourism sectors, the strategic goal is to elevate the city to a prominent commercial centre.

Wickremesinghe's statement came days after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar highlighted the potential of renewable energy and regional economic activities, including the Trincomalee hub, for mutual benefit.

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

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

NIT No. :- 05/SAC/23-24 Dated : 24-08-2023

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 14.09.2023 at 17:30 Hour

Name of work:
(System Tender No.-145382)- Repair of Head Work, Construction of Canal and Structures for Solwa Diversion Scheme.

Probable Amount of Contract- Rs. 231.00 Lakhs
(Note:- Tender Invited As Per SOR of August 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 31.08.2023, 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, Korba (C.G.)

G-04643/1

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES DIVISION No. 1
AMBIKAPUR, DISTT. SURGUJA (C.G.)

e-Procurement Tender Notice
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(FIRST CALL)

SYSTEM TENDER NO. 144757 NIT NO. 05/SAC/ 2023-24/ DATED- 21.08.2023
Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 11.09.2023 (17.30 hours IST).

S.No.	System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable amount of contract
1	144757	CONSTRUCTION OF SOHAGA LIFT IRRIGATION SCHEME AT GHUNGHUTTA RIVER	Rs. 277.16 Lakhs

The details can be viewed & downloaded online directly from the Govt. of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from dated 28.08.2023 at 17.31 hours (IST) onwards.

Note: All eligible/intrested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the 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 No. 1,
AMBIKAPUR (C.G.)
For, Chief Engineer
Hasdeo Ganga Basin, W.R. Deptt.
Ambikapur, Surguja (C.G.)

G-04582/3

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, दुर्ग

Emailid: durgmc2019@gmail.com Phone: 0788-2322148

-- ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना --

क्रमांक 236/लो.क.वि.अ./2023 दिनांक : 25/08/2023

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत अनुभवी ठेकेदारों से नीचे उल्लिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	लागत (लाख में)	निविदा जारी दिनांक
1	कलेक्टर परिसर में छल्लीसगढ़ महतारी की स्थापना कार्य। 2nd Call System No. 145669 Dated: 25.08.2023	रु. 40.00	25.08.2023 से 11.09.2023 खोलने की तिथि 13.09.2023

निविदा को सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, निविदा विज्ञापन, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है अथवा ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> एवं विभागीय वेबसाइट www.uad.cg.gov.in से भी डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

कार्यालय अभियंता

Public Works Department
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD,
DURG CIRCLE DURG. (C.G.)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
(1st Call)

No. 003/SE/Durg/Manual-RFP/2023 Durg, Dated 16-08-2023

Public Works Department (PWD) invites proposal for Planning, Development Estimation and Structural designs, and Architect for the work "RFP Tender Construction of Court Room Building at Balod" from the consultants empanelled in Public Works Department of Chhattisgarh. Probable cost of project Rs. 18.27 crore

Minimum eligibility for participants shall be as below:

S.N.	Building project cost	The firms, firms forming Joint venture/consortium shall be at least	The applicants core team of experts shall have experience of at least	In last five years & or current year must have / Planned, designed, developed at least one building project worth minimum	Earnest money (in shape as per annexure I) Favor of Executive Engineer, PWD Balod Div. Balod
B	For Project cost Between 10 to 25 crore	5 years old	5 Years in the respective field	Rs. 10 crore	Rs. 15,000-00

General condition: All the documents & Information as per Para 7.4, shall be submitted through speed post/Registered post, so as to reach the office of under signed on or before dated 04-09-2023, by 17:30 hour. Any documents received after the last date and time will not be entertained.

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

Superintending Engineer
Public Works Department
Durg Circle Durg

G-04639/1

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN, RAIPUR (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT RFP NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
CORRIGENDUM No-04

In System Tender 141826/NIT No. 01/G/MGB/2023, Raipur, Dated : 18.07.2023
Whose G-Number is 03461 dated 19.07.2023 following amendment are made:-

S.No.	Amendments
1	Submission of bid- Due Date: 11.09.2023 at 17.30 pm
2	Opening of Technical Bids - Date - 12.09.2023 at 11:30 am
3	Annexure B Corrigendum - Can be viewed on the web site https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in

Note:- All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

CHIEF ENGINEER,
MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN,
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, RAIPUR (C.G.)
FOR Engineer-In-Chief,
Water Resource Department,
Government of Chhattisgarh

G-04637/1

POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CHHATTISGARH, ATAL NAGAR, NAVA RAIPUR
(1st Call)

Notice Inviting Tender

No. PHQ/P&P/Sec-10/P-1/3587/2023 Raipur, Dated : 23/08/2023
Sealed tenders are being invited by the Director General of Police, Chhattisgarh on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh from manufacturer (OEM) or authorized (only one firm) by manufacturer's for the following item.

Sl. No.	Name of Item	Qty.(Nos.)	EMD in Rs.
1	Anti-Blast Goggles	1710	1,71,000/-

Note:- Quantity will be variable.
The tender offer in the prescribed tender form along with all the relevant documents sealed and completed in all the respect, must be submitted as per the schedule below -

SCHEDULE FOR TENDER

a) Address for submission of Tender Document :-	DIG of Police(P&P), Block no - 3, Room No. 309 Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Sector-19, Nava Raipur.
b) Last Date and Time of Submission on Bids	25/09/2023 till 03.00 pm
c) Place, Time and Date of opening Technical Bid :-	Block no - 3, Room No. 309 Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Sector-19, Nava Raipur 25/09/2023 till 04.00 pm Shall be intimated later.
d) Place, Time and Date of opening Financial Bid :-	
e) Date till which the Bid to remain valid	180 days from the scheduled date of submission of the Bid. The Purchaser may request the Bidder to extend the period of validity for a specified additional period.

Note:-
1. In case of tender opening date being declared as holiday, tenders will be opened on next working day.
2. Tender documents can be downloaded from our website www.cgpolice.gov.in and at the time of submission of document tender fee of Rs. 3000/- will be paid in the form of DD of State Bank of India/Scheduled Bank (other than Cooperative Bank) payable at Raipur in favour of Director General of Police, Chhattisgarh, Police Headquarters, Atal Nagar Raipur Or State Govt. Challan of Rs. 3000/- to be deposited in the Head of A/c-0055-Police-800- other receipt. Tender fee is non refundable and can't be exempted in any condition.
3. Modification/Amendments/Corrigendum, if any shall not be advertised on the news paper but shall be published in all the aforesaid web site only and the time of submission of bid will also be extended if required.
4. If any bidder sends tender documents through Courier/Speed post, the tender documents will be accepted till 03.00 pm on 25/09/2023 at Block no.3, Room No. 309 Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Sector 19, Nava Raipur only. Received tender documents in any other address at PHQ on stipulated date and time, will not be accepted.

DIG of Police (P&P)
For-Director General of Police

G-04575/1



CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 48 No. 320

Guardians of the Peaks

Preserving the Himalayas Amidst Mounting Challenges

The towering Himalayas, nature's majestic masterpiece, are facing an unprecedented ordeal that demands immediate attention. The ecological calamities unfurling across Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand have cast a spotlight on the fragility of this revered region. As landslides scar Shimla and land subsidence threatens Joshimath, the time has come to confront the limits of the Himalayan expanse that spans 13 states and union territories. In the face of this mounting crisis, the call of duty beckons us to shield these mountains from the clutches of rapacious exploitation. Amidst this urgency, the Supreme Court's proposal to form an expert committee for a "complete and comprehensive" assessment of the region's carrying capacity holds paramount significance. This capacity, a measure of an ecosystem's resilience, delineates the maximum population size it can sustain without degradation. An ongoing petition before the court asserts that the Himalayan realm reels under the weight of "unsustainable and hydrologically disastrous" constructions—ranging from hotels and homestays to hydel projects. These intrusions have taken an insidious toll on drainage systems and waste management. Turning back the clock, it was back in February 2014 when the Union Cabinet endorsed the action plan of the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE). This initiative, a vital component of the National Action Plan on Climate Change, was envisioned to assess the Himalayas' vulnerability to climate shifts and draft policies for its ecological preservation. However, the decade that followed witnessed the health of the world's youngest mountain range deteriorate with alarming swiftness. The time is ripe for an exigent reassessment of the NMSHE's execution, pinpointing the crevices in its implementation. The escalating vulnerability of the Himalayan ecosystem reverberates across key sectors: tourism, agriculture, environment, and forests. With abnormal weather events rapidly becoming the new normal, the mandate to save the Himalayas from predatory pillaging, cloaked under the guise of developmental and tourist ventures, is unequivocal. The challenge that looms large is how to regulate the influx of tourists without overburdening the ecosystem or jeopardizing livelihoods. Striking the equilibrium between preservation and progress necessitates a delicate calibration. The pivotal question resounds—how much is too much? Policymakers and stakeholders must grapple with this imperative query before the curtain falls on the Himalayan stage. The time for action is now. The Himalayas, guardians of time, culture, and nature's grandeur, demand our unwavering vigilance. Every landslide, every inch of receding land beckons us to rise to the occasion. The mountains that have stood sentinel over millennia now call upon us to stand as sentinels for them. It's a role that history and posterity expect us to fulfill—a role that beckons us to embark on a mission to preserve the Himalayan realm for generations yet to come.

