

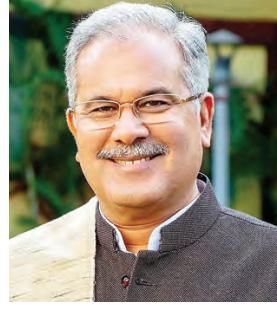


# Centre misusing agencies: Baghel

● Says ED posed danger before democracy

Raipur, Aug 27: Targeting Bharatiya Janata Party over action of Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Chhattisgarh, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that BJP government at the centre was misusing agencies. Quoting BJP state in-charge OM Mathur as saying 'let's see what happens in two months ahead of elections' during his recent visit to Sarguja, Baghel asked whether the statement of the BJP in-charge was enough to prove that the BJP will contest the elections with the help of the ED. ED's action is being taken in view of the elections, Baghel said while talking to the media in Raipur before leaving for Bhatapara on Sunday.

Baghel also charged the ED with defaming the state government in the online betting app case. ED goes to departments one after



another but it does not get anything, Baghel said. He said that ED was currently taking action on online app on which state government already took action and issued lookout circular.

In the last one year in Chhattisgarh, ED and IT officers have raided more than 200 individuals/institutions and government offices. He said that ED officials were resorting to repressive action and creating fake narrative over alleged coal scam, liquor scam, rice scam and now Mahadev Apps scam on the basis of false statements of recovery of movable and immovable prop-

erty.

The Chief Minister said that the BJP government at the Center amended money laundering law in such a way that ED officers got unlimited powers. ED officers can attach any property without citing any reason and after that there is no possibility of its release for years, he said. It has now become easy for the ED officers to get desired statement of any witness using threat to send to jail, said Baghel.

Intimidating, abusing and thrashing witness has become a normal for ED officials, Baghel said, adding that if witnesses do not obey the authorities, their family members are threatened with arrest and the desired statements are obtained in written. The children, brothers, parents and wives of the witnesses are summoned by the authorities for fulfillment of this conspiracy, he said. In any democratic system, making any institution autocratic and violating civil rights in this way has been

come a matter of biggest concern for the country, he added.

## RAKHI SELECTION



There was huge rush for selection of Rakhi by people prior to festival of 'Rakshabandhan' here on Sunday.

## DCC to finalise names of contenders sent from BCC

Name of five panels done at BCC-level; three at DCC

Panel to be formed where no name has been finalized for a seat

SEC to decide on panels on Sept 3

Raipur, Aug 27: On finalization of panel of Congress contenders at block-level, the ball is in the court of District Congress Committee (DCC). The sealed panel of five contenders from block-level has been sent to the DCC and on which the DCC will prepared list three names for the panel and would send it to PCC. There are indications of release of first list of Congress by September 6 and Congress is taking all precautions and measures in selection of the party's candidate. On the statement of 'return-gift' by CM after the ED's raid, the exercise between the govern-

nance and organisation has increased.

The Block Congress Committee (BCC) in the presence of in-charges and observers the procedure of selection of names of contenders have been completed. From all the blocks, names of five contenders have been sent in a sealed envelope. The exercise by the DCC will be held on Aug 29 and by Aug 31, the proposal of names from DCC will be sent to PCC. DCC will also send the names of three contenders in sealed envelope to PCC. It is in the PCC that the sealed envelopes of BCC and DCC will be opened.

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The collector told the officials of the health department to hold a meeting of the Mitanans (community health workers) and go door-to-door to contact the people and get dengue test done for those who have symptoms of fever etc.

If someone is found dengue positive, he should be brought to the doctor or to the nearest health center for treatment, he emphasised. The Collector also asked people to eat fresh food and stay clean and tidy.

Mosquito nets should be used to avoid mosquitoes, he said. Municipal Commissioner Mayank Chaturvedi, Chief Health Officer Dr Mithlesh Choudhary and other officers were present on the occasion.

The programme was presided over by Vivek Acharya, Director, Culture Department. Vidya Rajput thanked Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Culture Minister Amarjit Bhagat on behalf of third gender for the programme organized to give opportunity to artists of third gender community. The program was started with 'Maa Kali Vandana' and dance by the artists of Pratima Group from Janjgir Champa. After this, the artists of Swaragini Group presented 'Suageet', 'Karma Geet', 'Dadri' and Holi songs. Presentation of 'Shiv Vandana' in Kathak was given by Yuvraj Bagh and company from Raipur. Yuvraj Bagh won the hearts of people with his style in 'Kathak Tihai', 'Paran' and 'Thumri'.

Kanta Eli Mahanand of Durg presented classical dance. An attractive and musical programme based on the life of transgender was presented by Pratima Dance Group. Police department AIG Sanjay Singh, Joint Director of Public Relations Department Alok Dev, Joint Director of Social Welfare Department Nadeem Qazi, Deputy Director Culture and Official Language Umesh Mishra, President of Tribal Arts Council Naval Shukla, Vidya Rajput from Third Gender, Senior Photographer Dipendra Dewan and citizens were present.

Raipur, Aug 27: Collector Dr Narendra Sarveshwar Bhure during his visit to Ramnagar area of ??the capital appealed to the local residents to be vigilant about dengue and other infectious diseases.

He took stock of arrangements including cleanliness in the area and interacted with the citizens. He inspected the places of accumulation of water including coolers in the houses in Ramnagar Basti and instructed to throw away the accumulated water.

Dr Bhure asked people to stop water accumulation in their surroundings and empty the water cooler regularly. Water cooler is a favorable place for dengue larvae to flourish, he said,

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# Realising the vision of 'Viksit Bharat' through growing Youth empowerment



**10 Lakh** appointments in Government  
through **Rozgar Mela**

Distribution of appointment letters to more  
than **51 thousand** candidates selected in  
Government Jobs across the country at 45 venues

by  
**Prime Minister  
Narendra Modi**

**28 August, 2023 | 10:30 AM**  
(via video conferencing)



5 Lakh youth appointed in  
Government so far



Easy, fair and transparent  
selection process



Continuous monitoring of  
vacancies and recruitment  
process through online system



Special benefits to women,  
specially abled persons and  
candidates from Aspirational  
Districts



All appointments through  
agencies like UPSC, SSC, Railway  
Recruitment Board, IBPS



Online orientation courses for  
all new appointees in various  
Government Departments through  
Karmayogi Prarambh Module



Watch the live telecast of  
the event on DD News

For more information regarding training visit the website  
of Karmayogi Module <https://igotkarmayogi.gov.in/> or  
Scan the QR code



# Thieves strike two ATM kiosks; steal cash



Bhilai, Aug 27:

According to Bhilai Nagar Police Station, they received information regarding a fire at two ATM kiosks located in Hudco Colony of Bhilai Nagar. Later, it was discovered that the accused used gas cutters to break the ATM machines and steal the cash. After stealing the cash, they set the ATM machine and Air Conditioners on fire.

Some unidentified thieves allegedly robbed two ATM kiosks and decamped with over Rs 30 lakhs on the intervening night of Sunday. The accused used gas cutters to break the ATM machines and steal the cash. After stealing the cash, they set the ATM machine and Air Conditioners on fire.

## ESAF Small Finance Bank organises 'India with Me' Painting Competition



Bhilai, Aug 27:

ESAF Small Finance Bank, Durg organised a National Level Painting Competition for students in Junior and Senior Categories on August 25, 2023, to celebrate Art and Strengthen our bonds with the community. Students of Shri Mahavir Jain Hr Sec School, Durg took part in the competition and displayed their creativity and skills through their paintings based upon the competition's theme "India with Me".

Certificates were distributed to all the participants by the ESAF Bank.

The paintings under the respective categories shall be sent for selection at the national level. Cash Prizes worth Rs 50,000 will be awarded to the winner of this competition, while the winners in the Second and Third positions shall be awarded with Cash-prizes worth Rs 25,000 and Rs 15,000, respectively. The competition was held for students in two categories, being Junior (Students from 1st to 5th Standards) and Senior (Students from 6th to 10th Standards).

On behalf of Shri Mahavir Jain Hr Sec School, Durg, Prabha Verma, Principal, Paras Jain, HR, Prashant Joshi, Pragya Jain, Rashmi Srivastava were present on this occasion, along with Monika Dewangan, Branch Manager, Nupur Dhoke, Assistant Manager and Saurabh Patankar, from ESAF Small Finance Bank, Durg were also present on this occasion, along with other Senior Officers from the Bank.

The ongoing 'Colourful Stories with Colours - 2023, Season-2' has been organised from August 14 to September 15, 2023. The interested persons may contact their nearest ESAF Small Finance Bank Branch for more details.

## BSP employees of SMS-II felicitated with Shiromani Awards



Bhilai, Aug 27:

Employees of Steel Melting Shop-II of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant were awarded with 'Pali Shiromani' and 'Karm Shiromani' Awards for their exemplary work performance under the 'Shiromani Puraskar Yojana' by BSP, in an Award Ceremony held at SMS-II. Yogesh Shastri, Acting CGM (SMS-II) was the chief guest of the Award Ceremony.

