



BRIEF



PM Modi travels via metro on his way to inaugurate IICC, in New Delhi, Sunday.

Group photo

New Delhi: All members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have been called for a group photograph on Tuesday morning, according to an official bulletin. Parliamentary proceedings will move to the new Parliament building later on Tuesday. According to the bulletin issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, all MPs have been called for a group photograph at 9.30 am on Tuesday. MPs were also being issued new identity cards to enter the new Parliament building.

Police remand

Nuh: A court on Sunday extended by two days the police remand of Congress MLA Mamman Khan, who has been arrested in connection with the July 31 communal violence in Haryana's Nuh district. Meanwhile, the state government has again ordered suspension of mobile internet and bulk SMS services in the district till Tuesday midnight. Khan's remand was extended by two more days in connection with an FIR registered at the Nagina police station, officials said.

Fellowship

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has been bestowed with the Lee Kuan Yew Exchange Fellowship of Singapore, an official release said on Sunday. As part of the Fellowship, Sarma has been extended an invitation to visit Singapore as a Lee Kuan Yew Fellow for his "dedicated leadership" in public works and development, the statement said.

Hospitalised

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange, who recently observed fast for 16 days, was admitted to a hospital here in Maharashtra on Sunday, a doctor said. He said Jarange's blood pressure is a bit low but his overall health parameters are normal. "Jarange has lost 8-10 kgs of weight during the hunger strike. His blood pressure is a bit low. The Kidney Function test (KFT) was normal on Sunday.

Rescue

Ujjain: An Indian Air Force (IAF) chopper on Sunday rescued a pregnant woman and two other members of her family from the rooftop of their house located in a flooded agricultural field in Ujjain district of Madhya Pradesh, an official said. Amid incessant rains in Ujjain district, the information was received that a man is stranded with his pregnant wife in their house in a flooded area in Semalia village under Badnagar tehsil, said district collector Kumar Purushottam.

Weather
High 34 Low 27

Siraj stars as India win Asia Cup crown

Colombo, Sep 17 (PTI):

Mohammed Siraj produced a sensational spell as India thrashed Sri Lanka by 10 wickets to win the Asia Cup here on Sunday. Siraj helped India dismiss Sri Lanka for a paltry 50 with a six-wicket haul in the final.

After a couple of tight games, it seemed like the 2023 Asia Cup was heading towards an exciting finale but the title bout turned out to be an anticlimax as Mohammed Siraj singlehandedly demolished Sri Lanka in the blink of an eye. It was India's seventh 50-over Asia Cup title, to go with one in the T20 format in 2016.

In overcast conditions, Siraj got the new ball to move around and picked up 6 for 21, the fourth-best ODI figures for India. He took just 16 balls for his first five wickets - the



joint-fastest five-for in ODIs (where ESPNcricinfo has the data recorded) alongside Sri Lanka's Chaminda Vaas and USA's Ali Khan. As a result, Sri Lanka were all out for 50 - their second-lowest ODI total - with

only two batters reaching double digits. The whole innings lasted just 15.2 overs, the fifth-shortest in ODIs overall.

In response, Shubman Gill and Ishan Kishan, opening the innings in place of Rohit Sharma, took just 6.1 overs to complete the formalities.

The two India openers hit nine fours between them; all Sri Lanka batters combined hit five.

After losing the toss, Rohit Sharma said that he too had wanted to bat first on what he called "a dry wicket". But ten minutes before the scheduled start, it started raining. Perhaps that changed the whole situation.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka 50 all out in 15.2 overs (Kusal Mendis 17; Mohammed Siraj 6/21; Hardik Pandya 3/3). India 51 for no loss in 6.1 overs (Shubman Gill 27 not out, Ishan Kishan 23 not out).

G20 FWG meet in state capital from today

To take stock of discussions in the FWG in 2023 & explore future areas of work

Raipur, Sep 17: The fourth and final meeting of the G20 Framework Working Group (FWG) under India's G20 Presidency will be held in Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur from September 18, an official said on Sunday.

More than 65 delegates from G20 member and invitee countries and various international and regional organisations will participate in the two-day meeting at Mayfair resort in Nava Raipur, the official said.

Chandni Raina, advisor to the Union Finance Ministry and Sam Beckett, chief economic Adviser,



HM Treasury, UK will chair the meeting, he said. The FWG facilitates discussions on the latest global economic outlook and policy guidance on key macroeconomic issues, he said.

The deliverables from this working group under the 2023 Indian Presidency have been successfully concluded and are referred to in the New Delhi Leaders Declaration: G20 Report on Macroeconomic Impacts of Food and Energy Insecurity and G20 Report on Macroeconomic

Delegates to enjoy local culture....

The delegates will also be hosted for 'Ratri Bhoj Par Samvad' (conversation over dinner) and a cultural event, which will enable them to enjoy the unique cuisine and cultural richness of Chhattisgarh, the official added. The delegates attending the FWG meeting will be presented gift hampers featuring unique products derived from forest produce, an official from the state public relations department said.

CM to attend....

Speaking to reporters here, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said he will attend the G20 FWG programme on Monday.

Risks Stemming from Climate Change and Transition Pathways, he said. The upcoming meeting will take stock of the discussions in the FWG in 2023 and explore future areas of work, the official said. On the sidelines of the meeting, the Reserve Bank of India will host a series of Jan Bhagidari

RBI to host Jan Bhagidari events

On the sidelines of the meeting, the Reserve Bank of India will host a series of Jan Bhagidari events, including panel discussions on digital banking and financial inclusion, financial literacy programmes, a G20 awareness programme, a painting contest and a slogan-writing contest, the official said.

events, including panel discussions on digital banking and financial inclusion, he said.

Parties push for passage of women's reservation bill

In Parliament session

New Delhi, Sep 17 (PTI): Several parties, including from the ruling and opposition sides, on Sunday made a strong pitch for tabling and passage of the women's reservation bill during the five-day Parliament session beginning Monday.

At an all-party meeting convened by the government, several leaders said the long-pending bill should be tabled and hoped that it can be passed with consensus.

The bill seeks to reserve one-third of all seats for women in the Lok Sabha and the state legislative as-



semblies. "All opposition parties demanded the passage of women's reservation bill in this Parliament session," Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said. BJP ally and NCP leader Praful Patel said, "We appeal to govt to pass the women's reservation bill in this Parliament session." "We are hopeful that women's reservation bill will be passed with consensus if tabled in

Parliament," he added. Patel also said that Parliament will shift to the new building on auspicious occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi on Tuesday.

Chowdhury told reporters that the government had informed them it was a regular session of Parliament. "Only the government knows what its intention is. It may surprise everyone with some new agenda," he said,

BJP for action as video of Cong MLA sitting in front of bundles of cash goes viral

Raipur, Sep 17: A video of a Congress MLA from Chhattisgarh purportedly sitting in front of bundles of cash has triggered a row with the BJP raising allegations of "corruption" in the state whereas the legislator in question said it was a conspiracy to malign his image.

Chhattisgarh BJP general secretary OP Choudhary on Sunday shared this video on his social media handle claiming Congress has made Chhattisgarh a den of corruption.

The video clip shows MLA Ramkumar Yadav sitting on a sofa placed beside a bed where bundles of cash are kept. Another man is seen sitting along



Video clip shows MLA Ramkumar Yadav sitting on a sofa placed beside a bed where bundles of cash are kept.

with Yadav, while the face of a third person sitting beside the cash on bed is not seen.

What video shows....

The video clip shows MLA Ramkumar Yadav sitting on a sofa placed beside a bed where bundles of cash are kept. Another man is seen sitting along with Yadav, while the face of a third person sitting beside the cash on bed is not seen.

What BJP said.....

"Will Congress accept this video in which bundles of notes are placed in front of its MLA or if it has any doubt over the video, will it show the courage to hand over the matter to CBI for investigation?" Chhattisgarh BJP general secretary OP Choudhary wrote on X. He said Yadav, who represents the Chandrapur constituency, identifies himself as poor and lives in a house under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

What MLA said.....

Hitting back, MLA Ramkumar Yadav dubbed the video as a conspiracy to malign his image by some "feudalists who can't digest when a son of poor becomes MLA". "Those who have posted this video only can tell its objective. Neither I am looking at the money nor was my attention towards it. I was just sitting there and something was being told to me. It seems it was posted just to malign my image as I come from a poor family," he claimed.

CAF cop shoots self dead with service weapon

Kanker, Sep 17 (PTI): A 36-year-old constable of Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF) allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service weapon in the state's Kanker district, police said on Sunday.

Chandrasekhar Yadav, who belonged to CAF's 15th battalion, ended his life by shooting himself with an Insas rifle when he was on security duty at Halba police chowki under Narharpur police station limits late Saturday night, a senior official here said.

His colleagues rushed him to a nearby hospital where he was declared brought dead, the official said. "Yadav was a native of neighbouring Dhamtari district. The

About the incident

Chandrasekhar Yadav, who belonged to CAF's 15th battalion, ended his life by shooting himself with an Insas rifle when he was on security duty at Halba police chowki under Narharpur police station limits late Saturday night.

exact reason why Yadav took this step is yet to be ascertained and further probe is underway," he said.

Last month, an Inspector of Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA), the jungle warfare unit of CRPF, had allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle in Bijapur district.

Kota student suicides subject of psychologist's PhD

Kota (Rajasthan), Sep 17 (PTI): Student suicides in coaching hub Kota have not just become a topic of debate for various stakeholders including politicians, institutions, police and parents but was also the subject of a psychologist's PhD research.

Dinesh Sharma, head of the psychology department at Government Nursing College here, had counselled over 400 students taking coaching for engineering and medical entrance exams.

He decided to do his PhD on stress levels and different issues bothering students and pitched it to the Jaipur National University. He finished his PhD last month and has also submitted his thesis to the district ad-



Dinesh Sharma, Psychology HOD, Government Nursing College in Kota who has conducted first PhD on student suicides in coaching hub.

ministration which is experimenting with several measures to battle student suicides. Twenty-three coaching students in Kota

have ended their lives this year so far, the highest ever number. Last year, the figure was 15.

Sharma's thesis has several recommendations for the stakeholders to ensure students do not struggle with depression and do not feel compelled to take the extreme step.

"When I counselled the coaching students, I realised how this subject has never been studied in depth. Several measures have been attempted but they are just stopgap arrangements which are also not clearly working. I started researching on it and realised that barring few papers there is no published work on the subject and hence I decided to do the first PhD on the topic," Sharma told PTI in an interview.

Amid 'surprise' buzz, Parl session to begin from today

New Delhi, Sep 17:

A new session of Parliament is set to begin from Monday amid an intense buzz on whether the government will have some surprise item up its sleeve during the five-day sitting that will see a discussion on Parliament's 75-year journey and take up for consideration four bills, including one on appointment of election commissioners.

With Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar hoisting the national flag at the new Parliament building on Sunday morning, the development is being seen as a precursor to Parliament shifting to its new home during the session. The unusual timing of the session has left everyone wondering, even though the

main standout feature on the listed agenda is a special discussion on Parliament's journey of 75 years starting from the "Samvidhan Sabha" (Constituent Assembly).

The government enjoys the prerogative of tabling in Parliament some new legislation or other items that might not have been part of the listed agenda.

Commenting on the listed agenda, he had said it "is much ado about nothing" and all this could have waited till the Winter session in November.

The government has also listed the bill on the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other election commissioners to be taken up for consideration and passage during the session.



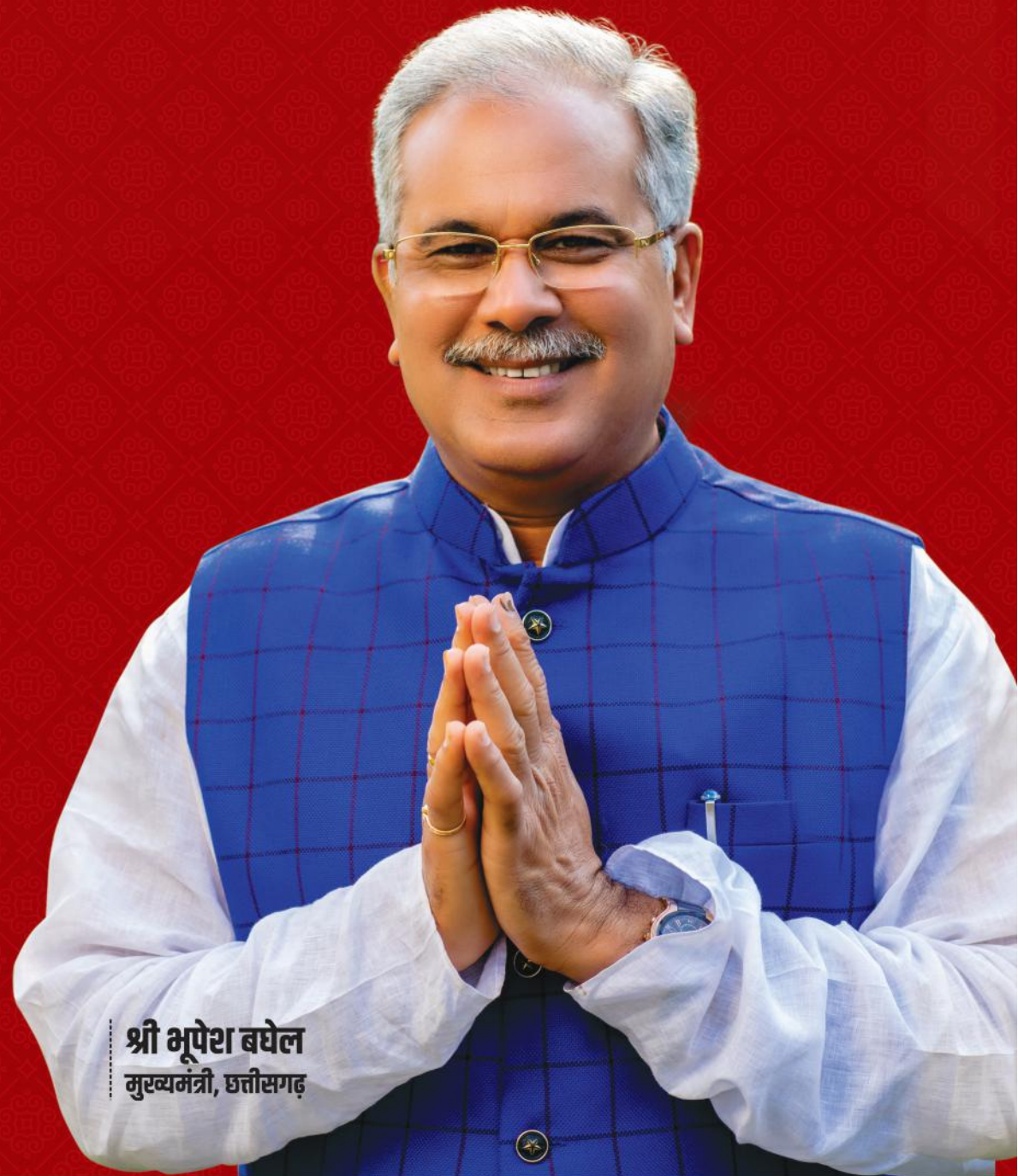
श्रद्धा और विश्वास के पावन पर्व



पर माताओं और बहनों को शुभकामनाएं

समान अवसर और अधिकारों से नारी शक्ति का सम्मान

- महिला स्व-सहायता समूहों के 12.77 करोड़ रुपये का ऋण माफ
- राज्य महिला कोष मद में 5 गुना वृद्धि
- ग्राम सभाओं में 50% आरक्षण, जिला स्वनिज न्यास मद (DMF) के नीति निर्माण में महिलाओं को मिला अधिकार
- महिला स्वास्थ्य कर्मियों द्वारा 1.8 लाख महिलाओं को नि:शुल्क स्वास्थ्य सुविधा
- पंजीकृत श्रमिक परिवार की दो बेटियों को 1-1 लाख रु की सहायता (12वीं कक्षा उत्तीर्ण होने और 18 वर्ष की आयु पूर्ण होने पर)
- महिला उद्यमियों को व्यापार/उद्यम हेतु राज्य महिला उद्यमिता नीति 2023-28 के तहत 10-50 लाख रुपये तक की आर्थिक सहायता व अन्य विशेष अनुदान



श्री भूपेश बघेल
मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़

छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार - भरोसे की सरकार

Foreign delegates traditionally welcomed

● On arrival to attend G-20 meeting

Raipur, Sep 17: Foreign delegates have started arriving in Raipur to attend the fourth Framework Working Group meeting of G-20 in Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh. These foreign delegates reaching Raipur are being welcomed in traditional style of Chhattisgarh. Girls dressed in Chhattisgarhi attire applied 'tilak' to foreign delegates and offered them 'Chhattisgarhi gamchha'.

Artists were seen performing 'Raut Nacha' outside the airport to welcome foreign guests. The summit of the fourth working group of the G-20 group is going to be held in Nava Raipur on 18 and 19 September. Nava Raipur



has been decorated on the theme of Chhattisgarhi culture for the G-20 meeting. When more than 50 VIPs from 20 countries reached Chhattisgarh for the summit of the fourth working group of the G-20 group, they were welcomed in a traditional manner by folk artist group of Rikhi Kshatriya. To welcome the foreign

guests, Rikhi's group remained fully dressed in Chhattisgarhi colours. Rikhi Kshatriya, a resident of Maroda Sector of Bhalai, said that foreign guests were welcomed in Chhattisgarh with 'sandalwood tilak' at the airport and presentation of 'Chhattisgarhi gamchha'. The delegates coming from abroad will be given cook-

ies made from millets grown in the state in a gift pack. The honey found in the forests of Chhattisgarh is considered to be one of the purest and tastiest honey in the country. Aloe vera gel and Ashwagandha powder produced in Chhattisgarh will be given as gifts to the delegates.

They will also be given gifts of Bastar art as a token. A statue made of Dhokra art is set in a frame. The theme of this art is about four tribal girls. They are dancing and holding each other's hands. Through this statue, the delegates will be able to get a glimpse of the beauty of Bastar and the richness of folk life. As many as 12 ASPs, 25 DSPs, 50 Inspectors and 600 jawans have been deployed for the security of the meeting.