Unifying The Vanguard

The Intricacies of CWC Reshuffle

Amidst the ever-shifting tides of Indian politics, a resounding message emanates from the corridors of power within the Congress party—a clarion call for unity as it undertakes a strategic recalibration of its Congress Working Committee (CWC). In this tactical maneuver, echoes of "bygones be bygones" reverberate, as the party's upper echelons meticulously assemble their new vanguard. A name that stands out, a symbol of both rebellion and potential reconciliation, is Sachin Pilot, the former Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan. Pilot's ascendancy to a regular CWC position carries an implicit overture, aimed at mollifying his grievances and deterring any adversarial undertakings that could undermine the party's fortunes in the impending Rajasthan elections. A crucial player in a roster of five states poised for electoral battles this year—Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, and Mizoram—the Congress stakes its claim for an encore of its triumphant 2018 foray, where it overturned the BJP's dominance in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh. This conquest holds the key to the party's ability to galvanize the newly minted INDIA Opposition alliance, shaping the contours of the impending 2024 General Election. Shifting the spotlight, the once resounding discord within the G23 conclave has assumed a peripheral role in the Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's blueprint. A strategic reconstitution sees the integration of Mukul Wasnik, Anand Sharma, and Shashi Tharoor—names etched in the chronicles of the G23 dissenting group—into the regular ranks of the CWC. This pragmatic decision navigates through the turbulent waters stirred by the group of 23 leaders who, through a poignant letter addressed to the then-party president Sonia Gandhi, voiced their concerns over the party's leadership trajectory. An underlying current of significance is found in Tharoor's candidature against Kharge for the esteemed post of Congress chief, a departure from the party's time-honored tradition of forging a consensus candidate. The orchestration of this realignment underscores the challenge of harmonizing the seasoned custodians of the past with the fervent champions of the future—a perennial trial for successive Congress presidents. Kharge's current endeavour aptly captures this quintessence, a delicate balancing act performed with masterful finesse. For the Congress, the overarching imperative of cementing intra-party unity stands paramount. The resounding "all is well" refrain, tested through the crucible of impending elections, serves as a barometer for the party's prowess to navigate a complex political terrain. A vivid spectrum of aspirations, ideologies, and generational divides converges under the Congress banner. This current restructuring manifests the party's intent to forge a collective front, fortified against the tumultuous torrents of the political arena. As the nation hurtles towards the electoral crescendo, this reshaping serves as a prelude to the symphony that will define the Congress's political overture. The Congress, at this crossroads, stands as both sentinel and harbinger, resonating with the spirit of a resurgent India. It's not merely the forthcoming electoral fray that is under scrutiny; it's an overarching quest to shape the discourse of governance, steer the national course, and recalibrate the quintessence of Indian politics. In an epoch defined by the ceaseless ebb and flow of transformation, unity and coherence cease to be mere strategic pursuits; they emerge as unassailable mandates. The Congress, through its actions, has enunciated its intent; the resonance of its narrative must now resound through the corridors of power and the heart of the nation, etching its imprint upon the chronicles of India's evolving political odyssey.

CHANDRAYAAN-3 CELEBRATION



Students of Jankalyan School sit in formation depicting Chandrayaan-3 and the Moon after its successful soft landing on the Moon's surface, in Karad.

Praggnanandhaa: From wonderkid to a chess great in the waiting

C SHYAM SUNDAR (PTI)



For someone, who took to chess just because his parents wanted him and his sister to wean away from watching television, R Praggnanandhaa has charted his own path to glory and is closer to greatness than ever.

The 18-year old wonderboy has long been seen as a possible successor to the five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand and is certainly on the path to be a chess great.

A stunning performance in the FIDE World Cup in Baku has catapulted him to the Candidates tournament to determine the challenger to current world champion Ding Liren.

He could not win the World Cup but his stellar giant-killing show brought chess on the front page of national dailies, adding to the popularity of the game that is followed keenly only in a few states in India.

By becoming the only Indian player after Anand to book a spot in the Candidates, the Chennai teenager has proved that he will be the name to reckon with when it comes to big-ticket chess events.

A wonderkid, who took up the sport at the age of four-and-a-half, Praggnanandhaa has achieved several firsts in his distinguished career thus far.

After coming under the wings of Anand, who has taken to mentorship like a duck to water, the rise has been steady for Praggnanandhaa.

By beating Magnus Carlsen, the world No.1 and former classical champion in an online tournament last year, Praggnanandhaa showed that he could soak in the pressure and defeat the best in the business at their own game.

Though questions remain on his ability in the classical format, the teenaged GM has shown that he has it in him to be in the big

league. In 2021, he impressed in the Meltwater Champions Tour, scoring victories over top names like Sergey Karjakin, Teimour Radjabov and Jan-Krzysztof Duda and drawing Carlsen.

In 2022, his stock rose further when he stunned Carlsen in the Airthings Masters rapid tournament. He became only the third Indian after Anand and P Harikrishna to win a game against the seemingly unbeatable Carlsen.

Praggnanandhaa's calm demeanour when at the table hides



leagues.

Hailing from Chennai, the hotspot of Indian chess, Praggnanandhaa has been in the spotlight since he made waves at a young age.

He won the national under-7 title to lay down the marker and has been on the rise ever since. At 10, he was an International Master and two years later, he became a GM.

Late in 2019, he achieved a ELO rating of 2600 at 14 years and three months and looked to be on the overdrive. The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 came as a speed bump.

However, Praggnanandhaa shone in online tournaments and

a confident and aggressive player. He can be quite a formidable opponent when he sits across the table for a game.

And, he has shown great fighting qualities, in the World Cup especially. Up against world No.2 Hikaru Nakamura, he showed that in abundance and felled a higher-rated opponent.

Then against Fabiano Caruana, the world No.3, in the semifinal, his defensive capabilities were to the fore and he came through in a nerve-wracking tie-break.

As Grandmaster M Shyam Sundar, a coach with the Indian team in Baku for the World Cup, says, "One of his

(Praggnanandhaa's) biggest strengths is his ability to defend bad positions even against the absolute elite."

This stands him in good stead in adverse situations.

That apart, as Shyam Sundar says, Praggnanandhaa is good in all formats and that helped him reach the finals as he was confident in the tie-breaks against Caruana.

Like Anand, family support, especially from his mother, has been a great factor in his evolution as a player. His mother Nagalakshmi is a constant at tournaments that he plays and he seems to feed off her valuable presence.

There is a feeling that Praggnanandhaa's opening repertoire is not top-notch but he is quite a force in the rapid and blitz formats and in online games.

He has improved leaps and bounds and with the work put in under noted coach R B Ramesh and subsequently Anand (as the mentor), Praggnanandhaa can only get better, which may not be good news for his rivals.

He has achieved a lot at 18 and is already on the path to greatness. With people of the stature of Anand and Ramesh to guide him, the Chennai player will be dreaming of becoming the world champion sooner than later.

For someone so talented, Praggnanandhaa, surprisingly, is yet to win the national championship despite his other accomplishments.

His performance in the FIDE World Cup has turned the spotlight firmly on him even as compatriots like D Gukesh and Arjun Erigaisi too kept reminding the chess world of their own potential.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Universal Harmony

Amidst the prevailing narratives of division and discord, it's imperative to recognize our inherent unity as human beings. The essence of truth lies in this universal connection, a fact undeniable for all of humanity. The discordant force of majoritarianism contradicts this truth, appearing ugly in comparison. My late friend, Thecla Pereira from Goa, used to emphasize that genuine religion should foster inner peace and mutual concord. It should bind us, not sever our ties. As Goan Christian and Bengali Hindu friends, we never felt divided by religion. The air we breathe and the sun that sustains us remain the same for all. Harmony is the bedrock of existence - in societies, bodies, and machines alike. Let's not shutter our minds, but embrace the unifying light of togetherness.