Mansingh Thakur, Chief Master Technician, K Prabhakar Rao, OCT, AH Khan, Operative were awarded

the 'Karm Shiromani Award', for their exemplary performance for the month of July 2023. Govind Ram, Sr Mgr, was awarded the Pali Shiromani Award for his commendable performance during the quarter of April to June 2023.

Chief Guest Yogesh Shastri, Acting CGM (SMS-II), felicitated the awardees and appreciated them for their achievements and contributions at the workplace.

Our workers have earned several accomplishments by winning many challenges with their tireless hard work, efficiency and technical efficiency. Shastri encouraged all the employees of SMS-II to work in the future with the same spirit.

General Managers of SMS-II, Saurabh Jain, N Shrikant, and Balaji Singh were also present on this occasion, along with NP Toppo, AGM (SMS-II) and Sanjeev Singh. All the present guests also congratulated the award winners by appreciating their exemplary performance.

The programme was conducted by KD Baghel, and RK Thakur, Additional LWOs. Puran Sahu, and Narendra Kurre also contributed in making the program successful.

Bhilai, Aug 27:

"Leadership is not a position or a title, it is action and example." The Investiture Ceremony, a solemn occasion wherein all the young students are well prepared to don the mantle of leadership and responsibility while carrying it out with utmost dedication was solemnized at DAV Public School Hudco, on 26 August, for the Academic Session 2023-24 with great pomp and dignity. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Sonal Gupta (Member of Bal Sanrakshan Aayog, State of Chhattisgarh). The event began with the school band giving a ceremonial welcome to the Chief Guest. A spirit of unity and dynamism filled the air as the Grand Ceremony commenced with the Lighting of the auspicious Lamp of knowledge followed by the soulful rendition by the school choir group. In his welcome address Prashant Kumar (Principal cum Deputy Regional Officer, CG Zone A) briefed everyone about the election procedure and said that it was done after scrutinizing written

ten exam, GD, brainstorming session followed by the interviewing of the selected one. He also advised the students to discharge their duties sincerely and nurture their fellow schoolmates in becoming good leaders in future.

The chief guests for the event congratulated all the batch holders and stated that leadership is practiced not so much in words, as in attitude and in actions.

Therefore, it is essential for us to realize that every action is a reflection of our character, our integrity and our ability. He said that true leadership is in

making bridges and there is no place other than school where students can get the best lessons in life skills.

The event proceeded with the announcement of the names of School Council Members Devraj Singh (School Captain, Boy), Ujjwala Sahu (School Captain, Girl), Bhavya Jain (School Head Boy) and Anukriti Tiwari (School Head Girl) by the chief guest Sonal Gupta followed by administering of oath taking, pinning up of badges and honoring them with sashes. The Vice School Council members were Priyansh Bhaduri (Vice Head, Boy), Shristi Singh (Vice Head, Girl), Mrinal Das (School Vice Captain, Boy) and Rishika (School Vice Captain, Girl) were honored with sashes, pinning of batches and administering of Oath by Chief guest. Principal Prashant

Manju Sharma (Supervisory Head) hon-

## DAV celebrates leadership at investiture ceremony



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Kumar pinned up the badges and administered the oath to the newly elected Secretaries of cabinet namely Darshana Singh (Cultural Secretary), Anmol Malviya (Discipline Secretary), Khanak Mathur (Literary Secretary), Jaskaran Singh (Sports Secretary), Biji A Kumar (Supervisory Head) administered the oath and presented the badges and sashes to Leeshan Verma (Head Boy, Junior Wing), Aaradhya Tiwari (Head Girl, Junior Wing), Anuj Sinha (School Captain Boy, Junior Wing) and Devmani Choudhary (School Captain, Girl, Junior Wing) as Junior Wing School Council Members.

Manju Sharma (Supervisory Head) hon-

ored the Primary Wing Office Bearers by administering the oath and presenting the badges and sashes to Atharva Nath (Head Boy, Pre-Primary Wing), Aariya Chandrakar (Head Girl, Primary Wing), Chirag Kumar Roy (School Captain, Boy, Pre-Primary Wing) and Priyanshi Nag (School Captain, Girl, Primary Wing).

The house wardens of Nehru House - Shuvadip Pramanik (Senior Wing), Patel House - LM Patel (Senior Wing), Subhash House - Shravani Sen Gupta (Senior Wing), and Tagore House - Chetna Khanna (Senior Wing) presented the sashes and badges to the different secretaries of their houses and handed over the flag to them which is a symbolic representation of handing over the responsibility to the new office bearers. The students' Council took the pledge to hold the school motto of Loyalty, Truth and Honour in high esteem. With the flags held high and heads standing tall, the ceremony concluded with the Shanti path followed by the National Anthem.

## Durg Police gears up for Vidhan Sabha elections

Bhilai, Aug 27:

In view of the Assembly Elections 2023, Superintendent of Police (Durg) Shalabh Kumar Sinha chaired a meeting of all the gazetted officers and station / chowki in-charges in the Police Control Room. In the meeting, he directed to intensify action under the minor acts and prohibitory sections.

He asked the officials to keep an eye on the people involved in the business of illegal liquor and take action against drug peddlers. He asked the officers to get the licensed weapons deposited in the police station. Instructions were given to maintain vigil on the activities of habitual criminals; listing of mis-



creants who created disturbance during the elections in the past, regular checking of goons and miscreants; intensifying arrests and serving of unexpired warrants; vehicle checking; meticulous checking of vehicles entering the district, etc.

Strict instructions were given to keep a special vigil in the sensitive polling stations of the region and keep an eye on persons

who entice voters. SP asked the officers to strengthen the network of informers. Sanjay Kumar Dhruv (Additional Superintendent of Police, City), Anant Sahu (Additional Superintendent of Police, Rural), Umesh Gupta (Probationary IPS), Meeta Pawar (Additional Superintendent of Police, IUCAW), Mani Shankar Chandra (City Superintendent of Police, Durg), Vishwa Deepak Tripathi (City Superintendent of Police, Bhilai Nagar), Ashish Banchore (City Superintendent of Police, Chhawani), Sanjay Pandur (Sub-Divisional Officer of Police, Dhamda), Satish Thakur (Deputy Superintendent of Police Traffic), SS Vindhya Raj (Deputy Superintendent of Police, Traffic), Rajeev Sharma (Deputy Superintendent of Police, Crime), Vinod Minj (Deputy Superintendent of Police, AJK), Akanksha Pandey (Probationary DSP), Ramesh Kumar Chandra (Reserve Inspector, Durg) and SHOs of all the police stations and chowkis were present.

## Vinod Sao's collection of satire released

Bhilai, Aug 27:

A new collection of the satire composed by renowned satirist Vinod Sao was released recently during a gracious function held at Durg. New World Publication, New Delhi has published the book "Vinod Sao - selected satirical compositions". Govt VYT College Principal Dr RN Singh,



Head of Department (Hindi) Dr Abhinesh

Surana and famous critic Jaiprakash were present

on the dais during the release of this book. Sao delivered the keynote address during the programme organised for research students under the birth-centenary celebrations Harishankar Parsai.

Dr Krishna Chatterjee conducted the program and Annapurna Mahato proposed the vote of thanks.

## Sujata, Priyanka & Diya win beauty pageant in Dubai

Bhilai, Aug 27:

JK Foundation's first international beauty pageant JK India International Super Model 2023 took place at Royal Huskar Hotel, Dubai. Organizer T Jay Reddy informed that the celebrity guest was Khushbu Khan, while Jury members were Pooja Tripathi Cosmic Universe International, Nayla Fashion Infansal Dubai, Dr Pragati Grover International Winner. The VVIP guest was the celebrity manager Anuj, the VIP guest was Lakhwinder Bachchan. Grooming was done by Sarthak Chowdhary while anchoring was done by Shakeel. Organised in 3 rounds, the first round was Introduction Round, Second Round was Talent Round and Third Round was a question and answer round. All the participants tried their best to win the competition.

The winner from the classic category was Sujata Patel from Odisha. Winner in gold category was Priyanka Kachhwaha from Raigarh Chhattisgarh and in Miss category Diya Nayak from Goa was winner while Rukmani Yadav was first runner up Durg Chhattisgarh.



Neerja Rai Indore was the first runner up in the classic category. Second runner up was Prabha Hussain Bhilai Chhattisgarh and fast runner up in gold category was Priyansi Tanti, Odisha, second runner up was Preeti Tripathi Korba Chhattisgarh.

All other contestants who won International Tag included Neeta Gadewal Bhilai Mrs Photogenic International Tag, Seema Mishra Bhilai Mrs Ambitious International Tag, Kalpana Swami Bhilai Mrs Inspiration International Tag, Mrs Rashmi Sen Jabalpur Mrs Intelligent International Tag, Mrs Farhat Anjum Dhamtari Mrs Dazzling Beauty International Tag, Mrs Jyoti Shandilya Dhamtari Mrs Ji Best Celebrity Manager of Air, V Kumar Saini Best Lilien Marketing Company Of Hotels, Best Makeup Artist Sonal Arora, Best Hotels Managing Bobby, Best Year of the Anchoring Shakeel Khan, Best Year of the Manager Seema Mishra, Best Makeup Artist of the Year Fahrat Anjum were felicitated in the program. Sandy, Sanjay Mishra, Jitesh Kachhwaha, Pradeep Tanti, Imran Khan, etc were present.