CM Baghel pays tribute to Barrister Thakur Chhedilal

Raipur, Sep 17: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel paid tribute to freedom fighter Barrister Thakur Chhedilal on his death anniversary, on September 18th. Remembering the contributions of Barrister Chhedilal, the Chief Minister said that he played a crucial role in inspiring the youth to connect with the nationalistic spirit and participate in the freedom struggle. In response to Mahatma Gandhi's call, he left his legal practice to strengthen the Non-Cooperation Movement. He innovatively used the platform of Ram Leela to spread awareness in the Bilaspur region. Through the "Seva Samiti," he organized the youth. He also played a significant role in the Civil Disobedience Movement.

BEST OF IDOLS



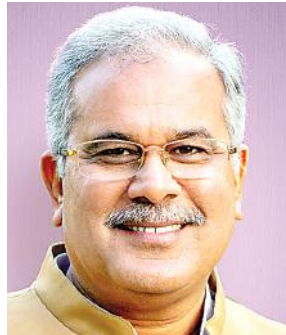
Devotees are selecting best of the idols in the market for the ten-day Ganesh Chaturthi festival beginning tomorrow.

No one has raised allegations of giving money or MLA accepting it: Baghel

● Choudhary trying to improve upon his post-Science College flop-show

Raipur, Sep 17: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel commenting upon the charges by BJP leader OP Choudhary about Congress MLA Ramkumar Yadav seen with bundle of notes questioned as to whether someone lamented charges that he (MLA) has been given money or accepting is taking it and all such charges are baseless allegations.

Coming back from CWC meeting held at Hyderabad and speaking to media persons at the airport, CM Baghel charged on BJP



leader OP Choudhary that earlier also he had posted a video of SECL and now is posting all sorts of Tweets and for this OP Choudhary has been given the responsibility. Baghel said that he was given the responsibility to ensure sufficient crowd in Science College, but he could not and in order to handle the situa-

tion now and to improve upon the situation, he is making all sorts of statements.

About the two-day Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting in Hyderabad, CM Baghel informed that 17 Sept 1948 is an important day for Hyderabad, as it got liberated on this day and for which this programme was organized. The meeting was chaired by AICC National President Mallikarjun Kharge and Sonia Gandhi presided over it. In this meeting discussions were held on various issues related to the forthcoming Vidhan Sabha and Lok Sabha polls. In this the PCC Chiefs and members of Central Action Committee were also called.

Raipur, Sep 17: Fiercely targeting Bhupesh Government the State BJP General Secretary OP Choudhary alleged that the Congressmen became nervous, fearing their defeat in upcoming elections. Rumors were spread about PM Narendra Modi's meeting that the Prime Minister was not coming, yet despite torrential rains the number of people turned out to be in lakhs, Choudhary said at a press conference here today.

Choudhary said that Congress was terrified due to the fear of being ousted from power. Initially a rumor was spread regarding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's program in Raigarh that Modi was not coming. But when lakhs of people came to listen to

Bhupesh govt making false allegations against PM: BJP



Modi despite heavy rain and Modi exposed the misdeeds of Congress, the anti-national policies of Congress and the reality of Congress's corrupt, useless and scam-oriented Chhattisgarh government, he said.

Choudhary said that the Congressmen did not desist from making false allegations on the Prime Minister's statement. Mafia rule is going on in the entire state, he said, adding that Congress MLAs are playing

the game of lakhs and a story related to this has gone viral on the internet media. Commenting over a viral video of Congress MLA from Chandrapur with a bundle of notes, Choudhary said that the CM and Congress should answer to this. Instead of taking action on the video of coal mafia, an FIR was lodged against him, he said. Should CBI investigation be initiated on MLA's viral video? he asked.

Collector inspects beautification, wall painting on Late Rajiv Gandhi Road



● Preparations for G-20 summit meeting

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Sep 17: Collector Dr. Sarveshwar Narendran Bhure observed the wall painting and beautification done on Late Rajiv Gandhi Marg in the capital today. To welcome the meeting of the Working Group of the Fourth Framework of the G-20, wall painting and beautification has

been done on the said route and other routes of the capital. G-20 summit meeting is to be held on 18th and 19th September. Several roads have been beautified to welcome the foreign delegates. Dr. Bhure inspected the plantation done on the divider and gave instructions regarding their maintenance. Municipal Corporation Mayank Chaturvedi and other officials were present on this occasion.

Convocation is not an end it is the beginning to contribute the society and nation: Prof. Prakash

● 2nd convocation of SRU Private ITI organized

Raipur, Sep 17: The 2nd Convocation of Shri Rawatpura Sarkar (SRU) Private ITI was organized in which 12 medalist of the ITI honoured with 4 Gold Medals, 4 Silver Medals and 4 Bronze Medals for their achievements in particular subjects. Poja Nishad (Copa) Darshan Yadu (Electrician), Damesh (Fitter) and Mukul Verma (Mechanic Disel) were the Gold Medalist of the ITI.

To address the programme, Prof. S.K Singh the Vice Chancellor of the SRU said that the main objective of education is creation, both destruction and constructions are necessary because to make the new tradition it is necessary to destroy the old one. First of all, in



2010, education and training was started for the rural and backward youth to advance them and we hope that the students of the ITI also get benefited from the various schemes of the government in this field.

In his address, Prof. Rajiv Prakash, Director of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhalai asserted that Convocation is not an end but it is the beginning of that what you will give to the society and the country after gaining knowledge and training. Students have to understand that their poten-

tial are very important for the society and the nation, they always have to progress for everyone and not just for themselves.

Chief Guest of today's program, Dr. Aruna Palta, the vice chancellor of the Hemchand Yadav University, Durg congratulate to all medalist and students who completed their study and facilitate for their dedication to consume knowledge. To motivate the students, Dr. Palta shares the motivational story of a women IAS officer and her achievements and said that girls are getting

each type of education to gather practical knowledge in all aspects and we feel good that girls are also joining ITI and become gold medalist.

The Pro-Chancellor of the SRU, Mr. Harsh Gautam congratulate to the students and Principal RM Patel of the ITI for the special day. In the program Dr. Saurabh K Sahrma the Registrar, Prof.R.R.L Birali Dean Academics were present. The program was coordinated by Kishan Ratre, Devendra Tandon, Amit Mandal, Pramendra Prakash and Pila Bai Markam.

Odisha women triumphs over Chhattisgarh Blue

● Senior Women's Chhattisgarh T20 Cup 2023 kicks off with a bang

Raipur, Sep 17: The Senior Women's Chhattisgarh T20 Cup 2023, hosted by Chhattisgarh State Cricket Association, got off to an exhilarating start on Sunday at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium in Raipur. In a spirited encounter, Odisha emerged victorious over Chhattisgarh Blue by 28 runs.

Chhattisgarh Blue won the toss and chose to field first. Odisha's batting prowess shone as they notched up a commendable 119 runs for the loss of 4 wickets in their allotted 20 overs. Madhu Mehta's impressive innings of 64 runs off 70 balls and

Hemanta Jaina's valuable 17 runs from 12 balls set the tone for Odisha. Anjali Singh's contribution of 14 runs off 20 balls added to their total.

Chhattisgarh Blue's bowlers fought valiantly, with Pransupriya Dhansoon, Pallavi Varma, and Kriti Gupta claiming key wickets.

In pursuit of Odisha's target of 120 runs, Chhattisgarh Blue faced a stern test. Despite their best efforts, they managed to accumulate 91 runs while losing 9 wickets during their 20 overs thus handind Odissa a 28 run victory. Shilpa Sahu's good performance, scoring 37 runs off 32 balls, couldn't prevent Odisha from clinching victory.

On the bowling front, Sushri Divyadarshini, Reema Lakshmi Ikka, and Rameshwari Nayak made crucial contributions to Odisha's triumph.

Karan, Anchal, Kavish and Samaya emerged as winners



● Late Shri Pradeep Kedia Memorial - Third Raipur District Manthali League Table Tennis Tournament

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Sep 17: Raipur witnessed an exciting clash of paddles as the city's Table Tennis Association, in collaboration with Kedia Steel Corporation, hosted the 'Late Shri Pradeep Kedia Memorial - Third Raipur District Manthali League Table Tennis Tournament 2023' from September 16th to 17th. This fiercely competitive tournament showcased remarkable performances, with Karan Malhotra emerging victorious in the Senior Men's Singles, Anchal Bareth dominating the Senior Women's Singles, Kavish Kala displaying his talent in the Cadet (Under-13) Boys' Singles, and Samaya Pandey shining in the Cadet (Under-13) girls' Singles category.

Vinay Baiswade, Secretary of the Raipur Capital Table Tennis Association, District Raipur, provided insights into the event. Karn Malhotra claimed the top spot in the Senior Men's Singles, with Rishabh Nagwani as the runner-up and

Andrew T. Williams securing the third position.

In the Senior Women's Singles category, Anchal Bareth showcased her prowess and secured the first position, while Haritima Agrawal emerged as the runner-up, and Ahana Singh stood third.

The Cadet (Under-13) Boys' Singles category witnessed Kavish Kala's splendid victory, with Shresth Mishra as the runner-up and Vivian Baiswade securing the third position.

In the Cadet (Under-13) Girls' Singles category, Samaya Pandey exhibited exceptional skills, clinching the first position, followed by Vedi Kachhawaha as the runner-up and Lavanya Pandey in third place.

The closing ceremony and prize distribution were graced by the esteemed presence of Ritesh Kumar Singh, Cluster Head of LIC Housing Finance Limited, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, who served as the chief guest. Pradeep Janwadde, Chairman of the Chhattisgarh Veterans Table Tennis Committee, presided over the event. Vinay Baiswade, Secretary of the Raipur Capital Table Tennis Association, District Raipur, and Ajit Benarjee was the Chief Referee.

G-20 delegates will receive a Dhokra art frame

● Depicting tribal dancing girls and a gift hamper consisting forest honey and millet cookies
G-20 delegates will attend the fourth Framework Working Group meeting of the G20 on Sept 18-19

Raipur, Sep 17: Delegates attending the fourth Framework Working Group meeting of the G20 on September 18 and 19 in Chhattisgarh will depart with cherished memories of the state's rich culture. As a symbol of Chhattisgarh's hospitality, they will receive a gift hamper featuring unique products derived from forest produce. This gesture



aligns with the United Nations' declaration of this year as the Millet Year. The state government, led by Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel, is actively promoting millet culti-

vation. Notably, millet producers receive fair support prices, and the state government's efforts in processing and establishing millet cafes have significantly raised millet aware-

ness in the state. To showcase Chhattisgarh's millet initiative, international delegates will be presented with cookies made from locally grown millets as part of the gift hamper.

Renowned for its purity and delightful taste, Chhattisgarh's forest honey stands out as one of the finest in the country. Collected by bees in the unique natural ecosystems of Bastar and Surguja, this honey is known for its medicinal properties. Delegates will also receive gifts of aloe vera gel and ashwagandha powder, both of which are highly popular products from Chhattisgarh throughout the country.

Delegates will also receive a unique gift showcasing Bastar's art form. This gift features a Dhokra art statue enclosed within a frame. The art piece depicts four tribal girls joyfully dancing while holding hands, offering a glimpse of the beauty of Bastar and the cultural richness of its folk life. Through this statue, delegates can also gain insight

into the enduring talent of Chhattisgarh's folk artists, who have thrived for thousands of years.

Over the past five years, the Chhattisgarh Government, led by Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel, has made several efforts to preserve the state's rich cultural heritage. This commitment extends to supporting folk artists and promoting local culinary traditions. The state government has rebranded traditional staples like Kodo-Kutki through various modern initiatives, which have gained immense popularity across the state and country. Through the G20 platform, Chhattisgarh's unique cultural traditions and culinary innovations can reach a broader audience, contributing to the wider recognition of the state's rich heritage and traditions.

Dharna continues on second day at Khursipar Police Station



● Kin of murdered youth and Sikh Samaj demand justice

Bhilai, Sep 17: After the murder of a 35-year-old youth, kin of the deceased and the members of Sikh Samaj are staging dharna at Khursipar Police Station for the last two days. They are demanding speedy trial and stern punishment for the accused and proper compensation for the bereaved family. BJP State President, local BJP MP, former VS Speaker and other senior leaders of BJP reached the

dharna spot in support of the bereaved family. On the other hand, Congress MLA Devendra Yadav also reached the dharna site to console the victim's family. He assured to discuss the compensation issue with the Chief Minister. Chhattisgarh Sikh Panchayat has demanded Rs 50 lakh compensation and government job for the family of the deceased. Panchayat has also given a call for Chhattisgarh Bandh on September 18.

It needs to be mentioned here that 35-year-old Malkit Singh was beaten to death by some ruffians



near Khursipar ITI on the intervening night of Saturday. He was the son of Sardar Kulwant Singh, Pradhan of Gurudwara Bebe Nanaki Prabandhan Committee. Demanding arrest of the accused, members of Sikh Samaj and BJP staged demonstration at Khursipar Police Station. Later, Police arrested five of the accused involved in this murder.

BJP State President Arun Sao, MP Vijay Baghel, former VS Speaker Prem Prakash Pandey and other BJP leaders came in support of

the bereaved family members. They are demanding strict action against the accused along with Rs 50 lakh compensation and government job to one of the dependents of the deceased.

On Sunday, Congress MLA from Bhilai Nagar, Devendra Yadav also reached the dharna site and met the bereaved family. After consoling them, Yadav asked them to have faith in the justice system. He assured the family to discuss the issue of Fast Track trial and compensation with the Chief Minister.

Durg Police busts Mewat Gang involved in ATM robbery

● Two arrested; two absconding



Bhilai, Sep 17: With the arrest of two ruffians from Haryana, Durg Police claimed to have solved three incidents of ATM Kiosk robbery which occurred on the intervening night of August 28 at Borsi and Hudco. The masked accused had used gas cutters to break the ATM Machines and steal cash. After stealing cash, the accused set the kiosks on fire at all the three spots. Rs 21,54,500/- was stolen from the ATM situated at Housing Board Shopping Complex in Borsi while Rs 48,47,300/- was stolen from two ATMs situated in Hudco Colony. The accused had robbed a total amount of Rs 70,01,800/- in a single night. FIRs were lodged at Padmanabhpur and Bhilai Nagar Police Stations under sections 457, 380, 427, 436 of IPC and sections 03, 04 of Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act.

SP Shalabh Kumar Sinha informed that a joint team was formed to investigate the matter. After inspecting the crime scenes and examining the CCTV footage of nearby areas, Police team found that all the three incidents were carried out by the same 3-4 persons and they were using a Maruti Baleno car. On the basis of the time of arrival and departure of the suspicious vehicle used by the accused, the team examined the CCTV footage on the entry and exit routes of the city. Police examined footage of

about 250 CCTV cameras from Bhilai-Durg to Deori and collected data regarding interstate gangs. On the technical basis, the presence of suspicious persons from some other provinces was detected at the site of the incident. Soon the cops discovered that the vehicle had travelled to Mewat, Haryana.

Durg Police collected the data base of the interstate ATM thief gang and discovered that the accused of Mewati gang were earlier caught in Thane Mumbai Police Station, Assam and Tamil Nadu in the year 2022. Technical inputs confirmed the presence of Nisar Khan and Naseem Khan of Pemakhera District Nuh Haryana at the crime scene on the same date. Two teams of Durg Police were sent to Mewat, Haryana to arrest the accused.

The team was successful in arresting the accused Nisar Khan and Sarbaz Khan near Haryana Gurgaon Mall. When interrogated, the arrested accused confessed to ATM robbery in Durg and disclosed the names of other

two accomplices. The accused Nisar Khan, Naseem Khan and Sarbaz Khan had come to Nagpur in Nisar Khan's Baleno car. They met their friend Arif at Kamti and reached Durg on August 26. They purchased a LPG Cylinder on the way and on reaching Durg, they stole an Oxygen Cylinder from an ambulance parked at District Hospital Durg. Their first target was the ATM Kiosk at Borsi. They used the LPG Cylinder, Oxygen Cylinder, pipe and burner to cut the ATM and steal cash. Thereafter, they targeted the ATM kiosks at Hudco and burgled approximately Rs 70,01,800/- from the three ATMs. Police recovered Rs 03 lakhs, the car, gas cylinder and pipe burner from the possession of accused Nisar Khan and Sarbaz Khan. Raids are being conducted at the locations of other accused in the case, Naseem Khan and Arif Khan. They are still at large. The arrested accused Nisar Khan (22) son of Asruf Khan a resident of Pemakhera, Police Station Punhana, District Nuh Mewat Haryana and

Sarbaz Khan (19) son of Khalil Khan a resident of Pemakhera, Police Station Punhana, District Nuh Mewat Haryana were brought to Durg on transit remand.

ACCU ASI Shamit Mishra, Purna Bahadur, Rajesh Pandey, Chandrashekhar Soni, Head Constable Chandrashekhar Banjeer, Narendra Singh, Shiv Tiwari, Satyendra Mandhariya, Vijay Shukla, Constables Arvind Mishra, Anup Sharma, Upendra Yadav, Pankaj Chaturvedi, Rinku Soni, Shahbaz Khan, Jugnu Singh, Jagjit Singh, Santosh Gupta, Pannalal, Chitrasen Sahu, Khurram Bux, Tuleswar Rathore, Shobhit Sinha, Vikrant Kumar, Bhavesh Patel, Shiv Mishra, Narendra Sahare, Javed Hussain, Abhay Narayan Rai, Dikesh Sinha and Sub-Inspector Dinesh Singh and Head Constable Prem Singh from Bhilai Nagar Police Station and ASI Ramswaroop Kureshiya from Padmanabhpur Police Station played a vital role in solving the case.

Bhilai Chapter Secretary GP Singh re-elected as QCFI Director

Bhilai, Sep 17: Quality Circle Forum of India (QCFI) announced the results of the election held on September 15, 2023 for the Board of Directors of QCFI. The election results released from QCFI Headquarters, Hyderabad brought a wave of joy among the Quality Circle lovers in Bhilai. In this announced result, GP Singh, Secretary of Bhilai Chapter, and former Chief General Manager (Safety and Fire Services) of Bhilai Steel Plant, was declared elected Director from Central Zone. Thus, GP Singh was elected to the Board of Directors of QCFI for the fourth consecutive time. His tenure will be for



three years between 2023 and 2026. It is noteworthy that the Quality Circle Forum of India (QCFI) is a reputed organization of the country that has 35 chapters operating across the country. QCFI has been playing an important role in the promotion and implementation of various quality concepts and certi-

fications across the country. GP Singh is known for his innovative works. He has played an important role in giving birth to many new traditions in QCFI. Singh has played an important role in the creation and implementation of a new concept like Safety Circle for the first time in QCFI. Singh has also participated in the International Convention on Quality Control Circle (IQCC) held in China and Japan. Apart from having 06 patents and 03 copyrights in his name, GP Singh has been awarded the National Vishwakarma Award four times for his creative work and has also been awarded the Most

Innovative Manager Award. While Shri Singh has given a new height to the Bhilai Chapter with his able leadership, he has also played an important role in the establishment of the Bhubaneswar Chapter and the revival of the Nagpur Chapter. Presently the National Convention on Quality Concepts-2023 is being organized in Nagpur in collaboration with the Bhilai Chapter and Nagpur Chapter.