Sujit De, Kolkata

Perilous Progress

Is the ambitious Char Dham all-weather highway construction in Uttarakhand triggering hazardous repercussions? The recent collapse of a 100m section of the Rishikesh-Badrinath highway, linked to the contentious 12,000 crore project, raises concerns. This development, within an ecologically sensitive region, sparks debates about the project's impact on landslides and ecological balance. While touted for strategic, connectivity, and developmental benefits, the government must carefully navigate these aspirations alongside the fragility of the ecosystem. Transparency and carrying capacity assessments are essential to ensure sustainable progress.

Tauqueer Rahmani, Mumbai

Accessible Medicines

The government's push for generic medicines stems from their cost-effectiveness compared to branded counterparts. While generic drugs are mandated to match brand-name versions in form, safety, and quality, slight variations persist. Such deviations can impact their efficacy. The government's pivotal role is to furnish top-tier healthcare that's both accessible and affordable. This endeavor demands an ecosystem where quality medical services are within reach without imposing financial strain. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation's responsibility lies in ensuring the optimal functioning of Jan Aushadhi Kendras. These centers strive to deliver cost-effective medications to the economically vulnerable, underscoring the importance of accessible healthcare without compromise on quality.

Rakesh Gupta, Korba

Combating Campus Ragging

The distressing occurrence of ragging within educational institutions, particularly in engineering and medical fields, is wholly unacceptable. Students who tirelessly prepare for competitive exams like JEE-Main and NEET should not endure such maltreatment from their seniors. University and college administrations must be resolute in tackling this issue head-on. The imperative here is to mete out exemplary punishments to those responsible. Beyond this, fostering a cultural transformation that champions respect, empathy, and inclusivity among students is crucial for eradicating the scourge of ragging from our campuses.

Krishna Kumar, Kollam, Kerala

The secret of strong memory and youthful brain - Adequate, sound sleep



Rajendra Kumar Sharma

In today's busy life, finding time for oneself seems an impossible task. Human hunger to collect materialistic pleasures has taken away all the happiness, peace and sleep of human beings. In the struggle to meet the needs of the house, rest and adequate deep sleep have become just a dream.

Getting less or no sleep at all is reducing our learning, memory and ability to work day by day. In our biological clock, the brain has fixed a

certain programming (plan) for each task, which may differ from one person to another. Like some people have a habit of getting up early in the morning, then their time of getting up gets fixed in the brain which helps them to get up at the same fixed time every day. Similarly, some students can study till late night, while some find it more convenient to study early in the morning.

Similarly, there is a deep connection between sleep and brain and sleep and memory power. Our sleep affects our memory power to a great extent. Researchers' research and their results indicate that deep sleep of the full duration makes our memory stronger. Doctors often recommend taking 8 to 10 hours of deep sleep, which is also very important from the point of view of health. While the duration of sleep in the newborn is longer, which is related to the rapid physical development of the baby.

Often we do not feel refreshed even after taking 8 to 10 hours of sleep and many times we feel energetic and refreshed again after just a few minutes of nap or a couple of hours of sleep. The reason behind

this is our surrendering ourselves to the mind. When we do not want to leave our daily problems even after going to bed, in such a situation, the brain has to do additional work to bring you to sleep, you fall asleep somehow but the brain gets tired, which has the effect of waking you up. It shows up even after and you feel heavy and put out instead of feeling refreshed. Which also affects your daily work capacity.

When we take a nap, our brain goes through different stages of sleep. Rapid eye movement sleep is the second part of sleep stage after non rapid eye movement sleep, which has three stages. During the night we normally go through 3 stages of non rapid eye movement sleep and three stages of rapid eye movement sleep. Go through a phase that lasts 90 to 120 minutes. Including light sleep, deep sleep, and rapid eye movement (REM) sleep, dreams often occur during this period. Sleep deprivation affects a part of the brain called the hippocampus, which is important for forming new memories. The rapid eye movement (REM) stages of sleep prime the brain for learning activities the next day. It

is estimated that if we do not sleep, our ability to learn new things can be reduced by up to 40%.

Scientists at the NIH (National Institutes of Health) are trying to understand the relationship between sleep and memory. Which in future will help the students to learn, maintain the memory power of the old people. According to Dr. Matthew Walker, a sleep scientist at the University of California, sleep before learning helps our brain prepare for memory, and then sleep after learning helps to store and consolidate that new information in the brain, thereby we are less likely to forget it.

Recent studies also suggest that insufficient and excessive sleep can affect memory processing and other cognitive processes. A good night's rest not only promotes good physical health but also enables our brain to function properly, so getting an adequate amount of sleep each night is key to strengthening memories.

There is a deep connection between sleep and memory. Getting enough rest and sleep helps us process new information after waking up, and sleeping after learning allows us to consolidate this infor-

mation into memories, stored in the brain.

During the non-rapid eye movement stages of sleep, the brain sorts through our various memories from the previous day. Filters essential and non-essential memories and removes unnecessary information. These selected memories become more stable as deep non-rapid eye movement sleep begins, and this process continues during rapid eye movement sleep. Emotional memories are also processed in this phase, which helps you deal with difficult experiences and problems.

That's why sleep has special importance in this run-of-the-mill life of ours. The secret to keeping your memory and recall power strong and getting daily physical energy lies in getting enough sleep. Just as the deep, prolonged sleep of newborns plays an important role in their physical development, in the same way deep and adequate sleep in an adult's life provides mental energy, freshness and youthfulness to the brain.

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

BRIEF

IT policy



Shillong: The Meghalaya government will soon announce an IT policy which will benefit investors and create employment opportunities in the state, Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma said on Friday. Addressing a programme here, he said investors will be provided incentives in terms of capital investment, GST and electricity tariff, among others, under the policy. "We are on the verge of announcing the IT policy. It has taken us about a year's time, and we had elections in between."

Development goals

New Delhi: Countries globally would need about USD 4.5 trillion over the next 7-10 years to finance their development goals, B20 India Task Force on Financing for Global Economic Recovery, Chair, Uday Kotak said on Friday. The task force in its recommendation also suggested ways for businesses to finance it. It suggested setting up of a 'global acceleration fund' where every business globally contributes 0.2 per cent of profit to social development goals.

Book release



New Delhi: Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Friday released a coffee table book on traditional and local architecture of various terminal buildings at AAI airports. The book showcases the facade of terminal buildings at 19 airports. Senior civil aviation ministry officials and heads of AAI, DGCA, BCAS, among others were present at the launch of the book titled "Traditional & Local Architecture on Elevation & Design of Upcoming New Terminal Buildings" in the national capital.

Engineering exports

Kolkata: Engineering goods exports to Russia continued its uptrend and more than doubled to USD 123.65 million in July 2023 as against USD 55.65 million in the corresponding period a year ago, according to data released by EEP. During the same period this year, engineering exports to the US declined 10.4 per cent on-year to USD 1.44 billion, it said. Engineering shipments to China during in July also fell 10 per cent year-on-year to USD 197.98 million, the data released by the Engineering Export Promotion Council showed.

Govt aiming to make India global hub for green hydrogen: Sitharaman

New Delhi, Aug 25:

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government is aiming to make India a global hub for production, utilisation and export of green hydrogen. Speaking at the launch of HSBC India's strategic partnerships towards enabling innovation in Green Hydrogen, the minister said the government is focused on driving green growth through a range of green reforms. The initiative, she said will provide a roadmap towards reducing carbon intensity in the economy and enable the creation of green job opportunities. "Green hydrogen has a pivotal role to play as we counter climate change and work towards enabling a low-carbon and self-reliant economy. We're aiming to make India a global hub for production, utilisation and export of green hydrogen," Sitharaman said, as per an



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with B20 India Chair and Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) President R Dinesh during a special plenary session on 'Key Priorities for Sustained Global Economic Recovery' at B20 Summit India 2023, in New Delhi, Friday, Aug. 25.