Ravishing International Tag. JK Foundation also honored with the International Excellence Award in which Miss Najma Khan won Best Year Of The Best Production, Gary Saha Best Production, Sarthak Chaudhary Year Of The Best Groomer, Anuj Chuke Ji Best Celebrity Manager of Air, V Kumar Saini Best Lilien Marketing Company Of Hotels, Best Makeup Artist Sonal Arora, Best Hotels Managing Bobby, Best Year of the Anchoring Shakeel Khan, Best Year of the Manager Seema Mishra, Best Makeup Artist of the Year Fahrat Anjum were felicitated in the program. Sandy, Sanjay Mishra, Jitesh Kachhwaha, Pradeep Tanti, Imran Khan, etc were present.

# Durg's Chess Association hails Champs Shilp and Advait

Durg, Aug 27:

The District Chess Association of Durg, in partnership with the Agarwal Jan Kalyan and Agarwal Mahila Kalyan Samiti, joined forces with the State Chess Association to provide steadfast support to the recently concluded State Chess Championship. The event, hosted at Agarsen Bhawan in Sector 6, Bhilai, witnessed extraordinary displays of skill by Shilp Kumar Ghodesar and Advait Dhande from Durg district, both securing top honours in the Under 9 and Under 11 Open Categories, respectively.

Shilp garnered a remarkable 5.5 points out of 6, while Advait scored 6 out of 7, proudly clinching the coveted titles of State Chess Champions. Their exceptional feats also



earned them the privilege of representing Chhattisgarh in the National Chess



Championships. Shilp is set to participate in the Under 9 National Chess Championship scheduled

in Jamshedpur (Jharkhand) from November 2 to 8. Meanwhile, Advait will proudly represent Chhattisgarh in the Under 11 National Chess Championship to be held in Andhra Pradesh from October 1 to 8.

Both Shilp and Advait are students at DPS Risali and received coaching from the accomplished international women's chess player, Kiran Agarwal. Ishwar Singh Rajput, President of the District Chess Association of Durg, along with other esteemed members including Treasurer Tulsi Soni, Vice-President S.K. Bhagat, and various others extended their hearty congratulations to Shilp for achieving the State Champion title and wished him a promising future ahead.

Pandaria, Aug 27:

In a concerted effort led by community leaders, including the newly elected village head, council members, teachers, and parents' association of Somnapur Nay village in Pandaria, a noteworthy "Plant Trees, Save Environment" program was successfully executed. With a pledge to nurture the environment, the community united to plant 100 fruit-bearing and flowering trees.

Bhupendra Patel, the village head, articulated the pivotal role trees play in environmental conservation. He emphasized their capacity to provide clean air, fruits, flowers, and wood, while also enhancing rainfall in regions blessed with abundant greenery. Highlighting the program's significance, Patel stressed the neces-



sity of sustained tree planting for enduring environmental preservation. Principal Santosh Kumar Sahu spurred environmental consciousness among students through resonant slogans such as "Come, let's plant trees, fulfill our pledge." This initiative underscored the school's

commitment to fostering environmentally conscious citizens. Chief Educator B. R. Bandhakar lauded the high school management for selecting and planting fruit-bearing plants, fostering a deeper understanding of nature's importance among the students. The event was at-

## Mukesh Kumar Udsena awarded Ph.D. degree



realm of English Literature. The research journey was conducted under the expert guidance of Dr. Manish Varma, Head and Dean of the Faculty of Arts. Warm congratulations and heartfelt well-wishes are pouring in to celebrate his remarkable achievement. The collective faculty of the school, led by A.R. Barhiha, Principal of Kanyashala Pithora, and Umesh Dikshit, President of the Third Category Employee Association Pithora, along with Shripurn Singh Barhiha, Chairman of the School Management Committee Godbahal, Sarpanch Sadaray Patel of Godbahal, Sarpanch Devasingh Divan of Mudhipar Gram Panchayat, Punit Ram Sinha Mandal, and Kalar Samaj Kaudye, have extended their sincere congratulations to mark this significant milestone in his academic journey.

## Youth Congress and NSUI burnt effigies of ED, IT

Jagdalpur, Aug 27:

A resolute statement was made here as the combined forces of Jagdalpur Youth Congress and NSUI orchestrated the fiery effigy burning of Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Income Tax (IT) officials. In an organized protest staged at the prominent Rajiv Bhawan Chowk, the effigies were set ablaze in a display of opposition against what is decried as the relentless manipulation of investigative agencies by the Modi government at the Centre. Guided by the directives of State Congress leadership, the symbolic act of burning effigies resonated with the strong sentiment of disapproval against the continued exploitation of investigative



mechanisms. The Modi government, as alleged, employs these mechanisms to settle personal vendettas rather than fulfilling their intended role of upholding justice.

Sushil Maurya, President of the City District Congress Committee, voiced a stern condemnation of the Modi government's actions. He asserted that these measures are a transparent misuse of power, deployed in a vindictive manner. He further claimed that the government's ulterior motive is to undermine the credibility of the Congress-led administration in Chhattisgarh, threatened by the soaring popularity of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. This unwarranted aggression, he

warned, will be met with fierce resistance by the Congress, promising robust agitation and protest if these tactics persist.

Mayor Safira Sahu echoed this sentiment, deeming the actions of the ED as overtly politically motivated. The central government's blatant misuse of investigative agencies, she stated, is a blatant abuse of authority. In her unwavering stance, she affirmed that no matter the number of ploys deployed by the Modi government and the BJP against the Congress, their stratagems will be ultimately futile.

The event drew participation from prominent figures, including councilors Suryapani, Surendra Jha, Sunita Singh, Dayaram,

Gournath Nag, Rajesh Rai, Kamlesh Pathak, Sunita Baghel, Shweta Baghel, Lekhan Baghel, Awadhesh Jha, as well as key Youth Congress figures such as President Ajay Bisai and Sandeep Das. The assembly also witnessed the presence of National Spokesperson Javed Khan and other notable workers like Tarajit Singh, George Toppo, Dhanuraj Das, Shadab Ahmed, Narendra Tiwari, Aseem Suta. NSUI President Vishal Khambari, Jyoti Rao, Abhishek Gupta, Sulo Kashyap, Abhishek Naidu, Siddharth Tiwari, Gaurav Tiwari, Vinod, and Kamal Sethia also stood united, sending a resounding message of defiance against what they perceive as unjust actions.

## Saraswati cycle distribution boosts student enthusiasm

Katgi, Aug 27:

In a significant development, the Shahid Hemal Higher Secondary School in Jhabadi witnessed a heartening event—the free distribution of Saraswati cycles to 23 eligible ninth-grade students. This noble endeavour was made possible under a vital government scheme aimed at promoting education. The event, graced by the presence of esteemed guests, saw the Chairman of the School Development Management Committee, Amol Kaushik, spearheading the distribution of the cycles. The atmosphere was filled with palpable excitement and joy among the students. The students warmly welcomed the guests with



flower bouquets, setting a cheerful tone for the occasion. Mrs. Kaushik, while addressing the gathering, shared that the distribution of Saraswati cycles through the state government initiative would empower girls with enhanced self-confidence and self-reliance. She urged the students to wholeheartedly embrace their studies and leverage the government's provisions to pave the way for a promising future.

Nohar Singh Shrivastava, the Principal of Shahid Hemal Kaushik School, also took the opportunity to convey his best wishes to the students. He expressed his optimism about the students' prospects and urged them to make the most of the opportunities provided.

## MLA Kavita Devi energises Ahiwara Assembly for elections



Nandini Ahiwara, Aug 27: In preparation for the forthcoming Vidhansabha election, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is actively conducting meetings across all Vidhansabha constituencies. As part of this initiative, MLA Kavita Devi, representing the Kodha Assembly in Bihar State, has been appointed as a migrant MLA for the Ahiwara Assembly.

The event witnessed the presence of key figures, including Ahiwara Municipality President Natwar Tamarkar, Bhilai Three Circle President Sushma Jethani, Ahiwara Mandal President Liman Sahu, Jewra Mandal President Jitendra Yadav, and members of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha Pradesha Working Committee—Dau Anand Tamarkar, Hemal Sahu, and Samir Dahare.

MLA Kavita Devi convened a meeting at Mangal Bhawan in Nandini Nagar, where she engaged with office bearers and party workers of the Ahiwara assembly constituency. During the

meeting, she imparted the fundamental principles for securing victory in the elections. Subsequently, she led a visit to the residence of former MLA Rajmahan Savlaram Dahare, accompanied by assembly workers.

The discussion covered upcoming elections and ongoing activities within the Ahiwara assembly.

The event witnessed the presence of key figures, including Ahiwara Municipality President Natwar Tamarkar, Bhilai Three Circle President Sushma Jethani, Ahiwara Mandal President Liman Sahu, Jewra Mandal President Jitendra Yadav, and members of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha Pradesha Working Committee—Dau Anand Tamarkar, Hemal Sahu, and Samir Dahare.