Officials of QCFI Bhilai Chapter, Bhubaneswar Chapter, Nagpur Chapter, Visakhapatnam Chapter, Hyderabad Chapter, and Tirupati Chapter have congratulated Singh on his election as Director.

BSP launches Gift-scheme for employees on Vishwakarma Puja

● TSD to get houses whitewashed on Children's marriage

Bhilai, Sep 17: As a step towards providing better facilities to its employees, SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant Management announced a

Gift scheme on the occasion of Shri Vishwakarma Puja. The Town Services Department of BSP has decided that the entire residence of Plant's employees shall be Whitewashed (Painted) on account of their Son's or Daughter's Marriage. Prior to this scheme, necessary repairs

and whitewashing were done only at the time of allotment of the Residential Quarters. Only the Plant's personnel and Executives will get the benefit of this scheme. In order to avail the benefits of this scheme, a prior application has to be made before the Town Services

Department of Bhilai Steel Plant, along with the Wedding Invitation Card of the Employee's Son's / Daughter's marriage. This humble initiative by the Town Services Department (TSD) will only be provided as per the existing resources and contracts.

Man beaten to death; two arrested

Bhilai, Sep 17: A 38-year-old man was beaten to death by two ruffians at Sundar Nagar, Kohka. The deceased worked as a Raj Mistri. After committing the crime, the accused had fled to Maharashtra. Police managed to arrest them within 16 hours of the crime.



SP Shalabh Kumar Sinha informed that the incident occurred around 21:30 hrs on Saturday at Sundar Nagar in Kohka. A local Sachin Chaudhary was talking with a girl near the residence of Chandrashekhar and Yugal Kishore. Meanwhile, Yugal Kishore reached there and asked Sachin to go somewhere else and ac-

cusced him of spoiling the atmosphere of the locality. They entered into an altercation after which Yugal's brother Chandrashekhar Thakur came out of the house. Meanwhile, irked Sachin called his brother Govinda Chaudhary, who reached there with a Baseball Bat. They attacked Yugal Kishore and his brother Chandrashekhar Thakur with a baseball bat.

Chandrashekhar suffered fatal injuries on abdomen and fell on the ground. The accused Sachin and Govinda escaped from the spot. On information, Dial 112 ERV reached the spot and Chandrashekhar was shifted to Supela Hospital where he was declared dead.

Smriti Nagar Chowki lodged an FIR under section 302, 34 of IPC and traced the location of the absconding accused. Police team moved to Nagpur and managed to arrest the accused within 16 hours. The accused Sachin Chaudhary and Govinda Chaudhary have been booked under the provisions mentioned in section 302, 34 of IPC.

Man sentenced to life imprisonment for wife's murder

Bhilai, Sep 17: Additional Sessions Court in Durg sentenced a man to life imprisonment for murdering his wife. Additional District and Sessions Judge (First) Sanjeev Kumar Tanak convicted 35-year-old Vivek Gupta alias Robin, son of Ashok Kumar Gupta, a resident of Laxmipara, near Puraina Pond, Jamul (Durg) on Friday. An FIR was lodged at Jamul Police Station on May 10, 2022. Additional Public Pleader Chhanul Sahu informed that suspecting fidelity, the accused had beaten his newlywed wife to death. The accused Vivek Gupta had got a part of the house after division of assets. He had organised Satyanaran Puja at house during which he applied Sindoor to Chitralkha Dewangan, with whom he had an affair.

Thereafter, they started living as a married couple. From the first day itself, Vivek used to quarrel with Chitralkha as he suspected her fidelity. Vivek's mother Rajdulri Gupta often visited their home to meet his daughter-in-law. She was aware that his son Vivek is a habitual drinker and often quarrels with his wife. On May 10, Rajdulri again visited Vivek's house and found Chitralkha lying dead on the bed. On information, police reached the spot and conducted the crime scene investigation. Later, Vivek Gupta was arrested on charges of murder. After trial, the Additional Session Court found the accused guilty and awarded life imprisonment and Rs 1000 fine under section 302 of IPC, informed Additional Public Pleader Chhanul Sahu.

Free Medical camp organized at Village Kamkasur

Bhilai, Sep 17: 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, near Dulki Mines at Village Pusewada, under Kamkasur Village Panchayat, on September 15, 2023.

A total of 60 villagers from Village Panchayat Kamkasur, including 16 men, 28 women and 16 Children, availed free health services at the day long Health Camp and free



medicines were distributed to them. The Medical Team from CSR Department volunteered their services by conducting health check-up along with Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar diagnosis of the villagers present during the one-day Health Camp at village Kamkasur. It is noteworthy that Health Camp is one of the prime initiatives,

through which BSP's CSR Department has contributed substantially towards Public Health & Medicine. The CSR Department of Bhilai Steel Plant, conducts health camps on a regular basis in the adjoining areas or mines, with the aim of ensuring adequate Medical & Health facilities to the communities within which it works.

Bhilai Steel Plant Collective celebrates Shri Vishwakarma Pooja with fervour



Bhilai, Sep 17: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant celebrated Shri Vishwakarma Pooja with fervour on September 17, 2023. Different sections from various departments celebrated the day with enthusiasm and devotion. Decorations with grandeur adorned Plant's Departments on this occasion, both inside and outside the Plant premises. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) visited

numerous departments since morning to witness the Pooja Festivities. Dasgupta conveyed his best wishes to the Bhilai Steel Plant Collective and urged them to follow safety standards at the workplace.

During his visit to the Plant, Dasgupta was accompanied by S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects), AK Chakraborty, ED (MM), Samir Swarup, ED

(Rowghat), Pawan Kumar, ED (P & A), Dr Ravindranath M, CMO I/c (M&HS), Tapas Dasgupta, Acting ED (Works) and other Senior Officials.

After completing Shri Vishwakarma Puja in his office at Ispat Bhawan, Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) along with accompanying Senior Officials took part in the ongoing Puja Ceremonies at various departments and sections of

the Plant, beginning with HRDC. Thereafter, Shri Dasgupta paid obeisance to Shri Vishwakarma at the Expansion Building Conference Hall, followed by other departments including BRM, URM, URM, T&D, Mechanical, SMS-III, P&S, BF, CO & CCD, SP-3, OHP, SMS-II, Plate Mill, Electrical and Fire Brigade Departments and conveyed their best wishes on Shri Vishwakarma Pooja to the employees.

St Thomas College celebrates Hindi Diwas



Bhilai, Sep 17: The Department of Hindi celebrated 'Hindi Diwas' to commemorate the importance of our National Language on Saturday September 16, 2023. The Chief Guest of the Program was Father Dr Joshi Varghese. In his speech he emphasized the

students to stay tune with the way they use their national language in connection with the needs of 21st century. Principal Dr Mariam Jacob in his presidential address discussed about the importance of our national language, and that it is the best way of communication. Asha

Rani, Assistant Professor of Hindi congratulated students for their wonderful contribution for marking this day. Students of different department gave their performances through reciting poems, songs and speech. The winners were given prizes. The program was hon-

oured by the presence of all the staff members and students and marked the occasion as a wonderful event. PPT on Hindi diwas was presented by Welwyn Sam. Prerna Yadav student of B Com-II conducted the program. The vote of thanks was proposed by Divyanshu Kumar Singh.

KHARGE TO CONG LEADERS

'Unite and overthrow 'dictatorial' govt to save democracy'

Hyderabad, Sep 17 (PTI):

Battling for unity and organisational discipline, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday asked party leaders to prioritise the success of the party putting aside personal differences and take on adversaries with full might in the upcoming state and Lok Sabha elections.

Addressing the extended CWC meeting on the second day of deliberations, Kharge said the party's goal must be to defeat the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and work diligently to form an alternative government in the country. In a



scathing attack on the Modi government, Kharge accused it of playing politics and distracting and diverting people from basic issues by bringing new ones. "Recently, during the Mumbai meeting of INDIA alliance, Modi government formed a committee on 'One Nation, One Election'. In contravention of all con-

ventions, it also included a former President to fulfil its agenda," Kharge said.

He noted that elections in five states are scheduled in the next two to three months, while the Lok Sabha elections are only six months away. Kharge also said the party must be prepared for possible assembly elections in Jammu and

Kashmir:

The Congress-led governments in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan have "pioneered a new model of social justice and welfare", he said and urged leaders to publicise these welfare schemes across the country.

Kharge asserted that the people are looking for an alternative and the party's victories in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka elections are clear proof of this. "We must work tirelessly putting aside personal interests. We must prioritise the success of the party, putting aside our personal differences," Kharge stressed to the leaders present at the meeting.

RUN FOR CLEANLINESS



People take part in 'Swachhata League Marathon', in Dehradun, Sunday.

'Winter-friendly houses being constructed in border villages of Ladakh'

Leh, Sep 17 (PTI):

Ladakh Lt Governor Brigadier (ret'd) B D Mishra has said his administration is working on a plan to provide winter-friendly houses to people living in border villages of the Union Territory. The administration is also committed to the promotion, preservation and improvement of production of Pashmina goat kids in Ladakh, he said.

"Winter-friendly houses are being constructed in border villages of Ladakh for the benefit of people of those areas," the Lt Governor said at a meeting with a group of goat

herders from Nyoma and Durbuk sub-divisions at the Raj Niwas here. The meeting, which was also attended by senior government officials on Saturday, was convened to discuss prototypes for Pashmina kid pens, an official spokesman said. He said the villagers raised several issues, including instances of malnutrition in goats, need to arrange fodder for winter months, vaccination, installation of mobile towers to improve telecommunication connectivity and steps to address electricity issues. The Lt Governor under the slogan of 'Memna Bachao, Memna Badhao' (save lambs, promote lambs) called for protection of

Pashmina goat kids from hypothermia, providing adequate nutritious feed to overcome malnutrition in Pashmina goat kids, overcoming occurrences of stampede or overcrowding in pens and providing vaccination to livestock to reduce in mortality of Pashmina goat kids. Mishra assured that his administration will look into the issue of improving telecommunication facilities in remote areas and take up the matter with the central government. He said a medical inspection and medical support team comprising doctors can conduct camps in remote areas and provide medical assistance, including vaccination to livestock.

'Telangana stands as role model for development in country'

Hyderabad, Sep 17 (PTI):

Highlighting the development initiatives and welfare schemes of his government, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Sunday said the state stood as a role model in the country.

He was speaking after hoisting the National Flag at the celebration of 'national integration day', the day the erstwhile princely state of Hyderabad merged with the Indian Union on September 17, 1948.

The Telangana government decided that it was appropriate to celebrate the occasion of Hyderabad princely state becoming a part of Indian Union as 'national inte-

gration day'. Rao paid tributes to freedom fighters, including Swami Ramanand Tirtha, Kumram Bheem, Shobebulla Khan, Doodi Komuraiah and Jamalapuram Kesava Rao on the occasion of 'national integration day'.

The CM affirmed that the country got united due to the values of harmony established by Mahatma Gandhi, the vision of the country's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the sharpness and dexterity of first Home minister Sardar Patel and the efforts of many other leaders.

After becoming a part of India, Telangana continued as state of Hyderabad from 1948 to



K Chandrasekhar Rao

1956. However, Telangana region was merged with Andhra region in 1956 to form Andhra Pradesh against the wishes of Telangana people.

Telangana region was treated unfairly when it was part of undivided Andhra Pradesh, he al-

leged.

Noting that the important problems to national integration are economic, he said it is 'unfortunate' that the country is still plagued by economic backwardness, poverty, unemployment and social discrimination even 76 years after Independence.

The Telangana government is moving forward with the aim of increasing wealth and its distribution, besides working to eliminate the ills of backwardness, poverty and others, he said.

Speaking about the rapid strides made by Telangana and the government's welfare measures, Rao said there is no family which is not benefited by his government's schemes.

Averring that Telangana stood as a role model for development in the country, the CM said other states emulating his government's schemes was testimony to this.

Poverty rate in Telangana dropped to 5.88 per cent by 2019-21 from 13.18 per cent during 2015-18, he pointed out. The state is also ranked number one in per capita income in the country, he said.

He further highlighted his government's development and welfare programmes, including irrigation projects, hike in social security pensions, setting up a medical college in every district, 24-hour power supply and Rythu Bandhu investment support scheme for farmers.

TRYING HANDS IN POTTERY



Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw tries his hands in pottery during a meeting with local artists, in Bhubaneswar, Sunday.

'G20 declaration 'textbook example' for future diplomacy'

New Delhi, Sep 17 (PTI):

The G20 declaration that came during India's presidency was a "textbook example" for future diplomacy, according to former Ambassador Vivek Katju, who especially lauded India's tackling of Ukraine issue during the Summit.

"Given the strong feeling of division in Ukraine it was not easy to bridge the gap but the fear that it would be difficult for India to reach a consensus was proved wrong.

The Declaration will be a textbook example for future diplomacy," Katju said, participating in a panel discussion on the G20 summit at Indian Women's Press Corps (IWPC) on Saturday.



Vivek Katju

The panellists included Former Ambassadors KC Singh and Rajiv Dogra.

According to a statement issued by IWPC on Sunday, Katju said inclusion of the African Union in G20 was a constructive role played by India.

He said the G20's focus

now should be on bringing stability in the world.

The ex-diplomat, however, emphasised that despite the issues of women participation in decision making and statements on terrorism were included in the G20 Declaration, there was a need for international cooperation on elimination of corruption.

Commenting on the G20 declaration, Former Ambassador KC Singh said the Americans stepped back in order to get India on board, to ensure it's there in its corner against the Chinese.

On reforms of multilateral institutions, Singh pointed out that China was the biggest debtor with 1.5 trillion US dollars in credit.

On the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor, he

said it is a counter to China's ambitious belt-and-road, or BRI, initiative but expressed doubts on its execution.

He said now the new battle is for African resources. "India's relations with Africa are very old though but the Chinese too will not be easily displaced."

Former Ambassador Dogra, conceding the G20 success, said, "it wasn't the first time we have had a successful event like this. This is history repeating itself," he said, recalling that India hosted the UNCTAD and NAM (1983).

"India's diplomacy has had a history of overcoming obstacles," he said. On a note of caution, Dogra said, "Don't expect G20 to change the world."

Chandrayaan-themed Ganesh pandals big draw in Kolkata

Kolkata, Sep 17 (PTI):

With just a day left for the much-awaited Ganesh Puja, it's rush-hour for artisans across the city as they give final touches to the idols. Those who have completed the idols are getting ready to ship it to various clubs and pandals.

The trend of organising Ganesh Pujas has been on the rise in Kolkata for a few years and of late, theme-based celebrations are becoming a big draw. One of the most sought-after themes this year is Chandrayaan-3, India's successful mission to the moon.

A model of the Chandrayaan rocket has been placed atop the pandal in Salt Lake's BB Block puja organised by Sree Sree Ganesh Chaturthi Mahotsav. Inside the pandal, a Ganesh idol adorns a stage in front of a huge photograph of the moon's

surface with the earth seen at a distance.

Pictures of lander Vikram and rover Pragyan have also used to decorate the background to give pandal hoppers a feeling that Lord Ganesh is sitting on a throne on the surface of the moon, committee president Anindya Chatterjee told PTI.

A voiceover commentary every 30 minutes on the public address system will recreate the countdown of Chandrayaan's journey to the moon. To give it a real feel, smoke will emanate from the rocket's thrusters placed on top of the pandal. The theme of the celebration is 'Pari Dite Pari' (we can undertake the voyage).

The committee has been organising Ganesh festival for the last 14 years and is known to be the oldest in



A 'pandal' themed on 'Chandrayaan-3' is made for the 'Ganesh Chaturthi' festival, in Kolkata, Sunday.

the satellite township. "This year, our Ganesh puja is dedicated to team ISRO that successfully launched

and guided Chandrayaan-3 to land near the south pole of moon on August 23," he said.

A puja committee near VIP Road in Baguiati has also chosen to showcase ISRO's feat through their Ganesh puja pandal. At the Executive Palace complex in the city's north-eastern fringes, a five-foot tall idol with images of the lunar surface and Indian flags planted on the moon's surface will greet the devotees. A model of the rocket and a model of lander Vikram will be placed on one side of the idol, said Ankit Agarwal, an organiser of the puja.

Images of different stars and planets as seen at night will be on display also. Blue LED lamps with multimedia images of the moon will light up the pandal, he said.

"On the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi, we will pay our tributes to ISRO. Our theme will be Chandrayaan-3 as the mission is a historic achievement for India," Agarwal added. The organisers of Parnasree Pally Ganesh Puja in south Kolkata has opted for a traditional pandal and idol, Joydip Raha, a member of the committee, said.

Abhishek Das, a member of Muraripukur Ganesh Puja Committee in North Kolkata, said they are celebrating the puja in a big way but there is no specific theme. Another Puja committee in Baishakhi area of Salt Lake has built a replica of the famous Karni Mata Mandir in Rajasthan's Bikaner that has thousands of rats. The members of the puja committee have placed two idols in the marquee Lord Ganesh and Lord Vishnu inside the pandal.

'Ladakh saw unbelievable changes for the better after Article 370 abrogation'



Lt Governor Mishra

Jammu, Sep 17 (PTI):

Ladakh witnessed "unbelievable" changes "for the better" since the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, Lieutenant Governor Brigadier (Ret'd) B D Mishra has said, exuding confidence that it would be the most developed Union Territory in the country in the next couple of years. Mishra, who took over as Ladakh L-G in

February, said his priorities include ensuring that the coming generations do not face water scarcity and creating adequate jobs for the locals, besides making Ladakh "corruption-free and delay-free".

Last year, over 5.31 lakh tourists visited the Union Territory which has a population of around 2.75 lakh, he said. "I have been there (in Ladakh) for seven months now and there is a sea change in terms of development, in people's outlook, in the benefit (being extended) to the people and also to the comfort of living," the Lt Governor told PTI-Video in an exclusive interview in Jammu recently. The local population has ambitions in agriculture, horticulture, pisciculture, sericulture, and animal husbandry sectors which are making progress, he said.