HSBC release. HSBC India has partnered with IIT Bombay and Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF) to pursue technological advancements to make green hydrogen more efficient, cost-effective, and scalable. These two partnerships, with total grant support of Rs 15 crores (about USD 2 million), will focus on innovation projects that will help prioritise green hydrogen as a strategic alternate fuel, help in building

a robust, green hydrogen economy, and achieve the government's vision of an energy-independent nation, the release said. Speaking on the occasion, Group Chairman of HSBC Mark Tucker said: "We are providing finance to accelerate climate change solutions and building partnerships to drive technological breakthroughs, foster collaboration and support innovation towards enabling a green hydrogen economy."

RedBus records 40% rise in bus bookings for Raksha bandhan week

Mumbai, Aug 25: As the festive fervour of Raksha bandhan approaches, redBus, India's leading online bus ticketing platform, shares insights derived from online bus booking on its platform, shedding light on the intercity bus travel patterns and trends that shape this celebratory season in Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh. According to redBus, there is a 40% increase in bookings for travel during the Raksha bandhan period when compared to the previous year. Indore, Bhopal, Raipur and Ujjain emerge as the pivotal hubs for outbound travel, with redBus witnessing a peak in bookings one week prior to the festival. The festival's significance is underlined by the rise in demand for travel across the state and key routes. Despite the festival falling midweek this year,

RedBus is witnessing high demand for intercity travel. The festival's influence is especially evident in the demographic profile of travellers during this festive period. A significant majority of travellers fall in the age group of 18 to 35, encompassing students, early jobbers, and business owners. Notably, there is a 21% increase in the share of women travellers during the Raksha Bandhan week. While Ujjain and Omkareshwar emerge as the top pilgrimage destinations of the season, redBus also identifies other top emerging routes and destinations, which include Ujjain, Rewa, Satna, and Delhi as they are experiencing heightened traffic this festive period. In celebration of Raksha Bandhan, redBus remains committed to facilitating seamless travel experiences.

Need to find feasible ways to boost adoption of modern technologies in construction: Puri

New Delhi, Aug 25:

Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday said more than 60 crore people are estimated to reside in cities by 2030 because of rapid urbanisation and stressed the need to increase adoption of new technologies in the construction industry. The minister was addressing a conference on 'Adoption of New and Emerging Building Materials and Technologies in Construction Industry', being organised by realtors' apex body CREDAI, which represents more than 13,000 developer members. "It is imperative we find feasible ways to increase



the adoption of emerging materials and technologies in the construction industry," Puri said. Talking about the government's commitment in this regard, Puri recalled that the Prime Minister had emphasised the need to accelerate the movement from these older technologies

into new cutting-edge technologies in the construction industry. On its part, the ministry has short-listed 54 innovative construction technologies from all over the world under the Global Housing Technology Challenge and six light house projects were selected in Chennai, Rajkot, Indore, Lucknow, Ranchi and Agartala under which 6,368 houses are being built using innovative construction technologies. "With these light house projects, I believe that the Modi government has laid down the roadmap for the construction industry to reorient itself and support the vision of the Prime Minister in achieving net zero emission by 2030," Puri said.

Sensex declines by 365 pts on selling in financials, IT shares amid rate hike concerns



Mumbai, Aug 25: Benchmark Sensex declined by 365 points and Nifty settled below the 19,300 level in a volatile trade on Friday as financials, IT and oil shares took a hit amid concerns over potential rate hikes and weak trend in global markets. Falling for a second day in a row, the BSE Sensex closed lower by 365.83 points or 0.56 per cent at 64,886.51. During the day, it dropped 519.77 points or 0.79 per cent to 64,732.57. The NSE Nifty declined by 120.90 points

or 0.62 per cent to end at 19,265.80. From the Sensex pack, Larsen & Toubro, JSW Steel, IndusInd Bank, Power Grid, ITC, Mahindra & Mahindra, NTPC, HDFC Bank, ITC, Reliance Industries and Tata Motors were among the major laggards. Bajaj Finserv, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finance, Bharti Airtel and Axis Bank were among the gainers. "Investor caution is evident globally, as concerns about potential rate hikes dominate the prevailing sentiment ahead of the Jackson Hole meeting. Furthermore, the minutes from the RBI MPC meeting reiterated their dedication to managing inflation within the target range, given the elevated domestic inflation levels," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Commercial production under PLI-ACC scheme to commence in current fiscal: Govt

New Delhi, Aug 24:

Commercial production under the production-linked incentive scheme for advanced chemistry cell manufacturing — India's Rs 18,100-crore programme to boost local battery cell production — is likely to commence progressively in phases, in the current financial year, the Centre said on Thursday. The Heavy Industries Ministry has awarded 30GWh of capacity to three beneficiaries, namely, Ola Cell Technologies Pvt. Ltd, ACC Energy Storage Pvt Ltd and Reliance New Energy Battery Storage Ltd and is in the process of awarding another 20GWh, with a target to achieve 50GWh

Trade deficit falling at a rapid pace, exports to see growth in coming months: Goyal

Jaipur, Aug 25:

India's trade deficit is falling at a rapid pace and the exports are expected to see positive growth in the coming months, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday. He said that countries in the world are facing a slowdown and global trade is relatively weak right now. Given the challenging situation, high interest rates, and cut down in discretionary spending have led to a fall in the exports of ready-made apparel and the gem and jewellery sector, the minister said adding lower petroleum prices have resulted in lower export numbers. "All in all, trade continues to be robust, our trade deficit is falling rapidly. And India will continue to benefit significantly from our global outreach," Goyal told PTI. When asked if he expects the country's merchandise exports to come in positive growth from September,



Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal during the G20 Trade and Investment Ministers' Meeting, in Jaipur, Friday, Aug. 25.

he said, "I do believe it is possible". India's exports contracted by 15.88 per cent in July, the sixth straight month of decline, to USD 32.25 billion this year due to a global slowdown and a fall in shipments of key sectors like petroleum, and gems and jewellery. Imports during the month also declined by 17 per cent, the eighth month of fall in a row, to USD 52.92 billion from USD 63.77 billion in July

2022. This led to a narrowing of the trade deficit to USD 20.67 billion against USD 25.43 billion in July 2022. Talking about his bilateral meetings, the minister said that more and more countries are looking at expanding trade and business with India. "There is a lot of interest to invest in India," he added. As Chandrayaan-3 successfully soft-landed on the Moon on Wednesday to propel India into an elite

group of nations. Goyal said that at least three countries approached him for a partnership with India in the space sector. "So, space is going to become a new frontier in which India will provide a leadership role at affordable competitive prices, modern technology and with full self-reliance, where we have the capabilities of our people to reach the moon and aspire for beyond," he added.

RBI Guv asks NBFCs to strengthen governance standards

Mumbai, Aug 25:



Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday asked non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), including housing finance companies, to strengthen governance standards and assurance mechanisms. The governor held a meeting with MD & CEOs of select large NBFCs. Government NBFCs and housing finance companies (HFCs) also participated in the meeting, the RBI said in a statement. These entities constitute nearly 50 per cent of the total assets of all NBFCs, including HFCs. Acknowledging the important role played by the sector in delivering credit to the unbanked and underserved areas, Das advised that NBFCs and HFCs need to remain alert to

avoid any complacency during good times. "The governor highlighted the need for further strengthening the governance standards and assurance mechanisms viz. compliance, risk management and internal audit in these entities," the central bank said. Discussions were also held on diversifying the resources for NBFCs and HFCs to contain the in-

creasing reliance on bank borrowings; risks associated with high credit growth in retail segment mostly in unsecured; and prioritising the upgradation of IT systems and cyber security. Strengthening balance sheets with improved provisioning cover; monitoring stressed exposures and slippages; ensuring robust liquidity and asset-liability management; ensuring reasonableness and transparency in pricing of credit; and adherence to fair practices code including robust grievance redress mechanism, too were discussed. The meeting was also attended by deputy governors M Rajeshwar Rao and Swaminathan J and Managing Director of National Housing Bank (NHB) S K Hota, besides a few senior officials of the RBI.

India's foreign exchange reserves decline \$7.27 bn to nearly \$594.88 bn

Mumbai, Aug 25 (PTI):

India's foreign exchange reserves dropped by USD 7.273 billion to USD 594.888 billion for the week ended August 18, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Friday. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had risen by USD 708 million to USD 602.161 billion. It is the first time in nearly a month that the reserves have dropped below USD 600 billion. The kitty had swelled by USD 12.743 billion in the week ending July 14 to regain the psychologically important level of USD 600 billion. In October 2021, the country's foreign exchange reserves had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion.

