



LS passes women's quota bill

452 VS 2 VOTES

New Delhi, Sep 20:



Parliamentarians during the special session of the Parliament, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

The historic bill providing 33 per cent reservation to women in parliament and state assemblies was passed in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday after hours of fierce debate. This is the first time the bill was introduced and passed in the lower house. The bill was passed through voice vote in new parliament during a five-day special session called on the occasion of 75 years of Indian Independence. The bill was passed with the support of 454 MPs. Only Two MPs voted against it. The bill

will be presented in Rajya Sabha on Thursday, the day four of the special session. The implementation of the quota, though, can take place only after a census and delimitation, which pushes it back by at least six years -- a matter that has provided ammunition to the Opposition. Union

Home Minister Amit Shah, however, said both delimitation and census will begin after next year's general election. This is the first time the bill has been able to clear the Lok Sabha. The 2008 bill drafted by the UPA government was only able to clear the Rajya Sabha test before being

scuttled by parties demanding quota for Other Backward Classes as well. Shah on Wednesday accused Opposition parties of lacking the will to push through the bill and playing politics over it. "This is the fifth attempt to bring this bill - From HD Devegowda to Manmohan

Singh. What were the reasons why it failed to get nod," he said, tracing the bill's journey each time. Opening the debate, Congress's Sonia Gandhi underscored that the initiative for the bill was taken under the UPA government. "How many years will they (women) have to wait... two... four... eight? Is this right? Congress demands the bill be implemented immediately," she said, calling for reservation for women from SC, ST and OBC communities. Congress's Rahul Gandhi said, "Two things seem strange. One, the idea that you need new census for this bill and new delimitation and I think this bill can be implemented today. I wonder this is not designed to push it forward by seven or eight years and let it play out the way it does".

BRIEF



Noted dancer Alokandara Roy at the launch of the 'Dignity Foundation Dementia Day Care Centre' on the eve of World Alzheimer's Day, in Kolkata, Wednesday.

Factory blast

New Delhi: Two persons died and four others were injured in a blast in a plastic factory in Bawana area here on Wednesday, officials said. Fire officials said they got a call at 4.44 pm about a fire in a factory in Sector-3 of the Bawana industrial area and rushed six fire tenders to the spot. They said the fire resulted in a blast at 5.10 pm in which five to six people got seriously injured.

CBI action

Shimla: A team of the Central Bureau of Investigation on Wednesday conducted searches at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study and Central Public Works Department office in Shimla in connection with the construction of a tennis court at IIAS, officials said. An eight-member team arrived on the IIAS campus in private vehicles at 10 am and examined documents related to the tennis court and also visited the court.

Jailed

New Delhi: A Special Court in Patna has sentenced former GM (Telecom) BB Rai, former Telecom Divisional Engineer Rampati Chikhaiyar, and Nalanda Telecom Service proprietor Perwez Ahmad to five years rigorous imprisonment for corruption in a 27-year-old contract for repair of faulty EPBT cards, officials said Wednesday.

Tanker fire

Thane: A tanker transporting oil was gutted in a major fire in Bhiwandi taluka of Maharashtra's Thane district on Wednesday, but nobody was injured in it, police said. The incident occurred on the Bhiwandi-Nashik bypass road around 10.30 am, they said. After getting the alert, the fire brigade personnel of the Bhiwandi Nizampur City Municipal Corporation rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze, but the vehicle was reduced to ashes by then, an official said.

Aircraft

New Delhi: The first C-295 medium tactical transport aircraft landed in Vadodara on Wednesday, days after it was handed over to the Indian Air Force (IAF) in the southern Spanish city of Seville. The aircraft would be formally inducted into the IAF at a ceremony in Hindon near Delhi on September 25.

1984 Anti-Sikh Riots Court acquits Sajjan Kumar

New Delhi, Sep 20 (PTD):

A Delhi court Wednesday acquitted former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in a case related to the killing of a person during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, giving him the "benefit of doubt". Special Judge Geetanji Goel also acquitted two other accused -- Ved Prakash Pial and Brahmanand Gupta -- holding that the prosecution failed to prove the case of murder and rioting against them. A Sikh man Surjit Singh was killed during the incident in Sultanpuri. "The accused Sajjan Kumar is given benefit

of doubt and acquitted for the offence" the judge said.

Kumar was accused of various offences punishable under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) including promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race etc. (Section 153A), abetment of any offence (Section 109), murder (Section 302) and rioting (147). The riots had broken out after the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards on October 31, 1984. Kumar is currently lodged in Tihar jail after conviction in another case related to the riots.



CRPF jawan injured in IED blast

Dantewada, Sep 20:

A Central Reserve Police Force jawan was on Wednesday injured when an improvised explosive device (IED), planted by Naxalites, exploded in Sukma district, a senior police official said.

The incident took place at around 7.30 am near Kamarguda police camp under the Jagargunda police station area when a squad of CRPF's 231st battalion was out on a search operation, he said.

The IED exploded around a kilometre away from the camp on Sukma-Dantewada inter-district border, resulting in minor splinter injuries to the

Two women Naxalites killed in encounter

Two women Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district on Wednesday, the police said. The gunfight took place around 7 am in the forest of Arampur police station limits when a team of District Reserve Guard (DRG), a unit of state police, was out on an anti-Naxalite operation, a senior police official told PTI. The security personnel launched the operation after receiving specific inputs about the presence of Naxalites belonging to the Darbha Division of the banned outfit near Nagaram-Poro Hirma jungles along the Dantewada-Sukma interdistrict border, he said. When the patrolling team was cordoning off the area, an exchange of fires broke out between the two sides, he said. After guns fell silent, the bodies of two women Naxalites along with one "Insas rifle and one 12 bore rifle" were recovered from the spot, the official said. The search operation was underway in the area, he added.

legs of assistant sub-inspector Sagar Singh Tomar, he said. The jawan was administered first aid at the camp and was being shifted to a local hospital in Dantewada, the official

said. The blast took place on the strategically important Aranpur (Dantewada)-Jagargunda (Sukma) road, construction of which was recently completed.

NIGHT VIEW OF NEW PARL HOUSE



New Parliament House during the Special session of Parliament, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

2021 'TOOLKIT' ROW HC quashes FIR against BJP leaders Raman Singh, Patra

Bilaspur, Sep 20 (PTD):

The Chhattisgarh High Court on Wednesday quashed an FIR registered against BJP leader and former chief minister Raman Singh and the party's spokesperson Sambit Patra in connection with circulation of an alleged 'toolkit' using a bogus letterhead of the Congress.

A division bench of Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha and Justice NK Chandravanshi quashed the FIR (first information report), observing no offence was made out against the two BJP politicians, petitioners' lawyer Vivek Sharma said. On May 19, 2021, an FIR was lodged in

2021 'TOOLKIT' ROW

HC quashes FIR against BJP leaders Raman Singh, Patra

What FIR mentioned.....

On May 19, 2021, an FIR was lodged in Raipur based on a complaint of Akash Sharma, then-Chhattisgarh unit president of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI), the student wing of the Congress. The complainant had alleged Singh, Patra and other BJP leaders circulated fabricated content on social media platforms using a fake letterhead of the Congress by projecting it as a toolkit developed by the grand old party.

Raipur based on a complaint of Akash Sharma, then-Chhattisgarh unit president of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI), the student wing of

the Congress. The complainant had alleged Singh, Patra and other BJP leaders circulated fabricated content on social media platforms using a fake letterhead of the Congress by projecting it as a toolkit developed by the grand old party.

Singh and Patra had filed petitions in the HC seeking to quash the FIR, Sharma said. After initial hearing on their petitions, the HC had stayed investigation into the charges levelled in the FIR, the lawyer said. On September 12, the HC had reserved its order after hearing both sides and delivered the verdict on Wednesday, Sharma said.

Modi invites Biden to be 2024 R-Day chief guest

New Delhi, Sep 20 (PTD):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited US President Joe Biden to be the Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations on January 26 during their bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit, US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti said on Wednesday.

Asked whether the Quad summit is being planned in India around the same time, Garcetti indicated that he was not aware of it. The Quad comprises India, the US, Japan and Australia. It is India's turn to host the annual Quad summit next year. The US ambassador was asked at an event about the reports that India is considering inviting leaders of the Quad nations to grace the

Republic Day celebrations. US President Biden was invited to the Republic Day celebrations by Prime Minister Modi during the bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit, Garcetti said. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi was the chief guest at this year's Republic Day celebrations. Every year, India invites world leaders to attend its Republic Day celebrations. There was no Republic Day Chief guest in 2021 and 2022 in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, the then Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro was the chief guest. In 2019, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa was the chief guest at the parade, while in 2018, leaders of all 10 ASEAN countries attended the celebrations.

Rapper Shubh's India tour cancelled



New Delhi, Sep 20 (PTD):

BookMyShow on Wednesday cancelled Punjabi-Canadian singer Shubhneet Singh's India tour after the ticket booking app faced a boycott call on social media for hosting a singer who is allegedly a Khalistani sympathiser. In a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, BookMyShow said it will do a complete refund of the tickets within 7-10 days. "Singer Shubhneet Singh's Still Rollin Tour for India stands cancelled. To that end, BookMyShow has initiated a complete refund of the ticket amount for all consumers who had purchased tickets for the show. The refund will be reflected within 7-10 working days in the customer's source account of the original transaction," it said.

ASIAN GAMES OPENING CEREMONY

Harmanpreet Singh, Lovlina to be India's flag-bearers

New Delhi, Sep 20 (PTD):

Hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh and Olympic medallist boxer Lovlina Borgohain will be the flag-bearers of the Indian contingent during the opening ceremony of the Asian Games in Hangzhou on September 23.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) took the decision on Wednesday to have joint flag-bearers for the continental showpiece.

A total of 655 Indian athletes are competing in the Asian Games this time, which is the largest contingent ever. "We arrived at the decision after much deliberation today," Indian contin-



gent Chef de Mission Bhupinder Singh Bajwa told PTI. "This time we will have two flag-bearers leading the contingent at the Asian Games - hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh and boxer Lovlina Borgohain," added Bajwa, who is also Wushu Association of India chief. Star javelin thrower

Neeraj Chopra had done the honours at the opening ceremony of the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games. Lovlina had won a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics in the 69kg category. This year, she won gold in 75kg category at the World Women's Boxing Championship in New Delhi.

Priyanka Gandhi in Bhilai today

To attend 'Mahila Samridhi Sammelan' along with CM Baghel

Bhilai, Sep 20:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will be attending the 'Mahila Samridhi Sammelan' to be organized at Jayanti Stadium in Sector-6 of Bhilai tomorrow (Sept 21) and in this Priyanka Gandhi will be the chief guest. CM will leave by car at 11:45 pm and reach Jayanti Stadium, Bhilai, at 1:00 pm and then attend the 'Mahila Samridhi Sammelan' there. He will return after completion of the programme by afternoon.



Weather
High 33 Low 24

MARKET
NIFTY 19,901.40
SENSEX 66,800.84

BULLION
GOLD 59,370
SILVER 73,083



Mahila Samridhi Sammelan

21 September, 2023
Jayanti Stadium, Bhilai, Chhattisgarh

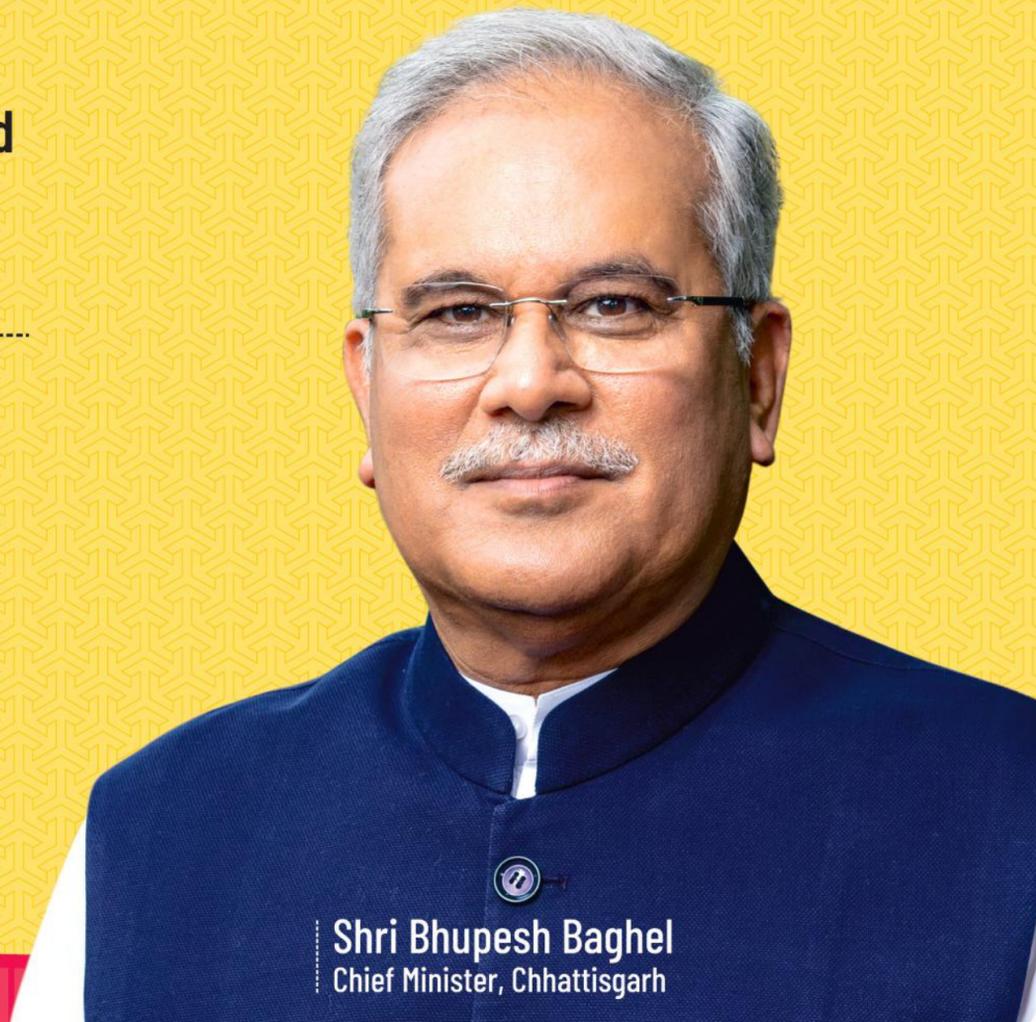
WOMEN RISING Chhattisgarh Govt's Empowering Journey

- ❖ Fivefold increase in State Mahila Kosh fund
- ❖ ₹12.77 crore loan waiver of women self-help groups
- ❖ Up to ₹50 lakh financial support and special grants to facilitate business startups
- ❖ 1.85 lakh women from 20 lakh economically weaker families linked with self-help groups under Mission 'Bihan'
- ❖ 50% quota in the Gram Sabhas, providing equal representation in the formulation of policies for the utilization of the District Mineral Foundation fund

**Leading State in
Gender Equality in India**

(SDG Index 2020-21, NITI Aayog)

**Highest Sex Ratio among
All States**



Shri Bhupesh Baghel
Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

'Govt would investigate the matter and respond before the court'

State Govt's statement on the petition concerning PSC selection

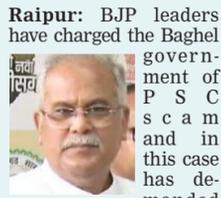
Those appointed will remain subjected to the order of the court, as the case may be

The appointment procedure will not be finalized until the next order of the court

that the matter will be thoroughly investigated and based on the investigation, response will be submit to the Honorable Court. The Government has also stated before the court that till the next hearing of the case, the candidates accused, who have not been appointed, will not be finalized further and those who have been appointed will be subjected to the order of the Honorable Court, as the case may be.