Change of Name

It is informed to the General Public that I Ajay Kumar Soni S/o. Anand Kumar Soni Resident of House No. 18/282, Shri Shyam Kunj, Sarju Bagicha, Masangnaj, Bilaspur (C.G.) 495001. I have changed my old name Ajay Soni to Ajay Kumar Soni so in future I should be recognized by my new name Ajay Kumar Soni in All Government and Other Documents.

Ajay Kumar Soni S/o. Anand Kumar Soni House No. 18/282, Shri Shyam Kunj, Sarju Bagicha, Masangnaj, Bilaspur (C.G.) 495001

Success comes through continuous efforts: Sahu

Fingeshwar, Sep 17:

Under the National Invention Campaign, development block level junk and science demonstration competition was organized here under the supervision of Samagra Shiksha Development Block, Fingeshwar, under the National Invention Campaign. The competition was organized at Government Higher Secondary School, Kundakera development block, Fingeshwar.

In this entire event, the schools securing first place from 26 clusters of the development block, Fingeshwar, were brought to this competition to show their exhibition along with the students from class 9th to 12th under the development block.



The classes also came to this competition with their troupes and many troupes were seen competing in the said exhibition. Chief Guest Yogesh Sahu District Vice President Fingeshwar, chaired by Ramendra Joshi Development Block Education Officer Fingeshwar, special guest

Tikendra Kumar Yadu BRC Fingeshwar, Kunti Pandey, Science Nodal Officer Gariaband, Wilson Thomas APC, Gyanendra Sharma, and M R Ratre were present. Yogesh Sahu. District Vice President, Fingeshwar, said that hard work done with true heart never goes waste; hence success is achieved only

by continuous efforts with a definite goal. In the science exhibition, Sonasilli cluster stood first, Parasdajoshi and Kirvai cluster stood first, in Jugaad from junk, Pasaud stood first, Patharra, Borsi cluster stood third. In the science exhibition competition from Higher Secondary School, Kundakera, Kirvai second and Sonasilli cluster stood first. In making the entire event successful, Ramendra Joshi, Block Education Officer, Cluster Coordinator Ashim Shyam, Harit Santosh Sahu, Ramayan Sahu, Dashrath Verma, Puranik Dhruv, Tokesh Sahu, Deepti Mishra, Yogeshwari Sahu Dakeshwar Dhruv, Vijeta Dewani Malviya Sir Prachi Thakur palyed a important role.

Rain drain a cause of trouble for village Bhatguna

Dongargaon, Sep 17:

Village Bhatguna gets cut off from the block headquarters only due to light rain from the block headquarters due to a rain drain and the villagers have been facing a lot of trouble for years together. The Sarpanch and the villagers, who have made rounds of all the leaders including the MLA of the area, have not been able to get relief till now.

Especially till date, no bridge has been constructed on the rainy drain connecting Dongargaon block and village through road for safe and easy transportation. In this matter, the villagers have many times expressed their views to small and big leaders and officials of the area. Despite this, the construction work of culvert in this drain has not been done. In this matter,



Sarpanch Chetandas Sahu said that applications were given several times for the construction of a bridge

but neither the leaders nor the officials paid attention to it. Not only this, there has also been a demand for

Muktidham of the village, on which till date neither any hearing has taken place nor any action has been taken. The drain is also a hindrance for the mothers and sisters going for the Teej festival because due to continuous rains the area gets cut off from the other region.

What officer says

It is necessary to construct a bridge on this route connecting village Bhatguna with the block headquarters and the district headquarters. There are other problems in the village, for which demands have also been made, but the government and administration do not pay any attention to them

Chetandas Sahu, Sarpanch Gram Panchayat Bhatguna.

Voter Awareness Program and torch rally organized



Korea, Sep 17: Under the direction and guidance of Collector and District Election Officer Vinay Kumar Langhe, as per the schedule under the SVEEP Voter Awareness Program under the upcoming Assembly Elections 2023, on 14 September in Vidya Sabha area number-01 (Bharatpur-Sonhat) and 3 Baikunthpur, a torch rally and resolution meeting were organised.

Evening torch rallies were taken out in all the

Gram Panchayats and wards of the district in which voters were motivated to vote through various slogans. At the development block level, the rally was started from Ghadi Chowk Baikunthpur and Mazar Chowk Sonhat, while rallies were taken out in Gram Panchayats. After the conclusion of the rallies, resolution meetings were also organized at major intersections.

Under the new Voter Identification and Voter

Honor Programme, various programs are being run at the ward level in Panchayat and urban bodies. For the successful implementation of the voter awareness program, as per the instructions of the Collector and Chief Executive Officer Korea, all the Chief Executive Officers, District Panchayat and Municipal Officers of the urban bodies are showing personal interest in making all the programs successful so that all the voters, especially in the rural areas and coal mines areas.

According to the sweep calendar, various programs are being organized continuously at the development block level by the Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat, Nodal Officer (Sweep) and other officers and in rural areas, by the Sarpanch Secretary, Aujanwadi workers, employment assistants and Mitanins.

Aggarwal Samaj elections concludes



Pithora, Sep 17: The election of Agrawal Samaj Pithora was held peacefully at Shri Agrasen Bhawan, in which Anoop Agarwal, President of Traders Ekta Manch won for the post of President, while Shailendra Agarwal (Medical) won the post of Vice President and Bajrang Agarwal won the post of Secretary. (Lawyer) Rajesh Aggarwal (Raju) was elected on the post of Treasurer and Anil Aggarwal (Tuktuk) was elected on the post of Joint Secretary. BJP State Minister Shankar Aggarwal felicitated all the winning candidates by garlanding them with flowers and wishing

them good luck. Anup Aggarwal, the winning candidate for the post of President, was given a grand welcome by his supporters and close friends. On this occasion, newly elected Vice President Shailendra Aggarwal has announced to donate 2 acres of valuable land to the society for building a new building, which is being appreciated everywhere including Aggarwal community. Newly elected Secretary Bajrang Aggarwal said that all the newly elected members will work together for the all-round development of the society and a building with all facilities will be constructed on the donated land.

Villagers facing water problem in GP Binkara

Lakhanpur, Sep 17:

People of Lakhanpur Development Block Gram Panchayat Binkara are facing problem of drinking water during rainy season too as under the Jal Nal Jal Yojana, the facility for drinking water was provided by the CREDA department years ago by constructing a solar panel water tank, is presently lying closed for 45 days.

It was found that even after giving this information to the employees and officers of the department; no attention is being paid till date for its improvement work. Due to this type of problem, nearby villagers are forced to bring drinking water from other localities. It was told by the same villagers that even after 45 days have passed since the concerned department employees were informed about this prob-



lem through telephone, till today they have not even come to give a visit. The villagers have appealed to the District Collector to provide drinking water facility. This information

was given by the village's Ashok Yadav, Shailesh Kumar, Rakesh Rajwade, Santosh Singh, Dhyan Singh, Chukendra Singh, Prasad Singh and other villagers.

Farmer's meeting organized by Mahamaya Agro



Kurud, Sep 17: A farmer's meet was organized by Kurud Nagar Mahamaya Agro on 17th September to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of Mahamaya Agro Kurud, the authorized dealer of Sonalika tractors and on the auspicious occasion of Vishwakarma Jayanti.

A musical program will be organized for the entertainment of the farmers, a draw scheme for

prizes along with methods for better use of tractors by technical specialists and a felicitation banquet will be organised. Satyaprakash Sinha, director of Mahamaya Agro, said that like last year, this year too we are organizing a farmers' meet on the occasion of the anniversary of our establishment at Mahtari premises in Chhattisgarh.

While the experts of Sonalika tractors will tell the farmers about their specialities, the farmers will also listen to their experiences. Besides, farmers will also be informed about the Vishwakarma Jayanti Lucky Draw Scheme issued by Sonalika Tractor till 22nd September.

A cultural program by Sunny Sharma and Group, Himanshu Yadav and Ritika Yadav, Chhattisgarhi album artiste has also been organized to entertain the farmers.

CPI(M) demands lease to the displaced farmers

And return the previously acquired land to the original farmers



Korba, Sep 17: Welcoming the Congress State Government's decision to grant land lease to the people settled on Nazul land in the urban body areas, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) also called for grant of land lease to the land displaced farmers settled in the rehabilitation villages and to return the previously acquired land to the original land owner farmers. Along with the demand for return, there is also a demand to provide rehabilitation with basic facilities to the displaced people

who have not received rehabilitation facilities. In a statement issued here today, CPI(M) District Secretary Prashant Jha has said that CPI(M) has been fighting since the beginning on the demand of providing land to the landless and housing to the homeless.

The CPI (M) had supported the Congress in Corporation on the condition that it would solve the problems of the poor on issues like land, housing and property tax. The result of CPI (M)'s continuous struggle on this issue for the last ten years is that the state government

has had to take this decision in public interest. Now CPI(M) will ensure that this decision of the state government does not remain just an election decision.

The CPI (M) leader said that more than 1.75 lakh poor and homeless families are occupying 13,000 hectares of land in Korba for houses.

This also includes thousands of families living in slums included in Korba Municipal Corporation. It is clear from this that during the last 50 years of Congress-BJP rule, more land than required has been acquired in the name

of industries. The victims of this forcible acquisition have been the poor farmers, who are still struggling under the flag of CPI(M) and Kisan Sabha for compensation, rehabilitation and employment. When leases are being given to the people occupying the forcibly acquired land of farmers, it is incomprehensible to deprive thousands of land-displaced farmers of resettlement villages from leases. CPI(M) also demanded giving lease of the occupied land to the land displaced farmers and returning the land acquired earlier in the name of industries to the original land owners along with providing rehabilitation with basic human facilities to the displaced people who have not received rehabilitation till now.

Jha said that the CPI(M) is planning to soon intensify the struggle regarding these demands of the land-displaced farmers.

Fancy dress, poetry competition marks 70th National Hindi Day



Aastha Vidya Mandir English Medium School, Dantewada

Geedam/Dantewada, Sep 17:

Aastha Vidya Mandir English Medium School, Jawanga of Geedam, Dantewada celebrated 70th National Hindi Day and the official language of India through various programs on Saturday as per the guidelines of Central Board of Secondary Education CBSE. Students were inspired to develop interest and respect for Hindi and use it in daily life. School showed tribute and affection on the birthday of Hindi litterateur Rajendra Singh, who played an important role in making Hindi as the official language of India. Hindi poets and litterateurs were remembered with respect for their contribution in Hindi literature. On this occasion, Hindi poetry reading, quiz, vocabulary, speech, slogan, essay competitions were conducted for primary, middle and secondary students. Many suggestions were also

given for the development and expansion of Hindi language. Reminiscing about the great litterateurs, poets and writers of Hindi language Kabir Das, Sur Das, Maithilsharan Gupt, Subhadra Kumari Chauhan, Mahadevi Verma, Meera Bai, Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, the children presented their speech and thoughts in different costumes fancy dress. Aastha Vidya Mandir Principal Gopal Pandey, Vice Principals Rabindronath Panigrahi and Pramod Gupta extended good wishes and congratulations.

School program coordinator Vikash Bain, Harishankar Verma, Hindi teachers Ashimanand Baipari, Jai Prakash Yadu, Sweta Jain, Tinky Sahu, Mithilishwar Jain told the students about the objectives and requirements of curricular and co-curricular Hindi language. PGT Lecturer Amujuri Biswanath expressed his gratitude for organizing the program grandly. Students and other employees were present in this program actively.

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Chronicle

Congress resolution camp in GPM district soon

Gaurela Marwahi, Sep 17: In view of the upcoming assembly elections in Chhattisgarh, the Congress party has now come into active mode. Congress has started the election campaign from Raipur from August 11 through Sankalp Shivir campaign.

In continuation of this mega campaign, Sankalp Shivir is to be organized in

Gaurela Pendra Marwahi district in the next few days. GPM Congress District President Uttam Vasudev said that the purpose of the Sankalp Camp is that each of our workers should take the schemes of the Congress government to the public through this camp and take resolutions. The objective of the Sankalp Shivir of

Congress is to re-form the Congress government in Chhattisgarh and to serve the rural poor people. Vasudev further said that when the BJP government was in power for 15 years, the work of distributing mobile phones was carried on and at some places, the whole 15 years were carried out in the name of rice festival and Chaur wale Baba, but today

after the coming of Congress government, the work of providing jobs to unemployed youth has been done and is fulfilling each and every promise of its manifesto. He told that in this resolution camp of Congress Party, about 6 thousand party workers from Marwahi and Kota Assembly are expected to be collected.

SC verdict on anti-graft law won't affect Nawaz Sharif's planned return to Pak

Islamabad/London, Sep 17 (PTI):

Pakistan's former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's planned return to the country from London on October 21 will not be affected by the Supreme Court's recent judgement on the amendments to the anti-graft laws, his legal team has said.

On his return to the country, the 73-year-old Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party supremo will face all cases in respect of the courts, Geo News reported on Sunday.

In a landmark ruling, the Supreme Court on Friday scrapped the recent amendments made to anti-graft laws by the

previous coalition govt led by the PML-N and restored corruption cases against public office holders, including Nawaz, who was one of the major beneficiaries of the changes.

Nawaz, who is set to return on October 21, ending his self-exile in London, where he has lived since 2019, may see the restoration of a Toshakhana case against him. In 2020, an accountability court declared him a proclaimed offender in the Toshakhana vehicles case. Sharif is accused of obtaining luxury cars from the treasury house by paying just 15 per cent of the price of these vehicles. Nawaz left for London in November 2019

after the Lahore High Court granted him four-week permission allowing him to go abroad for his treatment. But he never returned to Pakistan where he was convicted of corruption and jailed.

He was convicted in the Al-Azizia Mills and Avenfield corruption cases in 2018. He was serving a seven-year imprisonment at Lahore's Kot Lakhpat jail in the Al-Azizia Mills case before he was allowed to proceed to London in 2019 on "medical grounds".

In a crucial meeting of the PML-N on Saturday, the party's legal team gave Nawaz Sharif a comprehensive briefing in the wake of the apex court's

verdict striking down amendments to accountability laws, the Geo News reported.

The team comprising former law minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, advocate Amjad Pervez, and PML-N Deputy Secretary General Attaullah Tarar gave Nawaz legal clearance for his return to Pakistan.

"No case is a hindrance in his way of return to Pakistan. Nawaz Sharif's return date remains the same. The date has been announced. He is coming back on the same date," Tarar said. Former law minister Azam, who is currently in London, said upon returning Nawaz will face all cases in respect of the courts.

TOASTING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, third right, toasts with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, third left, during his visit to the Russian Pacific fleet in Vladivostok, the Russian Far East. Independent journalists were not given access to cover the event depicted in this image distributed by the North Korean government. The content of this image is as provided and cannot be independently verified. Korean language watermark on image as provided by source reads: "KCNA" which is the abbreviation for Korean Central News Agency.

Case against Indian-origin Singapore lawyer for slapping woman in Hindu temple

Singapore, Sep 17 (PTI):

An Indian-origin lawyer, already been suspended from practising in connection with some other case, has been charged for four different offences under law by the State Courts for allegedly slapping a woman on her cheek at a Hindu temple here.

Ravi Madasamy, who is also known as M Ravi, faced one charge for voluntarily causing hurt, one for disorderly behaviour in public and two under the Protection from Harassment Act at a Hindu temple in downtown South Bridge Road after the incident on Friday, according to a report by The Straits Times on Sunday. The 54-year-old lawyer had allegedly slapped the woman at Sri Mariamman Temple,

where he is also accused of shouting vulgarities and using indecent language, the news report said, adding, he then reportedly called another woman at the temple a prostitute, with the intention of causing harassment. Prior to this incident, Ravi had allegedly used abusive words against a man along Pagoda Street in the temple vicinity by shouting a vulgarity in Tamil at him, also intending to cause harassment.

Ravi was remanded at the Institute of Mental Health on Saturday for medical examination, and will be produced in the court on September 29.

He has two other similar charges pending from July 2023. The lawyer is currently facing the suspension of five years, maximum in such cases, for making

"baseless and grave" allegations that undermine the integrity of Singapore's justice system against the Attorney-General, prosecutors and the Law Society, the Straits Times said.

Those who are found guilty of disorderly behaviour in public can be fined up to Singapore Dollar (SGD) 1,000 and jailed for up to one month. If they are repeat offenders, they can be fined up to SGD 2,000, or jailed for up to six months, or both. For voluntarily causing hurt, an offender can be jailed for up to three years, fined up to SGD 5,000, or both. Those who are found guilty of intending to cause harassment by using abusive words, can be fined up to SGD 5,000, jailed for up to six months or both, under the Protection from Harassment Act.

Fire engulfs 18-story tower block in Sudan's capital as rival forces battle for 6th month

Cairo, Sep 17 (AP):

An 18-story building in the centre of Sudan's capital was engulfed in flames Sunday as fighting between the military and a rival paramilitary force enters its sixth month.

The Greater Nile Petroleum Oil Company Tower, situated in the centre of Khartoum, caught fire early Sunday during clashes between the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces, according to Sudanese media. It's unclear how the fire started or if anyone was killed. Online footage of the blaze showed clouds of dark smoke rising from the burnt-out glass-paneled tower, one of the tallest buildings in the Sudanese capital. Sudan has been rocked by violence since

mid-April, when tensions between the country's military, led by Gen Abdel Fattah Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, burst into open fighting.

The conflict has reduced Khartoum to an urban warzone. In the Greater Khartoum area, RSF troops have commandeered civilian homes and turned them into operational bases, while the military has responded by bombing the residential areas, rights groups and activists say.

In the western Darfur region, the conflict has morphed into ethnic violence, with the RSF and allied Arab militias attacking ethnic African groups, according to rights groups and the United Nations.

Priyanka Chopra Jonas on Jaahnavi Kandula's death: One cannot put any value to life

Los Angeles, Sep 17 (PTI):

Reacting to the killing of Indian student Jaahnavi Kandula in Seattle in Washington state of the US, actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas said a life is a life and one can't put any value to it.

Kandula, 23, was struck by a police vehicle driven by Officer Kevin Dave when she was crossing a street on January 23. He was driving 74 mph (more than 119 kmh) on the way to a report of a drug overdose call. Kandula was in the crosswalk and was thrown 100 feet when she was struck by the police patrol car. In bodycam footage released on Monday by the Seattle Police Department, Officer Daniel Auderer laughed about the deadly crash and



dismissed any implication Dave might be at fault or that a criminal investigation was necessary. "It's appalling to learn that such a tragic incident that happened 9 months ago is only coming to light NOW. A life is a life. One cannot put any value to it," Priyanka, who is based out of Los Angeles, wrote on her Instagram Stories Saturday night. In the

video, Auderer can be heard saying, "Yeah, just write a check. USD 11,000. She was 26 anyway, she had limited value." US lawmakers and Indian-Americans have expressed outrage over the death of Kandula. The Biden administration has assured the Indian government of a prompt report into the incident and bring to justice the police officers responsible for it.