Sharma illuminated his vision for the potential of

## GGP demands payment of compensation to villagers by Aug 28

Korba, Aug 27:



In context of delay in payment of compensation the party workers and leaders of Gonawana Ganatantra Party (GGP) will stage one-day chakka-jam in Sutara above Rapakharra bridge on Aug 29. In this regard, Korba District President Rafiq Ahmed, Minority Cell of GGP submitted a memorandum to the Korba Collector here on Friday to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Katghora.

In this regard, citing the memorandum given by Korba District President, Minority Cell of GGP said that the amount of compensation for the lands of rural farmers from Pathrapali to Shivpur NH 130 is yet to be received.

The land of farmers which is forest rights lease and was in their possession and it is land

on which the farmer used to live his life, that land has now been acquired for NH 130. His compensation should be given immediately. Set aside this the construction of NH-130 has not been completed yet, but toll tax is being illegally collected by NH in Madanpur, which should be stopped immediately and the compensation amount for the farmers of village Sutra, village Kapubhra and Jurali will be fixed for 5 years. Even after the compensation

amount is still not received, the compensation amount should be given to the farmers immediately. NH is working to trap the villagers in the affair of the court.

In order to provide rights to the rural farmers in the interest of the general public, a one-day protest will be held at NH-130 Sutara, Rapakharapul on August 29, 2023 for non-payment before August 28 at Gondwana Ganatantra Party ground.

## Pradeep Sharma urges market-driven RIPA activities



RIPA by advocating demand-responsive initiatives, especially pertaining to small-scale products in proximity to the Nagarnar steel plant. He further championed the rekindling of Bastar's age-old textile prowess. In a noteworthy nod to the Miletus Mission, an organization hailing from Mysore, he endorsed the production of millet bars aimed at combating mal-

nutrition among Bastar's children. This proactive stance also echoed the support provided by NABARD in erecting market stalls to facilitate the sale of RIPA-produced goods.

The Advisor, resolute in his commitment to the region's youth, called for their active engagement in RIPA activities. A pivotal call-to-action resonated throughout the meet-

ing, underlining the integration of forest-based activities, herbal medicine endeavours, and forest produce ventures within RIPA's ambit.

Delving into the Godhan Nyaya Yojana, the review touched on the establishment of self-sustaining 'gothans,' cow dung procurement, vermicompost production, and its efficient distribution. Sharma's directive to

achieve a 50 percent target for vermicompost sales.

Highlighting the consistent purchase of dung in 'gothans' even during elections, Sharma championed the continuity of women's economic empowerment through these groups. The meeting saw the presence of key figures including CCF Wildlife Pandey, Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat Prakash Sarve, Director Kanger Valley National Park Dhamasheel Ganveer, Dean RS Netam, and officials integral to the scheme. This review has set the course for an invigorated RIPA and Godhan Nyaya Yojana aligned with dynamic market realities and grassroots development aspirations.

# Gyanendra Kashyap's key role in historic Chandrayaan-3 achievement



**Brings glory to Basna**

Basna, Aug 27:

India's Chandrayaan-3 has etched its name in history with a triumphant lunar landing. This milestone marks India as the pioneer in landing a spacecraft on the moon's southern pole, placing the nation as the fourth globally to accomplish this remarkable feat. The success of Chandrayaan-3's landing owes a significant debt to Gyanendra Kashyap, a distinguished scientist hailing from the Basna region of Chhattisgarh. With a proud 23-year career at ISRO, Gyanendra Kashyap played a pivotal role, contributing to this monumental achievement.

Gyanendra Kashyap,

sion's success.

Hailing from Singhanpur village and native to Basna district, Gyanendra Kashyap received his initial education at Government Basic Primary School, followed by his secondary education at Government Adarsh Higher Secondary School in Basna. Further studies led him to electronics and telecommunications in Pune, Maharashtra. After a two-year stint in a private company in Bangalore, he joined ISRO in 2000, where he currently serves as a Senior Scientist. Gyanendra's elder brother, Jitendra Kashyap, is a dedicated social worker, while his nephew Anshul Kashyap excels as an electronics engineer from IIT Dhanbad, and Ayush

younger brother of Dr. Jitendra Kashyap and son of Dr. S.P. Kashyap from Basna, has been instrumental in the victorious landing of Chandrayaan-3. He specialized in the satellite's camera sensor's electronic system, a critical component for the mis-

## Congress govt marks golden five-year term in Chh'garh: Puspa Sahu



Fingeshwar, Aug 27:

Ms. Puspa Jagannath Sahu, President of Janpad Panchayat, lauded the Congress-led Chhattisgarh government's remarkable achievements during its five-year term under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. She asserted that Baghel's accomplishments within four years have surpassed the developments witnessed during the previous 15-year tenure of BJP's former Chief Minister, Dr. Raman Singh. Ms. Sahu highlighted the tangible progress made by the state in various sectors under Baghel's administration. Emphasizing Baghel's commitment to his promises, Ms. Sahu noted that the Chief Minister began by fulfilling his pledge to waive off farmers' loans, significantly improving

farming by replacing chemical fertilizers with cow dung-derived organic fertilizers. Operating under the motto "Sarv Hitay Sarv Sukhay" (Welfare and Happiness for All), the government implemented initiatives spanning various sectors. Notable feats include ensuring equitable procurement of Rabi crops at fair prices, supporting landless families through the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Landless Agriculture Labourer Scheme, and improving healthcare accessibility in outer slums through the Bahari Slum Health Scheme and rural markets through the Gramin Haat Bazaar Yojana. Ms. Sahu emphasized that the Bhupesh Baghel government's tenure has been an era of historic achievements, leaving an indelible mark on Chhattisgarh's history.

## Creative brilliance shines at Sunrise School's Rakhi competition



Pandaria, Aug 27:

The halls of Sunrise Public School in Pandaria-Nagar illuminated with creativity and excitement as they hosted a Rakhi Making Competition this Saturday. The event saw an impressive turnout of 140 young participants, each showcasing their artistic finesse in crafting exquisite Rakhis. An exceptional facet of the competition was the integration of Rakhis as messengers of success for India's Chandrayaan-3 lunar mission. This fusion of artistic expression and scientific achievement showcased the students' innovative prowess and their connection with remarkable milestones.

The competition unfolded across three segments: Senior, Junior, and Sub-Junior Principal D.K. Girija

emphasized the vitality of active participation and the exhibition of artistic talents by the children. The Rakhis crafted across all divisions were not just eye-catching but also testified to their enthusiastic involvement.

The top spots in each category were hotly contested, magnifying the tal-

ent and resolve of these budding participants. Sneha Sahu secured the lead in the Senior category, trailed by Rakhi Kesarwani and Raspreet Saluja. Junior champions emerged as Vosmi Khute, Tahseen Bano, and the duo of Puja Sahu and Kajal Chandrakar.

In the Sub-Junior category, Tejas Devangan clinched the winner's laurels, joined by Srishtha Jain and Naushin Bano in the following ranks. The competition echoed not only their creative prowess but also their commitment to excelling in diverse educational realms.

The event culminated with gratitude, as the school's educators extended unwavering support and apt guidance to all participants, ensuring the resounding success of the competition.

Berla, Aug 27:

On the auspicious occasion of Rakshabandhan, a free eye and ear check-up camp will be organized on August 27 in Maa Chandi temple premises located in village Nevanara of Berla block. The camp will be organized under the joint aegis of farmer leader Yogesh Tiwari and Mahavir Intercontinental Service Organization Raipur. In this camp, free eye and ear check-up will be done by experts, in which medicines, spectacles and ear machines will be distributed to the needy patients. In the camp, free medicines will be distributed to the needy after checking the BP and sugar of the patients. Farmer leader Yogesh Tiwari told that the camp will be organized on August 27 from 10 am to 5 pm. His aim is to serve the general public and the poor selflessly.

Tribunal and Appellate Tribunal have been constituted to ensure compliance of the Act. Any senior citizen, who is 60 years of age or more, including parents, who is unable to earn his own income or is unable to maintain himself out of the property owned by him. Such person is entitled to apply for maintenance under the said Act.

Other

District Court Judges and SDMs of various sections of the district, members of the District Advocates Association and paralegal volunteers were present. Inaugurating the program by lighting the lamp, District Judge Shri Katakwar said in his address that the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007, the ADR of the District Court Complex, District and Sessions Judge and Chairman District Legal Services Authority Mr. D.L. Katakwar organised a workshop and training program. On this occasion, the first Additional District and Sessions Judge Ms. Sanghpushpa Bhatpahari, Additional Sessions Judge (FTC) Mrs. Jyoti Agarwal, other

Citizens Act, 2007 was enacted to provide financial security, welfare and protection to senior citizens. In this act, children are expected to give maintenance to their parents and along with this, the government has been expected to build old age homes and ensure medical assistance to senior citizens. He informed that Administrative

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## BRIEF

## GreenCell Mobility

■ Chennai: Electric tourist bus service NueGo promoted by GreenCell Mobility would soon ply on the local routes in Tamil Nadu, the state government said on Sunday. Recently, NueGo became the first battery-operated transport vehicle to be registered in the state following the government order stating all such passenger vehicles shall be issued permits by the transport department. GreenCell's NueGo battery-operated buses will soon ply in Tamil Nadu on local routes, the Industries department said in a social media post.