Taking the above statement on record, the Honorable Court has scheduled the next hearing of the petition after a week and has directed the State Government and the PSC to investigate the authenticity of the claims enlisted by the petitioner. The petitioner has been directed to make the selected persons a party in the case and make the prescribed

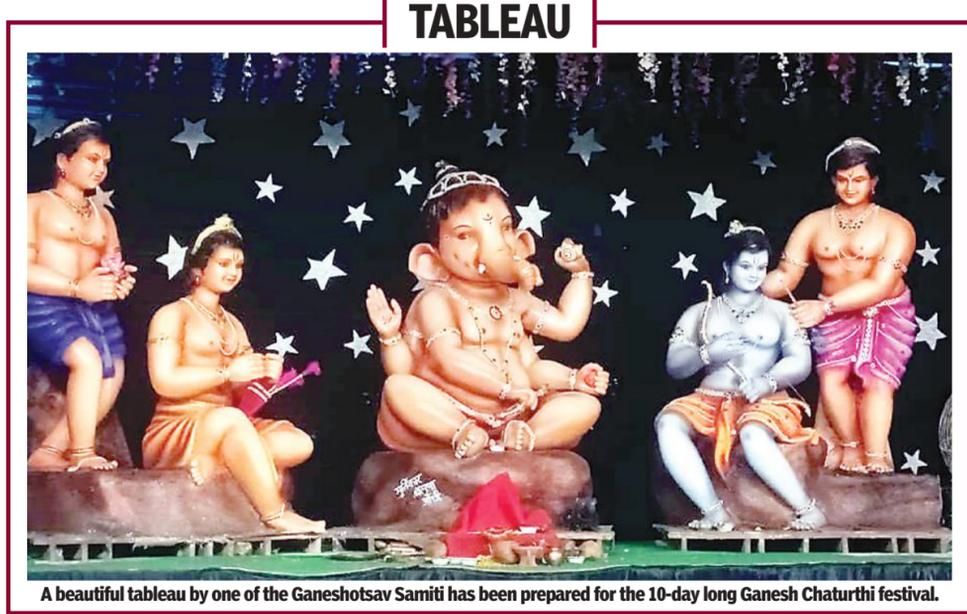
We would conduct inquiry, if Court orders: CM



Raipur: BJP leaders have charged the Baghel government of P S C scam and in this case has demanded CBI and High Court inquiry. On this CM Baghel said that the BJP leader Nanki Ram Kanwar had being to the Court and we would adhere to Court's order. During the BJP's rule in the state in 2003, there was case of irregularity in PSC and it was during their term in 2016 there was irregularity in merit list as well. After this the then government went to the Supreme Court and till date no decision has been taken. About the alleged irregularities in recruitment of close and family members of senior officers in the State PSC, if there is any type of instructions from the Court to conduct inquiry, then it would be adhered and the Court's order will be followed.

amendments in his petition. The petitioner has also been warned by the court that if the information given by him is found to be false then he will be subjected to appropriate action.

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A beautiful tableau by one of the Ganeshotsav Samiti has been prepared for the 10-day long Ganesh Chaturthi festival.

Vidarbha eves thrash Chh'garh Red by 42 runs in T-20 match



Raipur, Sep 20: Visiting Vidarbha Women Cricket team on Wednesday thrashed the host Chhattisgarh Red team by 42 runs in a group match under the Chhattisgarh T-20 Cricket tournament being organized under the aegis of Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh (CSCS) at Naya Raipur-based International Cricket Stadium.

Put into bat first, the Vidarbha Women scored 134 runs for 5 wickets with

Shivani Dharne scoring maximum 56 runs from just 58 balls. Similarly, Phoolmali (35 runs) and Ridhi Nayak (12 runs) made valuable contributions for the team.

Pratigya Singh, Mamta Bhagat and Sanjeeta Patel claimed one wicket each for Chhattisgarh.

In reply, the host B team failed to put up an impressive show with the bat and were bundled out for just 92 runs. Ridhi Nayak was the most successful bowler for the visitors as she claimed 3 wickets for just 9 runs in her 4 over spell. Tanvi Pavitrakar and Arti Bahawal claimed two wickets each to ensure victory of Vidarbha eves.

Blood donation camp organised by SNIL, Kash Foundation



Raipur, Sep 20: Koi Apna Sa Ho (KASH) Foundation organised a blood donation camp on Saturday at the corporate office of Shri Nakoda Ispat Limited (SNIL), Mowa. Nakoda TMT officials regularly organize such social service work. The blood donation camp was organised for children suffering from Thalassemia or sickling, who require blood every 15 days.

A camp was organised for children here in which Surendra Goyal, Director of Shri Nakoda Ispat Ltd, had given his special support to make the blood donation camp successful. Surendra Goyal also informed the people about the measures to prevent this disease. Vivek Sahu of Jaideep Blood Bank had also given his special support in providing blood to the children on time.

Four accused nabbed from a truck, entire cash of Rs 5 cr seized

While trying to escape to Jharkhand

Central Chronicle News

Raigarh, Sep 20: In case of dacoity worth Rs 5 crore from Axis Bank the previous day, the Police has nabbed four accused involved in it. The Balrampur police has arrested the four accused trying to escape to Jharkhand in a truck. The police has also seized the Creta vehicle used by the dacoits from Ramanujan. As per planning the dacoits left the



Creta car and boarded a truck to go to Jharkhand. The police has seized the Creta vehicle, cash stolen from the Bank and other items from the four ac-

cused. It is notable here that on Tuesday morning, the dacoits looted Axis Bank's branch in Dimarpur chowk of Raigarh. The accused masked and lased with weapons entered inside the bank and took all the employees hostage. In addition to this the Bank's manager was attacked with a knife and left injured.

After the incident, the dacoits ran away with the cash and after which the Bank employees informed it to the police and they conducted inspection inside the bank and tried to

look in for the clues and on checking the footage, found the accused traveling in bike with Jharkhand pass as its registration number. So based upon this the barricading was done at all the check-posts and border areas of Jharkhand and all police stations were informed about the dacoity and were asked to check all vehicles passing from the region towards Jharkhand. Finally the Ramanujan police got the location and nabbed all the four in a truck to Jharkhand and seizing the cash stolen.

Take care of student's convenience coming to Nalanda campus: Dr. Bhure

No hike in library fees of Nalanda campus

Raipur, Sep 20: Under the chairmanship of Collector Dr. Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure, the meeting of the Executive Committee of Dr. Mahadev Prasad Pandey Nalanda Complex Management Society, Raipur was held in the Nalanda complex on Wednesday. In this, Collector Dr. Bhure said that take care of the convenience of the students coming to Nalanda campus. Try to solve their problems quickly. He said that the fee charged from students coming to the library should not be increased, it should be kept



the same. He also directed to purchase 25 new state-of-the-art systems to facilitate studies. In the meeting, it was decided to digitize the membership, monthly and other fees in the library located in Nalanda campus, for which instructions were given to create a mobile app. Through this app, students will be able to pay fees online and will get information about the updated status of fees. Dr. Bhure gave instructions to make

the latest newspapers and magazines available in the library for preparation of competitive examinations. Along with this, it was agreed to operate the smart reading room under the Youth-Hub Project by the Smart City in Motibagh under the Nalanda Campus Management Society.

In the meeting, Secretary of the Executive Committee, Municipal Corporation Manyak Chaturvedi and other mem-

bers, Zone Commissioner of Zone No. 07, Smart City Executive Engineer, RK Gupta, Assistant Commissioner of Tribal Welfare Department Tarakeshwar Dewangan, Deputy Director of Employment Department, A. O. Lorry, Employment Officer Mr. Kedar Patel, Nalanda Campus Librarian Mrs. Dr. Manjula Jain and other members were present. On this occasion, Collector Dr. Bhure met the students selected in competitive examinations from Nalanda campus and appreciated and felicitated them. The Collector inspected the smart reading room under construction in Motibagh and directed to complete it soon. He also inspected the Central Library.

Four accused arrested in elephant tusks and Pangolin scales smuggling

Continuous campaign for the Prevention of Forest Crimes going on

Raipur, Sep 20: Under the guidance of the Minister of Forest & Climate Change, Mohammad Akbar, the department has been continuously running a campaign to prevent forest crimes. In this context, on, September 17th, under the Manendragarh forest division, four accused have been arrested in two separate cases of forest crimes and jailed. These cases are related to the illegal trade of elephant tusks and pan-



golin scales.

The above action was carried out under the guidance of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF) V Srinivasa and PCCF(Wildlife) Sudhir Agrawal. The team from the Forest Department was vigilant and proactive in

this regard. According to information received from the Divisional Forest Officer, Manendragarh, L.N. Patel, on September 19, with the assistance of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, a forest crime related to the illegal trade of elephant tusks and pangolin scales near Kathotiya-Ghutara Road Railway Crossing in Manendragarh forest area was busted. Two individuals, Rajkumar Aatmaj Shiv Prasad Yadav, aged 35, from Bhelwadandapara, Sonahat District, Koriya, and Dubraj Aatmaj Bal Singh Gond, aged 36, from Sa. Bhelwadandapara, Sonahat District, Koriya, were apprehended on a

motorbike with two elephant tusks weighing 1.4 kilograms. Similarly, in the jungle near Chhatrang, individuals named Brijnandan Jayaswal, aged 45, from Mohali, Chandani Biharpur District, Surajpur, and Radhelal, son of Buddhu Ram Agariya, aged 40, from Mohrasop, Chandani Biharpur District, Surajpur, were apprehended with a Tata Sumo Gold vehicle carrying pangolin scales weighing 1.04 kilograms. Legal action is being taken against all four accused under the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act for the forest crime cases.

State govt will return the money to investors

Obtained by the auction of Yash Dream's properties

State govt obtained Rs 42.77 cr from the auction of Yash Dream's properties

Raipur, Sep 20: Chhattisgarh's law enforcement agency has cracked down on various chit fund company cases, and restitution to affected investors is in full swing. The state government is poised to refund a substantial sum of Rs 42.77 cr resulting from the auction of properties belonging to Yash Dream Real Estate, a chit fund firm. This move is part of the ongoing effort to return money to investors collected by the chit fund companies. The

Chhattisgarh Government has successfully reimbursed Rs 33.97 cr to victims of fraudulent chit fund schemes across the state. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has issued strict directives to the Durg District Administration to expedite the refund process for Yash Dream Company's investors, in compliance with established regulations.

The Chhattisgarh Government, led by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, has committed to delivering justice to investors entangled in chit fund schemes. In a comprehensive effort, the Chhattisgarh Government has imposed a ban on chit fund companies within the state. This initiative was accompa-

nied by the registration of 462 cases against 208 chit fund firms, leading to the arrest of 700 directors and officers involved. In such 99 instances across the state, courts have sanctioned the attachment and auction of chit fund companies' properties, valued at Rs 141.51 cr. The district administrations have carried out action on Rs 55 cr of property so far. The Durg administration has auctioned the property worth Rs. 97.77 cr, including Rs 42.77 cr obtained from the auction of Yash Dream Real Estate Company's properties scattered throughout Durg district. Presently, proceedings are underway for the auction of properties from chit fund companies amounting to approximately Rs 68 cr.

Pranay, Karan, Vishal into Super League of TT tournament



Raipur, Sep 20: Pranay Chouhan, Karan Malhotra, Vishal Decate, Hrshith Kedia, Siddha, Arjun Malhotra, Rishabh Nagwani and Lokesh Jangade have entered into Super League of the Raipur District Table Tennis Tournament in senior category being organised under the aegis of Rajdhani Table Tennis Association (RTTA) at Sapre School TT Hall here on Wednesday.

Providing the above information, the RTTA Secretary Vinay Baiswade said that Arna Khotle, Ahana Singh, Haritima Agrawal and Dr Swati Bantaha have entered into the Super League in Senior Women category.

Similarly, Karan Malhotra, Yashwant Decate, Niti Agrawal and Varun Dutt Agrawal from Group A in Under 17 Youth and Arjun Malhotra, Andrew, Siddha Dhupad and Shreshtha Mishra have entered next stage from Group B.

Similarly in Under 17 for Youth Girls, Aarna Khotle, Venya Songode and Lavanya Pandey from Group A and Haritima Agrawal, Samya Pandey and Check Kataria from Group B have entered into next round.

Ajit Baneerjee is the Chief Referee of the tournament whereas Pravin Nirapure and PN Majumdar are Assistant Referees.

Customers to get festive offers along with attractive gifts

Raipur, Sep 19: The festive offer has started in the market with Ganesh Chaturthi and is good opportunity for the consumers who wait for to buy their favorite car-bike. The automobile market in the city has geared up for the festive season. As per the expectation of automobile market more than Rs 100 crore is going to be spent in the state in these 10 days. During this period, more than 18 thousand cars, bikes and commercial vehicles are expected to be sold.

It is expected that around 15 thousand two-wheelers, 2300 cars and 800 commercial vehicles may be sold in the state during this period. Of these, more than three thousand two-wheelers and 700 cars will be sold in Raipur alone. Automobile companies have introduced various offers to lure the customers and also tied up with various banks. There is also an offer of cashback on card payment. Raipur Automobile Dealers Association (RADA) Secretary, Kailash Khemani said that attractive offers are also being given by the companies, which are get-



ting massive response from the customers. Keeping in mind Dussehra-Diwali festival, automobile showrooms are already sourcing ample stock as per the choice of consumers. This time stock is almost one and a half times the demand so that during the festive days, consumers do not have to wait in any way for the vehicle of their choice. Traders said that the pace of business will be more in the festive season. It has started from Ganesh Chaturthi.

Auto companies have also prepared their strategy for Dussehra-Diwali as to what kind of offers will be given to the consumers. On the occasion of Dussehra-Diwali, consumers will get attractive discounts along with

gift schemes. Along with this, there will also be an attractive finance scheme. Car companies are giving discounts of more than Rs 70 thousand on their various models. This discount includes exchange bonus, loyalty bonus as well as corporate discount. On the other hand, two-wheeler companies are providing vehicles with minimum down payment and interest rates which is also getting good response. Finance companies are also giving gifts and providing finance facility of up to 90 percent on various vehicles. Some selected models even have up to 100 percent finance. Along with this, there are additional offers for corporate officials, government employees and farmers.

Traffic Police makes elaborate arrangements for Priyanka's visit

Bhilai, Sep 20: Traffic Police has made elaborate arrangements for the state level Mahila Samridhhi Sammelan scheduled to be held at Jayanti Stadium on September 21. All India Congress Committee General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi is going to attend this programme. A huge crowd is likely to attend this programme. Traffic Police has prepared a parking plan and the route chart for the vehicles of the general public coming from different directions.



The vehicles coming from Kawardha, Bemetara, Dhamdha, via Dhamdha Naka-Green Chowk-Rajendra Prasad Chowk-Malviya Nagar Chowk-Y Shape Over Bridge-32 Bungalow-Sector 09 Chowk-Sector 08 Chowk will park their vehicles (buses) in BSP School Ground, Sector 07 while the car parking will be in Dussehra Ground, Sector 07.

The vehicles coming from Rajnandgaon, Balod via Pulgaon Chowk-Borsi Chowk-Jail Tiraha-Thagada Dam Over Bridge-MD Bungalows, Chowk will park the buses in Sector 10 ground next to Panthi Chowk and in front of Ruabandha Weekly Market. The vehicles coming from Raipur, Ahiwara, Kumhari, Bhilai-03 via Power House-Murga Chowk- BSNL Chowk-Pandey Chowk, will park the buses at Sector 02 Bhilai Vidyalaya Ground

and Sector 06 Police Ground and the car parking will be available at Civic Center market.

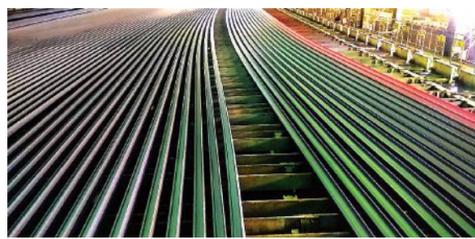
The vehicles coming from Dhamtari, Abhanpur, Patan, Utai, Risali Dussehra Maidan will park the vehicles in front of DPS School.