Vivek Ramaswamy wants to end H-1B visa programme

● Calls it 'indentured servitude'

Washington, Sep 17 (PTI):

Calling the H-1B visa programme "indentured servitude", Indian-American Republican presidential aspirant Vivek Ramaswamy has vowed to "gut" the lottery-based system and replace it with meritocratic admission if he wins the race to the White House in 2024.

The H-1B visa, the much-sought-after among Indian IT professionals, is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to

employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.

Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

Ramaswamy himself has used the visa programme 29 times.

From 2018 through 2023, US Citizenship and Immigration Services approved 29 applications for Ramaswamy's former company, Roivant Sciences, to hire employees under H-1B visas.

Yet, the H-1B system is "bad for everyone involved," Ramaswamy was



quoted as saying by Politico.

"The lottery system needs to be replaced by actual meritocratic admission. It's a form of indentured servitude that only accrues to the benefit of the company that sponsored an H-1B immigrant. I'll gut it," he said in a statement, adding that the US needs to eliminate

chain-based migration.

"The people who come as family members are not the meritocratic immigrants who make skills-based contributions to this country," Ramaswamy stepped down as chief executive officer of Roivant in February 2021, but remained the chair of the company's board of directors until February this year when he announced his presidential campaign.

As of March 31, the company and its subsidiaries had 904 full-time employees, including 825 in the U.S., according to its Securities and Exchange Commission filings. When asked about the mismatch

in the Republican presidential hopeful's policy stance and his past business practices, press secretary Tricia McLaughlin said the role of a policymaker "is to do what's right for a country overall: the system is broken and needs to be fixed."

"Vivek believes that regulations overseeing the U.S. energy sector are badly broken, but he still uses water and electricity," she said in a statement. "This is the same."

Ramaswamy, who is himself the child of immigrants, has captured headlines for his restrictionist immigration policy agenda.

Poland imposes EU ban on all Russian-registered passenger cars

Warsaw, Sep 17 (AP):

Poland began to enforce a European Union (EU) ban Sunday on all Russian-registered passenger cars seeking to enter the country the latest in a series of sanctions on Russia in punishment for its war against Ukraine.

Under the EU's decision, motor vehicles registered in the Russian Federation are no longer allowed to enter the territory of the 27-member bloc.

"A car registered in Russia has no right to enter Poland," Polish Interior

Minister Mariusz Kaminski said Saturday, announcing the ban that took effect hours later at midnight. "This is another element of the sanctions imposed on Russia and its citizens in connection with the brutal war in Ukraine, due to the fact that the Russian state today constitutes a threat to international security," Kaminski said.

The move comes just days after the nearby Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia banned vehicles with Russian license plates from entering their territory a joint move in

line with a recent interpretation of the EU's sanctions on Moscow. Poland and the Baltic states are among the most vocal European critics of Russia and President Vladimir Putin.

Earlier on Tuesday, Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy head of Russia's Security Council chaired by President Vladimir Putin, denounced the European Commission's move as racist. He had suggested that Moscow could retaliate by suspending diplomatic ties with the EU and recalling its diplomats from Brussels.

FIRE IN OIL COMPANY



A grab from a UGC video posted on the X platform (formerly Twitter), reportedly shows a raging fire inside the Greater Nile Petroleum Oil Company Tower in Khartoum. Battles between the regular army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, which intensified on September 17, had set fire to several key buildings in central Khartoum.

Pak's Balochistan province crackdown on illegal Iranian fuel pumps

Karachi, Sep 17 (PTI):

The caretaker government in Pakistan's Balochistan province has shut down around 500 petrol pumps illegally supplying cheap Iranian fuel to the people, adversely impacting local refineries amid the weakening economy and high inflation in the cash-strapped nation.

Iranian fuel is considerably cheaper compared to the fuel products supplied by Pakistani refineries.

Balochistan's caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai told the media that these pumps were selling smuggled Iranian petrol and diesel to the people.

"A nationwide crackdown is being carried out on the supply of Iranian fuel products in the country," he said.

The crackdown comes as Pakistan's caretaker government announced yet another hike in the prices of petrol and diesel, taking them to a historic high over Rs 330 per litre amidst double-digit inflation in the cash-strapped country. The hike in prices was dictated to by the

International Monetary Fund (IMF) which bailed out Pakistan's weak economy this year with a support package of USD 3 billion.

Iranian fuel, however, is sold illegally in the country at approximately 220-230 rupees per litre.

Smugglers move the Iranian fuel in containers via the land border crossings in Balochistan with Iran and the fuel then travels to other big cities like Karachi and parts of the Southern Sindh province.

Iranian fuel products are mainly sold openly in the Balochistan province due to its proximity to Iran.

A source in the refinery industry said that the smuggled Iranian fuel into Pakistan was adversely impacting the sale of local refinery fuel products and in the weakening economy and high inflation they couldn't bear these drop in volumes.

The source said that bringing in Iranian fuel was a win-win situation because it is sold for as little as 20-30 rupees per litre in Iran, which is an oil-producing country

South Korea's Yoon warns against Russia-North Korea military cooperation

Seoul, Sep 17 (AP):

South Korea's president said the international community "will unite more tightly" to cope with deepening military cooperation between Russia and North Korea, as he pushes to raise the issue with world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly this week.

Worries about Russian-North Korean ties have flared since North Korean leader Kim Jong Un traveled to Russia last week for a summit with President Vladimir Putin and to tour a slew of high-profile military and technology sites. Foreign experts speculate Kim could refill Russia's ammunition inventory drained in its 18-month war with Ukraine in return for economic aid and technologies to modernize his weapons systems targeting South Korea and the U.S.

"Military cooperation between North Korea and Russia is illegal and unjust as it contravenes U.N. Security Council resolutions and various other international sanctions," South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said in writ-



ten responses to questions from The Associated Press before his departure to New York to attend the U.N. General Assembly.

"The international community will unite more tightly in response to such a move," he said.

In his address Wednesday at the annual U.N. gathering, Yoon will speak about his assessment of the Russian-North Korean moves, according to his office in South Korea, which added it is discussing countermeasures with the U.S., Japan and other partners.

While Russian-North Korean cooperation is feared to fuel Russia's war efforts in Ukraine, it has also stoked security jitters in South Korea, where many think a Russian transfer of sophisticated

weapons technologies would help North Korea acquire a functioning spy satellite, a nuclear-powered submarine and more powerful missiles. Some experts still say North Korea would end up receiving food and cash in return for supplying ammunition and shells because Russia closely guards its high-tech weapons technologies.

North Korea's advancing nuclear arsenal has been a major source of tensions in the region, with the North openly threatening to use nuclear weapons in potential conflicts with its rivals and conducting a barrage of missile tests since last year. In response, Yoon and U.S. President Joe Biden in April agreed to expand joint military exercises, increase the temporary deployments of U.S. nuclear assets and launch a bilateral nuclear consultative group. "Our two countries (South Korea and the U.S.) reaffirmed that any nuclear attack by North Korea will be met with a swift, overwhelming and decisive response that will bring about the end of the regime," Yoon said.



CENTRAL Chronicle

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Bridging Digital Abyss

India's Quest for Inclusive Connectivity

India's digital landscape is a paradox that demands our immediate attention. On one hand, we witness remarkable growth in internet connectivity; but on the other, a vast majority of our population remains untouched by the digital revolution. This glaring digital divide, especially in rural-urban connectivity, poses a formidable challenge that must be overcome to realize the full potential of the Digital India Mission. According to data from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), an impressive 93% of our villages are now connected to mobile broadband networks. This achievement, at first glance, appears promising. However, a deeper examination reveals a disheartening reality—61% of people in these connected areas still do not utilize mobile internet services. The gender gap in internet usage exacerbates this issue, with only 30% of women in our country accessing the internet, compared to 51% of men. While there was a modest increase in female internet users during the COVID-19 pandemic, this growth has plateaued, in stark contrast to the continuous rise among men. Additionally, smartphone ownership is heavily skewed toward men, with nearly half of the male population owning these devices, while only a quarter of women enjoy the same privilege. It is crucial to recognize that India is not alone in facing this digital divide; it is a global concern. Shockingly, over one-third of the world's population remains disconnected from the internet, despite mobile internet coverage extending to approximately 95% of the global populace, as reported by the GSM Association. The pandemic introduced new paradigms of work, including 'work from home' and 'work from anywhere.' However, to make these concepts feasible and equitable for all, access to a fast and reliable mobile internet connection is imperative. TRAI's consultation paper underscores the urgency of addressing the uneven adoption of new technologies among different sections of society and businesses. It also emphasizes the need to ensure that these technologies do not exacerbate digital exclusion. Affordability emerges as a significant barrier to smartphone access in India. While it was expected that easy access to smartphones would accelerate digital inclusion, the reality is starkly different. In 2022, the cost of the cheapest internet-enabled smartphone in India was a staggering 35.91% of the average monthly income, compared to a global average of 26%. In developed countries, this figure is below 5%. The digital divide also manifests in urban and rural areas. As of September 2022, internet density in urban areas stands at 104.77%, while in rural areas, it languishes at 38.33%. This glaring gap of more than 66% in internet penetration underscores the need for comprehensive strategies to empower citizens digitally. It is imperative to provide convenient access to over 400 government services, such as internet banking, Aadhaar enrollment and updating, e-governance services, and financial services like the Prime Minister's Jan Dhan Yojana, for those still excluded from the digital realm. TRAI's document paints a comprehensive picture of digital inclusion in India. While the macro-level performance of our country is commendable, micro and disaggregated data reveal disparities in internet usage across different sections of society and geographical regions. These disparities demand careful scrutiny and holistic solutions to ensure that every Indian citizen is empowered to partake in the digital journey, leaving no one behind. At its core, the digital exclusion problem stems from an overemphasis on infrastructural development for mobile internet connectivity, with insufficient attention to the affordability of new technologies for the intended users. To bridge this digital abyss, we must shift our focus towards making digital access not just a privilege but a fundamental right for all Indians.

Reviving Electoral Integrity

A Reform Imperative

Our democracy stands at a crossroads, and a pivotal report has emerged, submitted to the Supreme Court, which could redefine the contours of our electoral politics. Drafted by the esteemed senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, who serves as an amicus curiae in an ongoing petition addressing the expedited trial of politicians ensnared in criminal cases, this report calls for a fundamental overhaul in the way we approach electoral eligibility. It fervently advocates for the implementation of a lifetime ban on individuals convicted of moral turpitude from participating in elections, shedding light on the dubious constitutionality of the existing provision that allows them to re-enter the political arena after a mere six years of release. The report's argument is not just persuasive but also profoundly moral. It underscores the immediate necessity of ensuring that individuals found guilty of grave crimes, such as rape, murder, drug trafficking, corruption, or involvement in terror activities, should face permanent disqualification from contesting elections, regardless of when they regain their freedom. Central to this debate is Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, a legal loophole that has persistently obstructed efforts to cleanse politics of criminal elements. Addressing this glaring flaw is paramount to restore the integrity of our democratic processes. However, the pursuit of reform extends beyond the closure of this pivotal legal loophole. Equally pressing is the imperative to expedite the judicial process in cases involving Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs). Swift resolutions will empower political parties to make well-informed decisions concerning the candidature or continued tenure of elected representatives, ensuring a more transparent and accountable political landscape for the electorate. This reform, if implemented, would have far-reaching consequences on our electoral system. It would signal to the nation and the world that we are committed to upholding the highest standards of morality and integrity in our political arena. It would demonstrate our resolve to rid our democracy of the tarnish that comes with the participation of individuals convicted of moral turpitude. Moreover, it would elevate the trust and confidence of the electorate in our political processes. The report by the amicus curiae serves as a clarion call for the resurrection of electoral integrity and the revitalization of our democratic ideals. However, its success hinges not only on its merits but also on the collective will of our political establishment and society at large. It is incumbent upon our lawmakers to heed this call for reform, to recognize the urgency of the matter, and to act in the best interests of our democracy. To ensure that the reform is not merely symbolic but also effective, we must commit to a comprehensive overhaul of our electoral system. This includes measures to expedite the judicial process, as suggested by the amicus curiae's report, so that the electorate can make informed decisions during elections.

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

MODI TRAVELS VIA METRO



Prime Minister Narendra Modi travels via metro on his way to inaugurate India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC), in New Delhi, Sunday, Sept. 17.

Media Boycott: A Crucial Battle for India's Democratic Soul



YASH PAL RALHAN



In the labyrinthine world of Indian politics, the decision by the Opposition-led I.N.D.I.A bloc to boycott certain news anchors and their television shows has ignited a fierce debate that resonates far beyond the newsrooms and party corridors. What initially seemed like a strategic move to challenge perceived media bias has now evolved into a larger battle that has raised fundamental questions about the essence of democracy, press freedom, and the evolving role of the media in shaping public discourse. At the heart of this controversy is a list of 14 news anchors deemed persona non grata by the I.N.D.I.A bloc. These anchors, hailing from prominent news channels such as News18, Aaj Tak, India Today, India TV, Republic Bharat, Bharat 24, Times Now Navbharat, and DD News, suddenly found themselves in the crosshairs of a political storm. The I.N.D.I.A alliance, a coalition of opposition parties, vowed not to send their representatives to participate in shows hosted by these anchors, citing concerns of media bias in favor of the ruling BJP—a phenomenon that has occasionally earned these anchors the moniker "Modia" from certain opposition leaders. However, this decision has not unfolded without its share of vehement criticisms, impassioned defenses, and deep introspections about the role of journalism in a thriving democracy. As the controversy continues to simmer, it beckons us to delve deeper into the nuances and implications of this audacious move that threatens to reshape

India's media landscape. **The Media's Reaction** The news anchors targeted by the boycott responded with a mixture of surprise, defiance, and concern. Sushant Sinha, known for his program 'News ki Patishala' on Times Now Navbharat, expressed bewilderment at his inclusion on the list. He questioned the necessity of such a boycott, especially for anchors like him who rarely host debate shows or invite guests. For him, the boycott seemed more like an intimidation tactic rather than a legitimate means of holding the media accountable. Rubika Liyaquat of Bharat24 echoed similar sentiments, framing the decision as an act of intimidation. She emphasized her commitment to fearless journalism, refusing to shy away from asking tough questions and challenging the prevailing narratives. In a post on social media, Liyaquat asserted that the move was less about boycotting journalists and more about evading scrutiny and dissent—a concerning trend in any democratic society. **The Media's Call for Press Freedom** The boycott decision quickly garnered condemnation from the News Broadcasters and Digital Association (NBDA). In a resounding statement, the NBDA voiced its unequivocal disapproval of the move, asserting that it runs counter to the democratic principles India holds dear. The NBDA underscored the importance of press freedom and expressed concern that this boycott threatened to imperil the very essence of

democracy. The sentiments echoed by the NBDA reflect a growing unease within the media community about the future of journalism and the freedom to report without fear or favor. It brings into focus the delicate balance between media responsibility and journalistic independence—a balance that is critical for the health of any democracy. **Historical Parallels and Concerns** Some news anchors drew parallels between the current situation and the dark days of the Emergency in 1975. During that period, the Congress government censored the press and suppressed dissenting voices, leading to widespread curbs on freedom of expression. The comparison serves as a stark reminder of the significance of safeguarding press freedom and the media's role as a guardian of democracy. The anchors have raised valid concerns about potential fake cases, threats to their safety in certain states, and the broader implications of the boycott. These concerns underscore the need for an environment where journalists can perform their vital role without fear of retribution or persecution. Critics argue that some leaders within the I.N.D.I.A bloc have made undesirable comments about Hinduism, sparking tensions and concerns about religious harmony. Day in and day out, leaders from the DMK and other political factions have been vocal in their criticism of Sanatan Dharma, the ancient spiritual and religious tradition that holds a central place in the lives of millions of Indians. Additionally, a minister in the Bihar government reportedly made statements against the revered epic, the Ramayana. Such remarks have the potential to incite sentiments among those who hold these epics in deep reverence. **Religious Tourism and Economic Impact** In this charged atmosphere, it becomes crucial to examine the economic implications of religious tourism. Tamil Nadu, in particular, relies heavily on religious tourism as a significant source of revenue. This sector has played a pivotal role in shaping the state's economic landscape. Without the influx of pilgrims and tourists drawn by religious

sites, Tamil Nadu's economic situation might be markedly different, possibly even lagging behind other states like Bihar. The economic interdependence between religious tourism and the livelihoods of the people underscores the sensitivity of religious sentiments in India. Any interference or insensitive remarks have the potential to disrupt this delicate balance and have far-reaching consequences on the economic well-being of regions deeply intertwined with religious tourism. **Social Inequities and Discrimination** Amidst these religious and political debates, another grave concern surfaces—social inequities and discrimination based on caste, creed, and religion. Despite more than seven decades of implementing the Indian Constitution, discrimination continues to persist in various forms. The tale of Tamil Nadu, where the so-called 'Harijans' are served tea in disposable paper cups while upper-caste customers receive their beverages in exclusive glass tumblers, is a stark example of this reality. The 'two-tumbler system,' which has endured for over six decades, stands as a symbol of this discrimination. Additionally, Harijans, often termed Dalits, are denied the simple act of sitting on chairs and benches inside tea shops in both villages and town squares. These practices persist despite the progress made in many other aspects of Indian society. **A Call for Reassessment** In the midst of this complex web of issues, it is imperative for the I.N.D.I.A alliance to reconsider its decision to boycott news anchors. Blacklists have no place in a democracy; they serve only to mark out targets, perpetuating a cycle of division and polarization. This controversy serves as a stark reminder of the fragility of democratic values and the importance of safeguarding them in the face of political turbulence. It is a call to action for all stakeholders—political leaders, media professionals, and the public—to collectively ensure that democracy thrives, press freedom endures, and the nation's diverse voices continue to resonate in a harmonious and inclusive chorus.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Security SOPs

India pays homage to the brave hearts - Col Manpreet Singh, Major Ashish Dhochak, DSP Humayun Bhat, and an Army jawan - who made the ultimate sacrifice during a fierce encounter with terrorists in south Kashmir. Despite a decrease in terror incidents in the Kashmir valley, our security forces must remain vigilant and prepared. A crucial step is to review and modernize standard operating procedures (SOPs) for counter-terrorism operations, adapting to evolving threats and ensuring effectiveness. It's imperative to assess current operational tactics used by terrorists and make necessary adjustments to counter them effectively.