## Tata Steel

■ New Delhi: Tata Steel plans to scale up the usage of hydrogen in the steel making process after the successful completion of the pilot project at its Jamshedpur plant, in Jharkhand, the company's CEO and MD TV Narendran said. In April 2023, Tata Steel commenced the first of its kind experiment injecting hydrogen gas using 40 per cent of the injection systems in E-blast furnace at its steel plant in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. "It was very successful, we will scale it up. But eventually we need to have green hydrogen available in Eastern India that will determine how it can be used," Narendran told PTI in reply to a question on the results of the trials.

## DLF

■ New Delhi: Realty major DLF Ltd will launch two luxury housing projects worth Rs 15,000 crore in Gurugram during the second half of this financial year to expand its business amid strong demand for premium homes, its Managing Director Ashok Kumar Tyagi said. Buoyed by sales of Rs 8,000 crore worth of flats within three days in February in its new project 'The Arbour' at Gurugram, Tyagi said the company has set a target to achieve sales bookings of Rs 13,000 crore in this fiscal year and hopes to exceed the number.

## Saint Gobain

■ New Delhi: Saint Gobain India, a leading glass maker and a player in housing solutions business, is investing Rs 8,000 crore in 4-5 years to fund capital expenditure and acquisitions to fuel growth, its chief B Santhanam said. The company, which recently acquired stone wool manufacturer Rockwool India and glass wool maker Twiga still has an appetite for inorganic growth here. Saint Gobain India, a subsidiary of the French glassmaker, expects around 10 per cent volume and mix-led growth from the Indian market, where it is witnessing a demand surge.

## Medi Assist

■ New Delhi: Medi Assist Healthcare Services has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to mobilise funds through an initial public offering (IPO). This is the company's second attempt to go public. Earlier, it had filed draft papers with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in May 2021.

# Govt decides not to allow basmati rice exports below \$1,200/tonne

New Delhi, Aug 27 (PTI):

The government has decided not to allow exports of basmati rice below USD 1,200 per tonne to restrict possible "illegal" shipment of white non-basmati rice in the garb of premium basmati rice.

In a statement on Sunday, the commerce ministry said it has directed trade promotion body APEDA not to register contracts below USD 1,200 per tonne. Existing contracts below USD 1,200 per tonne have been kept in abeyance.

A committee under the chairman of APEDA will be set up to evaluate future course of action. Seeking to control retail prices of rice, the central government has been taking several steps to boost domestic supply. In

September last year, it banned exports of broken rice, while last month it imposed restrictions on non-basmati white rice. Last week, a 20 per cent export duty was slapped on parboiled non-basmati rice.

With these curbs, India has now imposed restrictions on all varieties of non-basmati rice. According to the statement of the commerce ministry, the government has issued instructions to APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) to introduce additional safeguards to prevent the possible illegal exports of white non-basmati rice in the garb of basmati rice. As per the instructions, "contracts for basmati exports with the value

of USD 1,200 per MT (tonne) only and above should be registered for issue of Registration cum Allocation Certificate (RCAC)". As per the Foreign Trade Policy, APEDA is mandated to register all contracts for export of basmati rice and then it issues RCAC for the export of basmati rice. The ministry added that contracts with value of below USD 1,200 per tonne may be kept in abeyance. The contracts below this ceiling price would be evaluated by a committee to be set up by the APEDA chairman for understanding the variation in prices and use of this route for export of non-basmati white rice. "It has been noted that there has been large variation in the contract price of basmati being exported with lowest contract price being USD 359 per MT in backdrop of average export price of USD 1,214 per MT during the current month," it said. The committee should submit its report within a period of one month, after which a decision on lower price exports of basmati planned by industry can be taken appropriately.

APEDA should hold consultations with trade to sensitize them about the matter and work with them to discourage any use of this window for export of non-basmati white rice.

India's total exports of basmati rice stood at USD 4.8 billion in 2022-23 in terms of price, while in volume terms it was at 45.6 lakh tonne.

## FPIs invest Rs 10,689 cr in Aug

### Pace of investment slows

New Delhi, Aug 27 (PTI):

After infusing a staggering amount in Indian equities in the past three months, the pace of inflow from foreign investors ebbed in August with a net investment of Rs 10,689 crore on higher crude oil prices and resurfacing of inflation risks.

Further, markets could remain volatile in the coming week due to macroeconomic uncertainty and rising US bond yields. This has been prompting FPIs to flee emerging market equities, including India, and park funds in haven US securities, said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

Also, the poor monsoon in August and its skewed spatial distribution may keep inflation elevated, and this is becoming an

area of concern impacting sentiments in the market. This might impact FPI investment too, V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

According to the data with the depositories, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) invested a net amount of Rs 10,689 crore in Indian equities this month (till August 26).

This figure includes investment through the primary market and bulk deals, which have been gathering momentum recently.

Before this investment, FPIs invested over Rs 40,000 crore each in the past three months in Indian equities.

The net inflow was at Rs 46,618 crore in July, Rs 47,148 crore in June, and Rs 43,838 crore in May. Before that, the inflow was Rs 11,631 crore in April and Rs 7,935 crore in March, data with the depositories showed.

New Delhi, Aug 27 (PTI):

The four public sector general insurance companies are unlikely to get capital funding from the government in the current fiscal, a senior official said. He said one of the PSU non-life insurance companies is likely to give a dividend to the government in the current fiscal and they will be able to meet their solvency margins.

The government last year provided Rs 5,000 crore capital to three insurers -- National Insurance Company, Oriental Insurance Company and United India Insurance Company. The Budget 2023-24 has not provided for the capital infusion for insurance companies. "We do not think there is a need for capital infusion as of now. In fact, one of the general insurance companies may

give a dividend this year," the official said. Currently, there are four general insurance companies in India - New India Assurance, United India Insurance, Oriental Insurance and National Insurance Company. Of this, only New India Assurance is better placed than the rest. Insurance companies are mandated by regulator IRDAI to maintain extra capital over and above the claim amounts they are likely to incur. It acts as a financial backup in extreme situations, enabling the company to settle all claims.

According to rating agency ICRA, most PSU insurers are expected to witness a high combined ratio resulting in net losses, though it will be lower compared to the last few years.

The capital requirement of three PSU general insurers (excluding New India) is

estimated at a sizeable Rs 17,200-17,500 crore to meet solvency of 1.50x as of March 2024, assuming 100 per cent forbearance on FVCA (fair value change account), ICRA said in a report in May.

During 2020-21, Rs 9,950 crore was infused in three public sector general insurers by the government, out of which Rs 3,605 crore was infused in United India Insurance, Rs 3,175 crore in National Insurance and Rs 3,170 crore in Oriental Insurance.

With regard to a committee report on stalled real estate projects, the official said the SWAMIH fund corpus is yet to be utilised fully and banks can put in money in the stalled projects to make them viable after taking permission from the RBI.

A 14-member committee chaired by former NITI

## NEW HORIZONS BECKON



Travellers walk at the duty-free shops area at the newly-inaugurated terminal of Ercan airport outside Nicosia in the self-declared Turkish Republic of North Cyprus (TRNC). Isolated for almost half a century, the self-declared Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has just opened a half-billion-dollar airport terminal in the hope of boosting tourism.

## Skoda Auto India launches Exchange Carnival

Mumbai, Aug 27:

Continuing with its slew of model updates and customer service initiatives, Škoda Auto India launched an Exchange Carnival for August 2023. It includes a host of customer-friendly deals, discounts and service, maintenance, and warranty packages to further enhance the ownership experience of their new Škoda cars.

The Exchange Carnival aims to provide value and a great ownership experience to customers looking to buy a Škoda. The Exchange Carnival for August 2023 makes sure customers have a memorable and high value car purchase and exchange experience with some incredible maintenance and warranty packages that ensure customers continue enjoying Škoda cars, with a hassle-free ownership experience.

# Govt unlikely to infuse capital in PSU general insurers in FY24

New Delhi, Aug 27 (PTI):

The four public sector general insurance companies are unlikely to get capital funding from the government in the current fiscal, a senior official said. He said one of the PSU non-life insurance companies is likely to give a dividend to the government in the current fiscal and they will be able to meet their solvency margins.

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This will certainly lead to improvement in volume, but it will not happen overnight, said Puri here on the sidelines of the B20 Summit organised by the CII.

Over the ITC's plan for

the demerger of its hotel business, Puri said it is

going to benefit the existing shareholders by incorporating a wholly-owned new subsidiary ITC Hotels

Ltd. "It will be a pure-play, focused on hospitality, which can leverage the institutional strengths of ITC.

And ITC in turn will be able to leverage the synergy on its hospitality business, or its FMCG businesses," Puri told PTI.

It is a "very robust" model, which will help the

business to make the hotel business accelerate progress, whilst retaining synergies and it will improve the financial metrics of ITC, he added.

Over inflation, Puri said this is mainly on account of two factors - the bigger one is more of the external factors in the geopolitical environment and the second is on account of the issues of climate change.