The reserves took a hit as the central bank deployed it to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments since last year. For the week ended August 18, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by USD 6.613 billion to USD 527.786 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves were down by USD 515 million to USD 43.824 billion, the RBI said.

AI will create more jobs in India: N Chandrasekaran

New Delhi, Aug 25:



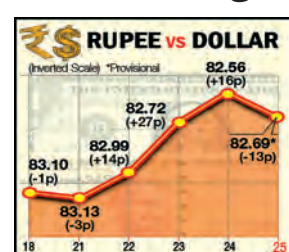
Artificial intelligence will create more jobs in India as it will empower more people with little skill or no skill to perform higher level jobs, B20 India Chair N Chandrasekaran said on Friday. In a panel discussion at the B20 Summit India 2023 here, Chandrasekaran, who is also the Chairman of Tata Sons, said India has made a "fantastic breakthrough" towards data privacy and protection by taking a technology approach. Seeking to address concerns over privacy and jobs with the advent of artificial intelligence (AI), he said, "Actually in a country like us, it (AI) will create jobs because it will empower people with the little skill or no skill, will empower

them with information skill so that they can perform a higher level of jobs." He cited the example of a nurse and said due to AI "the nurse will be able to take away the workload of a doctor and that's the way we are going to scale up". Chandrasekaran, however, stated that the impact of AI will play out in different markets and

different segments of the society differently. "We talk about a country like India, we say that hundreds of millions of people have to have access... Additional 250 to 300 million people are coming into the market. They have access to information, they have access to goods and services in their own way, they start consuming, it just multiplies the whole GDP to a different level and then their per capita income goes up and we will see the benefit for a very, very long time," he said. On the other hand, he said the ageing economies are also going to face longevity and all these people have to be taken care of and they don't have enough human resources to provide the kind of service that needed to be pro-

vided to support these people once they get aged. "Again, AI will come in handy or play a very very important role because a vast majority of the things that need to be taken care of can be done by AI. So the benefits are going to be different to different segments and in different markets but everywhere (AI) is going to create jobs, it is going to empower people to do high levels of jobs," Chandrasekaran asserted. In markets where there are no people it is going to substitute for human beings and provide the service that is expected, he added. On data privacy and protection, Chandrasekaran said, "I do believe that India has made a big breakthrough in this whole privacy space."

Rupee snaps three-day rally to settle 13 paise lower at 82.69 against US dollar



Mumbai, Aug 25: The rupee reversed its three-day rally and depreciated by 13 paise to settle at 82.69 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, tracking strong American currency and negative equity markets. Rising crude oil prices also weighed on the domestic unit even as foreign fund inflows restricted losses, forex traders said. At the interbank for-

eign exchange, the domestic unit opened weak at 82.60 and touched the intra-day low of 82.72 against the greenback. It finally settled at 82.69 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a fall of 13 paise over its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee appreciated by 16 paise to settle at 82.56 against the US dollar, making it the third straight day of gain. "Indian rupee depreciated on Friday on strong dollar and weak domestic markets. However, FII inflows cushioned the downside. The dollar rose on mixed to positive economic data from the US," Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said.

50 contenders apply for ticket from Kurud VS



Central Chronicle News

Kurud, Aug 25: In the forthcoming Vidhan Sabha polls 2023 in the state, there is long list of Congress candidate in order to win the BJP's fort of Kurud Vidhan Sabha (VS) area this time. As to who will be the Congress face in this political game of check & mate from Kurud is yet to be decided, but for this a total of 52 party contenders from

three blocks have submitted their application to the Block Presidents.

There is discussion among the political circles that the former Congress candidate Laxmianta Sahu, even after losing the last election is maintaining his public contact and still has not submitted his claim for the above seat and it has become a talk among the Congmen and general public.

It is notable here that



the date for submission of application for contendorship from Kurud VS by Congmen in respective Blocks was from Aug 17-22. The most important thing here was that the contenders were taking the format prepared for submission of application from the BCC President himself and then were submitting it.

In this format, many information was sought from the contenders for

the ticket and in his 35 applications were submitted to BCC President Kurud Ashish Sharma; 18 to BCC President Bhakhara Mukesh Koshare and 20 to BCC President Magarlod-DR Sahu.

The BCC Presidents informed that it is the winning candidate only who will be awarded ticket by the party. Prominent among those who staked claim for party's ticket from Kurud VS included

first citizen Nagar Panchayat Tapan Chandrakar, Janpad President Sharda Sahu, Mandi President Neelam Chandrakar, DCC District VP Hemant Sahu, Mandi VP Pramod Sahu, former YC State President Rajkumari Diwan, District Panchayat President Kanti Sonwani, District Panchayat Sabhapati-Tarini Chandrakar, Suman Santosh Sahu, Legal Cell President Ramesh Pandey, former Nagar Panchayat President Bharat Nahar, YC President Devbrath Sahu, DCC gen. secy. KK Sahu, Govind Sahu, Pratik Sahu, Girish Sahu, and dozens of other Congmen. Not it remains to be seen as to who will be the five in the panel of District-level from the total strength of 50 applications for Kurud VS from Congress.

Kavita seeks support tying Rakhi

Central Chronicle News

Nandini-Ahirwara, Aug 25: MLA Kavita Devi conducted tour of Jewara-Sirsa Mandal under Ahirwara VS area and sought support of the voters by tying Rakhi to the people under the 'Sampark se Samarthan' programme here on Thursday. During this she tied Rakhi to village's Purohit-Ram Gopal Tiwari.

The meeting of Mandal office bearers, Morcha, Shakti Kendra in-charge, conveners, co-conveners, booth Presidents, Booth in-charge and others was held in the complex of Anil Yadav. All present on the occasion took a pledge to ensure her victory from Ahirwara VS area. On the first day she



held Mandal-level meeting and the meeting with the local representatives, Anganbadi workers and executed the works under 'Sampark Se Samarthan' campaign.

The above meeting was attended by convener Ravishankar Singh, ex-

MLA Raj Mahant Sanwala Ram Dahare, Doman Lal Korsewada, Brijesh Bichpuria, Vinayak Natu, Rakesh Yadav, Ram Gopal Tiwari, Kirti Nayak, Baldev Nishad, PL Nayak, Dilip Verma, Gulab Sahu and others.

Girl students imparted training

For making hand-made Rakhis at lesser cost

Central Chronicle News

Nandini-Ahirwara, Aug 25: A one-day workshop for making hand-made

Rakhis for students of Shashakiya Nagrik Kalyan Mahavidyalaya (SNKM) Nandini-Nagar was held here on

Thursday and it was attended by girl students in large number.

In this training, the College staff- Poonam Tiwari, Sandhya Choudhary, Manju Sahu informed students on how to make 'Rakhis' at lesser cost. A competition for making hand-made 'Rakhis' was also kept for the girl students and in this Mansi Shyam Kunwar came first; Lisa Mahilang & Jagtiti came second and Bhoomika Sharma and Jyoti Dewangan came third. The consolation prize was won by Marina Sahu. The workshop and competition for this was organised by Women's Cell of the College.

Parties under poll strategy for Assembly Elections



Central Chronicle News

Berla, Aug 25: Both the BJP and the opposition are preparing for the state assembly elections to be held just before the Lok Sabha elections in 2024, because the performance of the parties in the assembly elections can have a direct impact on the Lok Sabha elections too.

Here in the region, MLAs of four states have been called in

Chhattisgarh on behalf of the BJP and in this episode, the responsibility of Bemetara Vidhan Sabha (VS) was given to Nisha Singh, MLA of Pranpur Vidhan Sabha of Bihar State, BJP Mahila Morcha National Minister and in-charge of Chhattisgarh Mahila Morcha, in which a program has been fixed from August 22 to August 29.

On August 23, the first divisional level meeting

was held at Berla Nagar Mandi premises of Berla Mandal, in which mainly BJP State Minister, former MLA Awadhesh Singh Chandel, District President Om Prakash Joshi, former District President Rajendra Sharma, State Working Committee members Sandhya Parganiha, Prahlad Rajak, District General Secretary Narendra Verma Mandal President Balram Patel,



General Secretary Raja Sahu, Domendra Rajput, District Panchayat President Pushpa Sahu, District Morcha President Deepesh Sahu, Lalita Sahu, Former Municipality President Vijay Sinha, Poshan Verma, Horilal Sinha including senior leader Mandal Officer Shakti Kendra in-charge coordinator co-coordinators took part.