The vehicles coming from Nehru Nagar will park their vehicles in front of Sector 07 Market and in the water tank grounds. Drivers with VVIP pass will be allowed through Berozgar Square towards

the Bank Complex in Civic Centre. They will park the vehicles in the bank premises. VIP pass and media vehicles will reach the venue from the Forest Avenue Road. They will park their vehicles behind the Jayanti Stadium.

Universal Rail Mill marks new day record

Bhilai, Sep 20: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Universal Rail Mill, that rolls out the world's longest 130-metre rail in single piece and supplies 260 metre welded rail panels to Indian Railways has once again crossed a significant milestone and set a new best-ever day record in production on September 19, 2023. The Mill rolled out 3,623 Tonnes (428 Blooms) in the challenging profile of R260-60E1 by surpassing the previous best of 3,521 Tonnes (416 blooms) achieved on June 30, 2023.



Anirban Dasgupta, Director 1/c (BSP) and Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), along with Tapas Dasgupta, CGM 1/c (Iron), Anish Sengupta, CGM (URM), and Plant's other senior officials congratulated the URM collective on this achievement and motivated them to work with the same spirit to achieve all the goals of this year and create many more such records. Congratulating the en-

tire mill fraternity on this achievement, HoD Anish Sengupta, CGM (URM) said that the feat of substantially increased production was made possible by continuous monitoring and hard work of the mill personnel and full cooperation and support of the concerned departments SMS-3, Traffic, PPC, RCL, Instrumentation and INCOS.

260M long rail panels manufactured at BSP's URM are playing an important role in the country's rail network expansion and development.

Sparsh contributes Rs 4.05 lakh for labour welfare in five years

Bhilai, Sep 20: Sparsh Hospital management has contributed Rs 4.05 lakh for the welfare of workers in five years. From February 14, 2018, the hospital deposits an average of Rs 21,000 with the Labour Welfare Board every six months. This amount is being deposited regularly as the Labour Welfare Fund. Considering the regular contributions made by the hospital management, Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu honoured both the directors of Sparsh Hospital, Dr Deepak Verma and Dr Sanjay Goyal. The Labour Welfare Board had recently organized a labour and employment conference and felicitation ceremony in Durg. The Labour Welfare Board official present at the event said that the board will use the



funds received from the hospital for the welfare of workers working in the organized sector and their dependents. The Board runs other welfare schemes like pension to the dependents of a worker in case of his death in an accident, scholarship to meritorious or dependent children with the money received from the institutions as Labour Welfare Fund. Sparsh Hospital was started in February 2018 with 123 health workers.

That year Sparsh management allocated Rs 60 per laborer for labor welfare. Accordingly, the hospital had deposited Rs 7400 that year. By 2023, the total number of personnel in this hospital has increased to 350. According to this, the management is now spending an average of Rs 21000 for the welfare of the workers every six months.

It needs to be mentioned here that there are certain rules which are to be followed by every institution. Every firm in the organized sector; wherever it has more than 9 workers, will have to pay Rs 60 per worker every six months. There is a rule to deposit it as a Labor Welfare Fund. Rs 45 are contributed by the firm while Rs 15 is deducted from the salary. It has to be taken from the labourer's salary. This money is used for welfare schemes.

Nehru Planetarium inaugurated at Nehru Nagar



Bhilai, Sep 20: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the newly constructed planetarium at Nehru Nagar of Municipal Corporation Bhilai. It has been constructed at a cost of Rs 2 crore. This planetarium will make the city residents feel like they are in the universe. Chief

CM gifts projects worth Rs 65.75 crore to Bhilai

Bhilai, Sep 20: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated / performed bhoomipujan of 48 projects worth Rs 65 crore 75 lakh 12 thousand for Bhilai Municipal Corporation before attending the Aabhar Sammelan at Sector 01 Nehru House of Culture. He inaugurated 19 works worth Rs 22 crore 50 lakh 28 thousand and performed bhoomipujan of 29 works worth Rs 43 crore 24 lakh 84 thousand. On this occasion, Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, MLA Devendra Yadav, Mayor Neeraj Pal and other public representatives and distinguished citizens were present.



Addressing the program, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel congratulated everyone on Ganesh Chaturthi. He said that

Bhilai is called Mini India. People of every religion and every language live together here with love. Bhilai has its own problems. Bhilai has also had to struggle for employment and development. When the land was given

for community development so that health, education and basic facilities could be developed here, but this did not happen. The people here struggled continuously and gave their entire life's earnings to Bhilai Steel Plant, but they did not get their

rights. Now with sustained efforts of the lease holders and the public representatives, today about 500 people have got their lease registered. If the plant is returned to the state government, the ownership of the land will be given to the lease holders. CM said that the people are getting the benefit of the Electricity Bill Half Scheme, drinking water, Swami Atmanand English medium school, etc. Baghel further said that they have signed an MOU with Tata so that the ITI could be updated. This will provide employment to more than 10000 youth. "We are continuously providing jobs, we recruited around 20000 teachers. We are continuously working for your development", CM said.

500 youth to get employment at BPO Centre

Bhilai, Sep 20: The newly constructed indoor stadium was inaugurated by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday. Along with this, the BPO center built near Khursipar ITI was also inaugurated. CM Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the centre by cutting the ribbon. Hundreds of people including MLA Devendra Yadav, Mayor Neeraj Pal were present on this occasion. MLA Yadav thanked the CM for inaugurating the BPO center which has been established to provide employment to the youth. Also, an indoor stadium has been built in Khursipar at a cost of Rs 3 crore. Various sports facilities have been developed here. A badminton court has been built in the indoor stadium. It has 2 pieces of wooden flooring. There are three table tennis courts, carrom rooms,



3 board chess and a hall have also been built. Bhilai Nagar MLA Devendra Yadav said that with the opening of BPO call center, thousands of unemployed young men and women will get employment. Devendra Yadav and Mayor Neeraj Pal said

that big companies develop software and they need such centres. Keeping this in mind, the decision to open a BPO center has been taken. With this, Bhilai will get recognition as an IT sector in the coming days. Information related to hardware will also be

given in the BPO call center. These are the growing steps of Bhilai in the IT sector. Many big IT related works are to be proposed in the coming days. It has been decided to work by connecting students and experts related to information technology.

BSP' SMS-III initiates the production of 150 X 150 Billets from CV-1

Bhilai, Sep 20: Steel Melting Shop-III (SMS-III), a Modex unit of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, has set a major benchmark by successfully starting production of 150 X 150 Billets from the Bloom-cum-Billet Caster CV-1 on September 19, 2023. Although the production from caster CV-1 started in the year 2018, only blooms were produced at this caster to cater for the requirement of blooms for Universal Rail Mill (URM) for the production of long rails.



In order to meet the demand for products from MWRM & BRM, BSP was used to get the billets from its sister units for rolling which was adding to the cost of production thereby diminishing the profit margins. With the idea of producing billets from the CV-1 caster to improve the

overall techno-economics of BSP, the SMS-III Team took on the herculean task of converting the CV-1 Caster. This conversion shall help SMS-III in the interchangeability of sections in the casters to meet the demands of its customer mills, namely URM, MWRM, BRM and RSM. During the initial trials, the process of conversion comparatively took longer to yield the desired results, however,

continuous efforts and valuable inputs from the Senior Management, along with the technological partners have resulted in achieving the desired conversion successfully. With the cooperation of the associated departments of SMS-III, including the Engineering Shops and EDD this first-of-its-kind feat of conversion in the Indian Steel Industry was achieved by the SMS-III Team successfully.

St Thomas College organises Kalapratibha Competition

Bhilai, Sep 20: The Cultural and Literary Cell of St Thomas College Bhilai under the aegis of Kala Pratibha organised competitions for various events from September 12, 2023 to September 16, 2023. The inauguration of the Kala Pratibha events was held on September 12, Anushka Pandey PRT Vocal Music DPS Durg CG and also an alumnus of the college was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The guest shared her experience and said that Kala Pratibha is the platform which gives an opportunity to the students to showcase their hidden talents and will definitely help them in future. Dr Chanda Verma the Incharge Principal & Addl Head PG Department of Chemistry and Dr Debjani Mukherjee Head PG Department of



Psychology and IInd shift Incharge were the special guests. Dr Chanda Verma said that every year these competitions are held to select the deserving student for the Kala Pratibha samman. The Kala Pratibha samman is the prestigious award given to that student who gets highest marks by securing position in various competitions held. Dr Sapna Sharma Convenor

of the Cultural and Literary Cell welcomed the gathering. The events included music, dance, poster making, on the spot painting, rangoli, mehandi, debate, extempore, skit, quiz and collage. On September 12, Music and Literary events were conducted. For music there were four categories - Solo classical, Solo light vocal, Group song and Instrumental.

Literary events included debate and extempore. The topic of the debate was "Should Juvenile Offenders be handled by a separate Juvenile justice System". On September 13, Dance competition was held which included Solo Classical Dance and Group Folk Dance. On September 14, on spot painting, poster making and collage making were held. On September 15, Rangoli and Mehandi Competitions were held. The last day that is on September 16 Skit and Quiz were held. The students showed their interest and participated in all the competitions. The judges of various competitions were the faculties of various departments. All the members of the Cultural and Literary Cell coordinated in making the programme a success.

CCET conducts orientation programme for 26th Batch



Bhilai, Sep 20: Christian College of Engineering and Technology (CCET), conducted the 26th Orientation Programme on September 20, 2023, for its new batch of B Tech, M Tech and Lateral entry students. The students embarked on their educational journey with an inspiring programme. Students from different corners of the country took admission in the college and there was educational, motivational and cultural ethos in the campus during the welcoming session. Dr Dipali Soren, the es-

duced the curriculum, syllabus and marking patterns. The students and parents were also given brief introduction of all the courses, various departments, laboratory facilities, workshop, women cell etc. Students and parents explored the college campus including hostel and canteen. The 26th batch of CCET are set to benefit from the college's unwavering commitment to excellence and fostering a bright future for each of its students for our nation's technological progress.

The first year incharge, Dr Preeti Nand Kumar and Deputy incharge Dr Anju Singh coordinated the programme and intro-

Martyrs' Memorial unveiled at Nehru Nagar



Bhilai, Sep 20: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel met the martyr families at the Martyrs' Memorial constructed at Nehru Nagar Square by Bhilai Municipal Corporation. He unveiled the statue of Nehru ji and inaugurated the beautification of the square. He hoisted the national flag here in honour of the martyrs. On this occasion, Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, MLA Devendra Yadav, Mayor Neeraj Pal and other public representatives and distinguished citizens were present.

Transformative changes occurring in Ch'garh with the blessings of Lord Shri Ram: CM

- An inspiration to the entire country
- CM inaugurates the development work under the Ram Van Gaman Tourism Circuit in Sitamarhi-Harchauka
- Announces the establishment of a 100-bed hospital in Janakpur
- Dedicates 325 development works worth Rs 359.83 cr to MCB district
- State gov't completed the construction work on Ram Vatika and various infrastructure development projects worth Rs. 7.45 crore

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Sep 20: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel embarked on a significant visit to the sacred site on Tuesday, where Lord Shri Ram first entered

Chhattisgarh with Mother Sita during their exile. In Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur district, Baghel visited the locations associated with Lord Shri Ram at Sitamarhi Harchowka and inaugurated the Ram Van Gaman Tourism Circuit, a project costing Rs 7.45 crore aimed at enhancing tourism in the region.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced the establishment of a new 100-bed hospital in Janakpur and the expansion of the Kelhari-Harchauka road. He also dedicated 325 development projects worth a total of Rs 359.83 crore to the Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur district.

Among these, he inaugurated 160 development projects worth Rs 156.47 crore and carried out the bhumpoojan for 165 projects worth Rs 203.36 crore.

In Sitamarhi Harchauka, on the Chhattisgarh-Madhya Pradesh border along the banks of the Mawai River, the Chhattisgarh Government has completed the development of Ram Vatika and various infrastructure projects, worth Rs 7.45 crore, under the Ram Van Gaman Tourism Circuit.

The Chief Minister inaugurated a Lord Shri Ram statue, a Ramayana interpretation centre, a cafeteria, Siyaram Kutir, a tourist information centre, and riverbank beautification as part of these endeavours.

The Chief Minister, Baghel, also distributed various departmental kits to beneficiaries and visited various departmental stalls. In his address, he highlighted the transformative changes occurring in Chhattisgarh, attributing them to the blessings of Lord Shri Ram, an inspiration to the entire country.



Mr. Baghel shared the state government's commitment to honouring Lord Shri Ram's ideals and memories through the development of the Ram Van Gaman Tourism Circuit. He mentioned the successful development of the Mata Kaushalya temple complex in Chandkhuri, the world's only temple dedicated to Mata Kaushalya, and the inauguration of sacred sites associated with Lord Shri Ram in Shivrinarayan, Rajim, Rangarh, and Sihawa.

The Chief Minister shared the state government's ongoing efforts to preserve Chhattisgarh's culture. He highlighted various initiatives, such as the National Tribal Festival, which showcased tribal culture at the national level, and the National Ramayana Festival, which promoted ideals associated with Lord Shri Ram.

The state government has also made efforts to preserve the native language and revive traditional food culture, notably "Bore Basi," which has gained popularity even among officials, who now share their experiences on social media platforms.

During the event, Dr. Charandas Mahant, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, also addressed the gathering. He stated that it is a matter of joy that the inauguration of this path is taking place on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi. Lord Shri Ram, the epitome of virtue, is a role model for the people of the country.

CM Bhupesh Baghel is doing an excellent job of preserving Lord Shri Ram's memories. On this occasion, Bharatpur-Sonhat MLA Gulab Kamro presented bows and arrows to the Chief Minister and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. The renowned Bollywood singer, Tripti Shaky, recited the Hanuman Chalisa. Culture Minister Amarjeet Bhagat, Tribal and Scheduled Caste Development Minister Mohan Markam, Parliamentary Secretary and Baikunthpur MLA Ambika Singh Deo, Manendragarh MLA Dr. Vinay Jaiswal, Parliamentary Secretary and Samri MLA Chintamani Maharaj, and Chairman of Gau Seva Aayog Rajeshri Mahant Dr. Ramsundar Das, Chairman of the Tourism Board Atal Shrivastav, were present.

ITM University hosts an evening of devotion for Carnatic music Lovers

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Sep 20: ITM University organized an evening of devotion and melody 'Sangeetha Samarpanam' with renowned Carnatic Vocalist Dr. G. Sarada Subramaniam at the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium in the capital city of Raipur.

In the program Dr. G. Sarada Subramaniam sang bhajans in five Indian languages, captivating all the listeners. It is noteworthy that She has been conferred with the prestigious D. Litt. Degree in recognition of her unparalleled contribution to Carnatic music in the 8th Convocation ceremony of ITM University in the gracious presence of Chhattisgarh's Governor Bishwambhar Harichandan.

The event started with a welcome note by the Vice President of the ITM Group of Institutions Mumbai Professor Dr. R. S. S. Mani. ITM University's



Carnatic Vocalist Dr. G. Sarada Subramaniam performing Carnatic music at DDU auditorium Raipur



Chancellor Dr. PV Ramana, Director General Lakshmi Murthy with Carnatic Vocalist Dr. G. Sarada Subramaniam and the Carnatic Music Lovers from Raipur and Durg Bhillai.

Director-General Mrs. Lakshmi Murthy introduced the renowned vocalist and her accompanists while hosting the event. In honor of Dr. G. Sarada Subramaniam a lively welcome was given as organizers played a recording of a bhajan composed by lyricist Ramabatlha Sharma and sung by K. Katyayani.

The program was accompanied by the Principal of Kamala Music Academy Raipur Dr. Shriram Murthy (violin) and Shri G. Appala Swamy (mridangam) Shri Dhanunjai (Tabla), and Shri Pavan Kumar (keyboard) from Visakhapatnam. The 'Sangeetha Samarpanam' program

begin with the veneration of Lord Ganesha, followed by bhajans sung by Dr. G. Sarada in Kannada, praising the Raghavendra Swamiji Mantralayam in Rayachur, Andhra Pradesh. A Telugu bhajan lyrics by ITM University's Chancellor Dr. P. V. Ramana based on the

Ramayana delighted everyone. The audience also appreciated Marathi Pandurang Stuti and Meera Bai's Hindi bhajan.