"However, now, India is much better placed in the rest of the world and I

would like to compliment the government for stewarding management of inflation and being extremely proactive in taking the right steps to control that," he said.

## PokerBaazi partners with PokerGO

New Delhi, Aug 27:

PokerBaazi announced a first-of-its-kind strategic partnership with PokerGO®, the world's largest poker streaming OTT content company based out of Las Vegas, Nevada. The partnership will see PokerGO and PokerBaazi bring top poker content in the Hindi language for Indian audiences. With the objective of amping up the growing awareness of poker in India, this collaboration will showcase gripping content covering some of the world's best poker players. The partnership comes at a time when PokerBaazi is witnessing growth not just from metros but from Tier-II and Tier-III cities in India.



ITC CMD Sanjiv Puri



CEO Krish Ramineni

New Delhi, Aug 27 (PTI):

AI meeting assistant Fireflies.ai founder Co-founder and CEO Krish Ramineni said the company is building on top of its transcription offering with generative technology and may consider raising funds early next year to support expansion plans. Ramineni, during his India visit spoke to PTI about the rapid growth in AI and startups in India.

India and the Silicon Valley. He said at present there is a lot of interest and appetite for generative AI startups. Fireflies.ai helps you to transcribe, summarize, search, and analyze voice conversations. On its fundraising plans, Ramineni said, "We have potential plans to look into it at the start of next year. There's definitely a lot of interest and appetite for generative AI startups right now, but we're operating well and we're pretty capital efficient, so we have plenty of runway," he added.

Launched just before the pandemic in January 2020, the San Francisco-based company has raised USD 19 million until now. Fireflies.ai operates in 20 nations, including Delhi, Hyderabad and Bengaluru in India.

## B20 SUMMIT INDIA 2023



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the B20 Summit India 2023, in New Delhi, Sunday, Aug 27.

# Urgent measures needed to restore the sacredness of Turturiya

Rampant activities threaten the holiness of Turturiya

Kasdol, Aug 26:

The revered Ram Van Gaman path is witnessing a critical juncture as the development zone of Kasdol's Turturiya, recognized as the immediate birthplace of Lav and Kush, faces a distressing dilemma. The hallowed grounds, deeply intertwined with religious significance, are marred by the alarming practice of goat sacrifices in the name of devotion. Adding to the concern, locals engaging in picnics, accompanied by disruptive elements, are tarnishing the purity of this sacred site. The distressing scenario unfolds as not only goats are sacrificed, but also meat is consumed, and alcohol is imbibed, resulting in disturbances that disrupt the tranquil atmosphere. Such actions are not only inconveniencing the pilgrims, including families, but also sully the sanctity of the place. Highlighting the gravity of the situation, during a previous period, Anurag Mishra, the eminent President of the Vasudhara social organization, collaborated with the Gayatri family and other enlightened individuals. They rallied for



change and petitioned the then Collector Rajesh Rana, urging a decisive halt to the consumption of meat and alcohol in the guise of religious practices. A resolute order was issued, mandating the cessation of goat sacrifices. Regrettably, the transition of power thwarted the implementation of this crucial directive.

The Vasundhara Social Organization's foresight in initiating this plea was a prescient endeavour, albeit the full repercussions were not immediately apparent. Today, the aftermath reverberates across Turturiya, where the once-

simple act of paying respects to the deity has become a divisive topic, necessitating a united stance among visitors.

In a parallel concern, the sylvan expanse adjacent to the Turturiya temple complex, designated as a restricted forest area, is witnessing desecration. Picnickers, ostensibly congregating for goat sacrifices, heedlessly scatter meat remnants and refuse, inadvertently attracting packs of village dogs. This menace not only imperils the indigenous wildlife, with instances of deer falling prey to these dogs, but also betrays the solemn

nity of the surroundings.

Turturiya, an axis of devout faith for Hindus, resonates with the belief that those yearning for progeny beseech Goddess Kali of the Pahada Valley, bearing offerings and entreaties. Upon receiving the boon of offspring, devotees return to consecrate their gratitude through goat sacrifices. However, this venerated tradition has devolved, with offerings being consumed indiscriminately, and alcohol-fueled disturbances overshadowing the sanctity of the darshan experience. Turturiya's legacy is centuries-old, steeped in a history of arduous pilgrimages through rugged terrain and dense woods. Today, accessibility has surged, leading to an influx of visitors.

Witnessing this growing congregation, Yogendra Kashyap, the Sarpanch of the Khudmudi Gram Panchayat, has issued a fervent plea to the Collector and Police Superintendent. He advocates for the establishment of police presence within Turturiya, a proactive measure to safeguard the tranquility and harmony of this revered spiritual enclave.

## Youth arrested for threatening passersby with knife



Kharora, Aug 27:

A young individual was apprehended at Kharora's new bus stand for brandishing a sharp knife and causing distress among pedestrians.

Acting swiftly upon receiving reports of the incident, Assistant Sub-Inspector Suresh Chandra Yadav promptly organized a patrol team comprising Constable 2074 Harishankar Yadav and Constable 2826 Rishi Tandon. Following the directives of the Station



Katagi, Aug 27:

In a decisive move that resonates with the spirit of progress, the Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee's Working Committee has unveiled its strategic appointment. Satish Sharma, hailing from the dynamic Kasdol block, now assumes the mantle of State Secretary, championing the vision spearheaded by Pradesh Congress President Deepak Baj. This strategic step has kindled an electric fervor within the Congress ranks across the region, with Satish Sharma extending profound gratitude to esteemed senior leaders.

A trailblazer from the

outset, Satish Sharma's political odyssey embarked in 1992 through the corridors of student politics, galvanized by the NSUI (National Students' Union of India). He swiftly ascended, crowned as the Block Youth Congress President in 1998, and later adorned the mantle of Deputy President of the Raipur District Youth Congress in 2001. His indelible imprints were etched upon Congress's triumphant campaigns in the 2003 and 2008 Assembly elections, solidifying the party's stance. His contributions reverberated through time, manifesting in his pivotal role within the Baloda Bazar District Congress since 2012, effectively cementing the party's foundations.

Radiating with purpose, Satish Sharma avowed his solemn commitment to the weighty responsibility entrusted to him by the party. He solemnly pledges an unwavering crusade to steer Congress back into the triumphant echelons

of power in Chhattisgarh. A steadfast architect of grassroots mobilization, he vows to orchestrate a symphony of people's engagement with the Congress ethos. Amplifying Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's transformative governance strides, he underscores their symbiotic correlation, fueling the party's resurgence.

His assertion reverberates with the affirmation that farmers' interests have not been just placated but zealously pursued, evoking a contented resonance among them. With anticipation, they await the forthcoming electoral juncture, where 20 quintals of paddy per acre are assured for procurement, etching prosperity into their lives. The Bhupesh government's initiatives have fostered a bounteous harvest of increased earnings for the farmers, emblematic of their welfare-driven paradigm.

A symphony of transformation echoes across segments of society as

**Chichado's young scholars shine in Rakhi-making**

Dongargaon, Aug 27: The Government Primary School in Chichado block conducted a heartening Rakhi Making Competition to mark Backless Day, radiating the spirit of learning and community unity. With a zestful atmosphere, the event saw the budding talents of Chichado's youth diving into their creative wellsprings to craft rakhis from everyday materials found in their homes. The results, a stunning array of intricate designs, transformed into exquisite artworks that embodied the essence of Raksha Bandhan.

At the forefront of this remarkable initiative, Kanika Soni, the dedicated school teacher, has been hosting engaging events each Saturday, gaining widespread admiration. The school has transformed into a lively hub of exploration, as children enthusiastically embrace diverse competitions, progressively honing their adaptability and learning skills. The collective energy during these Saturday events is palpable, drawing the village Sarpanch, esteemed Panchayat members, School Management Committee President, Parent Committee President, and local residents. Their presence underscores the shared commitment to nurture the next generation, further fueling the children's determination to excel.

While these events foster camaraderie and skill development, they also underscore the villagers' dedication to fostering a holistic educational atmosphere. The community comes together wholeheartedly to champion the children's dreams, resonating unity as the school reverberates with laughter and fervour.

## CKS, GRES warns of economic blockade on Sept 11



■ If the demands of displaced villagers is not fulfilled

■ Submits 11-point memorandum to CMD-SECL

Korba, Aug 27: The heat of the agitation of the land displaced for the demands related to employment and rehabilitation in Korba district has now reached the Bilaspur headquarter of SECL. Today, the representatives of Chhattisgarh Kisan Sabha (CKS) and Geo-displaced Rozgar Ekta Sangh (GRES) reached Bilaspur to apprise the CMD about their problems. The situation turned tensed when SECL security personnel stopped them from meeting the officials. After a lot of tussle with the security personnel, the displaced people closed the main gate of the CMD headquarters and sat on a dharna and while protesting raised slogans for employment in exchange of land; return of land to farmers; settlement and other demands. After an hour-long protest, the management agreed to meet the delegation.