After this Sampark Se Support Abhiyan sought

support by presenting a book giving information about BJP's thoughts, philosophy and public welfare, poor welfare and good governance policies of the Modi government at the Center and the development work of the BJP government in the last 15 years of the state. There was also public interaction program, which concluded with celebrations on Chandrayaan's successful landing.

Outrage among villagers regarding Ghorda stone mine

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Aug 25: Villagers of Ghorda, are objecting the operations of a stone mine here in the region and readied for a chakka-jam, after which SDM AK Pusam and Tehsildar PL Nag reached the village and assured to take action through the Gram Panchayat and also assured full cooperation of the Revenue Department in this action.

As per information, the stone quarry operated in the village is very high, and continuous excavation is being done and due to blasting and accumulation of water, the villagers are demanding the closure of the mine. Also the mine operated in village Ghorda is about 40 years old and it has become very deep, and



at the same time, due to blasting, cracks have appeared in the houses and water shortage has increased in the village.

Due to the formation of a deep ditch, the water level of the water has gone down a lot and the villagers are facing a lot of

problems due to this. Dongargaon SDM AK Pusam told that according to the villagers, illegal digging is being done in the disputed mine, as the case is under consideration in the Honorable High Court and something can be done only after the decision

from there. Due to illegal digging in government land, there was a situation of rural blockade, in which the villagers were explained and soon a team will be formed and action will be taken in the matter of illegal digging and housing in government land.

Chauhan oversees voter list update, stresses swift completion

Central Chronicle News

Korea, Aug 25: KL Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner and designated Role Observer for the Sarguja Division by the Election Commission, delved into the intricacies of the forthcoming special summary revision of voter lists in preparation for the 2023 Vidhan Sabha elections. In alignment with this objective, an ongoing second special summary revision campaign is underway within the district until October 1.

During his engagement, Chauhan conducted comprehensive inspections at key polling centers, including the Umjhar Primary School within the Baikunthpur Assembly, Bisunpur, and 10 polling centers at Balak Charcha Colliery. Further, his scruti-



ny extended to the Swami Atmanand Higher Secondary School in Shivpur-Charcha. In his meticulous oversight role, Chauhan gleaned insights into the operations of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) at each polling center. A diligent review of the door-to-

door survey reports and BLO registers they had conducted formed a crucial part of his assessment. Beyond this, Chauhan sought and compiled information regarding registered voters with disabilities and elderly citizens present at these polling centers.

Applications and relevant documents also underwent thorough examination.

With the paramount goal of ensuring the accuracy and reliability of the voter list in view of the impending 2023 Vidhan Sabha elections, Chauhan issued clear directives to all BLOs. The emphasis was on a comprehensive rectification and refinement of the voter list, aligning it effectively with the upcoming electoral objectives.

A significant occasion witnessed the presence of notable officials, including Deputy District Election Officer Mrs. Nandani Sahu, Sub-Divisional Officer, and Voter Registration Officer Koriya. Collectively, they reinforced the significance of the ongoing revision efforts and their direct bearing on the democratic process.

Tragic collision unleashes chaos on national highway 930

Local community jolted by string of mishaps; school-area collision amplifies concerns

Central Chronicle News

Dalli-Rajhara, Aug 25: The unfolding of a catastrophic road accident on National Highway 930 has cast a dark shadow over the path of progress. The aftermath of this incident has rippled through the region, with the heart of the calamity encroaching on medical and educational establishments.

The disturbing recurrence of road accidents, featuring heavy-duty trucks from prominent corporations such as Hira Group's Godavari Power and Ispat Limited's raw material carriers, has left the local community disconcerted.

Around 1 am on Wednesday, the raw material-laden truck belonging to Ispat Limited wreaked havoc near Ahmad Steel, veering from the vicinity of Pushpa



Hospital. In an unrestrained rampage spanning 200 to 300 meters, the truck ploughed through 3 to 4 smaller vehicles and unsuspecting pedestrians. This frenzied collision left numerous main road shops in ruins, as adjacent parked vehicles endured the force of the collision's impact.

In an unfortunate parallel, a pickup truck, loaded with new bikes, succumbed to the same forceful collision. Witnesses recounted that the offending



truck, registered as CG 08 W 4278, emerged from raw material mines and recklessly ventured into oncoming traffic near Pushpa Hospital.

Its destructive path damaged storefronts along the main road, culminating in a collision with Ahmad Steel. Responding swiftly to the scene, the police assessed the damage sustained by affected shops, as steps are taken to clear the wreckage. Meanwhile, Mithilesh Sahu,



son of Krishna Sahu and a resident of Ward No. 27, Guru Ghasidas Vard, Dallirajhara, lodged a report at Rajhara Police Station. He recounted the damaged occurred due to the collision to his Mahindra pickup, registration number CG24 JE 5504, in his commercial pursuits.

Laden with commercial plastic items and groceries, the pickup stood near Saraswati Shishu Mandir School on Rajhara's main



road. Around 1:00 am, the driver of truck CG 08 WW 4278, identified as Moti Ram, reportedly lost control of his vehicle due to inebriation.

This collision ensued as the truck veered into the parked Mahindra pickup, CG24 JE 5504, causing significant damage. The reckless actions of Moti Ram resulted in an impaired pickup and legal proceedings initiated under Section 279 of the law at Rajhara Police Station.

District athletes shine bright in National Kickboxing Championship

Secure 5 Gold and 2 Silver medals

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Aug 25: The district's athletes have once again showcased their exceptional prowess on the national stage, this time at the National Kickboxing Championship, leaving an indelible mark of pride not only in their region but also on the entire state. A team comprising 50 members from Chhattisgarh participated in the championship held in Kolkata, where they clinched an impressive tally of 5 gold medals and 2 silver medals.

In recognition of their remarkable achievements, the athletes were felicitated by Collector Sanjeev Kumar Jha. The felicitation ceremony took



place at the district office, where the Collector personally acknowledged and congratulated each player, wishing them continued success.

Deepak Prasad, the President of the Amateur Kickboxing Association of Chhattisgarh, revealed that this fierce competition unfolded from August 18 to 21 at the Khudiram Bose Indoor Stadium in Kolkata. The championship saw the participation

of approximately 650 athletes representing 21 states, accompanied by 60 officials.

In a display of exceptional skill, Abhishek Tiwari from Mungeli and Disha Singh from Kargi Road Kota secured gold medals. Adding to the victory, Ajay Singh Thakur, Domyendra Pratap, and Pankaj Singh Rajput also earned gold medals, while Divyanshu Porte and Nikhil Paikara showcased their talent with silver medals.

Indian batting's form and bowling depth in focus for Asia Cup

Bengaluru, Aug 25:

The three-match T20I series in Ireland was a valuable testing ground for the Indian cricket team. Returning from injuries, Jasprit Bumrah and Prasidh Krishna showcased promising performances, with Bumrah leading the team and securing a strong return.

While the bowlers are regaining their rhythm, concerns loom over the Indian batting lineup as they approach the significant Asia Cup, where they will face formidable competitors like Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.

Key players Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have had limited ODI exposure in recent years. Young talent Shubman Gill, after an initial burst of success, faced challenges in maintaining consistency. Amidst this, the form of senior cricketer



Suryakumar Yadav raises concerns. His ODI record is unimpressive, and his inclusion is based on the hope of translating his T20 success into the 50-over format. Ishan Kishan, a rising star, is also battling for a spot in the team. His

recent performances have been a mixed bag, from a remarkable 210 against Bangladesh to struggles in subsequent games.

Hardik Pandya, who made a comeback last year, needs to amplify his impact with the bat in

ODIs. His bowling will also be crucial for India's success.

As the Indian batting order grapples with inconsistency, the burden may fall on the shoulders of the bowlers. Their leading bowlers, like Bumrah, Krishna, Shami, and others, are returning from injuries and need to adapt to the longer format.

With Kuldeep Yadav as the primary spinner and Ravindra Jadeja providing balance as an all-rounder, India's bowling department shows promise.

However, India's performance in the Asia Cup will be crucial in gauging their preparation for the World Cup. As they face challenging matches against Pakistan and other tough contenders, the tournament will serve as a litmus test for India's strengths and weaknesses, shaping their approach to the upcoming World Cup.