This Carnatic music program recorded as the first time in the capital was made successful with valuable contributions from Dr. Shrikant Rao, Dr. Shila, Smt. Sridhar the President of the Karnataka Samaj, Purnima Usha Rao, V.N. Pillai, Director of Hira Group, and the President of the Malayalam Samaj, G. Swami, President of Andhra Samaj, N. Srinivas Telugu Samaj, Ganesh Rao, Secretary Telugu Samaj, and other Carnatic music lovers.

The program was attended by many Carnatic music enthusiasts, including ITM Group of Institutions' Chairman and ITM University's Chancellor Dr. P. V. Ramana, Vice-Chancellor Dr. Sumer Singh, and a large number of audience members of Raipur, Durg Bhillai and other cities of the state.

Document Verification for Training Officer in I.T.I. on Sept 22-23

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Sep 20: Document verification for the various vacant posts of Training Officer in the state's government industrial training institutes (I.T.I.) after the third phase of online counselling will be conducted on September 22nd and 23rd. The document verification for the post of Vocational Computer Operator and Programming

Assistant, Electrician, and Welder will be held on 22 September. Document verification of the candidates for the post of Fitter, Mechanic Diesel, Mechanic Motor Vehicle, Turner, Subject-Workshop Calculation & Science & Engineering Drawing will be held on 23rd September at the Government Engineering College, Sejbahar, Raipur at 9:30 AM. In this regard, a notification has also

been sent to the concerned applicants via SMS. All applicants are advised to regularly check the website <http://cgiti.cgstate.gov.in/> and review their login ID for updated information. After document verification, the respective applicants can also submit their claims and objections to the Registration Officer at the same location until 2:00 PM on the next day.

यूनियन बँक Union Bank of India
Regional Office Bilaspur
1st Floor, in front of Gumber Petrol Pump, Vyapar Vihar Road, Bilaspur (C.G.) 495004 Ph.: (07752-470687)

Requirement of Premises on Rent
Union Bank of India invites proposals for well-constructed premise on lease for Banking purpose at below mentioned places:

Place- Commercial Area/ Region	Desirable Carpet Area
Surajpur, Dist.- Surajpur	1400 ± 10 % Sq Feet
Kotmisonar, Dist.- Janjgir-Champa	1200 ± 10 % Sq Feet
Chetma, Dist.-Korba	1200 ± 10 % Sq Feet

The proposed premise should preferably be on the Main Road and Ground Floor (with adequate parking space) on rental basis for opening branch including ATM room with separate entrance. The interested person should submit their offer in an envelope superscribing the name of branch location mentioned as above. Inside this envelope, two separate sealed envelopes containing related formats with the name "Technical Bid" and "Price Bid" should be mentioned. Your offer in the prescribed format should be received by 16/10/2023 by 02:30 PM to Regional Head, Regional Office Bilaspur, in front of Gumber Petrol Pump, Vyapar Vihar Road, Bilaspur-495004 (C.G.). These formats can be obtained in person from the above mentioned office during the office hours (10:00 AM to 05:00 PM) or can be downloaded from Bank's website www.unionbankofindia.co.in under Tender section along with advertisement of this tender. The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.
Date: 21/09/2023

Authorized Officer

'Teachers are the architects of progress of the society'

Central Chronicle News

Bemetara, Sep 20: Chief guest Ashish Chhabra MLA Bemetara attended the teacher felicitation ceremony organized at Gram Panchayat Bahera (Ka) under the assembly constituency. He started the program by garlanding the oil painting of Maa Saraswati and Chhattisgarh Mahtari.

On this occasion, MLA Ashish Chhabra while congratulating and best wishes to the teachers, he said that the responsibility of teachers is very important in building the future of children.

"Today I am standing in front of you on this stage and giving a speech, behind that also is the hard work of my teachers'. It is a big contribution of teachers, it is most important to move ahead.

Just a few days ago, on Sept 5, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of

1990 to 2023. Under his guidance, many promising students from Bahera are serving in various posts.

On this occasion, Mithlesh Verma, Vice President of District Panchayat Bemetara, Bahal Singh Verma, President of Service Cooperative Society, Rishi Verma, Tekram Sahu, Cheman Netam Sarpanch representative, Sajendra Verma Sarpanch, Surit Dhruv, Khilavan Verma, Santosh Dhuv, Bhola Verma, Laxman Verma,

Mehtar Verma, Satyanarayan Patil, Ramanuj Verma, Devnarayan Patil, Chetan Verma, Dhanjay Verma, Jagdish Verma, Ravendra Verma, Dinesh Verma, Ganesh Sahu, Doman Verma, Sanjay Verma, Dau Verma, Sunil Verma, Mukesh Verma, Angeshwar Verma, Rakesh Verma, Hemu A large number of villagers including Verma, Khare BEO, Ganesh Kurre Principal, Jhavendra Sahu Principal Pathak were present.

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a grand program was organized in the form of Teacher's Day in the Agricultural Produce Market premises to honour the teachers. Teachers have an important role in nation building and society building and all the teachers should continue to follow honesty and integrity so that our children keep moving forward.

All the teachers should cooperate in building the future of children in a better way by giving them quality education. We honour the teachers who work with full devotion and dedication to shape the future of school children as well as connect them with social concerns.

In fact, it is an honour for their dedication towards education. P.R. Rajput, whom we have honoured today has served in village Bahera from

बँक ऑफ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda
Regional Office - Bilaspur, 1st floor, TR Complex, Opposite SBI, RAJKISHORE NAGAR BRANCH, LINGIYADIH, BILASPUR - 495006 (C.G.), PH:07752-310229/310231, E-mail: recovery.bilaspur@bankofbaroda.com

(Publication in the Newspapers in case of return/failure of service of 60 day's Notice U/s.13 (2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002).
The Authorized Officer, Bank of Baroda has issued 60 days' Notices to under mentioned borrowers / Guarantors U/s.13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 by Registered A/D/speed post. But these Notices were returned by the Postal authorities due to the reason of refusal to take delivery/wrong address/person left the place/city. These borrowers/guarantors have given their under mentioned movable/immovable assets by way of hypothecation / mortgage as security to secure the various credit limits granted by the Bank to the borrower(s). Due to non-payment of Bank's dues and non-fulfillment of terms and conditions of the loan, default has been committed by the borrower (s) / guarantor (s) in payment of bank loan and interest and the loan account has become NPA as per RBI guidelines. In view of the above, a 60 days Public Notice is given to the following borrower(s)/guarantor(s) to pay the bank dues as stated below along with interest till payment failing which the bank will be constrained to enforce its security interest without intervention of Court or Tribunal by taking recourse to one or more of the measures under Chapter - III of the Act. The borrower/guarantors are also directed by this Notice that in terms of Section 13(13) of the Act they shall not transfer by way of sale/lease or otherwise (other than in ordinary course of business) any of the secured assets charged to the bank without prior consent of the bank. The details of borrower/guarantors and secured assets is as follows, against whom the bank will start initiating action after 60 days in the event of non-payment of banks' dues by them.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower & address	Amount due inclusive of interest upto (date mentioned)	Details of Secured assets
01	Surajpur Branch Surajpur 9752099778 Mr. Manoj Kumar Jaiswal H.No. 43, MAIN ROAD SHIV PRASAD NAGAR, SURAJPUR, Chattisgarh - 497229	Rs. 8,86,557.50 + interest + other charges up to 30.01.2023	Equitable mortgage of residential land on plot No. / Khasra Number 303/2 (Total Area - 0.08 Acre) at Village - Shiv Prasad Nagar, PHN - 08, RNM Bhaiyathan, Surajpur, Chattisgarh - 497229

Date: 21.09.2023, Place: Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh
Authorized Officer, Bank of Baroda

Indian Overseas Bank Branch : Bilaspur, Opp. Anand Hotel, Old Bus Stand Road, Tagore Chowk, Bilaspur-495001
इंडियन ओवर्सीज बैंक Phone No. 07752-2237444, Email ID: iob1584@iob.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
[Under Proviso to Rule 6(2) and Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002]
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) and Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Indian Overseas Bank (Secured Creditor) will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on the date mentioned below, for recovery of outstanding dues specified below (along with further interest at contractual rates and rests, besides costs / charges incurred till the date of repayment in full) due to Indian Overseas Bank, (Secured Creditor).
E-auction Sale Date : 30.10.2023

Sl. No.	Name of the Account & Branch	Outstanding dues (as per Sale Notice)	Reserve Price Rs. EMD Rs
1.	Mr. Tamal Priya Dey, Address: Flat No-202, 1st Floor, Bela Apartment, Rajiv Vihar, Lingiyadih, District Bilaspur (C.G.) 495001.	Rs.10,40,000/- (as on 19.09.2023) (+) interest & Other Charges	Rs.17,50,000/- Rs.1,75,000/-

Description of the Immovable Property: All that part and parcel of the property consisting of residential flat situated at Flat No-202, 1st Floor, Bela Apartment at Khasra No-15/670 (part), Diverted Sheet No-08, Plot No.157/2, PH No-20, Rajiv Vihar, Lingiyadih, R.I. Circle Bilaspur, Block- Bilha, Under Gram panchayat Lingiyadih, Tahsil, Dist.- Bilaspur, C.G. admeasuring area 806 Sq. Feet, in the name of Mr. Tamal Priya Dey. Bounded as under: North : Flat No-203, East: Open to Sky, West: Open to Sky.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the service providers link <https://www.mstccommerce.com/auction/home/ibapi> and link provided in Indian Overseas Bank, Branch - Bilaspur, Secured Creditors Website i.e. [www.iob.in](https://www.iob.in/TenderDetails.aspx?Tendertype=E_Auction) [https://www.iob.in/TenderDetails.aspx?Tendertype=E_Auction]. This may also be treated as a Notice under Rule 6(2) and Rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the said loan about holding of e-auction on the above mentioned date.
Date: 19.09.2023, Place: Raipur
Authorised Officer, Indian Overseas Bank

यूनियन बँक Union Bank of India
1st Floor, Infront of Gumber Petrol Pump Vyapar Vihar Road, Bilaspur (C.G.) 495004

DEMAND NOTICE
NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

Borrower's & Guarantor's Name & Address	Details of Mortgaged Property	Type
		Limit
Mr. Ram Kumar Rathore S/o. Kanhai Ram. Add- Qtr. No. 644, Sarathi Mohalla, Village- Seoni, Tah- Champa, Pin No. - 495671.	All Part and parcel of land and immovable property situated at KH No- 1878/3GH, PHN-2, Vill- Seoni, Area- 4360 sqft, Tah- Champa, Dist- Janjgir-Champa, (C.G) Under the Possession of Mr. Ram Kumar Rathore, the same is bounded as under:-	Cash Credit ₹ 5,00,000/-
As per sale deed: To the East- Agri Land of Kalesh Ram Sahu, To the West- Agri land of Bhagwat & others, To the North- Agri land of Kalesh Ram Sahu, To the South- Agri Land of Kalesh Ram Sahu.		Total Dues as on 31.07.2023 an amount of ₹ 6,89,133.42 NPA Dt. 26.02.2019

The Borrower mentioned above has availed total credit facilities as mentioned above from Union Bank of India, Champa Branch (CG) and the mentioned Guarantors provided guarantee and secured by way of mortgaged of above mentioned property. The borrower failed to adhere to terms and conditions of sanction. The account became irregular and classified as NPA as mentioned above as per RBI guidelines. The Bank intends to enforce the said property mortgaged by you and issued Demand Notice as mentioned above for recovery of outstanding amount as mentioned above with interest and expenses thereon under registered post with acknowledgment due which were not served to the borrowers and guarantors. Hence this publication issued. Hereby Borrower/Guarantor are called upon to pay the amount mentioned above with rate of interest (Contractual Rate), costs, charges etc., thereon within 60 Days from the date of publication failing which the undersigned will be constrained to initiate action against mortgaged property under section 13(4) and the provision of said Act to realize our Bank's dues. Your attention is invited to provisions of the Section 13(8) of the act in respect of time available to you to redeem the secured assets.
Date: 20.09.2023 Place: Bilaspur (CG)
Authorised officer / UNION BANK OF INDIA

'Teeja-Pora' celebrated in special manner: Sahu

Simga, Sep 20:

On occasion of 'Teeja-Pora' in nearby village Duldula, a cultural programme was held and it was organised by District President Manharan Sahu Duldula Chhattisgarh Rangoli Samiti, with due assistance by the Culture department and district administration of the State government.

Addressing the programme, District President Manharan Sahu said that in Chhattisgarh culture, the festival of 'Teeja-Pora' is celebrated in special manner and in this the woman remaining on fast offer prayers to Lord Shiva and Parvati and seek long-life for their sons and husband and peace and happiness in the family and which motivates all for



their empowerment. Set aside this it also helps in restoring the state's rich art & culture and festivities.

On this occasion a colourful cultural programme was also presented. In this programme, Sarpanch representative Manmohan Banjare, Bhagirathi Sahu, Santosh

Nishad, Lorik Nishad, Gowardhan Sahu, Manohar Manikpuri, Ashok Das Manikpuri, Balkrishna Das Manikpuri, Sheshnarayan Banjare, Hemlal Kurre, VN Banjare, Khemraj Sharma, Binu Yadav, and villagers in large number were present.

Long queue of women in Shiva Temple

■ On next day of 'Hartalika Teej'

Pandaria, Sep 20:

On occasion 'Teej', an important festival of Chhattisgarh, the married women observed fast on 'Hartalika Teej' and sought long blessings for long life of their husband. In the night the women created 'Phulera' and remained awake whole night and broke their fast in the morning with light snacks.

It is notable here that on occasion 'Teej Parv' the women visits their mother-father's house and observe this festival. Many a young girls too observe fast with wish for a good marital match. The 'Teej' festival is observed in the 'Bhadrapad month' of 'Shukl Paksha'. In this festival, the women offer



prayers to Lord Shiva and Parvati and seek blessings for long-life of their husband and peace & happiness in the family. This festival is considered to be most tough, as the better-half remain on fast without drinking a single drop of water or eating any grains for one full day and therefore this fast is also

known as 'Nirjala Vart'. The fast is completed the next day on Sunrise and then the women break their fast sipping warm water and offer prayers to Lord Shiva and Parvati. It is generally believed that if on this day of fast, if someone sleeps, then one does not get full benefit of the same.

Idol of Lord Vishwakarma immersed



Kharora, Sep 20:

The Vishwakarma Jayanti was celebrated with religious fervour in Kharora and nearby villages here on Monday.

The idol of Lord Vishwakarma was installed on Sunday and 'havan-pujan' was performed on Monday. For the immersion of the idol, the devotees took out procession dancing on the religious tunes. The members of 'Rajmistri Kalyan

Sangh' performed prayers to Lord Vishwakarma in the pandals and this time there was lot of enthusiasm among the labourers.

It was after seating the idol of Lord Vishwakarma, prayers were offered and entire atmosphere turned religious. On this occasion a 'Bhandara' was also organised and in which people in large number obtained 'prasad' and the idol of Lord Vishwakarma was immersed amidst rituals.

New body of Student's Council formed



■ In Law Dept of Ch'garh College

Kharora, Sep 20:

The formation of Student's Council of Legal and Clinic unit of the Chhattisgarh College, Law Department, was held under the supervision of

Election Observer Pradeep Sarva and senior students here on Tuesday. In this four posts of student's council were fixed and in which for the post of President Nihl Mandle; V-P Priya Soni, Secretary-Manish Ratre and Asst. Secy- Twinkle John were elected. All the elected students expressed gratitude

towards the Law Department staff of the College and to the students. The elected student's council said that they have got an opportunity to work with new thinking and would try to meet upto their expectations. We all together would bring laurels to the Law Department of the College, they added.