On behalf of Coal Management, P&IR General Manager Anoop Kumar Santoshi, L&R

positive action and demanded immediate redressal of the problems of the land displaced. CKS, GRES also handed over an 11-point demand letter to the CMD to the management. The management assured to solve all the problems soon and to put the employment cases coming to fore after acquisition in the board soon. The Kisan Sabha delegation insisted on showing work on the ground instead of giving assurances and made it clear that their agitation will continue till the legitimate demands of the land displaced are fulfilled. In this connection, he also warned of economic blockade on September 11 and chakra-jam movement to stop coal transportation by road and rail, if the demands are not fulfilled.

## Chhadia School promotes environmental awareness and creativity



Kharora, Aug 27:

The campus of Government Former Secondary School Chhadia in Pachri Vikas Khand Tilda came alive with an enriching "Safe Saturday" school safety program. Embracing the ethos of this initiative, students seized the opportunity to convey vital messages about environmental consciousness through captivating charts and banners. Young minds like Rashi Devangan, Mansi Sahu, Bharti Verma, and their peers adorned the day with their handcraft-

ed rakhis, adding an artistic touch to the event. Teacher Dheerendra Verma highlighted that the school ardently pursues the dissemination of environmental awareness messages within the community.

The institution's headmaster, S. K. Devangan, proudly stated that the school's students, driven by passion, meticulously crafted an array of appealing rakhis using minimal resources, brilliantly displaying their creativity. The enthusiastic response from all the students underscores the significance of this initiative.

## Trio arrested with 98 kg of illegal ganja



Jagdalpur, Aug 27: In a significant crackdown on drug smuggling, authorities have apprehended three individuals transporting a massive haul of illegal ganja, weighing a staggering 98 kg. The swift and decisive action unfolded as Darbha police intercepted a black Volkswagen Vento with the license plate MH 01 AX 7602, based on credible information received from an informant.

The suspects, attempting to make their way from Tongpal Sukma to Jagdalpur, found themselves cornered as law enforcement swiftly set up a blockade near the Darbha police station. Despite their attempts to evade capture by speeding towards the village of Koleng, the determined authorities pursued the vehicle, ultimately apprehending it near Koleng Road Balak Ashram.

## Pandaria College hosts SVEEP event for students

Pandaria, Aug 27: In commemoration of Indira Gandhi's birth anniversary, Pandaria witnessed an informative event led by the State Election Commission and the District Election Branch. The event, called SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation), aimed to enlighten college students about the significance of voting. A spectrum of engaging activities characterized the program, including competitions like Rangoli, Art, Speech, and Sports. The students, brimming with enthusiasm, joined these competitions, showcasing their diverse talents.

Esteemed senior professors spearheaded the initiative, including Madan Rajput (Sociology), Dinesh Kashyap (History), Om Prakash Devangan (Mathematics), Chitransh Thakur (Environmental Science), Chandras Singh Rajput, Alekh Patel, Bhugol (Geography), and Bholaram Ghritlahare, the SVEEP Nodal Officer.

Mahasamund, Aug 27:

Enthusiastic youth from Banpachari village showcased their alignment with Congress policies and regional development initiatives as they met Legislative Secretary and MLA Vinod Sevanal Chandrakar. The youngsters, excited to join Congress, were greeted into the party fold by Chandrakar donning a traditional scarf.

Guided by Honey Chandrakar's leadership, the Banpachari village youth engaged with Legislative Secretary Chandrakar at his residence. During this interaction, the youth expressed their eagerness to align with Congress, influenced by its policies and ongoing area development. Post this meeting, several young individuals, including Uddav Netam Devnarayan Dhruv, Navin Uike, Lokesh Vishwakarma, Vedprakash Dhruv, Ethlesh Dhruv, Chandra Narayan Dhruv, Mordhwaj Dhruv, Tukeshwar Dhruv, Pyarelal, Dev Kumar, Neelkanth Dhruv,

Umashankar Dhruv, Yashkumar Dhruv, Nehru Dhruv, Loknath Dhruv, Damodar Dhruv, and Ranjan Kumbhkar, joined Congress. Chandrakar, donning a traditional scarf, heartily welcomed these young entrants. During this gathering, Chandrakar emphasized that Chhattisgarh Congress, led by Bhupesh Baghel, is driving comprehensive development in the state, inspiring active participation among the people.

Hira Banjare, Chairman of the Agriculture Produce Market Committee, graced the event.

Historical Sirpur to host grand Ganga Aarti

As the sacred month of Sawan unfolds, Gandheshwar Nath Temple in Sirpur will host a magnificent Ganga Aarti featuring water collected from Bhamhani to Sirpur. The Kanwar Yatra will be received warmly in various places, including Bhamhani, Parasatthi, Barabazar, Machewa, Shastri Chowk, Barabazar, District Panchayat, Municipal Corporation, Congress Bhawan, Overbridge, Ekta Chowk, Bemcha, Parasada, Kaundakhera, Gandhaghata, Tumgaon, Bhorin, Joba, Gadshivni, Pidhi, Mohakam, Khadsa, Senkapat, and Sirpur. Following this, a grand Ganga Aarti will be performed. Legislative Secretary and MLA Chandrakar invites devotees to actively participate in this event.

# Indian women beat Thailand 5-4

**Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier**



India continued their unbeaten run in the Women's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier after registering a hard-fought 5-4 win over Thailand in their third match of the tournament here on Saturday.

# 'Like amoeba, NDA has no definite shape and size'

Hingoli, Aug 27 (PTI):

Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday likened the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to an amoeba, saying that the BJP-led front does not have any definite shape and size.

Hitting out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for calling the opposition INDIA alliance as "ghamandia" (marked by arrogance) and "Indian Mujahideen", Thackeray said the NDA should be called "ghama-NDA" ("ghamandiy" meaning arrogant).

Addressing a rally at Hingoli in Maharashtra, he also asked Telangana Chief Minister and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) chief K Chandrasekhar Rao to clarify whether he supports the INDIA alliance or the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The INDIA alliance comprises nationalist parties that want to protect democracy in the country. But most parties in the

NDA comprise traitors and those who have joined the BJP as allies by breaking other parties," Thackeray said.

"The present NDA is like an amoeba, which has no definite shape and size...The INDIA alliance will defeat the BJP," he said.

The former chief minister asked BRS chief Rao to decide whether he was fighting for the country or supporting the BJP.

"If you are with the country, then join the INDIA alliance or declare your alliance with the BJP openly. Don't divide votes," Thackeray said referring to the BRS trying to enter electoral politics in Maharashtra.

The BRS should first focus on its own backyard, which is not in good shape, the Sena (UBT) president said.

Thackeray appealed to people to join the INDIA alliance for protecting democracy and the Constitution.

"The opposition bloc hasn't united against PM



**Uddhav Thackeray**

Modi, but for the sake of the country," he said.

The INDIA alliance meeting will be held in Mumbai on August 31 and September 1. Thackeray is scheduled to host dinner for the leaders on August 31.

Thackeray also criticised the BJP government for allowing a cricket match between India and Pakistan in the upcoming World Cup in Ahmedabad.

Targeting the BJP, Thackeray said his former ally is a party of "Aaya Ram Gaya Ram" (leaders

switching sides).

"I pity the BJP cadre who worked tirelessly to bring the party to power. It was being said this was a double-engine government and now a third engine of Ajit Pawar has been added. I wonder how many more engines will be added. Is this a goods train?" he alleged.

"After NCP leader Hassan Mushrif joined the state government, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) seems to have forgotten the road to his house," he said, referring to the central agency's probe against the minister.

Mushrif and eight other Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MLAs were sworn in as ministers in the Maharashtra government last month with Ajit Pawar taking oath as the deputy chief minister, thereby creating a split in the party founded by the latter's uncle Sharad Pawar.

Thackeray ridiculed the "Shasan Aplya Dari" (government at your doorstep) programme of the Eknath

Shinde-led state government, saying that it was nothing but lies.

The programme is aimed at taking the government schemes to the doorstep of the common people.

"Farmers are yet to get compensation for the crop losses incurred due to unseasonal rains and now they are facing drought. A bureaucrat who conducted a survey on the status of farmers in Marathwada and gave a report that the government should provide cash compensation of Rs 25,000 each was forced to take voluntary retirement," he said.

Thackeray said when the state was reeling under drought-like conditions, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis went to Japan.

"It is good if he gets investment from Japan, but what about the projects that were to come to Maharashtra but taken to Gujarat instead. Will he bring them back?" Thackeray asked.

## GHOSI BYPOLL

### After Cong, Left parties also extend support to SP candidate

Lucknow, Aug 27 (PTI):

Assembly necessitated the election.

Communist Party of India (ML) state secretary Sudhakar Yadav, in a statement, said that both INDIA and NDA alliances will be face to face in this byelection before the 2024 general elections and it is necessary to defeat the NDA.

The two Left parties said that they have taken the decision as "it is necessary to defeat the BJP to save the Constitution, democracy and the country and to get rid of the bulldozer rule in the state".

The by-election, which is the first after the opposition INDIA alliance was formed, is witnessing a keen contest between the BJP, which has fielded Dara Singh Chauhan, and the Samajwadi Party, which gave a ticket to former MLA from the constituency Sudhakar Singh.