Ravi Kishan, Ambala

Grim Reality

The recent events in Kashmir, including the tragic deaths of two Army officers and a police officer, along with a simultaneous encounter in Jammu's Rajouri, resulting in two militant casualties, serve as stark reminders. Despite occasional periods of calm, the region's situation remains far from ideal. Two attacks occurring within five weeks in the same area hint at a resurgence in militant activities in the Valley. Security remains a top priority in Jammu and Kashmir, given its history of militancy. Incidents like the one in Anantnag underscore the imperative of establishing a secure environment for conducting elections.

MK Nair, Raipur

Reforming News Anchoring

The banishment of all news anchors, offering potential societal benefits. The rise of AI-generated avatars blurs the line between reality and falsehood, complicating disinformation detection. Anchors, while expressing opinions, must uphold journalistic integrity. Volume or intensity alone doesn't verify truth or accuracy. Vital as political debates are, civility in speech has become scarce in our times.

Shiv Kumar Mishra, Raipur

G20's PM Triumph

The G20 summit's resounding success has undeniably elevated India's stature, along with that of the Prime Minister. This achievement closely follows ISRO's triumphs with Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1. Given that these milestones have been realized under PM Modi's leadership, the BJP stands to gain in upcoming elections. The G20 summit garnered widespread acclaim, notably from member nation leaders. The most challenging aspect was forging a consensus for the Delhi Declaration, a feat accomplished with skill by the PM and his team.

Rakesh Gupta, Korba

India can learn a lot from UAE to promote tourism



Dr. Manmohan Prakash Shrivastava

The objective of any organization's foreign tour program is to explore a new nation from different perspectives, to explore possibilities in the context of one's own country and environment, to establish unity, brotherhood, and discipline among its fellow members of different castes and religions. To forget the differences and to make the relations warm, strong, and to understand and study the best points of the social condition, civilization, culture, development, and technology of the destination country and to implement the excellence of the country in one's conduct. For these purposes, Lions Club International 3233 G-1 organized a study and entertainment tour of Dubai and Abu Dhabi State of UAE (from 4-9 September 2023). I was lucky enough to get the opportunity to be a part of this tour. For tourism point of view this country is good for Indians because participation of Indians in the UAE population, business, and development activities is remarkable, secondly the distance of air travel is less and thirdly Hindi is spoken here from the airport personnel to shopkeepers and taxi drivers. The country, despite having few natural resources (only oil, gas, and aluminum) is rich in strong economic condi-

tions and architecture technology etc. Many of the things make this country number one in the world. There is no income tax. In the name of tax, there is nominal custom duty and VAT tax. I was curious to know how this country manages the fund for development and for that reason I asked the local guide about resource management. His answer was fantastic and appealing. He said that in the absence of corruption, there is no need to impose taxes because the work is done at actual cost and in timelines. Indians can very well understand the meaning of this answer because in India nobody can deny the involvement of corruption and middlemen which increases the cost of the manufacturing unit etc. Not only this, in this country strict laws and punishment against corruption and crimes for every citizen. Perhaps that is why the progress of this country is also fast moving and time-bound. In my opinion if corruption and crime are eliminated from India, then our country has the potential to quickly achieve the goal of becoming a developed nation. The traffic in UAE is very disciplined and operates at a fast pace. The ruler King has a clear-cut warning message that if anyone does not accept or break the rules of this country, he/she will not have any place in this country. He/she has to leave this country after punishment is over. Can India act like this? On the other hand, in India we often hear that rules are made only to be broken. The tourist places of Dubai and Abu Dhabi are more man-made than natural. Because nature has not blessed them with unique diversified natural beauty like India. To promote tourism UAE has provided international level hotels, restaurants, amusement parks, safaris, museums, malls etc. Overall, keeping in mind the world cultural diversity, development has been done in Dubai and Abu Dhabi in such a way that it can become a global center of attraction for tourists. Whereas in India the situation is opposite i.e. plenty of naturally beautiful places but there are very few modernly developed. Perhaps

that is why the contribution of tourism is less in the economy of the country. Although in the last few years, in India central and State governments has started focusing on giving them a better attractive look, such as Mahakal Lok, Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, Ram Mandir (under construction) etc. But in these places nobody can deny the dominance of Pandits, Pandas, and baggers. On the other side crime, robbery, theft, and insecurity cannot be ruled out. Therefore, if India wants to promote tourism, it should also develop world-class tourist places keeping in mind the people of all countries, all religions, and all income groups and make arrangements to provide complete security to the tourists. Dubai and Abu Dhabi is the choice of global tourists because there is neither theft, robbery, drug addiction nor any kind of discrimination. Along with this, the traffic system is advanced, world class, horn-free, police-free, and Zam-free. There is a network of cameras catching crimes. Transport facilities include bus, taxi, metro, tram, monorail. The rules and regulations are very strict and their observance is the same for everyone from the king to ordinary people and is also mandatory. The tall multi-story buildings are unique examples of attractive architectural skills in this country, the cities are systematically settled with good wide roads and highways. The city stays awake till midnight with the glamour, attracting tourists from all over the world and providing safe movement for foreigners (men and women). These points should be kept in mind while developing India as tourist destinations. Good things noted in this country are no reservation, no preference, no exemption, free education, free medical care, proper guidance and support for employment for UAE citizens. It is the responsibility of the government here to make arrangements for the homeless poor people too. Tourist attractions in Dubai's include many tallest and attractive multi-story buildings. Some of them may be named-

Burj Khalifa, Burj Al Arab, Canyon Tower, Museum of the Future, Dubai Mall, Jumeirah Emirates, Yaqoub Tower, Jivora Hotel, Marina-101, Dubai Frame, Atlantis Tower and Hotel, The Marina Torch, Alamos Tower, Paramount Hotel, Ope Ground Tower, Latifa Tower, The National Bank of Dubai, Index Tower, Asian Commercial Tower, Millennium Tower, Colex Tower, Emirates Crown Tower, Marina Gate Vision Tower etc. are prominent as well. Palm Jumeirah Dubai Creek, The Palm Tree Island, Dubai Internet City, Desert Safari are also attractive. While the main attractive buildings in Abu Dhabi are Sheikh Zayed Mosque, National Oil Company Office, Emirates Palace, Etihad Tower, Aldar Headquarters etc. and Yash Island is also worth seeing. The beauty is that all the buildings are different from each other, appear to be talking to the sky, are unique examples of attractive architectural skills. Both the cities (Dubai and Abu Dhabi) are planned and systematically settled. The country has an attractive palm tree-shaped man-made Island where almost every house has its own personal beach point. It seems that the people of UAE have the skills to build cities in sand and turn the sea into artificial islands, even without the availability of freshwater, they have the technology to convert seawater into fresh water on a large scale. The energy source is sun (solar energy) and sea (hydroelectric energy). Buildings and streets electricity supply is underground. No web of stars can be seen anywhere like India. I am troubled by the fact that why has this not happened yet in most of the cities in our country? Whereas the technical experts of our country already know that underground wiring (cable) is a good option to prevent theft of electricity and to avoid wastage of electricity due to emission. This tour made us realize that to create the best, honest commitment is required. Temple, Gurudwara, Church, Manjil are all together, there is respect for all religions. That is why people from all over the world visit here for various

purposes, presenting a unique example of unity, brotherhood, discipline, and harmony. In my view, this is the only thing that explains the secret of its development story. Harmony and a peaceful situation in the country perhaps provide enough energy to the king (ruler) for establishing new dimensions in the nation and making this country the leader in the world tourism industry. The cities here keep innovating continuously so that tourists keep coming here again and again. An example of this is that Dubai Creek Tower, which is taller than Burj Khalifa, is under construction in Dubai, and many islands are being developed; the world's largest casino is also under construction (there is not a single casino yet). It is clear that the people of UAE are ready to partially compromise with their culture to promote tourism. The people here have a good habit that they move forward by learning and not by pulling others' legs and blocking the path. The interesting thing is that the people here are also ready to teach others. Here, instead of jealousy, there is a feeling of joy towards those who learn and move forward. Indian tourists, in spite of knowing that nothing is made here in this country, everything comes from foreign countries (many goods are imported from India too), yet they are not able to give up the allure of foreign goods and the temptation to save a few rupees in the purchase of gold, etc. I believe that it is very important to visit a foreign country, understand its culture, science, technology, and development, but in order to save a few rupees purchasing of foreign items is not fair as far as the Swadeshi concept and Atmanirbhar Bharat are concerned. In my view, the Indian and state governments should also give some tax exemption benefit to foreign tourists on the purchase of indigenous products to get global expansion. In this Lions Club tour, members got the mantra to follow the rules and regulations of the country and work for the progress and development of the country with excellence.

BRIEF

Circular Design Challenge

New Delhi: With the aim to give a global platform to fashion design talent across the world, Circular Design Challenge (CDC) has announced its worldwide expansion that culminates at the upcoming season of Lakm Fashion Week in association with FDCI (Fashion Design Council of India). "Presented by R|Elan, the next-gen fabric brand of India's largest conglomerate Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), in association with the United Nations in India, CDC aims towards a greener and more sustainable future globally by promoting the eco-conscious creatives of the fashion industry," a company statement said.

Finmin

New Delhi: The finance ministry has invited applications for the post of Whole Time Member (Distribution) at insurance regulator Irdai. The applicant should preferably have at least 25 years of experience in the relevant area with a minimum of three years experience at a senior level, the Department of Financial Services said in an advertisement.

Akasa Air

New Delhi/Mumbai: Akasa Air said it has taken legal action against a "small set of pilots" for leaving the airline without serving their notice period. The departure of pilots had led to cancellation of many flights. Pilot shortage is impacting services of the airline, sources said. "We have sought legal remedy only against a small set of pilots who abandoned their duties and left without serving their mandatory contractual notice period," an Akasa Air spokesperson said in a statement.

NCLAT

New Delhi: The Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code is "not a recovery mechanism", observed the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal, while dismissing a plea against United Telecoms Ltd filed by one of its operational creditors. This is the second such observation from the Chennai bench of the insolvency appellate tribunal this month, after declining to entertain the petition from operational creditors.

Tinder

New Delhi: Online dating platform Tinder on Sunday said it has partnered with not-for-profit organisation Centre for Social Research to offer safety guidance to its users. The additional safety guide, along with the existing 15 safety features on the app, is part of Tinder's efforts to ensure safety of its users, leveraging NGO CSR India's insights amid the intersection of technology and violence against women, Tinder told PTI. Tinder users will get a prompt through in-app message for accessing the "Dating Safety Guideline".

Bharat Mandapam, Yashobhoomi to promote trade, employment: Goyal



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Piyush Goyal and Narayan Rane during the inauguration of India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC), in New Delhi, Sunday.

New Delhi, Sep 17 (PTI):

The two world class convention and exhibition centres -- Bharat Mandapam at Pragati Maidan and Yashobhoomi at Dwarka -- will help promote trade, industry and employment, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Sunday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the first phase of India International Convention and Expo Centre - 'Yashobhoomi' to the na-

tion at Dwarka on Sunday, while the ITPO's Bharat Mandapam was inaugurated on July 26.

India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) is an arm of the commerce ministry.

"Bharat Mandapam and Yashobhoomi will promote trade, industry, export and employment. Yashobhoomi will promote MSME sector, farmers and artisans and provide new opportunities and markets for them," Goyal said. He added that steps to make laws sim-

pler, supporting startups, and increasing trade will help to promote the country's economic growth.

On PM Vishwakarma Yojana, Goyal said that the prime minister has recognised the hard work of artisans and the scheme will honour and strengthen them.

Modi launched Rs 13,000-crore PM Vishwakarma Yojana (scheme) for traditional artisans and craftsmen, and inaugurated the Rs 5,400-crore first phase of state-of-the art India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC) - 'Yashobhoomi' -- at Dwarka.

The goal of the Vishwakarma scheme is to enhance the accessibility and quality of products and services offered by traditional artisans and craftsmen. The scheme offers collateral-free enterprise development loans of Rs 1 lakh (first tranche for 18 months repayment) and Rs 2 lakh (second tranche for 30 months repayment).

FASHION SHOW



A model walks the runway during the Meta Vocus fashion show at the Global Fashion Collective II during New York Fashion Week - September 2023.

India, Brazil begin talks to resolve sugar related trade dispute at WTO

New Delhi, Sep 17 (PTI):

India and Brazil have started talks to mutually resolve a sugar related trade dispute at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and as part of the solution the South American nation may share ethanol production technology with New Delhi, an official said.

Brazil is the largest producer of sugarcane and ethanol in the world. It is also a leader in the technology used for ethanol production. "Few rounds of talks have been held as part of our efforts to resolve the dispute. We have also held inter-ministerial meetings here. Brazil is saying that they will share with us technology for ethanol (production). It is a positive thing," the official said. Ethanol is used to blend with oil to power vehicles. Use of ethanol, extracted from sugarcane as well as broken rice and other agri produce, will help the world's third largest oil consumer and importing country cut its reliance on overseas shipments. India currently is 85 per cent dependent on imports for meeting its oil needs. Also, it cuts carbon emissions. There is a target of 20 per cent ethanol blended petrol by 2025.

India would also have to offer something as part of the mutually agreed solution (MAS) to resolve the dispute at the Geneva-based multi-lateral body. Recently India and the US have ended six trade disputes and have also agreed to terminate the seventh case. As part of the solution, while New Delhi removed retaliatory duties on 8 American products like apples and walnuts, the US is providing market access to Indian steel and aluminium products without levying extra duties. The official said that India is also following a similar process for other complainants of the sugar dispute at the WTO. In 2019, Brazil, Australia and Guatemala dragged India into the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism alleging that New Delhi's sugar subsidies to farmers are inconsistent with global trade rules.

A WTO dispute settlement panel on December 14, 2021, ruled that India's support measures for the sugar sector are inconsistent with the global trade norms. In January 2022, India appealed against the panel's ruling at the WTO's appellate body, which is the final authority to pass rulings against such disputes.

Closely monitoring demand for battery electric vehicles: JLR India

New Delhi, Sep 17 (PTI):

Jaguar Land Rover is closely monitoring the demand for battery electric vehicles in India and depending upon the emerging scenario will "strategise" the entry of more models into the country, according to a top company executive.

In an interaction with PTI, Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) India Managing Director Rajan Amba said the domestic market is distinct in its demands for a variety of factors.

"And as such we are closely monitoring demand for battery electric vehicles (BEVs). As luxury consumers become



more discerning in their choices and adoption of new technology, we are committed to delivering exceptional vehicles that exceed their expectations along these lines," he noted. The company currently sells just one elec-

tric model - Jaguar I-Pace - in the country.

Globally, JLR will open bookings for the new Range Rover BEV by end of this year; built upon the success of existing modular longitudinal architecture (MLA), which cur-

rently underpins the ICE (internal combustion engine) Range Rover and Range Rover Sport models.

The MLA platform gives the company the flexibility to produce ICE, hybrid, and BEV Range Rovers as required, tailored to meet the demands of different markets, Amba noted.

"Thus, as the demand and trends in the Indian market evolve, we will accordingly strategise the entry of our EVs into India," he noted.

The British automaker, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Motors since 2008, aims to transform into a modern luxury vehicle business over the coming years.

Dabur scaling up Hajmola and Odomos to include them on its power brand list

New Delhi, Sep 17 (PTI):

Home-grown FMCG major Dabur is scaling up its digestive brand Hajmola and mosquito repellent brand Odomos, amplifying their reach to include them on the list of its power brands, CEO Mohit Malhotra said.

Dabur's fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) portfolio currently includes nine distinct power brands - eight in India and one in the overseas markets, which together account for 70 per cent of its total sales.

Currently, Dabur's 75 per cent revenue comes from the domestic business. Its domestic business is concentrated in eight



Dabur CEO Mohit Malhotra

power brands -- Dabur Chyawanprash, Dabur Honey, Dabur Honitus, Dabur PudinaHara, Dabur Lal Tail, Dabur Amla, Dabur Red Paste, Real.

Vatika is Dabur's international power brand offering a range of personal care products for the glob-

al audience. Currently, Dabur has 17 brands that are above Rs 100 crore but lesser than Rs 500 crore in size, said Malhotra while addressing the investor meet last week.

"We have 17 brands, which are in the range of Rs 100-500 crore.

These are the brands for the future, which we will scale up. If you look five years prior, they all were sub-Rs 100 crore brands," he said.

Malhotra further added that Dabur will grow these brands, which already have the scale and wants to take them to as many homes as possible.

"Hajmola for example, we are trying to push it into a power brand.

Aprilia India launches Aprilia SR Storm 125

Pune, Sep 17:

Piaggio Vehicles Pvt Ltd, the 100% subsidiary of the Italian Piaggio Group and maker of the iconic Vespa and sporty Aprilia range of scooters has announced an exciting addition to its performance luxury portfolio, the Aprilia SR Storm 125. The new scooter will be available in 4 colours - Matt Black, Matt Red, Matt Yellow, and Glossy White.

Equipped with the exceptional i-get engine proven to deliver excellent acceleration, the new Aprilia SR Storm comes with a 125cc, 3-valve 4-stroke engine. The scooter is agile covering a quick 0-60 Km/Hr in just 9.6 seconds helping riders win their daily signal-to-signal race. A scooter for those who look for fun at every turn, the Aprilia SR Storm has a tubular steel

frame with bold graphics, 12-inch tubeless tyres with disk brakes, a semi-digital cluster, and comfortable suspension.

Announcing the launch, Ajay Raghuvanshi, Executive Vice President of 2W Domestic Business (ICE) at Piaggio Vehicles Private Limited said, "We believe the Aprilia Storm 125 is simply one of the most effective 125cc scooters on the road.

Swift and light, it offers benchmark performance for the entire category, thanks also to its new engine. An unstoppable force in urban commuting and ready for adventures, the Aprilia SR Storm 125 is agile, sporty, and able to take on anything with its comfortable suspension.

It offers an active ride that ensures improved control on the road and makes riding fun and dynamic wherever you go.

FPIs take out Rs 4,800 crore from equities

In first fortnight of September

New Delhi, Sep 17 (PTI):

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have pulled out close to Rs 4,800 crore from equities in the first fortnight of September on rising US bond yields, a stronger dollar, and concerns over global economic growth.