Lord Vishwakarma contribution in Earth's creation significant: Amitesh-Shukla

Fingeshwar, Sep 20:

The members of Jai Maa Mouli Mason Mazdoor Kalyan Sangh (JMMMMKS) established the idol of Lord Vishwakarma at New Bus Stand area on Sept 17 morning and offered prayers and rituals the whole day. In the programme organised at night, MLA Amitesh Shukla also took part.

Addressing the gathering, Amitesh Shukla said that Lord Vishwakarma contribution in creating of Earth was valuable and in the same manner, you all should take His blessings and work hard to achieve perfection in your jobs and



skills. It was amidst the love of you all that I am present here today and appealed all to maintain love towards him in the near future as well, as in the coming days, he will require their assistance and

help. Speaking further, Amitesh Shukla said that Pt. Shyama Charan Shukla always worked for the development of the region and all the works completed and done are

outcome of the labourer's hard work and persistence. We tried for development of Goddess Ghatarani and Jamtai in the region and due to which both these places have become important

tourist sites in the entire state, as people from far-flung areas visit this site. There is no dearth of funds for development works in the region and all of it is visible in the Vidhan Sabha area.

Amitesh warned the labourers that some people are trying to cause rift between the two religions and sects and appealed them not to get misled so easily. He said as & when he was in trouble, you all helped me and he wished that Lord Vishwakarma may fulfill all their desires and goals. On this occasion he made a declaration of Rs 5 lakh for construction of building of JMM-MMMKS.

Parliamentary Secretary lays stone for works worth Rs 60.32 lakh

Jagdalpur, Sep 19:

Parliamentary Secretary Rekhchand Jain and DCC District Congress President Sushil Maurya granted sanction of Rs 60.32 lakh for community building, social building, boring, ghat construction, Mata Gudi renovation work and CC road in Gram Panchayat Bhejapadar, Madpal, Khutpadar and Kurandi of the assembly constituency. Duo performed Bhoomi Pujan for the construction works.

On this occasion, MLA Jagdalpur and Parliamentary Secretary Rekhchand Jain said that as per the wish of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, buildings and land have been made available to every society. The much



awaited demand of Panka Samaj, Gadaba Samaj and Amneet Samaj has been fulfilled today. Now the community building will be available for social programmes.

Among the works for which stone was laid was included construction of community building at a cost of Rs 5.79 lakh was done in Gram Panchayat

Bhejapadar. Construction of Moti Talab Ghat in Madpal worth Rs 2 lakh. Community building construction work (Panka Samaj) cost 5.79 lakh. Cultural shed construction work cost Rs 4.88 lakh. Boring mining work at a cost of Rs 1.33 lakh in Talpara of Gram Panchayat Khutpadar. Community building con-

struction work for Gadba community cost Rs 9.20 lakh. Kodai Mata Gudi restoration work cost Rs 5 lakh. CC road construction work in Gram Panchayat Kurandi-2 from Arjun Ghar to Bajpai Ghar 200 meters costing Rs 5 lakh. CC road construction work 200 meters from Manhagu Ghar to Mata Mandir costing Rs 5 lakh. Boring

Mining Work Dongriguda Chalanpara. Community building construction work cost Rs 5 lakh. Bhoomi Pujan was performed for the development work of community building construction work Chilkuti (Amneet Samaj Bhawan) costing Rs 10 lakh. During this, MLA Jagdalpur and Parliamentary Secretary Rekhchand Jain, DCC District Congress Committee President Sushil Maurya, Municipal Corporation Chairperson Kavita Sahu, Block President Virendra Sahni, Sarpanch Nagarnar and Sarpanch Association President Lakhna Baghel, Sitaram Sethia, Councilor Sukhran Nag, senior Leaders Yashpal Thakur, and others villagers were present.

Success and failure are part of sports: Chandrakar

■ Inaugurates 7-Day Cricket Tournament

Kurud, Sep 19:

A week-long cricket competition, organized with the support of Borjhara villagers and under the banner of the UK 11 Cricket Club, kicked off in the Borjhara village. Dhamtari District Panchayat President, Tarini Neelam Chandrakar, graced the event as the Chief Guest. She inaugurated the competition by cutting the ribbon and launching a batting session to introduce the players.

During her address, Tarini Neelam Chandrakar emphasized the global popularity of cricket and how it serves as a career opportunity for



many young individuals today, bringing recognition to the region. She stressed the importance of passion in every player and noted that success and failure are part of the game. Chandrakar also highlighted the physical and mental development that sports offer, emphasizing that a healthy body houses a healthy mind.

Chandrakar extended her best wishes to all the cricket players and expressed gratitude to the organizers for their efforts. The event saw the presence of notable figures, including Sarpanch Mahendra Sahu, Manoj Sahu, Vivek Sahu, Bhushan Sahu, and young members of the organizing committee.

With the rain stopping, bright sunshine increases farmers' worries

Jagdalpur, Sep 19:

These days earrings are emerging from the paddy crop in Bastar division. At such times it is very important to have rain. Recently there was light to moderate rain in Bastar, but now with the stopping of rains for the last four days, there is open Sun and lot of sunshine. Due to stoppage of rain and open sun, water in the fields has started drying up. If there is heavy rain in Bastar within a week, then it will prove beneficial for the paddy crop, otherwise the worries of the farmers will start increasing. It is noteworthy that



rain at the right time is necessary for the paddy crop. When the paddy is in the ripe stage, it is necessary that it rains or sufficient water is supplied. Because due to lack of rain the sprouting of paddy seeds is coming out properly. Due to lack of water in the fields as well

as lack of rain, the husk of grain get stuck in the bush, and farmers have to suffer losses. Due to lack of good rains in Bastar this season, crop yield is expected to be affected.

At present, hybrid and short duration paddy husk are emerging. The concern of farmers is increasing due to the stoppage of rain. Dark clouds are hovering in the sky, but it is not raining. Seeing the clouds, the farmers are hoping for good rain once again, but it is not happening. Farmers were expecting good rain on Teej and Ganesh Chaturthi, but there are no chances of rain at present.

Exciting two-day Kabaddi competition in Chorbhatti village

■ Jay Bajrang Kabaddi team and villagers showcase sporting talent

Kurud, Sep 19:

In a lively event, Borjhara village hosted an exhilarating two-day kabaddi competition, generously supported by local residents and organized under the guidance of the UK 11 Cricket Club. The tournament drew participation from over 40 teams.

The kabaddi showdown held in Chorbhatti witnessed Devri Balod securing the top spot, followed by the Mandraoud team in second place, and Chhara clinching third. This spirited competition featured nearly 40 teams hailing from various districts, including Balod, Durg, Gariyaband, Raipur, and Dhamtari, showcasing their remarkable athlet-



ic prowess. The closing ceremony and prize distribution for the Chorbhatti kabaddi competition welcomed esteemed guests, including Chief Guest Tapan Chandrakar, President of the Nagar Panchayat Kurud, Indal Ram Sahu, the

Chairperson Sarpanch, and special guests Malik Ram Singh Satyaprakash Sahu, Kaliram Sahu, Ganesh Yadav, Eman Lal Sahu, and other distinguished attendees. Addressing the gathering, Tapan Chandrakar offered words of en-

couragement to the athletes. He emphasized the importance of continuous sports competitions, including kabaddi, in Kurud and rural areas, as they exemplify the community's passion for sports. He urged the players to focus on the sportsmanship and camaraderie that transcends mere victory and defeat. He also applauded the outstanding performance of the winning team, Devri from Balod district, and commended the fair play ensured by senior players Dhaneshwari Nirmalkar and Kavita Chandrakar, who officiated the matches. The Jay Bajrang Kabaddi Team, including dedicated players such as Hori Lal Sahu, Thamesh Sahu, Dushyant Sahu, Vijay Tarak, Ghanshyam Sahu, Kuldeep Sahu, Laxmi Narayan Sahu, Churaman Sahu, Rakesh Sahu, and numerous others, actively participated in this successful competition.

PM Trudeau's allegations 'very serious', encourages India to cooperate: US official

New York, Sep 20 (PTD):

Terming Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations about India's involvement in the killing of a Sikh separatist leader as "very serious", a top US official has said that Washington supports Ottawa's efforts to investigate the matter and encourages New Delhi to cooperate.

"I'm going to protect diplomatic conversations and I'll leave it at that. Certainly the President is mindful of these serious allegations, and they are very serious. And we support Canada's efforts to investigate this," US National Security Council (NSC) Coordinator for

Strategic Communications John Kirby said.

"We believe a fully transparent comprehensive investigation is the right approach so that we can all know exactly what happened and of course, we encourage India to cooperate with that," Kirby said in an interview to CNN.

Kirby was responding to a question on Trudeau's allegations about the involvement of "agents of the Indian government" in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, 45, the chief of the banned Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF).

Nijjar was one of India's most-wanted terrorists who carried a cash reward

of Rs 10 lakh on his head and was shot dead by two unidentified gunmen outside a gurdwara in Surrey in the western Canadian province of British Columbia on June 18.

Kirby was asked about Trudeau raising the matter with President Joe Biden privately before going public and what information the Canadian leader shared with the US President about the matter.

"I'm going to be careful about what I say here to preserve the sanctity of this investigation and leave it for Canada to talk about the underpinning information, what more they're trying to learn. We want to respect that

process and it's their investigation," Kirby added.

When further asked about what repercussions there will be due to the allegations, Kirby said, "let's not get ahead of where we are. There's an active investigation. We think it needs to be fully transparent, comprehensive. We know that Canadians will work to that end."

"Again, we urge India to cooperate with that investigation so that the facts can take investigators where they go and then once we have all that facts, and we have conclusions that we can draw from that, then you can start to look at recommendations or behaviours you might want to pursue."

CO-FOUNDERS OF S4S TECHNOLOGIES



The seven co-founders of S4S Technologies, one of the finalists of Prince William's Earthshot Prize 2023.

Aus terms Trudeau's allegations against India 'concerning'

United Nations, Sep 20 (PTI):

Australia has described Canada's allegations about India's involvement in the killing of a Sikh separatist leader as "concerning" and said Canberra is "monitoring these developments closely" and has raised the issues with its Indian counterparts.

These remarks were made by Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong at a press conference in the UN Headquarters on Tuesday.

Wong, who is leading Australia's delegation to the high-level 78th session of the UN General Assembly, was responding to a question on allegations by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of the involvement of "agents of the Indian government" in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, 45, the chief of the banned Khalistan Tiger

Force (KTF). "Look, these are concerning reports, and I note that investigations are still underway, but obviously these are concerning reports, and as I've said, we are monitoring these developments closely with our partners, and we'll continue to do so," Wong said at the press conference on Tuesday.

Nijjar was one of India's most-wanted terrorists who carried a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh on his head and was shot dead by two unidentified gunmen outside a gurdwara in Surrey in the western Canadian province of British Columbia on June 18.

India has strongly rejected Trudeau's statement made in the Canadian Parliament and said "allegations of Government of India's involvement in any act of violence in Canada are absurd and motivated."

Biden's Democratic allies intensify pressure for asylum-seekers to get work permits

Albany (US), Sep 20 (AP):

As more than 100,000 migrants arrived in New York City over the past year after crossing the border from Mexico, Mayor Eric Adams and Gov. Kathy Hochul have begged President Joe Biden for one thing, above all others, to ease the crisis:

"Let them work," both Democrats have said repeatedly in speeches and interviews. Increasingly impatient leaders of Biden's party in other cities and states have hammered the same message over the last month, saying the administration must make it easier for migrants to get work authorization quickly, which would allow them to pay for food and housing. But expediting work permits isn't so easy, either legally or bureaucratically, experts in the process say. Politically, it



may be impossible. It would take an act of Congress to shorten a mandatory, six-month waiting period before asylum-seekers can apply for work permits. Some Democratic leaders say the Biden administration could take steps that wouldn't require congressional approval. But neither action seems likely. Biden already faces attacks from Republicans who say he is too soft on immigration, and his administration has pointed to Congress' inability to reach agreement on comprehensive changes to the U.S. im-

migration system as justification for other steps it has taken.

The Homeland Security Department has sent more than 1 million text messages urging those eligible to apply for work permits, but it has shown no inclination to speed the process. A backlog of applications means the wait for a work permit is almost always longer than six months.

As frustrations have mounted, Hochul has said her office is considering whether the state could offer work permits, though such a move would almost certainly draw legal challenges.

The White House has dismissed the idea. Immigrants are frustrated as well. Gilberto Pozo Ortiz, a 45-year-old from Cuba, has been living, at taxpayer expense, in a hotel in upstate New York for the last three months.

US in active talks with India to look at producing military systems: Pentagon official

Washington, Sep 20 (PTI):

The United States is in active talks with the Indian government to look at producing military systems in areas related to ISR and ground-based conventional warfare, a senior Pentagon official said.

Efforts are also on to establish a reciprocal defence procurement agreement with India, Siddharth Iyer, Director for South Asia Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defence said here on Tuesday at an event organised by the prestigious Hudson Institute.

"We are in active talks with the Indian government to look at producing military systems in areas related to ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance), and then of course ground-based conventional warfare. And we'll have more to say on that as

they become ripe," he said. Indian-American Iyer said the talks between India and the US to finalise the security of supply arrangement, which would streamline the ability of defence firms to procure their requirements, is making good progress.

"We are also moving at an aggressive clip to establish a reciprocal defence procurement agreement, which would allow and create the conditions for US and Indian defence industries to increase and streamline market access," he said. This relationship is one of the top priorities for the Pentagon, Iyer said.

"Our belief is that getting the US-India relationship right is not just necessary, it's essential to achieving our strategy in the Indo-Pacific. There's a broad and deep commitment to making that happen," he said.

"I think one of the ways in which we think about the road map is really a manifestation of (Defence) Secretary (Lloyd) Austin's commitment to accelerating India's military modernisation, and for him, putting the department on the hook to find targeted opportunities to propose to advance India's indigenous defence production capabilities," he said. The India-US defence road map, Iyer said, among other things, identifies the priority military areas where their industries should focus their collaborative efforts.

It identifies some concrete mechanisms by which they can work together to integrate the supply chains. And then ultimately, it also establishes the oversight mechanism to ensure that bureaucratic logjams and regulatory barriers don't impede progress.

Two Indian nationals sentenced to 41 months in prison in robocall scam

Washington, Sep 20 (PTI):

Two Indian nationals have been sentenced to 41 months in prison for their role in a conspiracy to commit wire fraud by accepting illegally obtained USD 1.2 million in wire transfers from victims across the United States, a US attorney said.

Arushobike Mitra (29) and Garbita Mitra (25) had previously pleaded guilty before US District Judge Esther Salas to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced on Tuesday.

"These defendants and their conspirators preyed upon some of our most vulnerable citizens, using trickery and threats to co-

erce them into sending money," Sellinger said.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court as part of an international fraud scheme, criminal India-based call centres utilised automated robocalls to contact victims across the country with the intent of defrauding US residents, particularly the elderly.

After establishing contact with victims through these automated calls, other members of the conspiracy would coerce or trick the victims into sending large sums of cash through physical shipments or wire transfers to other members of the conspiracy, including the Mitras, a media release

said. These conspirators used a variety of schemes to convince victims to send money, including impersonating government officials from agencies such as the Social Security Administration, or impersonating law enforcement officers from the FBI or DEA, and threatened victims with severe legal or financial consequences if they did not comply, federal prosecutors alleged.

Another method utilised by the callers involved convincing the victim they were speaking with someone from a tech support company and coercing the victim into granting the caller remote access to their personal computers.

Tornado kills 5 people in eastern China

Beijing, Sep 20 (AP): A tornado killed five people and seriously injured four others in eastern China, state media said Wednesday.

The tornado hit parts of Suqian city in Jiangsu province about 5:20 p.m. on Tuesday, state broadcaster CCTV said. It destroyed 137 homes and damaged crop land and pig farms.

Videos posted online showed cars that had been tossed about, including at least one flipped onto its side, and debris swirling in the air above a several-story high building.