Dara Singh Chauhan, a former minister in the Adityanath government, had switched from the BJP to the SP and won from the seat during the 2022 assembly elections. He rejoined the BJP last month and his resignation from the

Sudhakar Singh.



**MP CM Shivraj Singh Chauhan celebrates the festival of Raksha Bandhan during a 'Ladli Behna' scheme programme, at Jamburi Maidan, in Bhopal, Sunday.**

celebrate Rakhi (on Tuesday) well. The rest of the Rs 1,000 (under Ladli Behna Yojana) will be credited in September," he said. From October, 1.25 crore women will get Rs 1,250 (under Ladli Behna Yojana) and the amount will gradually be hiked to Rs 3,000 per month so that the aim of uplifting the

economic and social condition of women is fulfilled, the CM said at an event connected to the scheme.

The CM also said the reservation for women in government jobs has been raised to 35 per cent from the current 30 per cent, while it will be 50 per cent in teachers' recruitment.

## Shivraj announces 'Ladli Behna Yojana' aid hike, subsidised cylinders

### ● 35% job reservation for women

Bhopal, Aug 27 (PTI):

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday cited the holy month of 'Sawan' underway and raised the financial aid given to women in the Ladli Behna scheme from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,250 per month and also announced 35 per cent reservation for them in government jobs and providing gas cylinders for Rs 450. Assembly polls are likely to be held at the end of the year in MP, a state where women consist of 7.07 lakh of the 13.39 lakh new voters and whose rise in numbers in the electoral list stands at 2.79 per cent against 2.30 per cent for men.

"Women will get cooking gas at Rs 450 in the holy month of Sawan. Later, a permanent system will be evolved in this regard. I have also transferred Rs 250 into the accounts of 1.25 crore women so that they can

celebrate Rakhi (on Tuesday) well. The rest of the Rs 1,000 (under Ladli Behna Yojana) will be credited in September," he said. From October, 1.25 crore women will get Rs 1,250 (under Ladli Behna Yojana) and the amount will gradually be hiked to Rs 3,000 per month so that the aim of uplifting the

economic and social condition of women is fulfilled, the CM said at an event connected to the scheme.

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## Prosecution pulled up for not submitting evidence to identify accused

New Delhi, Aug 27 (PTI):

### 2020 DELHI RIOTS

A court here has pulled up the prosecution for not submitting a video pertaining to the identification of the accused in connection with the 2020 northeast Delhi riots case.

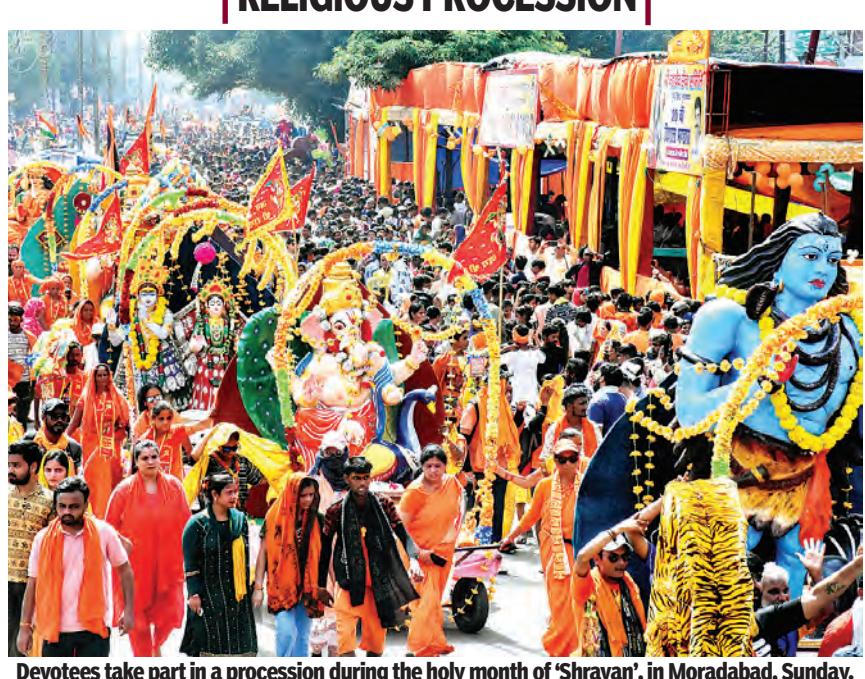
Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Pulastya Pramachala, hearing a case on Friday, said it was "unfortunate" that the prosecution was "befool-

ing" the court. He also warned the investigating agency not to repeat such conduct in future.

The matter pertains to a case registered by the Dayalpur police station against Mohammed Farooq and others where the court had asked the prosecution to submit a video for identification of

the accused. "It is unfortunate that till date, the Special Public Prosecutor and Sub-Inspector Rajiv (the Investigating Officer) have been befooling this court in the name of the pendency of this video and the report before FSL, without actually having any information in respect of the same. The same should not be repeated in future," the ASJ said in an order passed on Friday.

### RELIGIOUS PROCESSION



**Devotees take part in a procession during the holy month of 'Shravan', in Moradabad, Sunday.**

Srinagar, Aug 27 (PTI):

In a first for an international beauty pageant winner, reigning Miss World Karolina Bielawska will visit Kashmir on Monday for a day-long tour for an event.

According to Rouble Nagi, chairperson of a Mumbai-based organisation engaged in women empowerment, Bielawska will arrive here along with other pageant winners, including Miss World India Sini Shetty and Miss World Caribbean Emmy Pena.

"Gar firdaus bar-rue zamin ast, hamin asto, hamin asto, hamin asto (If there is a heaven on earth, it's here, it's here, it's here). And how is it possible that Miss World would miss heaven?" Nagi told PTI.

The entrepreneur, who heads Rouble Nagi Art Foundation and Studio Saksham, said her foundation has championed artistic expression, community development, and cultural exchange.

"This collaboration is yet another manifestation of the foundation's commitment to creating memorable experiences that transcend boundaries," she added.

The event is being held in collaboration with Jamil Saidi, Chairman PME Entertainment in India, and

being planned and organised," Shah said. As per trends this year, Shah said the authorities are expecting a "record-breaking" number of tourists, both domestic and international.

"The number of inbound tourists (foreigners) is a record high in the last 33 years. From the Miss World pre-event tour, we expect the guests to be the ambassadors of Jammu and Kashmir's beauty and hospitality throughout the world," he said. Shah said the pre-event visit of Bielawska to Jammu and Kashmir along with the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Miss World, Julia Erie Morley, promises to be a blend of elegance, artistry and cultural exchange.

During the day-long tour, Miss World and other dignitaries, including Miss World America Shree Saini, Miss World England Jessica Gagen, and Miss Asia Pricilia Carla Saputri Yules, would take a boat ride at the iconic Dal Lake besides meeting the press and later calling on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. This event will not only showcase the region's picturesque landscapes, but also provide a platform for local artists and artisans to interact with the guests, added Nagi, who hails from

"It's an indication of the transformative nature of the G20 event in the tourism sector of Jammu and Kashmir. Major events of national and international importance are now

### ONAM PREPARATIONS



**Devotees from the Malayali community prepare a 'Pookalam' ahead of the Onam festival, at Mahabali Nagar in Bhopal, Sunday.**

## SC dismisses plea for setting up of national level agency

### ● To deal with organised crimes

New Delhi, Aug 27 (PTI):

The Supreme Court has dismissed a plea seeking a direction to the Centre to set up a national level agency to deal with organised crimes like smuggling, inter-state trafficking, cyber crimes and political violence.

The plea had also sought setting up of a National Internal Security Coordination Council (NISCC) under the control of a committee constituted

by the President on the recommendation of the Chief Justice of India.

The petition came up for hearing before a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud which said directions sought in the plea pertained to the legislative and policy domain.

"The directions which have been sought pertain to the legislative and policy domain. Hence, this court would not be justified in exercising the jurisdiction under Article 32 of the Constitution," the bench, also comprising justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said in its

order passed on August 14. Article 32 of the Constitution empowers Indian citizens to move the apex court directly for enforcement of their fundamental rights through appropriate proceedings.

"The petition is accordingly dismissed," the bench said.

The plea, filed by a Delhi resident, had sought a judicial order to constitute a high power committee to formulate guidelines in respect of appointment, transfer and take disciplinary actions against the members of the proposed NISCC.

## Food festival serves best of Rajasthani delights

New Delhi, Aug 27 (PTI):

(Rajasthani special corn-based soup with fresh vegetables, 'Mirchi Vada' (deep-fried green chili stuffed with potato masala) or 'Murg Ka Soola' (the local specialty of chicken marinated with garlic paste, red chili powder), the menu, curated by chef Raj Kamal Chopra, celebrates the wide range of Rajasthani flavours and delicacies.

"This food festival will instantly transport you back in time with an immersive experience of Rajasthan's rich heritage. Each dish will tell a story of Rajasthan's glorious past, with memories of past generations embedded in its robust flavours.

"We are excited to introduce our guests to Rajasthan's vibrant culture, age-old traditions, and amazing flavours through this food festival," Chopra, corporate chef at Fortune Hotels, said in a statement.



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