Before the outflow, FPIs were incessantly buying Indian equities in the last six months from March to August and brought in Rs 1.74 lakh crore during the period. In the coming days, FPIs are likely to press sale as the market is at record highs and valuations are high, V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said. "With high bond yields in the US (the 10-

year is at 4.28 per cent) and the dollar index above 105, FPIs are likely to sell more," he added.

According to the data with the depositories, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) pulled out a net sum of Rs 4,768 crore from the equities so far this month (till September 15). This figure includes bulk deals and investments through the primary market.

This came after FPI investment in equities had hit a four-month low of Rs 12,262 crore in August.

"The net outflow (in September) was mainly due to uncertainties surrounding the global interest rate landscape, particularly in the United States, and concerns regarding global financial growth,"

Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar India, said.

These concerns stem from broader global macroeconomic factors, including surging crude oil prices and the reemergence of inflation risks, he said.

He further said that worries about an impending interest rate hike in the United States and its potential impact on the global economy have made investors more cautious, prompting them to adopt a "wait-and-watch" approach.

"While FPI withdrawals in September have raised concerns, it's important to view these movements in the broader context of global financial dynamics.

Skoda Auto India introduces Kushaq and Slavia

Mumbai, Sep 17: Skoda Auto India, makers of the safest, highest-rated, crash-tested cars in India, have announced two new product actions with the Kushaq Onyx Plus and the Slavia Ambition Plus. Both variants feature festive pricing, attractive new exchange benefits, and special corporate plans, all for a limited period.

The Kushaq Onyx Plus boasts all-new R16 Grus alloys and a Window Chrome Garnish. The front grille ribs and the trunk garnish at the rear are now finished in chrome. The Onyx Plus will be powered by the 1.0 TSI engine mated to a manual transmission. The Kushaq Onyx Plus is priced at Rs 11.59* lakh and will be available exclusively in Candy White and Carbon Steel colours.

Sidbi to raise Rs 10,000 crore from rights issue next fiscal

Mumbai, Sep 17 (PTI):

Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi), which refinances SME loans, plans to float a Rs 10,000-crore rights issue next fiscal to expand its equity capital as it expects to grow assets to Rs 5 lakh crore by March 2024 from about Rs 4 lakh crore in March 2023, a top official has said. The central government owns 20.8 per cent in Sidbi, while State Bank of India holds 15.65 per cent and Life Insurance Corporation 13.33 per cent. The rest of the equity is held by other public financial institutions and banks. The shareholders will subscribe to the proposed

rights issue. The lender's loan growth optimism comes from the demand for direct financing that is growing by leaps and bounds, which two years ago was only 7 per cent of its book but is now 14 per cent. Sivasubramanian Ramann, chairman and managing director, said the proposed rights issue will be carried out in two tranches of Rs 5,000 crore each next fiscal to expand its capital base by Rs 10,000 crore and support the growing balance sheet, which is expected to rise by a quarter from the present. "We recently had moved the department of financial services seeking to raise capital. Following this they moved the stand-

ing committee of Parliament which has suggested a capital support of Rs 10,000 crore to us next fiscal so to provide us with more lending support to SMEs," Ramann said here over the weekend.

Sidbi's capital adequacy ratio (CAR) came down to 19.29 per cent in FY23 from 24.28 per cent in FY22, according to the annual report which explained the fall to the effective capital utilisation to increase the portfolio of the bank. This again fell to 15.63 per cent as of the June 2023 quarter. However, according to rating agency Icri, this capitalisation level is comfortable as it is supported by lower risk weights for the refinance book.

Rampaging rainfall causes severe flooding in Saja region

Administration's lack of response leaves villages struggling amidst deluge

Central Chronicle News

Saja, Sep 17: Unrelenting heavy rainfall has unleashed chaos in multiple villages, leaving them isolated from essential administrative support and basic facilities. The relentless downpour has significantly disrupted daily life, resulting in severed connections to various villages and extensive flooding.

The deluge has exacted a heavy toll on many villages in the region, with rivers and streams overflowing beyond their banks. In an unprecedented event, the revered Maa Shakti Temple of Shaktighat (Birnapur) now lies completely submerged.

Among the worst-hit is the village of Bagledi,



where homes have been inundated, prompting fears that residents may soon be forced to seek refuge elsewhere due to the relentless rainfall and dwindling access to drinking water.

Meanwhile, Dotu Nala in Gram Mahi Dahi is experiencing severe flooding, affecting the entire area, including the

Panchayat building. In Gram Panchayat Keshatra, Bagledi village faces substantial losses due to flooding, leaving personal belongings stored in the school building utterly destroyed.

The current heavy rainfall in the Anchal region has severed multiple routes to the Saja Block



headquarters, hampering communication. Bargawan Singhanpuri is also grappling with the flood crisis.

Sarpanch Kuldeep Patel of Keshatra voiced frustration over the perceived negligence of administrative officials, pointing out that despite the dire situation, authorities seem to

be ignoring the plight of the affected communities. He warned that if the rain persists, the situation could further deteriorate. Many roadways remain blocked, disrupting transportation in the region.

Despite the alarming flood conditions, administrative aid remains conspicuously absent. As a full day passes, affected villages await official assistance, with no sign of an administrative team attempting to assess the hardships faced by residents.

High-ranking officials continue to hold meetings from the comfort of their offices, exacerbating the challenges faced by the flood-affected communities.

Engineer's day celebrated with reverence and unity

Central Chronicle News

Manendragarh, Sep 17: Engineer's Day was observed with heartfelt satisfaction at the district auditorium in Manendragarh, bringing together engineers from various departments across the district.

In a solemn tribute, they remembered and honoured

Dr. M o k s h a g u n d a m Visvesvaraya, one of India's preeminent engineers, who was bestowed with the nation's highest honour, the Bharat Ratna.

The program commenced with a poignant floral tribute and the lighting of lamps in memory of Dr.

Visvesvaraya. Engineers from diverse fields shared their insights and addressed the gathering, reflecting on the profound contributions of the revered engineer.

Towards the conclusion



of the event, discussions centered on the formation of the Engineers' Association. With unanimous consent, Santosh Singh Kunwar was ap-

pointed as the President of the association, further solidifying the unity and aspirations of the engineering community in the district.

Continuous rainfall fills rivers, canals, and ponds in Mugeli

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Sep 17: Unrelenting rainfall in the Mungeli region has resulted in rivers, canals, and ponds brimming to the brim. Fortunately, there have been no reports of damage to crops, but the water levels in reservoirs have significantly surged. Over the past week, the consistent downpour has filled the rivers and canals to nearly one hundred percent capacity, guaranteeing an ample supply of water for agricultural needs.

While the rainfall has brought much-needed relief for farming, it has disrupted daily life in the district. Rivers and canals are flowing at full force, impacting transportation routes.

The Khadhkhadiya Nala on the Raipur Road witnessed surging water levels, causing traffic interruptions. In lower-lying areas, overnight rain led to water entering homes,



with light showers continuing into Friday morning. Notably, the Aagar River's old bridge and the primary bridge leading to the district hospital remain submerged, posing challenges for commuters.

The local weather department had earlier issued a warning of heavy rainfall, affecting the entire district.

In Mungeli city, the Khadhkhadiya Nala overflowed, causing trans-

portation inconveniences, and the Budhwari Bazaar faced temporary flooding. The submersion of the old bridge became an attraction for curious onlookers.

Additionally, water levels surged along the Pandariya Road, and the GidhaNala also experienced overflow. Rural areas witnessed substantial water accumulation, with farmers actively engaged in managing water extraction from their fields.

SECR launches cleanliness fortnight

- To promote Swachh Rail Swachh Bharat
- GM Vijay Kumar Sahu initiates nationwide campaign to foster cleanliness in Rail operations

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Sep 16: The South East Central Railway kicked off a robust Cleanliness Fortnight as part of the Swachh Rail Swachh Bharat campaign, which will run from September 16 to October 2.

In a significant inaugural event held at the Zonal Headquarters, Vijay Kumar Sahu, the General Manager of South East Central Railway, administered the cleanliness pledge to department heads and officers, ushering in this nationwide initiative.

The ceremony witnessed the participation of several department heads, officers, and a substantial number of railway employees, all uniting under the banner of cleanliness. Simultaneous



cleanliness pledges were conducted across all three railway divisions.

Throughout the Cleanliness Fortnight, observed from September 16 to October 2, railway passengers will be encouraged to maintain the cleanliness of their seats and compartments through the "My Seat, My Compartment" campaign. An array of programs aligned with daily themes will grace railway stations and trains operated by the South East Central Railway.

Day one, September 16, centered on Cleanliness Oath and Cleanliness Awareness. September 17 will feature Cleanliness Dialogues, followed by Clean Stations on September 18

and 19, Clean Trains on September 20 and 21, Clean Tracks on September 22, Clean Railway Premises on September 23, Clean Food on September 24 and 25, Clean Water on September 26, Clean Water Bodies and Parks on September 27, Clean Sanitation and Environment on September 28, Clean Competition on September 29, Single-Use Plastic Ban on September 30, a Review of Cleanliness Activities on October 1, and culminating on October 2 with Gandhi Jayanti under the theme "Swachhata Hi Seva."

The Cleanliness Fortnight was formally launched with a morning rally commencing at the General Manager's Office

and concluding at Bilaspur Railway Station on September 16. Beginning at 7:00 AM, the rally aimed to heighten awareness about cleanliness through slogans and posters, gathering momentum as it progressed. General Manager Vijay Kumar Sahu, the Divisional Railway Manager, department heads, officers, a large contingent of employees, and Civil Defence teams all participated.

In a spirited endeavour to promote cleanliness, Scout and Guide children presented live skits at Bilaspur Railway Station during the inauguration, further emphasizing the importance of cleanliness. Similar morning rallies resonated across major stations and railway

colonies throughout the South East Central Railway, including divisions such as Raipur, Bilaspur, Korba, Champa, Anuppur, Shahdol, Ambikapur, and Manendragarh, uniting residents and passengers in their commitment to maintaining a clean environment.

In the Raipur Railway Division, the Cleanliness Fortnight campaign commenced with Regional Railway Manager Sanjeev Kumar administering the cleanliness pledge. The event witnessed active participation from officers and railway employees across all three divisions, reflecting their enthusiastic dedication to the cause of cleanliness.

Hindi fortnight's conclusion ceremony held

- At St. Xavier's high school

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Sep 17: The concluding event of the Hindi Fortnight was organized at Mungeli - St. Xavier's High School. The chief guest for the program was the renowned author from the city, Mrs. Sudharani Sharma. Mrs. Sharma, a literary figure, has established a free library in her home to enhance the reading skills of students.

At the beginning of the program, a floral bouquet and a token of remembrance were presented to the chief guest by Principal Shubhendu



Mandal. Subsequently, Principal Mandal extended his best wishes to the children for Hindi Diwas, emphasizing that India is a country of diversity, and Hindi serves as a binding force among its people. He highlighted that Hindi is not just a national language but also a symbol of national pride and prestige.

Chief guest Sudharani Sharma enlightened the

students on how continuous practice can help them achieve their goals and encouraged them to engage in continuous learning. She praised St. Xavier's School as one of the most renowned and beloved schools in Mungeli District. She commended the dedication of the principal, teachers, and students.

During the Hindi Fortnight, various pro-

grams were organized in the school. Montessori classes recited poems, while class one and two students participated in storytelling and poetry recitation competitions.

Class three and four students organized a book reading competition, and class five and six students had a dictation contest. Class seven and eight students engaged in a Hindi quiz competition. Class

9th and 10th students engaged in newspaper reading and poem writing. The program concluded with the chief guest distributing prizes to the winning students.

To make the program interesting, a beautiful play based on the dialogue between Lord Rama, Lord Lakshmana, and Lord Parashurama was presented by the 10th-grade students.

Aishwarya, Anushka, Rinkal, Ankur, Shauryadeep, Kanha, and Sarvasva.

The students Astha, Sejal, Ashi, and Anushka presented couplets (Doha and Vachan). The program was skillfully conducted by the 12th-grade students, Mansi Soni and Suprita Tamboli.

Neelu Chandrwanishi joins devotees in Sitaram Sankirtan celebration

Central Chronicle News

Pandaria, Sep 17: Former Congress President Neelu Chandrwanishi graced the spiritual ambience in the Pandaria block, where the Bolbam Committee organized a Ramdhuni Sitaram Sankirtan and Jhuladarshan event. Neelu Chandravanishi offered prayers to Lord Rama and sought blessings for the well-being of the entire region. He also swung the cradle of Lord's palanquin.

Chandravanishi, a fervent advocate of devotional singing, underscored the profound purification that comes with chanting Lord Shri Ram's name. Chandravanishi elaborated on how this practice not only purifies the mind but also the body,



leaving no room for worldly attachments or aversions. By resonating with the Lord's name, attendees sought to cleanse their minds and foster an environment of spiritual purity within the village. Chandravanishi firmly believed that the Ramdhuni Sankirtan program would undoubtedly usher in happiness, peace, and prosperity to the residents of Ruse. The

event witnessed the presence of eminent personalities, including former Sarpanch Jagannath Banjare, Baldaau Sahu Sarpanch, Rajesh Chandravanishi Zone Incharge, Dilip Chandravanishi, Lalit Chandravanishi, Tikam Sharma, Gopal Chandravanishi, along with other committee members and villagers from neighboring communities.

Health camp offers free check-ups to local residents

Central Chronicle News

Manendragarh, Sep 17: In a concerted effort led by Collector Narendra Kumar Dugga, a free health check-up camp was organized at the Community Health Center in Manendragarh on September 16, in collaboration with the District Health Unit and Ramkrishna Care Hospital. The camp featured distinguished doctors extending their services. Dr. Sandeep Pandey, a gastroenterologist, Dr. Vikram Sharma, a general surgeon, and Dr. Ravi Jayaswal, a specialist in medical oncology, provided free consultations and treatments to all attendees. The camp successfully



renowned medical professionals catering to approximately 150 patients, with the majority seeking consultations in gastroenterology. Additionally, around 30 patients received examinations from the surgical department, and approximately 20 patients benefited from the cancer department's expertise during the camp.

extended their services. Dr. Sandeep Pandey, a gastroenterologist, Dr. Vikram Sharma, a general surgeon, and Dr. Ravi Jayaswal, a specialist in medical oncology, provided free consultations and treatments to all attendees. The camp successfully

Grand welcome for Parivartan Yatra in Badgaon Charbhata

- State President Arun Sao highlighting shortcomings of the current govt

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Sep 17: The Parivartan Yatra, set in motion from Devri in Balod district on September 16, continued its journey, reaching the village of Badgaon Charbhata, where the State President Arun Sao was accorded a warm welcome. This yatra, originating in Dantewada, marked its fifth day as it entered the

Dongargaon Vidhan Sabha constituency, with BJP leaders seizing the opportunity to enumerate the Congress government's shortcomings while drawing parallels to the previous BJP administration, likening Congress to a mirage.

Despite the festive ambience of Chhattisgarh's Teej festival and inclement weather, the village of Arjuni witnessed a massive turnout, making the Parivartan Yatra an outstanding success. Within the Dongargaon Vidhan Sabha constituency, BJP enthusiasts and local residents warmly greeted the



Parivartan Yatra in Badgaon Charbhata. During this juncture, State President Arun Sao expressed his gratitude to the villagers for their gracious reception while rallying for a transformation in the cur-

rent Congress-led government. Upon reaching Dongargaon, a spirited bike rally complemented the Parivartan Yatra. The grand assembly in Arjuni was graced by the presence

of State President Arun Sao, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, former Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh, and Bhatapara MLA Shivratna Sharma, who addressed the massive gathering. Before this significant event, Dinesh Gandhi, the District President, critically evaluated the performance of Vidhaya Daleshar Sahu and shed light on the irregularities during his ten-year tenure. The program, presided over by Mandal President Ramkumar Gupta, culminated with a vote of thanks from former MLA Kheduram Sahu.

Red-hot Siraj scorches Lanka in lopsided Asia Cup final

Colombo, Sept 17 (PTI):

Mohammed Siraj conjured a magical spell of seam and swing bowling with magnificent figures of 6 for 21 as India crushed Sri Lanka by 10 wickets to lift the Asia Cup title after a gap of five years.

This was India's eighth Asia Cup title and also their biggest victory (263 balls) in ODIs in terms of balls remaining.

Siraj's astonishing effort saw defending champions Sri Lanka getting bundled out for 50. India did not bat an eyelid in the chase, as Shubman Gill (27) and Ishan Kishan (23) did the job in just 6.1 overs.

This was India's first title in a multi-nation event after their triumph in the Asia Cup 2018, and in a way, it also exorcised the ghost of India's 54 all out against Lanka in the Coca Cola Champions Trophy at Sharjah in 2000.

The match at Premadasa, forever, will be remembered for the way Siraj reduced the Lankan top-order to mere puppets of his sorcery.

Perhaps, he was destined to have a day like this, said the Hyderabad.

"Jitna naseeb mein hota hai wahi milta, aaj mera naseeb tha (You get what's in our destiny today it was my destiny)," Siraj summed up the mood while talking to broadcasters in the mid-innings break.

It all started with Lanka electing to bat first after winning the toss, despite heavily overcast conditions.

The match started 40 minutes after the scheduled 3 PM beginning, but a storm of a different kind was awaiting Sri Lanka a



peak Siraj.

His spell ensured that Lanka batted just 15.2 overs, and this was also their lowest ODI total against India.

The pacer became only the fourth bowler in ODI history to take four wickets in an over, and he matched former Lankan pacer Chaminda Vaas as the fastest to a five-wicket haul in one-dayers in just 16 deliveries.

Siraj also obliterated the best ODI figures

against Sri Lanka, previously held by Pakistan pace legend Waqar Younis 6 for 26 at Sharjah in 1990. However, the beauty of Siraj's bowling was beyond mere numbers.

He got into action after Jasprit Bumrah jettisoned Kusal Perera in the third ball of the first over a regulation caught behind.

In conditions that resembled more London than Colombo, Siraj just had to pitch the ball in the right areas.

Siraj made his dance of destruction in the 4th over 3.1, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.6 balls.

The victims were Pathum Nissanka, Samanera Samarawickrama, Charith Asalanka and Dhananjaya De Silva.

Nissanka tried to place the ball around Ravindra Jadeja at point, but the placement went awry as the fielder completed a fine tumbling catch.

Samarawickrama could not deal with a delivery

that came in that little bit after pitching on a length, and the umpire did not have to think even for a moment to uphold Siraj's appeal for leg-before.