CCTV said that power and road service had been restored in the area.

Tornadoes are rare in China but have caused deaths in Jiangsu in recent years.

Concerning: British Sikh MPs on Canada allegations against India

London, Sep 20 (PTI):

British Sikh members of Parliament Preet Kaur Gill and Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi have reacted to "concerning" reports emanating from Canada, after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged Indian involvement in the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in the country.

The Opposition Labour MPs, who represent heavily Sikh constituencies in England, took to social media on Tuesday to claim they had been contacted by their constituents about allegations by Trudeau in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, 45, the chief of the banned Khalistan Tiger Force. They said they are raising their

concerns directly with the government ministers.

"PM Trudeau's statement on Hardeep Singh Nijjar's murder is deeply concerning," tweeted Gill, who is the MP for Birmingham Edgbaston in the West Midlands region of England.

"It is important that Canada's investigation runs its course, and those responsible see justice. I want to reassure my constituents that I and my colleagues are raising our concerns with ministers," she said. Dhesi, MP for Slough in south-east England, also tweeted to claim many British Sikhs have been in contact with him over the issue. "Concerning reports coming from Canada. Many Sikhs

from Slough and beyond have contacted me; anxious, angry or fearful. Given that Canadian PM Trudeau stated they've been working with close allies, we're in touch with the UK government to ensure justice is delivered," he said.

It follows Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's statement in the country's Parliament on Monday that the authorities are "actively pursuing credible allegations" related to Indian government involvement in the murder of Nijjar, a designated terrorist, in British Columbia in June. In an emergency statement to the House of Commons in Ottawa, Trudeau said that any involvement of a for-

eign government in the killing of a Canadian citizen was "an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty". India has strongly rejected Trudeau's claims as "absurd and motivated" and dismissed a senior Canadian diplomat in a reciprocal move. "Such unsubstantiated allegations seek to shift the focus from Khalistani terrorists and extremists, who have been provided shelter in Canada and continue to threaten India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The inaction of the Canadian government on this matter has been a long-standing and continuing concern," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

Erdogan raises Kashmir issue during UNGA address

United Nations, Sep 20 (PTI):

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan raised the issue of Kashmir during his address to world leaders at the high-level 78th session of the UN General Assembly session here.

"Another development that will pave the way for regional peace, stability and prosperity in South Asia will be the establishment of a just and lasting peace in Kashmir through dialogue and co-operation between India and Pakistan," Erdogan said in his address to the General Debate Tuesday. "As Türkiye, we will continue to support the steps to be taken in this direction," he said. His comment comes weeks after he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi during which both the leaders discussed



This handout photograph taken by Turkish Presidency press office, shows Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (R) meeting with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (L) on the sideline of 78th United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters in New York City.

strengthening trade and infrastructure relations. Erdogan said it was a matter of pride that India was playing a role at the United Nations Security Council. He said he favoured making five permanent and 15 "temporary" members of the UN Security Council.

"Those 20 (5+15) should be permanent members of the UNSC in rotation. But as you know, the world is bigger than five. When we say the world is larger than five, what we mean is that it's not only about the US, UK, France, China and Russia," he said.

In recent years, the Turkish leader has referred to the issue of Kashmir in his address to world leaders at the high-level UN General Assembly session. Last year, Erdogan raked up the issue of Kashmir during his address to world leaders at the high-level UN General Assembly session here. "India and Pakistan, after having established their sovereignty and independence 75 years ago, they still haven't established peace and solidarity between one another. This is much unfortunate. We hope and pray that a fair and permanent peace and prosperity will be established in Kashmir," Erdogan had said.

In 2020, Erdogan in his pre-recorded video statement to the General Debate had made a reference to Jammu and Kashmir.

Iran's president urges US to demonstrate it wants to return to the 2015 nuclear deal

United Nations, Sep 20 (AP):

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi said that his country will never give up its right "to have peaceful nuclear energy" and urged the United States "to demonstrate in a verifiable fashion" that it wants to return to the 2015 nuclear deal.

Addressing the annual high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly, Raisi said the American



Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi said that his country will never give up its right "to have peaceful nuclear energy" and urged the United States "to demonstrate in a verifiable fashion" that it wants to return to the 2015 nuclear deal.

"an inappropriate response" to Iran's fulfilment of its commitments.

Then-President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled the US out of the accord in 2018, restoring crippling sanctions. Iran began breaking the terms a year later and formal talks in Vienna to try to restart the deal collapsed in August 2022.

Iran has long denied ever seeking nuclear weapons and continues to insist that its programme is entirely for peaceful purposes points Raisi reiterated Tuesday telling the high-level meeting that "nuclear weapons have no place in the defensive doctrine and the military doctrine" of the country.

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Empowering Women

33% Reservation Revolution

After 27 years of stagnation, the Women's Reservation Bill is on the verge of becoming a reality, potentially reserving 33% of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and legislative assemblies. This historic legislation promises a seismic shift in India's political landscape and is set to be a landmark moment for women's empowerment. The battle for credit among political parties is bound to intensify, but the Modi government has already stolen a march on its rivals by pushing this legislation ahead of the 2024 General Election. While opposition parties may engage in debates over the finer details, including the possibility of caste and community-based quotas within the 33% reservation, the government's determination is unwavering. The actual implementation of this policy may require adjustments post the Census and redrawing of constituencies, presenting all stakeholders with an opportunity to navigate the complexities involved. The significance of women's reservation in politics extends far beyond the realms of gender equality. It serves as a powerful tool for political inclusion, as demonstrated by the transformative impact of women's representation in Panchayati Raj Institutions. Numerous studies have highlighted how the participation of women in decision-making processes leads to meaningful policy changes. Despite instances of male family members holding power, the reservation of seats for women at the grassroots level has amplified the voices of women, fostering greater responsiveness to their daily concerns. This shift has also driven changes in expenditure patterns, with a focus on gender budgeting, making women's issues a central theme in political discourse. However, the journey towards women's political participation in India has been fraught with drama and resistance each time the Women's Reservation Bill has surfaced in Parliament. The resistance, at its core, may stem from an unwillingness to share power. Nevertheless, over the years, the number of women candidates contesting Lok Sabha elections has risen significantly, from a mere 45 in 1957 to a remarkable 726 in 2019. The passage of this bill promises to be a monumental leap forward for women's empowerment, altering the dynamics of political representation in India. Women's political participation is not just about equality; it is about acknowledging the collective wisdom and potential of half of the population. It is about creating a vibrant democracy that truly reflects the diversity of its citizens. India has been a trailblazer in empowering women with political rights, and the reservation of seats is a necessary step to further enhance women's participation, enact women-centric laws, promote a sense of responsibility, and strengthen the foundations of democracy. It is essential to recognize the history of this legislative process. Committees and commissions have delved into the matter, with recommendations dating back to 1971. Various governments, including those of Rajiv Gandhi and Atal Bihari Vajpayee, made attempts to pass the Women's Reservation Bill, facing opposition and challenges along the way. It was finally passed in the Rajya Sabha in 2010 but lapsed in the Lok Sabha in 2014. Throughout this journey, there has been a debate on caste-wise reservation for women versus gender-based quotas. Women's reservation in legislative bodies is more than just a policy; it represents a profound shift towards gender equality and the empowerment of women in the political arena. It rectifies historical underrepresentation and empowers women to actively engage in decision-making processes. It brings diverse perspectives to governance and serves as a source of inspiration for future generations. It advocates for legal and social reforms that benefit women's rights and gender equality. By fulfilling international commitments and reshaping societal norms, women's reservation fosters holistic and sustainable development.

Canada's Hypocrisy

Canada's actions, alleging a 'potential link' between Indian government agents and the killing of pro-Khalistan terror accused Hardeep Singh Nijjar, have sparked a significant diplomatic row. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's swift decision to expel a top Indian diplomat and his assertion that foreign involvement in a Canadian citizen's killing on Canadian soil is an "unacceptable violation of our sovereignty" cannot be ignored. However, beneath the surface of these actions lies a troubling history of hypocrisy and double standards. Let's cast our minds back to June 23, 1985, when Canada experienced the worst terrorist attack in its history—the Air India bombing. This tragic incident claimed the lives of all 329 people on board, the majority of whom were Canadians of Indian origin. Yet, in stark contrast to the present events, there was no urgency displayed by Canada in announcing the culprits or initiating a prompt investigation within three months of the bombing. In fact, Canada not only failed to prevent the attack but also conducted a lackluster investigation that led to only one conviction, and that too on the charge of perjury. A damning report by the Justice John Major Commission highlighted the sheer incompetence and inattention that marred both the pre-flight security measures and the subsequent handling of the tragedy's aftermath. It described how errors and negligence persisted for many years as authorities, governments, and institutions dealt with the aftermath of the murder of so many innocents. Fast forward to the present, and Canada finds itself perturbed over the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Nijjar was accused by India's National Investigation Agency of attempting to revive terrorism in Punjab. While Canada's concern for the safety of its citizens is commendable, the swiftness with which it has acted in this case raises questions about its political motivations. If Canada possesses concrete evidence that indeed implicates Indian agents in Nijjar's killing, it should, without delay, share this evidence with New Delhi. However, jumping to conclusions without a proper trial or investigation only serves to highlight Trudeau's attempts to appease radical groups that pose a threat to India's territorial sovereignty. In response to Canada's actions, New Delhi has rightly expelled a Canadian diplomat—a firm stance that is essential to encourage Ottawa to reconsider its approach. India's response should serve as a reminder that diplomatic relations are a two-way street, and unsubstantiated allegations can have real consequences. It is imperative that Canada, instead of indulging in unfounded allegations, revisits its past and ensures justice for the victims of the Air India bombing. It cannot turn a blind eye to the fact that it not only failed to prevent the attack but also botched the investigation, denying closure and justice to the grieving families. The Air India bombing remains a painful scar on the collective memory of both India and Canada, and justice for the victims should be a priority. Moreover, Canada should refrain from engaging in political posturing and populism at the cost of international relations. Michael Rubin, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, has criticized Trudeau's actions as "shameless and cynical." He rightly urged the United States not to be part of such actions. Trudeau's actions have raised questions about his leadership. The discrepancy in his response, as highlighted by Rubin, further complicates matters. While he is making bold statements now, the killing of Karima Baluch, allegedly with Pakistani assistance, is being treated as a police matter and has not reached the Prime Minister's office. This discrepancy raises concerns about political posturing over responsible leadership. Canada's actions have exposed a glaring hypocrisy in its approach to international relations. Instead of making baseless allegations and expelling diplomats, Canada should focus on addressing its past failures, ensuring justice for the Air India bombing victims, and maintaining responsible and consistent foreign policy. It is time for Canada to mend its ways and refrain from playing with fire on sensitive international issues.

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.

GANESH CHATURTHI CELEBRATIONS



Devotees carry a 23-foot Lord Ganesha idol (Hubbali Ka Raja) for Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations, in Hubbali.

Tirade of DMK on Sanatana Dharma is Political

DR. DUGGARAJU SRINIVASA RAO



The DMK, as a party, is known for its mastery of many political dramas, with the latest being the attack and retreat of its leaders on Sanatana Dharma. The DMK's third-generation political heir, Udayanidhi Stalin, spoke about the eradication of Sanatana Dharma at a meeting held by progressive Tamil writers on the same subject. But, if it weren't for the purposeful spread of video recordings of that speech on social media, complete with English subtitles, it would have ended up as just another periodic rant by a Dravidian leader. However, DMK President and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had other plans. He used this speech to establish Udayanidhi's authority within the party and project him as the undisputed hereditary leader of the DMK. With this political speech against Sanatana Dharma and Hindus, and by portraying the BJP as a party for upper castes, Udayanidhi garnered national attention, serving the interests of his party and M.K. Stalin.

For a fortnight, DMK ministers and leaders freely supported the scion of the party and his anti-Sanatana Dharma speech. M.K. Stalin himself endorsed his son Udayanidhi's hate-filled, politically motivated speech. Tamil Nadu cabinet minister, sworn to protect the constitutional rights of all groups, compared Sanatana Dharma to deadly diseases like Malaria, Dengue, and Covid. These offensive words were echoed throughout Tamil Nadu by DMK leaders, sometimes accompanied by additional objectionable epithets. All those hurtful words were justified under the banner of freedom of expression guaranteed by the Indian constitu-

tion. It's worth noting that such freedom of expression was denied to Nupur Sharma when she spoke against a person and his actions in a TV debate. This illustrates the different standards applied to different individuals in India. After raising all the negative issues allegedly related to Sanatana Dharma, such as the oppressive caste system and associated evils, DMK chief and Tamil Nadu C.M. Stalin suddenly issued a gag order to party cadre, instructing them not to speak further against Sanatana Dharma. This sudden shift, from a vociferous call for eradication to silence, raises the question of whether it reflects a genuine change of heart or is a tactical political move.

Observers of Dravidian politics it is no surprise, as the DMK is known for its somersaults on critical issues, including the caste system. For the DMK, caste is a political weapon in electoral politics. The party has built a caste-based vote bank in Tamil Nadu by blaming the Brahmin community for societal ills. The DMK's recent call for the eradication of Sanatana Dharma was an attempt to regain its grip on the castes in the state after an unexpected response to P. Annamalai's Padayatra, the current BJP chief of Tamil Nadu. The BJP has limited presence in Tamil Nadu and is not organizationally strong, except in a few pockets in some districts. However, the people's response to its state president Annamalai has been significant and spontaneous. Many Dalit and lower-caste individuals have been attending Annamalai's meetings, viewing him as a new savior for those who have suffered under suppressive DMK-supported leaders and their castes.

During the nearly seven decades of

Dravidian party rule in Tamil Nadu, Dalit and other marginalized castes have gained little. They were never included in the "self-respect movement" and therefore received no respect under regional party rule. Tamil Nadu remains a highly caste-conscious state, with Dalits experiencing oppression and near-un-touchability practices, despite being legally banned in the country. During this Dravidian rule, oppressed Dalits, unable to endure attacks by DMK-supported village leaders, converted en masse to Islam in Meenakshipuram village. Despite widespread condemnation of this incident, the DMK government couldn't end the practice of serving Dalit communities on separate plates and glasses in rural area hotels. The shameful incidents of attacks on fellow Dalit students increased after M.K. Stalin became Chief Minister. Tamil Nadu records the highest number of cases of atrocities against Dalits and caste-based abuse is prevalent. People are turning to Annamalai and the BJP to escape this situation, embracing Hindutva, an ideology that the DMK opposes. Hence, the attack on Sanatana Dharma was an attempt to retain their Dravidian voter base. However, their attempt backfired on two fronts, leading to the DMK's retreat.

The Madras High Court made its observation on the "very vociferous and at times noisy debate on pro and anti Sanatana Dharma." Justice N. Seshaayee noted that Sanatana Dharma is not just about promoting casteism and untouchability, as some would have people believe. Sanatana Dharma encompasses a set of eternal duties for those who follow the Hindu way of life, including duties to the nations, duty to the king, and the King's duty towards his people, duty towards one's parents, and gurus, care for the poor, among other things. Are all these duties liable to be destroyed? That is the question posed by the judge. He called the caste system a weed in the wonderful field called Sanatana Dharma. The message was that there are ways to remove weeds without burning the entire field. This judgment came about because someone challenged the idea of promoting the eradication of Sanatana Dharma in educational institutions by an overen-

thusiastic, pro-DMK school head. This judicial setback is a concern for the DMK and a boost for pro-Hindu groups in their anti-DMK campaign. This will certainly hit the DMK at the social level and it will become a tough task to take them back into their anti-Brahmin movement of Dravidian parties. So first back step by DMK.