Neeraj Chopra qualifies for 2024 Olympics

■ Enters World Championships final with 88.77m throw

Budapest, Aug 25 (PTI):

Neeraj Chopra needed just one big throw to qualify for 2024 Paris Olympics and the World Championships javelin throw final, pulling off a commendable first-attempt of 88.77m here on Friday.

Not only Chopra but DP Manu (81.31m) and Kishore Jena (80.55m) also made the cut as three Indians qualified the final of an event in the World Championships for the first time ever.

The 2024 Paris Olympics qualifying mark is 85.50m. The qualifying window had opened on July 1.

The 25-year-old Chopra's qualifying round lasted just a few minutes as he sent the spear to his season's best distance in his very first



attempt in the Group A qualification round. He topped the qualification round.

Chopra had won a silver in the 2022 World Championships in USA. With the automatic final

qualification mark set for 83m, Chopra, who has a personal best of 89.94m, packed up and left the competition arena without taking any further throw. The final will be held on Sunday.

Those who throw 83m or the top-12 best performers from both Group A and B qualify for the final.

Competing in the same group with Chopra in his debut World Championships, Manu finished third and sixth overall with a best throw of 81.31m which he produced in his second attempt. Manu had won a silver in the Asian Championships in July.

Jena, whose visa was rejected first by the Hungarian embassy in New Delhi before being cleared the next day, ended fifth in Group B and ninth overall with 80.55m. It is also his debut World Championships.

"For the first time three Indians have qualified for the final round of an event in World Championships. It has never happened earlier. It's a historic day for Indian javelin," a team coach in the Indian contingent told PTI.

ISSF World Championships

India clinch top spot in Women's 50M Pistol; finish with six gold medals

Baku (Azerbaijan), Aug 25 (PTI): Tiyana, Sakshi Suryavanshi and Kirandeep Kaur combined to clinch gold in the Women's 50M Pistol here on Friday as India finished the 2023 ISSF World Championships with six gold and eight bronze medals in total.

Hence, India finished the event with 14 medals, second behind China. India also ensured four Paris Olympic quotas for the tournament.

In the team event, the Indian trio grossed 1,573 points to secure gold while China finished second with 1,567, and Mongolia was third with 1,566.

Later, Tiyana also won a bronze in the individual Women's 50M Pistol event.

Tiyana shot 533 during the individual competi-

tion. Sakshi shot 531 for the fifth place and Kirandeep finished 11th while shooting 509.

India also got hold of a couple of bronze medals in the Men's 50M Pistol.

Ravinder Singh came up with a shot of 556 in the individual event, taking the third spot before partnering with Kamaljeet and Vikram Shinde to bag the team bronze with a total of 1,646.

In the final Olympic event of the tournament, the Indian duo of Prithviraj Tondaiman and Manisha Keer produced a shot of 133 and finished 22nd.

On the other hand, Kynan Chenai and Preeti Rajak also came up with the same score but were placed 24th in the final calculations.

Return of Simone Biles and Sunisa Lee is a boon for US gymnastics

San Jose (US), Aug 25 (AP):

Joscelyn Roberson's always had her eye on the 2024 Olympics. The math just sort of worked.

The Texan is going to be 18 next summer, an age long considered an athletic sweet spot for elite female gymnasts, at least in the United States.

Each of the six American women to become the Olympic all-around champion from Mary Lou Retton in 1984 to Sunisa Lee in Tokyo in 2021 were teenagers when gold medals were placed around their necks.

So yeah, Roberson watched the end of the pandemic-delayed 2020 games and let her mind wander to what may loom for her in Paris. She knew



she'd be old enough to compete. She figured a significant portion of the 2020 women's team would move on to the next phase of their lives, ceding the

spotlight to the next wave of elites.

For quadrennium after quadrennium, that's typically how things worked. Not in 2023.

When Roberson walks onto the floor at the SAP Center on Friday night in the opening round of the U.S.

Gymnastics Championships, she will see six of the 10 American women who were in Tokyo Biles, Lee, Jordan Chiles, Jade Carey and alternates Leanne Wong and Kayla DiCello standing alongside her.

All of them will be eyeing their own spot on the five-woman team that will be in Paris next summer.

Suddenly, the vision in Roberson's head got crowded. A lot more crowded. And while she calls competing against Biles and Lee "surreal," she's also well aware it means making it to France or this fall's world championships in Belgium has become far more difficult.

Lin Zhu beats top seed Caroline Garcia in straight sets in Cleveland quarterfinals

Cleveland, Aug 25 (AP):

Lin Zhu of China beat top-seeded Caroline Garcia of France 6-4, 6-1 in the quarterfinals of Tennis in the Land. Zhu, ranked No. 48 in the world, has not lost a set through three rounds in Cleveland. She broke No. 7 Garcia five times to advance to the semifinals. Garcia received a wild card to make her initial appearance at the WTA 250 event. "I'm very proud of my performance today because Caroline is an amazing player," Zhu said.

"She always hits a big serve, and I have to be ready and be more patient and stay in the game against her." Fourth-seeded Ekaterina Alexandrova will face Zhu in the semifinals of the U.S. Open tune-up after rallying past



Xinyu Wang 5-7, 6-0, 7-5. The tournament was affected by multiple rain delays for the second straight day, forcing ninth-seeded Sloane Stephens to play two matches in an eight-hour span. No. 38 Stephens defeated 16-year-old Mirra Andreeva 6-3, 6-3 in the morning but lost 6-1, 6-3 to Sara Sorribes Tormo in the quarterfinals. Tatjana Maria beat Leylah Fernandez 6-3, 6-2 in the other evening match. Both semifinals will be played Friday.

World champion Spain rises to No. 2 in FIFA rankings led by Sweden

■ USA loses top spot after 6 years

Zurich, Aug 25 (AP):

FIFA Women's World Cup winner Spain rose to No. 2 in the FIFA rankings published Friday, with the United States of America falling off the top spot for the first time in more than six years.

Sweden, which lost to Spain in the semifinals, tops the rankings. FIFA said Spain, which jumped four spots, would have led but for ranking points lost in a group-stage 4-0 defeat by Japan. The US dropped to No. 3. The two-time defending World Cup cham-



pion lost in the pre-quarters to Sweden. European champion England, which

lost to Spain in the final, stayed at No. 4. England won its semifinal against

France, which is No. 5. Germany dropped to sixth from second after failing to advance from the group stage at the World Cup. Germany was the last European team to lead the rankings in 2017.

Olympic champion Canada also failed to reach the knockout rounds and dropped three places to No. 10. World Cup co-host Australia fell one place to 11th because it lost the third-place game to Sweden. Teams rising after impressing at the World Cup include Colombia (up three to No. 22), Nigeria (up eight to No. 32), South Africa (up nine to No. 45) and Morocco (up 14 to No. 58).

I think people will start to notice Indian chess: Praggnanandhaa

New Delhi, Aug 25 (PTI):

Humble to the core, teen sensation R Praggnanandhaa was far from realising the enormity of his achievement in the FIDE World Cup but reckoned his incredible run could force people to "start noticing" Indian chess.

It needed the sheer brilliance of Magnus Carlsen to stop the 18-year-old Praggnanandhaa's march as he finished second best after losing in the final on Thursday.

"I feel very good to be in the finals, today I didn't win, but it's normal in chess," Praggnanandhaa told PTI from Baku hours after he finished runner-up.

"No, not yet, but I guess it will at some point," he



said with a smile when asked if he understood the magnitude of his feat.

Praggnanandhaa put up a valiant effort in the final and held world No. 1 and five-time world champion Carlsen to a draw in the two classical games before going down in the tie-break. As he shook hands with the Norwegian GM, Praggnanandhaa was surrounded by a group of children asking for his autograph.

"I think it's good for the game and very happy to see so many people following it. And yeah, it'd be nice to see many kids coming to the game and I feel like that's, that's where it's heading to, and I'm very happy with that," Praggnanandhaa replied humbly when asked if he's enjoying the spotlight.

"It (reaching the final) will get more people to play chess and I think in general people will start to

notice Indian chess. I think that many people are recognising the sport and I think more people are coming to the game, it's good."

His stupendous run at the World Cup involved defeating world No.2 Hikaru Nakamura and world No.3 Fabiano Caruana.

His list of achievements does not end there, as he also became the third youngest player after Bobby Fischer and Carlsen to qualify for the Candidates tournament.

The achievement becomes even more remarkable considering the teen has been on his toes for the last two months, playing tournament after tournament. "I have been playing continuous tournaments so I didn't have much time to train for this event.