In the very next ball, the left-handed Asalanka pushed at a fuller delivery from Siraj with zero footwork, and the uppish shot ended in the hands of Ishan Kishan at covers.

De Silva managed to avert the hat-trick, but he lasted only for another ball, a push away from

body resulted in an easy collection for Rahul behind the stumps.

But Siraj was not done yet. He castled Lankan captain Dasun Shanaka and Kusal Mendis with peaches to complete their destruction.

Shanaka could not even cover a beautiful outswinger, a delivery that he used to optimum effect on this day, that uprooted his off-stump.

At 33 for 6, someone needed to try and break

A five-for was in my destiny today: Siraj



The complex questions that Mohammed Siraj asked during his dream spell of 6 for 21 was mostly due to the simple things that he was able to do perfectly on what turned out to be a Super Sunday for the Indian cricket team. Perhaps, he was destined to have a day like this, said the Hyderabad.

"Jitna naseeb mein hota hai wahi milta, aaj mera naseeb tha (You get what's in our destiny, today it was my destiny)," Siraj summed up the mood while talking to broadcasters in the mid-

innings break. He was particularly referring to the Thiruvananthapuram third ODI in Sri Lanka's tour of India where he got four wickets early but could not manage a five-for as Sri Lanka folded for 73 while chasing a stiff 391.

"Last time, I did the same against Sri Lanka at Trivandrum. Got four wickets early, couldn't get the five-for."

"I did not try too much today. I have always looked for swing in white-ball cricket and did not find much in the previous games."

"But today it was swinging, and I got more wickets with the outswinger. Such was the swing I was getting on this wicket that I tried to entice the batter to go on the front foot and make them drive."

"If you are not going for wickets, you will be successful on this pitch. It was about sticking to one line and hit the same area."

"I'm so happy with my performance and this is a dream come true for me," he added.

Bopanna ends Davis Cup career on a high, India win 3-1 against Morocco

Lucknow, Sep 17 (PTI):

Rohan Bopanna brought the curtains down on his Davis Cup career with a comfortable straight set win alongside Yuki Bhambri before Sumit Nagal won his reverse singles as India sealed the World Group II tie against Morocco 3-1, here Sunday.

The 43-year-old Bopanna, coming out to play his 33rd and final tie, and Bhambri raced to a 6-2 6-1 win over Elliot Benchetrit and Younes Lalami Laaroussi in one hour and 11 minutes at the Mini Stadium.

India's number one singles player Sumit Nagal outgunned Yassine Dlimi 6-3 6-3 in the first reverse singles to seal the home tie. Rookie Digvijay Pratap Singh will make his debut in the inconsequential fifth rubber. It is only the



second time that Nagal has won both his singles matches in a Davis Cup tie. He had achieved a similar result against Pakistan in 2019 in Kazakhstan. Nagal earned early breaks in both the sets, leaving Dlimi playing catch-up.

The win takes India to next year's World Group I play-offs. An emotional Bopanna rested his India-

shirt on the court, marking the end of his Davis Cup career in which he played 50 matches in 33 ties, winning 23 rubbers, including 13 in doubles.

Watched by his family and friends, Bopanna acknowledged their and fans' appreciation and blew kisses towards the stands.

About 50 of Bopanna's family and friends flew to

Lucknow to watch the Coorg player in action one last time in Davis Cup.

They were wearing T-shirts that had a tri-colour-waving Bopanna picture printed.

Younes could not hold his serve even once in the match while the Indians faced just one break point when Bhambri served and saved that too.

The Indians drew the first blood when they broke Younes. On a Bhambri backhand return at 30-15, Younes netted the volley. Bhambri smashed a volley winner on Younes' return to earn the first breakpoint.

Benchetrit went for an angled volley winner on a Bhambri return but the ball went out as Indians led 3-1. Bopanna came out serving the next game at love to make it 4-1.

I perform best when coach Rana is around: Bhaker

New Delhi, Sep 17 (PTI):

Ace Indian pistol shooter Manu Bhaker on Sunday indicated that not being allowed the freedom to take her personal coach Jaspal Rana in major international competitions could be holding back her performance, and requested the NRAI to resolve the issue. Legendary pistol shooter Rana recently reunited with Bhaker after the much-publicised split two years back ahead of the Tokyo Olympics.

Rana is now working with the multiple-time World Cup gold medalist to help her bag a 2024 Paris Olympic quota place and win medals at the Asian Games in Hangzhou.

But the National Rifle Association of India's (NRAI) policy of not allowing personal coaches to accompany shooters at international competitions is something which has been a sore point with several marksmen for long.

Elavenil strikes gold in Rio Shooting World Cup



Rio de Janeiro, Sep 17 (PTI):

Olympian Elavenil Valarivan won the women's 10m air rifle event to clinch her second gold at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol competition here.

Elavenil was perfection personified in the strong eight-woman final field, never scoring below 10.1

throughout the 24 shots. She finished with a score of 252.2 to outgun France's 20-year-old sensation Oceanne Muller, who won silver with 251.9. China's Zhang Jiale bagged the bronze.

Elavenil had qualified for the final at eighth and final spot with a score of 630.5.

Muller had topped with 633.7. Two Chinese shooters Zhang Jiale and Zhang

Yu (Olympian) and reigning European champion Jeanette Hegg Duestad of Norway were also among the finalists.

In the men's 10m air rifle event, Sandeep Singh, India's lone contender, shot 628.2 in qualification to finish in the 14th spot.

On Friday, Elavenil had teamed up with Sandeep in the 10m air rifle mixed team event to finish fifth with a combined score of 629.1.

The fourth and final medal round spot went to Israel, who were 0.5 points ahead of the Indian pair in the 42-team field.

While Elavenil shot 314.8, Sandeep shot 314.3 as the Indians narrowly missed a shot at bronze. Israel did win bronze eventually, while Germany won gold and the silver went to Hungary.

Chopra misses Diamond League trophy, finishes second in grand finale



Eugene (US), Sep 17 (PTI):

Olympic and world champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra failed to defend his Diamond League champion's title, finishing second with a modest effort of 83.80m in the grand finale here.

The 25-year-old Chopra, who clinched his maiden World Championships gold last month, struggled to produce his best in the winner-takes-all Finals of the 13-leg one-day meet-

ing series at the Hayward Field on Saturday night.

He fouled his two attempts and his best effort of the day came in the second throw, with the series reading foul, 83.80m, 81.37m, foul, 80.74 and 80.90m.

This was Chopra's first below-85m throw of the season. He had qualified for the DL Finals at the third spot. He had won the 2022 DL Finals in Zurich with a throw of 88.44m.

Australia ODIs crucial for Shreyas, Suryakumar

Colombo, Sept 17 (PTI): India's three-match ODI series, starting with the first match on September 22 at Mohali, will be a litmus test for Shreyas Iyer and Suryakumar Yadav albeit for different reasons.

The fitness of Shreyas will be watched closely, while Suryakumar will have to produce an impact innings to vindicate his inclusion in the World Cup squad.

However, Shreyas' progress will be more pressing from the management perspective.

The middle-order batsman spent about half an hour at nets and then engaged in fielding drills for around 15 minutes, heightening hopes around him playing the Asia Cup final against Sri Lanka here on Sunday.

But Iyer was not included in the playing 11. It might be an indication that the team think tank felt the need of giving him more time to recuperate from the back spasm that forced him to sit out of India's Asia Cup Super Four match against Pakistan.

KREJCIKOVA WINS SAN DIEGO OPEN



Barbora Krejčíková of the Czech Republic poses with the winners trophy and surfboard after defeating Sofia Kenin of the United States in the Finals Match of the Cymbiotika San Diego Open at Barnes Tennis Center on in San Diego, California.

Australia brings back Smith, Maxwell and Starc for India ODIs

Melbourne, Sep 17 (PTI): Australia has brought back Steve Smith, Glenn Maxwell and Mitchell Starc in its 18-man squad for the forthcoming three-match ODI series in India. The trio were nursing injuries and missed their recent tour of South Africa.

Top-order batter Travis Head missed out after suffering a fracture on his left hand in South Africa and has been replaced by Matthew Short, who is yet to make his ODI debut.

Aaron Hardie, Tim David and Michael Neser also missed out, while all-rounder Ashton Agar is on paternity leave.

While pacer Spencer Johnson retains his place, Marnus Labuschagne also finds himself in the squad, having scored an unbeaten 80 and 124 in the opening two ODIs against the Proteas.

Coleman edges world champion Lyles in the 100m



Christian Coleman of the United States (2nd-R) edges out Noah Lyles (C) in the Men's 100m competition at Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon.

Eugene (US), Sep 17 (AP): American Christian Coleman edged world champion and fellow countryman Noah Lyles in the 100 meters at the season-ending Prefontaine Classic.

Coleman won in 9.83 seconds on Saturday, matching Lyles' world best this season, with Lyles finishing in 9.85. Coleman roared after his time became official and slapped the hand of a cheering fan at Eugene's Hayward Field. The annual Prefontaine Classic, normally run earlier in the year, served as the Diamond League finale this season. Thirty-two champions were to be crowned over the two-day event, each winning USD 30,000. Lyles won gold medals in the 100, 200 and 4x100 relay at the world championships in Budapest, Hungary, last month. He was treating the Prefontaine as something of a victory lap in his own country. After Saturday's race, he celebrated with a salted caramel milkshake.

'Cheetah Project on right path to becoming successful'

GOVT REPORT
New Delhi, Sep 17 (PTI):



Four of the six criteria established for assessing the short-term success of India's cheetah reintroduction programme have already been met, a government report said on Sunday.

Released upon the completion of one year of the programme, the report highlighted that the initial progress has largely followed a favourable trajectory well within the envisioned limitations.

The project is on the right path to becoming a successful large carnivore conservation translocation and population establishment endeavour, it stated.

"It cannot be overemphasised that the chal-

lenges are formidable. However, with concerted efforts by officials and managers from India, Namibia, and South Africa, along with the support from the highest offices in all three countries, the project is on its assured path to recovery," the report read.

The Cheetah Action Plan, published last year, lists six short-term success criteria, including 50 per cent survival of the in-

troduced cheetahs for the first year, establishment of home ranges in Kuno National Park, successful cheetah reproduction in the wild, survival of wild-born cheetah cubs past one year, successful F1 generation breeding, and cheetah-based revenues contributing to community livelihoods.

F1 stands for the first generation of offspring.

The report noted that the project has achieved

four of these criteria — 50 per cent survival of the introduced cheetahs, establishment of home ranges, birth of cubs in Kuno National Park, and direct revenue contributions to local communities through the engagement of cheetah trackers and indirect appreciation of land value in surrounding areas. India's ambitious initiative to reintroduce cheetahs after their extinction in the country marked its first anniversary on Sunday.

The project began on September 17 last year when Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a group of cheetahs from Namibia into an enclosure at Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park.

Conservationists and experts worldwide have closely monitored the project since its inception.

'43 lakh children in anganwadi centres identified as obese or overweight'

New Delhi, Sep 17 (PTI):

More than 43 lakh children in the 0-5 age group were identified as obese or overweight last month, accounting for around six per cent of the total children surveyed at anganwadi centres across the country, according to official data.

The data collected from the government-run rural child care centres also showed that the percentage of obese or overweight children was almost the same as that of severely and moderately malnourished children found in anganwadis — six per cent.

Out of the 7,24,56,458

children "measured" in the 0-5 years age category, approximately six per cent or 43,47,387 children, were classified as obese or overweight, showed the data collated from growth monitoring app 'Poshan Tracker'.

Thirteen states and union territories, including Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal, exhibit obesity rates surpassing the national average of six per cent, it showed.

Childhood obesity has exhibited a concerning upward trend in recent years.

There has been a notable increase in the per-

centage of children under five years of age who are overweight in NFHS-5 compared to NFHS-4, according to data from the NFHS-4 (2015-16) and the NFHS-5 (2019-21).

Before the 'Poshan Tracker', started last year, data was collected under the National Family Health Survey (NFHS).

In the NFHS-5, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir recorded the highest percentages of overweight children under five years of age, followed closely by Sikkim and Tripura. In contrast, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh reported the lowest percent-

ages of overweight children under five years of age.

Every state, except Tamil Nadu and Goa, has witnessed an increase in the percentage of overweight children under five years of age in the NFHS-5 when compared to the NFHS-4, according to data from the surveys.

A global study published by the World Obesity Federation recently showed that childhood obesity is a grave concern worldwide, and India is no exception. The study warned that if not addressed promptly, childhood obesity in India could see an annual rise of 9.1 per cent by 2035.

'Legal profession will thrive or self-destruct depending on how we maintain our integrity'

Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar, Sep 17 (PTI): Our profession will continue to thrive or it will self-destruct based on whether we do or do not maintain our integrity, Chief Justice of India Dhananjay Chandrachud said here on Sunday.

Integrity is the core of the legal profession, the CJ asserted.

Integrity is not eroded by one thunderstorm, it gets eroded by small, little concessions and compromises made by lawyers and judges, the CJ said while speaking at the an event on the theme 'Enhancing collaboration between Advocates & Judges: Towards strength-

ening legal system'. "Our profession will continue to thrive or it will self-destruct based on whether we do or do not maintain our integrity. Integrity is eroded not by one thunderstorm, it erodes by small little concessions and compromises which are made by lawyers and judges," he said.

"We all sleep with our conscience. You can fool the whole world but can't fool your conscience. It keeps on asking questions every night. Integrity is the core of the legal profession. With integrity we will either continue to survive or we will self-destruct," the CJ added.

Lawyers get respect



CJI Dhananjay Chandrachud

when they respect judges and judges get respect when they respect lawyers, and the mutual respect takes place when there is realisation that both are part of the same wheel of justice, he said.

Talking about women in the judiciary, he said gender is not a woman's issue alone and it was equally a man's issue. "I believe one

significant challenge before the Indian legal profession is to create an equal opportunity profession. Because the composition of the legal profession today will define it 30 or 40 years down the line," CJI Chandrachud said.

"When I am asked why we don't have enough women judges, I tell them don't look at the collegiums today because it has to select among the talent available at the bar. You have to look at the status of our society 30-20 years ago. The judges who are entering higher judiciary today are members of the bar from 20-25 years ago," he said. As key stakeholders in the legal profes-

HYD LIBERATION DAY



Union Home Minister Amit Shah inspects the parade during Hyderabad Liberation Day celebrations at Parade Ground, in Secunderabad, Sunday.

Startup's nano drones show potential in counter-terror operations

Jammu, Sep 17 (PTI):

A defence startup founded two years ago by a team of young engineers from IIT Roorkee has developed three variants of nano drones, including a 'Kamikaze' UAV, which have application in anti-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations.

Mayank Pratap Singh, the co-founder of the startup IDR, said, "This is the first time that nano drones have been developed indigenously in this country."

"In just two years since the formation of our start-up in 2021, we have devel-

oped three variants of nano drones that are actively aiding security forces in their efforts against insurgency and terrorism," Singh told PTI here.

He said IDR Research and Development has introduced the Doot Mk1 nano drone in three specialised variants, which were showcased at the North-tech symposium. The symposium was held here recently to address operational challenges and procure state-of-the-art equipment for the Army.

Weighing approximately 200 grams, these drones

boast an endurance of up to 30 minutes and can reach a maximum speed of 80 kmph with very low sound, Singh said, adding the Doot Mk1 is equipped with artificial intelligence capabilities, allowing it to identify up to 80 different objects.

"One version of the drone is optimised for outdoor operations, another for indoor settings, and there's an explosive variant (Kamikaze).

"These nano drones can be deployed in under 10 seconds during emergencies. Their compact sizes allow them to be navigated in complex spaces,

whether launched from hand, rooftop, or moving vehicles," Singh said.

The 'Kamikaze' version, named Parush, explodes upon reaching its target.

Carrying explosives, the drone has a kill button for it to detonate, he said, adding the drones equipped with such mechanism would have to be programmed to identify the enemy's hideout and explode there.

"Parush means lethal or destructive. We have successfully tested the explosive drone recently and are working on the safety part now," he said. "It will be ready by December."

'Climate change is real, to save planet do not buy cars'

Mumbai, Sep 17 (PTI):

Gandhian G G Parikh has said climate change is a reality, and simple acts like stopping car purchases can help save the planet.

Speaking at the launch of the book 'Climate Actioneers Primer: A Beginner's Toolkit' on Saturday evening, the 99-year-old said we need to believe the scientific community, which is giving grave warnings on the impact of climate change.

The book, authored by Anand Pendharkar, Rahul Palekar and Amruta Padgaonkar, enlists simple everyday hacks to help deal with the challenge and was launched at the Mumbai



G G Parikh

Zoo. Parikh, the founder of the Yusuf Meherally Centre near here, said Gandhi was a true environmentalist and recounted the Father of the Nation's views against consumption.

India had a population of 30 crore in the pre-Independence times and Gandhi often wondered about the impact on the en-

vironment if all these people started consuming like the colonial powers, Parikh said. The younger generation will have to take the lead and undertake concerted efforts on climate change mitigation, he said, making a specific plea. "Do not buy a car. A lot of change will take place if all us decide not to buy cars," Parikh said in comments that come at a time when policymakers have been stressing on increasing adoption of public transport for mobility needs. He said the personal car is at the root of a lot of worrying aspects and added that things like autobahns will not be needed at all if car usage reduces.

GANESH CHATURTHI PREPARATIONS



People purchase flowers and garlands ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi festival, in Bengaluru, Sunday.

'59 % growth in TOEFL test takers in India post-pandemic'



Sachin Jain

New Delhi, Sep 17 (PTI):

TOEFL test takers in India have grown by 59 per cent since international travel resumed following suspension during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Educational Testing Service (ETS).

Corresponding with the trend, Indians accounted for 12.3 per cent of the total test takers globally in 2022, up from 7.5 per cent the previous year, showed data from the Princeton-based ETS

● Rise in share among global test takers

which conducts the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and Graduate Record Examination (GRE). According to data exclusively accessed by PTI, there was a 53 per cent growth in Indian TOEFL test takers in 2021 compared to the previous year. In 2022, the number of test takers saw a 59 per cent rise over 2021. "The numbers are clearly indicative of the rising aspirations of Indians in exploring foreign shores. The growth in Indian test takers is in sync with the rise in the number of Indians moving abroad for studies or immigration purposes.

"The trends show that the interest is no longer limited to the US or UK but the destination land-

scape has widened," Sachin Jain, Country Manager, ETS India and South Asia, told PTI. He asserted that the number is expected to go up further with countries like Singapore, Australia, France, and Sweden receiving an increased volume of score reports from Indian test takers.

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