The second setback is causing nationwide discomfort among political allies in the I.N.D.I.A alliance. The Congress and other parties north of the Vindhyas are followers of soft-Hindutva. Therefore, they cannot tolerate negative comments on Hindu religion or verbal attacks on the beliefs of Sanatana Dharma adherents. The first negative impact of the DMK's tirade against Sanatana Dharma was the forced cancellation of the I.N.D.I.A planned yatra in election-bound Madhya Pradesh by the Congress. Udhav Thackeray's faction of the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra faced questions about its silence when Hindu religion was under attack from its ally, the DMK. Parties like TMC, SP, RJD, JDU and many others are under pressure to oppose the anti-Hindu views of the DMK. This pressure led to an SOS being sent to the DMK and M.K. Stalin, urging them to temporarily tone down their anti-Sanatana Dharma rhetoric. The BJP is capitalizing on this politically and gaining ground in the electoral arena.

The upcoming elections in states over the next three months are crucial, as they will indicate the direction of the political wind. The I.N.D.I.A alliance senses an anti-Modi sentiment, and they don't want to lose momentum in the middle of the campaign. This request from political allies compelled M.K. Stalin to issue a gag order. In conclusion, the DMK's actions regarding Sanatana Dharma appear to be driven by political motives, both in the initial attack and the subsequent retreat. This political approach is now being exposed by Annamalai of the BJP, and it remains to be seen how this dynamic of political maneuvering plays out in the upcoming elections.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the newspaper.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Orphaned Children

The Supreme Court has emphasized the need to extend the Corona Scheme's benefits to orphaned children through the government's Prime Minister's Care Fund. Orphaned children, who have tragically lost their parents to circumstances like the COVID-19 pandemic, accidents, or illnesses, deserve support from this fund. The Supreme Court has requested information on the assistance provided to orphaned children under various schemes and issued instructions to ensure these benefits are granted to them. This directive offers hope that previously overlooked children will finally gain access to the Prime Minister's Care Fund, providing them with essential support.

Nawaz Ashraf, Mumbai

Uncovering Hidden Realities

In a recent order from Chandigarh, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) T.V.S.N Prasad announced the suspension of mobile internet and bulk SMS services (with exceptions for banking and mobile recharge). This move aims to curb the dissemination of misinformation and rumors through various social media platforms, which have been used to mobilize agitators and demonstrators, potentially leading to loss of life and property damage through acts of violence. Superintendent of Police Narendra Bijarniya revealed during the investigation into the Barkali Chowk violence in Nagina that some individuals, including an MLA, were implicated. The internet suspension raises questions about hidden truths, but accountability for the accused remains paramount.

Mohammad Taukir, West Champaran

Parliament's Role

In a nation's political and social odyssey, the Parliament House transcends being a mere edifice; it's a sentinel to the annals of governance quality. The British Parliament, the progenitor of parliamentary systems worldwide, upholds a tradition where even the most eminent speaker can be interrupted by an ordinary member, known as "yielding." This practice underscores the importance of diverse perspectives. It's a reminder that, in parliamentary democracy, every voice matters. The opposition, media, and ordinary members play pivotal roles in scrutinizing government actions and ensuring transparency. Thus, Parliament's significance extends far beyond its physical structure, fostering robust debate and good governance.

N Mateeni, Mumbai

PM Vishwakarma Scheme: A Lifeline for Artisans but Vigilance Needed



Vivek Shukla

Take a moment to consider the cobbler, plumber, barber, coir weavers, traditional toy makers, garland makers, and washermen—those unsung heroes who have tirelessly served our society for generations. Despite their dedicated service, they lead challenging and precarious lives with little to rely on. However, a glimmer of hope has emerged with the launch of the PM Vishwakarma scheme by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his birthday, September 17th, in the capital—a program aimed at supporting artisans and workers. Having given the green light to the Vishwakarma Scheme, PM Modi took the initiative to meet with cobblers and others to gain insight into their trades. This ambitious scheme promises beneficiaries a toolkit

incentive of Rs 15,000 each, coupled with collateral-free enterprise development loans at a concessional interest rate. The Vishwakarma scheme seeks to enhance the quality, scale, and accessibility of raw materials, tools, and product development training for artisans. It also integrates beneficiaries into both domestic and international value chains, offering support in marketing, packaging, branding, and market access.

The reality is that life is far from easy for those encompassed by the Vishwakarma scheme. Consider Raju, a cobbler in Delhi, who endures scorching sun and waits for customers from dawn until 9 pm to earn a meager livelihood, barely crossing Rs 300 a day. In unfortunate days, he returns home with just Rs 100. Amid skyrocketing living costs, his wife struggles to make ends meet with her husband's earnings. Despite these hardships, they remain unwavering in their commitment to their children's education. With three children, including two daughters and an eldest son who just completed class 12, they hope the Vishwakarma scheme will bring positive change. The primary goals of the program are crystal clear—to improve the quality and reach of artisans' products and services while integrating

them into domestic and international value chains. While the government's intention to uplift those on the fringes of society is evident, it's crucial to implement the PM Vishwakarma scheme diligently. Past experiences have shown that several government schemes struggled with proper implementation, leaving deserving beneficiaries without their due—a deeply concerning issue.

Despite schemes like 'Digital India' and 'Atal Pension Yojana,' India continues to lag in creating a harmonious and truly prosperous society. Allegations of fund mismanagement and subpar food quality in the Mid Day Meal scheme in several states raise questions about effective execution. Under the Vishwakarma scheme, artisans and craftspeople receive recognition through PM Vishwakarma certificates and ID cards. They also gain access to credit support of up to Rs 1 lakh (in the first tranche) and Rs 2 lakh (in the second tranche) at a concessional interest rate of 5%, with the credit guarantee fee covered by the central government. Artisans undergo skill verification and receive five-day training sessions, followed by advanced training sessions lasting 15 days or more, accompanied by a stipend of Rs 500 per day. Additionally, the scheme allocates Rs

250 crore for quality certification, branding, advertising, publicity, and marketing activities.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the scheme on August 16th, allocating Rs 13,000 crore for a five-year period (FY24-28). It aims to provide support to artisans and craftspeople in both rural and urban areas across the country, with 18 traditional trades identified as initial beneficiary sectors. These include carpenters, boat makers, blacksmiths, hammers and tool kit makers, locksmiths, goldsmiths, potters, sculptors, stone breakers, cobblers, shoemakers, masons, coir weavers, traditional toy makers, barbers, garland makers, washermen, and tailors. A senior central government official said that the eligibility requirements include a minimum age of 18 years and the applicants should not have availed loans under similar credit based self-employment schemes such as Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi, Mudra scheme among other central and state government scheme in the past five years. The applicants would have to give a self-declaration and the due diligence would be done by banks. The reg-

istration and benefits would also be restricted to one member of a family.

Prime Minister Modi, in his Independence Day speech, pledged to roll out the scheme within a month to enhance the livelihoods of traditional artists and craftspeople. The swift approval of the initiative by the Union Cabinet underscores the government's commitment to preserving and promoting traditional skills and crafts. Encouragingly, the proactive Uttar Pradesh government is actively working to implement Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious 'PM Vishwakarma' scheme on a large scale. The state aims to extend the scheme's benefits to skilled individuals in 18 different trades, offering skill enhancement through master trainers under the Skill Development Mission. In conclusion, all those tasked with implementing the Vishwakarma scheme must do so with utmost diligence. Corruption in schemes designed to aid the poor cannot be tolerated. The success of this scheme hinges on its effective execution, ensuring that those who need it most receive the support they deserve.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the newspaper.)

BRIEF

Investment orders



Chennai: The Tamil Nadu government on Wednesday presented orders amounting to Rs 10.85 crore to eight startups run by entrepreneurs belonging to scheduled caste and scheduled tribe communities. With the backing of the government in terms of investment, the startups would gain more credibility, helping them acquire new clients and take up expansion in other markets, an official release said here. Chief Minister MK Stalin presented the investment orders to the Secretariat on Wednesday.

IPO subscribed

New Delhi: The Initial Public Offering (IPO) of ethnic apparel retailer Sai Silks (Kalamandir) was subscribed 7 per cent on the first day of offer on Wednesday. The IPO received bids for 26,16,752 shares against 3,84,86,309 shares on offer, as per data available with the NSE. The category for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) was subscribed 12 per cent and that of non-institutional investors received 3 per cent subscription.

Additional charge



New Delhi: Edtech firm BYJU'S Founding Partner and India operations CEO Mrinal Mohit has resigned "for personal reasons", the company said on Wednesday. BYJU'S International Business CEO Arjun Mohan will take the additional charge of heading the country's operations, it said. "Arjun Mohan (is) taking charge as the CEO of India operations. He succeeds Mrinal Mohit, founding partner and the outgoing head of India business at BYJU'S, who is embarking on a new journey to pursue personal aspirations," the company said in a statement.

Himalayan chapter

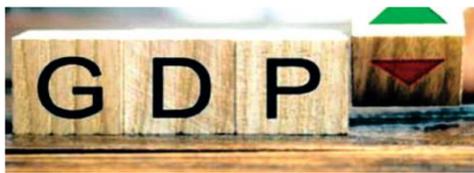
Srinagar: The Kashmir Valley on Wednesday hosted its maiden India Cold Chain Conclave for fruit growers, farmers and controlled atmosphere store owners. The India Cold Chain Conclave - Himalayan chapter - was organised by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industries (PHDCCI) in collaboration with National Centre for Cold Chain Development at Kashmir International Convention Centre here. The conclave aims to provide an overview of advancements in refrigeration, their impact on various industries, the logistics sector and their role in addressing climate challenges.

India Ratings ups FY24 growth estimate to 6.2 pc

Mumbai, Sep 20:

India Ratings and Research on Wednesday upwardly revised its FY24 real GDP growth estimate to 6.2 per cent from the 5.9 per cent expected earlier. The domestic ratings agency attributed its revision to a variety of factors, including the government's capital expenditure, deleveraged balance sheets of India Inc and banks, subdued global commodity prices and the prospect of private capital expenditure picking up.

India Ratings, however, also flagged some constraints on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in the current fiscal year before the general elections, including a slip in global growth, which has hit Indian exports, tighter fi-



nanial conditions upping cost of capital domestically, a deficit monsoon, and tepid manufacturing growth. "All these risks will continue to weigh and restrict India's GDP growth to 6.2 per cent in FY24, and the quarterly GDP growth, which came in at 7.8 per cent in the June quarter, is slated to slow down sequentially in the remaining three quarters of FY24," its principal economist Sunil Kumar Sinha said. It can be noted that in FY23, the economy had grown at 7.2 per cent.

The RBI expects the real GDP growth to come at 6.5 per cent for FY24. The agency said the consumption demand is not broad based, and estimated the Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) to grow 6.9 per cent in FY24 as against 7.5 per cent in FY23.

The real wage growth of households belonging to the lower income bracket has been negative since the fourth quarter of FY21 and became marginally positive only the December quarter of FY23, it said,

adding that the same for households belonging to the upper income bracket rose in the range of 9.5 per cent to 12.7 per cent during the same period. The agency explained that 1 per cent increase in real wages could lead to a 1.12 per cent increase in the real PFCE and the multiplier effect of this could result in a 0.64 per cent increase in the GDP growth.

There are some green shoots visible on the private capital expenditure front, the agency noted, citing a recent Reserve Bank of India paper.

The agency said while exports are facing headwinds, the services sector recovery is on track. It, however, called out monsoon rainfall and industrial growth as "areas of concern".

EPFO records highest net member addition of 18.75 lakh in July

New Delhi, Sep 20:

Retirement fund body EPFO has recorded the highest net member addition of 18.75 lakh in July 2023, according to the payroll data released on Wednesday. The labour ministry in a statement said that the addition of 18.75 lakh during the month is the highest since the first publishing of EPFO payroll data from April 2018 covering the period of September 2017 onwards. A growing trend has continued for the last three months with an increase of around 85,932 net members over the previous month of June 2023. The data indicates that

around 10.27 lakh new members have enrolled during July 2023 which is the highest since July 2022.

The majority of new members joining EPFO are in the age group of 18-25 years constituting roughly 58.45 per cent of total new members additions during the month. This shows an increasing trend in youth enrollment, who are mostly first-time job seekers joining the organized sector workforce of the country, it explained. The payroll data demonstrates that approximately 12.72 lakh members exited but re-joined EPFO, which is the highest in the last 12 months.

Indian economy doing well even in unsupportive global environment: Ashima

New Delhi, Sep 20:

The Indian economy has started doing well even in an unsupportive global environment, as the Modi-led government implemented various reforms in the last nine years, resulting in improvements in key macroeconomic indicators, according to RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Member Ashima Goyal. But, there is still a long way to go to realise India's full potential, Goyal added. "The UPA government inherited a strong economy and benefitted from a high growth period. "But over-reaction to the global financial crisis after 2008 and many corruption scandals weakened the economy," she told PTI. Goyal was asked how she would compare the performance of the UPA government's ten years (2004-14) and the Modi-



led NDA government's nine years in office. "The (Modi-led) NDA inherited double deficits (high fiscal deficit and high current account deficit), high inflation and weak banks, but has improved all these, and implemented other reforms so that the economy has begun to do well now even in an unsupportive global environment," she asserted. Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed office for the first time in May 2014. Modi led the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to a majority of its own in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

UK Govt financial package may help Tata Steel UK narrow losses, says report

New Delhi, Sep 20:

The UK government's 500 million pound financial package to Tata Steel UK is expected to narrow the steel maker's losses on the back of lowered production and environmental compliance costs, according to CreditSights. Tata Steel's credit profile could remain resilient even amid lacklustre steel price dynamics, aided by strong captive iron ore resources, expectations of moderating coking coal input costs, and positive signs of a gradual turnaround of its loss-making European business, the Fitch Group company said in a statement on Wednesday. The UK government has an-

nounced it will pay up to 500 million pounds to facilitate the green transition of steel maker's Port Talbot plant in South Wales, UK. This will entail replacing Port Talbot's blast furnaces with environmentally friendlier electric arc furnaces (EAF) for a total cost of 1.25 billion pounds. "We see the deal as a mild credit positive for Tata, and we believe losses at Tata Steel UK could narrow on the back of lowered production and environmental compliance costs, once the EAF commissions," it said. The UK government's financial aid will also reduce the company's capex burden and support its transition towards greener steel production, CreditSights said.

'We are very close' on FTA with India: UK trade minister

London, Sep 20:

India and the UK are "very close" to achieving a mutually beneficial free trade agreement (FTA) but the aspects left to agree on are the toughest ones, Britain's Business and Trade Secretary in charge of the negotiations has told a parliamentary panel. Kemi Badenoch was answering questions posed by the cross-party House of Commons Business and Trade Committee, which scrutinises the work of the Department of Business and Trade (DBT), on Tuesday when she was asked about the timeline for signing off on the FTA which has completed 12 rounds of negotiations. The Cabinet minister was



specifically asked about some UK media reports suggesting that cricket fan British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak may be planning a return visit to India next month to sign the deal on the sidelines of the World Cup being hosted across the country. "We have never set a deadline. I think this is a very optimistic briefing for news-

FM urges RRBs to speed up digitisation to ensure better services in rural areas

New Delhi, Sep 20:

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman expressed concern over the slow progress of computerisation in Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and urged them to speed up the process to strengthen credit delivery in rural areas. There is still a lot of work to do in digitising RRBs and cooperative banks, she said after launching the 'Kisan Rin Portal' and Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) manual here. Cooperative banks are not equally endowed, and their financial health varies, she said, adding ramping up capacity in the sector is taking place under the Ministry of Cooperation headed by Home Minister Amit Shah. "The cooperative bank digitisation would happen with the necessary speed, she said. However, she said, "I



am more concerned about RRBs, their digitisation and computerisation. Therefore, if they didn't have it, extending phone bank facility or internet banking facility won't work out."

A lot of work is still pending, and the Department of Financial Services is sensitising them to achieve computerisation at a fast pace, Sitharaman said. Observing that rural India kept the economy going during the severe COVID-19 lockdown, the minister said the farmer and agriculture sector is given high importance by the government. Surprised by the huge dif-

ference between sanction and disbursement by cooperative banks, she asked the DFS to find out the reason for this. However, the difference between sanction and disbursement is low in the case of scheduled commercial banks. Speaking at the occasion, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said the various measures taken by the government have enhanced farmers' income. The Budget allocation for the ministry has gone up multi-fold since 2013-14 as the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi attaches great importance to the sector, he added.