Indian women's hockey team starts 5s WC qualifier with a 7-2 win over Malaysia

New Delhi, Aug 25

(PTI):

India began their campaign in the Women's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier with a rousing 7-2 win against Malaysia in Oman on Friday.

For India, captain Navjot Kaur (3th, 28th), Akshata Dhekale (4th), Mariana Kujur (17th), Monika Dipi Toppo (12th, 20th) and Mahima Choudhary (28th) were on target. Malaysia struck through Wan Wan (7th)

and Aziz Zafirah (11th). India made an attacking start with a fast-paced set-play, scoring in the third minute through Navjot.

India's lead was doubled a minute later, when Dhekale scored a field goal.

Wan's strike gave Malaysia a goal back, and they equalised four minutes later courtesy Zafirah's flawless conversion of a Challenge Goal.

However, India quickly counterattacked and took the lead through Monika. At the end of the first-half, India were leading 3-



2. A quick start to the second half saw India score their fourth goal in the 17th minute through Kujur.

She made a run from the right flank, beating Malaysian defenders to find the back of the net.

Monika was on the score sheet once again in the 20th minute, extending India's lead to 5-2. In the 28th minute, Mahima made it 6-2 for India.

With two minutes remaining, Navjot scored for the second time as India won 7-2. India will next take on Japan on Saturday.

India to send 634 athletes to Asian Games; Bajrang figures in list

New Delhi, Aug 25 (PTI): A record number of 634 sportspersons were on Friday cleared by the Sports Ministry to compete at the Hangzhou Asian Games, surpassing the 572 athletes in the last edition of continental showpiece in Jakarta in 2018.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) had recommended 850 athletes for event to be held in Hangzhou from September 23. Track and field events have got the pride of place as 65 athletes - 34 men and 31 women - are part of the huge contingent.

Sportspersons in 38 disciplines have been cleared, with a total of 44 footballers - 22 players in men's and women's sections respectively - figuring in the list.

Hockey constitutes the third-highest number of athletes at 36, with the ministry clearing 18 players each in the men's and women's sections.

The list also includes the men's and women's cricket teams, comprising 15

members each respectively. Shooting sport, in which India has performed consistently in the continental showpiece, will see a big 30-member contingent competing in Hangzhou, while a 33-member sailing contingent has also been cleared.

Classifieds

REQUIREMENT

Ecom logistics delivery startup wants delivery channel partner for parcel delivery Get attractive income, call now 7880094008, 7880094009, www.elds.live Thnx.

Contact for Classified Advertisement : 94242 03139

Readers are recommended to make all enquiries and seek appropriate advice before acting on any advertisement appearing in this publication. The Company, Publisher or any of its employees do not vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of products and services and shall not be held liable for any damages, loss, consequences, suffered by any person on account of relying on such advertisements.

'Lalu Yadav playing badminton after getting bail in fodder scam'

New Delhi, Aug 25 (PTI)

The CBI on Friday told the Supreme Court that RJD supremo Lalu Prasad was playing badminton after being enlarged on bail in a fodder scam case on medical grounds, as it sought cancellation of the relief granted to the former Bihar chief minister.

Prasad's counsel opposed any move to cancel septuagenarian leader's bail, saying he has undergone a kidney transplant recently.

The CBI has approached the seeking cancellation of Prasad's bail in the Doranda treasury case in which he has been sentenced to five years in prison.

Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the CBI, submitted

CBI tells SC

that the Jharkhand High Court order granting bail to the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader was "bad in law" and "erroneous".

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing Prasad, opposed the CBI's application on account of the former union minister having gone a kidney transplant surgery.

Sibal told the bench that Prasad has already served 42 months behind bars in the case.

"He is playing

badminton. He has been granted bail after conviction in the case. I will demonstrate that the high court order is bad in toto. There's a short question of law. The bail has been granted on erroneous assumption that he has spent more than 3.5 years considering that sentences are concurrent and not consecutive," Raju told the court.

Prasad has so far been sentenced in five cases of

the Rs 950 crore fodder scam, which took place between 1992 and 1995 when he was the Bihar chief minister and held the finance and animal husbandry portfolios.

Huge money was withdrawn from different treasuries in Bihar and the present-day Jharkhand on the basis of fake and forged bills and vouchers related to fodder, medicines and artificial insemination.

HC pulls up I-T officials over 'snail's pace' of work in 'click of mouse age'

New Delhi, Aug 25 (PTI)

Even in this hi-tech "click of mouse age" some government officials are yet to come out of their love for "snail's pace" style of working, the Delhi High Court has said, dismissing a plea by the Income Tax authorities to condone a delay of nearly 500 days in filing an appeal.

The high court said negligent or deliberate dormancy on the part of government officials cannot be countenanced. It said time has come when due diligence has to replace negligence which

pervades some of the government agencies so justice does not hang at the altar of "dereliction, default, negligence and indifference".

It said despite the anguish expressed by courts at all levels through various judicial pronouncements, no change has taken place in the work attitude of officials of some of the government departments.

"Largely, behind such delays on the part of government agencies in initiating appropriate legal proceedings lies extreme laxity, negligence and dereliction of duties on

the part of government officials. Even in this hi-tech click of mouse' age some of the government officials are yet to come out of their love for snail pace' style of working.

"Worst is when such delays are aimed at simply completing formalities so that the government appeals get dismissed on the grounds of limitation, to the designed benefit of the other party," a bench of Justices Rajiv Shakdher and Girish Kathpalia said.

It said it is high time that such government officials were taken to task

and penalised to recompense the exchequer.

"Time has come to take drastic measures qua lethargy- caused litigation delays, lest the chaos in judicial functioning percolates further," it said.

The high court's order came while dismissing an application filed by the Principal Commissioner of Income Tax seeking condonation of a delay of 498 days in filing an appeal under the Income Tax Act. The time to file appeals under the IT Act is 120 days. It also dismissed the appeal.

Three arrested for pelting stones on trains in Kerala

Kannur, Aug 25 (PTI)

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has arrested three persons in connection with two separate stone-pelting incidents on trains in Malappuram and Kannur districts.

The RPF team had taken into custody, Mahe resident M P Saidees, on Wednesday

for allegedly throwing a stone at a Vande Bharat train on August 16 when it passed through Tanur-Tirur region of Malappuram District. Meanwhile, in another incident, two hawkers selling local products on trains were arrested on Thursday for allegedly throwing stones at each

other during a brawl which accidentally hit the Ernad Express at Thalassery station. A Railway official said the RPF examined 15 CCTV visuals from the Vande Bharat express and numerous other cameras from Mahe railway station, as part of the probe to nab the accused in the stone-pelting incident of August 16.

जलने के बाद पुनःनिर्माण सर्जरी (रिकंस्ट्रक्शन)

कालड़ा बर्न एवं प्लास्टिक कॉंस्ट्रक्टिव सर्जरी सेंटर
आर.के.सी.के.सामन्, चौबे कालोनी एवं पंचोन्दी नाका, धर्मलपो रोड, कटर्स मॉल के पास, रायपुर
कॉल : 9827143060/8871003060
Ajay Advt.

Shaandar Shanivaar, Shandaar Mauka!

Apna Ghar Kharidne ka!

Plots | Flats | Bungalows | Villas | Business Spaces

— Our Participants —

PROPERTY EXPO '23

26 27

— August —

Indoor Stadium, Budhapara, Raipur
Time- 11 Am To 9 Pm

Bumper Prize

A TATA PRODUCT

TANISHQ

the Rakhi edit

Light up her smile a bit more, this Rakhi.

UP TO 20% OFF*
On diamond jewellery value

To locate your nearest store and know more on 6366920017. Buy online at tanishq.co.in or Download our App *Conditions apply, For T&C visit our website.

Showrooms at **Raipur**: 11-12, Shaheed Smarak Complex, Near Jaistambh Chowk, G. E. Road. Tel: 0771 4098181; Near Highway Inn, Opp. New Rajendra Nagar Thana, Vallabh Nagar, Civil Lines. Tel: 077142 50000; Pandri Main Road, Near Atal Expressway. Tel: 7714222333; Grace Plaza Nehru Nagar Square, Bhilai. Tel: 0788 - 4018181, 82, 83; **New store open Opposite DBS Bank, Station Road, Durg. Tel: 9405654985; Bilaspur**: Ram Magneto Mall | **Korba**: Palm Mall | **Ambikapur**: Ambedkar Chowk