On the short-term crop loan, Tomar said there is no dearth of funds for the sector, and the agriculture credit target for the current fiscal has been pegged at Rs 20 lakh crore with a focus on animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries.

Govt to link 28 more mandis to eNAM: Agri Secretary

New Delhi, Sep 20:

The government will integrate 28 new wholesale mandis (market yards) with the online trading platform eNAM, taking the total count to 1,389 in the country, Agriculture Secretary Manoj Ahuja said. At present, 1,361 regulated mandis in 23 states and four Union Territories are linked with the electronic National Agriculture Market (eNAM), launched on April 26. "To further strengthen eNAM, 28 new mandis were approved recently for integration to take the total count of mandis to 1389," Ahuja said at a workshop here on eNAM 2.0. He also emphasised on the importance of providing key information to the stakeholders of e-



NAM at the right time. "It is important to remove information asymmetry," he said. Ahuja further said the information pertaining to quality of produce is as vital to the buyer, as the prices of commodities are vital to sellers. "From an economic perspective, the whole value chain must be made efficient and wastage must be reduced," he said.

IDBI Bank extends Festive offers

On its popular 'Amrit Mahotsav' FD schemes

Mumbai, Sep 20:

IDBI Bank extends Festive Offers on its popular "Amrit Mahotsav FD" schemes. Under this limited-time promotion, the 444 days option offers lucrative peak rate of 7.75% p.a. Besides this, the 375 days option attracts rate up to 7.60% p.a. This festive offer extension will be available for limited period upto October 31, 2023. Further, the Bank has made its rates attractive in the maturity slab of '271 days to less than 1 year' by 50 basis points (bps), offering a peak rate of 6.75% per annum.

Electric buses can give us a future where planet will be livable: Eric Garcetti

New Delhi, Sep 20:

US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti on Wednesday said electric buses can change the world and give a future where the planet will be liveable. The ambassador travelled in an Indian electric bus to attend a session on "accelerating deployment of electric buses in India".

"It was very exciting for me to be on an Indian electric bus. We know that electric buses can change the world. They are quieter, cleaner, they help us reduce our carbon (footprint) and give us a future where our planet will be livable. "It is one of the reasons the United States government is working with our friends in the Government of India to get more electric buses on



United States Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti poses for photos after traveling in an e-bus during the launch of a mechanism to facilitate deployment of 10,000 electric buses in cities across India as part of a US-India partnership, in New Delhi, Wednesday, Sept. 20.

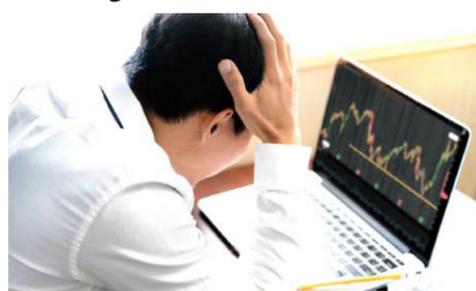
the streets of Indian cities. So, we have launched an initiative to have 10,000 electric buses be on Indian streets," he said. The United States and India launched a mechanism that will facilitate deployment of 10,000 made-in-India electric buses in cities across the country, bringing into reality a joint vision first announced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official state visit to the

White House. "Every day we see the impact of the climate crisis at a global level. We must respond now or jeopardize the future of our planet and our people. The partnership announced today will mobilize financing for a fleet of 10,000 electric buses throughout India, expanding options for electric public transportation in India, creating cleaner cities and healthier communities," the ambassador said. According to a joint statement issued earlier this month, India and the United States will provide joint support for a payment security mechanism for expanding electric mobility in India, giving a boost to the PM e-Bus Sewa scheme that aims to procure 10,000 electric buses for cities that lack adequate public transport.

Equity investors lose Rs 2.89 lakh crore in two days of market fall

New Delhi, Sep 20:

Investors' wealth fell by Rs 2.89 lakh crore in two days of market fall, with the BSE Sensex tumbling 796 points on Wednesday, amid weak global market trends ahead of the US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision. Fresh foreign fund outflows and caution ahead of a host of interest rate decisions from global central banks also added to the overall bearish trend. Besides, the US Fed meeting, the BoE (Bank of England) and the BoJ (Bank of Japan) are also scheduled to meet this week. Falling for the second day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 796 points, or 1.18 per cent, to settle at 66,800.84 points.



During the day, it fell by 868.7 points, or 1.28 per cent, to 67,294.16 points. The BSE benchmark fell 241.79 points, or 0.36 per cent, to settle at 67,596.84 points on Monday. Equity markets were closed on Tuesday on account of Ganesh Chaturthi. Following the bearish trend in equities, the mar-

ket capitalisation of BSE-listed companies fell by Rs 2,89,121.56 crore to Rs 3,20,51,859.15 crore in two days. "The domestic markets remained under pressure due to rising US bond yields and a stronger greenback. Concerns reigned over upcoming Fed policy, interest rate trajectory and rising oil prices.

Sensex tanks 796 pts, Nifty closes below 20K

Mumbai, Sep 20:

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled more than 1 per cent on Wednesday due to selling in index heavyweights in tandem with weak global trends ahead of the US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision. Falling for the second day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 796 points or 1.18 per cent to settle at 66,800.84. During the day, it tanked 868.7 points or 1.28 per cent to 66,728.14. The NSE Nifty declined 231.90 points or 1.15 per cent to end below the 20,000 mark at 19,901.40. US bond yields surging to 16-year high levels and fears of high crude oil prices fueling commodity

inflation also hit the investor sentiment, according to analysts.

Fresh foreign fund outflows and caution ahead of a host of interest rate decisions from global central banks also added to the overall bearish trend. Besides the US Fed meeting, the BoE (Bank of England) and the BoJ (Bank of Japan) are also scheduled to meet this week. Among the Sensex firms, HDFC Bank emerged as the biggest loser, falling 4 per cent. JSW Steel, Reliance Industries, UltraTech Cement, Maruti, Tata Steel, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel and Larsen & Toubro were the other major laggards.

City of music reverberated with Ganesh Chaturthi celebration

City and villages embrace festivities with enthusiasm

Khairagarh, Sep 20: The city of Khairagarh, known for its musical heritage, is resonating with the joyous celebrations of Ganesh Chaturthi as Lord Ganesha graces every household with his presence. This year, even the rural streets have come alive with special decorations and the installation of Lord Ganesha's idols at village crossroads, fueling an unparalleled enthusiasm among devotees.

The festivities began with colorful processions as idol bearers, accompanied by the beats of DJs and traditional music, paraded their beloved deity from artists' homes to community pandals. As the sun set, these processions culminated in elaborate rituals for the idol's



installation, amidst beautifully adorned pandals.

The city and its surrounding rural areas have witnessed a spectacular display of decorations, drawing throngs of spectators to witness the

grandeur. One noteworthy attraction this year is the majestic pandal dedicated to Lord Shiva's original yogic form at Fateh Maidan, established by the Raj Samiti of Khairagarh. Devotees of Ganesh

Chaturthi can experience the divine presence in this remarkable setting.

In keeping with tradition, the new bus stand in the city has been transformed into an enchanting darbar of Lord Ganpati, adding to the festive ambiance. Various Ganesh Samitis across the region, including prominent locations like Hospital Chowk, Gol Bazaar, Tarkari Para, Banshi Marg, Baret Para, Rajphamli, Civil Lines, Khanharia, Thakur Para, Tikrapara, Itwari Bazaar, Amla Para, Sonasara, Piparia, Dakchaura, Lalpur, Mongra, Dhaneli, and Amlidih Khurd, have adorned their pandals with captivating decorations, continuing the tradition as the festival enters its second day.

● **Korba's youth embellish hands for cleanliness and democracy**

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Sep 20: In a remarkable display of commitment and civic responsibility, the National Service Scheme Unit and the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs at the Government Higher Secondary School in Boyda have officially launched the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

This nationwide initiative, guided by esteemed figures such as Dr. Ashok Kumar Shrotri, Director of the Regional Office in Bhopal, Dr. Nita Bajpai, State National Service Scheme Officer, Dr. Manoj Sinha, Program Coordinator at Atal Bihari



Vajpayee Vishwavidyalaya Bilaspur, and District Organizer Mr. Y. Tiwari, under the guidance and leadership of Principal Lakhna Lal Banjare, and with the primary direction from Program Officer Rajendra Kumar Nayak and administrative oversight, aims to promote cleanliness and achieve 100% voter turnout, coinciding with the period from September 15 to Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary on October 2.



Amidst their dedication to cleanliness and civic awareness, these spirited volunteers, including Pratiksha Gendle, Nirmala Ograe, Tulsii Patel, Ria Ograe, Ritu Patel, Sona Shyam, Nisha Patel, Chanda Patel, Bhoomika

Patel, and Veerendra Kumar Yadav from Boyda's National Service Scheme Unit, managed to incorporate the essence of the Hartalika Teej festival by adorning their hands with mehendi. This act serves as a heartfelt appeal for both cleanliness and enhanced voter participation.

This outstanding endeavour by these patriotic sons and daughters of the nation underscores their unwavering commitment to a better India. Additionally, they are calling on fellow citizens to address malnutrition by embracing a balanced diet during the month-long Nutrition Month campaign. Notably, the exceptional contributions of Rajendra Kumar Nayak, the Program Officer of the National Service Scheme, deserve special recognition.

Inclusive education training program organized in Mungeli

● Initiative aims to foster inclusive learning environments

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Sep 20: Mungeli saw the implementation of an inclusive education training program on September 15, conducted under the auspices of the Mungeli Development Block Resource Center. The program commenced with the worship of Goddess Saraswati, led by District ID Coordinator Ashok Kumar Kashyap and Development Block Resource Coordinator Suryakant Upadhyay.

The event also featured welcoming remarks from District Coordinator ID Sanjeev Saxena and Special Educator Kaushal Patre, who presented floral bouquets to attendees. The program ensured full participation from various schools, with each sending two teachers, two parents, one differently-abled child,



and one typical student.

This diverse representation aimed to facilitate an in-depth discussion on seven critical aspects of inclusive education, led by ID Coordinator Special Educators and expert trainers. The goal was to effectively integrate differently-abled and typical students into mainstream education.

During the second part of the training, the event welcomed District Education Officer Dr. Pratima Mandaloi, Assistant District Project Coordinator U.K. Sharma, and Pedagogy Coordinator Sanjay Sahu. District

Coordinator Ashok Kashyap took the opportunity to inspire differently-abled children through a recitation of his self-composed poem. Sanjeev Saxena conveyed his blessings to the children.

Dr. Pratima Mandaloi, the Block Education Officer, emphasized the significance of 100% participation in the voting process among parents and children under the SVEEP program, aligning with the New Education Policy 2020. She underscored that both teachers and parents play vital roles in this regard.

In the information-

packed sessions, attendees gained insights into various aspects of disabilities, including the recognition of 21 types of disabilities at the school level. This information covered topics like escort transport allowances, home-based education, medical certificate management, accessible environments, assessment camps, and the distribution of assistive devices. The training aimed to provide comprehensive knowledge about inclusive education and creating an inclusive environment for all stakeholders.

Special Educator Kaushal Patre further

delved into the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 and the concept of intellectual disabilities. He provided guidance on preparing lesson plans for differently-abled children and conducting Individualized Educational Programs (IEPs). Strategies for effective implementation of inclusive education were shared, with Master Trainer Brijeshwar Mishra providing insights into the New Education Policy.

Suryakant Upadhyay, Development Block Resource Coordinator, concluded the program by offering comprehensive information about inclusive education to ensure that teachers understood the importance of children's participation in reading, writing, and other academic activities. He also emphasized the significance of 50 quality indicators. The program concluded with felicitations and best wishes for all the teachers.

People joining INC due to popularity of Lakheshwar Baghel



Central Chronicle News

Bhond, Sep 20: Many people are joining the congress, due to the growing popularity of BVP President and MLA Lakheshwar Baghel. Lately 46 workers from Chhote Jirakhal and 67 workers from Gram Panchayat Bhatpal decided to join Congress and also expressing her desire, female activist Mrs. Kanti Baghel said that the MLA is continuously engaged in supporting them in every way that is why today they

belong to the Congress family.

A workers' conference was also held with great pomp in Gram Panchayat Girola in which a large number of local people from Dabguda, Pahurbel, Jaitgiri, Bade Deora, Sonpur, Sautpur in a number of 146 joined Congress in Girola's Bada and followed the party's customary policy.

Uttam Naik, Jagmohan Baghel, Shobharam Markhandey, Gopal Kashyap, Arjun Pandey, Bigneshwar, Hemraj

Baghel, Satyendra Gadge, Sonadhar, Mohanjali, Badrinath. Joshi, Bondaki, Jitendra Tiwari, Neelam Kashyap, Rajesh Kumar, Rajendra, Gangadhar, Vidyadhar, Madon, Lakhana, Mahadev, Chaturshatrujan, Sonsingh, Keshbo, Khagpati, Lakhi, Charnu, Motiram, Govind, Damudhar, Dharam Singh, Subhash, Lalit, Madan Mohan, Natholal, Rajarisi, Lakhiram, Jammir, and all workers and villagers were present.

Haritalika festival celebrated with devotion



Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Sep 20: Haritalika festival is being celebrated with devotion, in the region, with married women fasting and praying for the longevity of their companions. The festival started with women consuming karu - bhaat (rice with bitter gourd), along with rigorous fasting and rituals as per traditions.

The women who have come to their parents home

to celebrate the festival as per traditions, have engaged in the sequence of interaction with friends relatives and other people, with every house bustling with festivities and variety of food being made to mark the occasion.

Also there is a crowd of women in cloth and jewelry shops and here in the market for the festival all shops are decked with fineries. Celebrated with great fervor in the State, this festival holds special importance for the women folks who once in year get to go to their maternal house and celebrate the festival with fasting and feasting after with.

Private hospitals in Arang exploit patients with deceptive practices

Accusations of financial exploitation under the guise of free medical treatment

Central Chronicle News

Arang, Sep 20: Private hospitals in the Arang region, particularly those operating under the Dr. Khubchand Baghel Health Scheme and Ayushman Bharat Health Scheme, have come under scrutiny due to allegations of exploitative practices. Rural residents, in particular, claim they are being taken advantage of by these private hospitals, which charge exorbitant fees for services related to childbirth, accidents, surgeries, sonography, radiological examinations, and blood tests.

Despite the availability of government health

schemes, these private hospitals continue to overcharge patients. Residents of Arang and nearby areas allege that they are being coerced into paying hefty bills for medicines, surgical implants, bed charges, and nursing care, often running into lakhs.

What's concerning is that health department officials appear to have turned a blind eye to the patients' plight, as they continue to fall victim to financial exploitation by these private hospitals. Agents from these hospitals visit villages, convincing unsuspecting patients, including Accredited Social Health Activists and unqualified doctors, to

opt for their facilities under the guise of free treatment.

Unfortunately, many innocent rural residents, trusting in these promises, forego seeking treatment at government hospitals and subsequently find themselves trapped in the web of these unscrupulous establishments. When patients and their families finally realize the deception, it's often too late, and they are left entangled in the unethical practices of these hospitals.

The healthcare system in Arang seems to have flaws, with local community health centers resembling referral centers rather than well-staffed

healthcare facilities. During emergencies, government hospitals often lack doctors and essential resources, leading paramedical staff and nurses to advise patients to seek treatment elsewhere.

In this dire situation, unlicensed private hospitals are taking advantage of patients, misleading them with promises of free treatment while extracting cash payments. Authorities responsible for overseeing government health schemes must take swift action against these hospitals. The residents of the Arang region are eagerly awaiting justice and an end to these exploitative practices.

Farmers demand opening of new paddy procurement sub-centre



Central Chronicle News

Mahasamund, Sep 20: Farmers of the region met Parliamentary Secretary and MLA Vinod Sevenal Chandrakar, and demanded to open a new paddy procurement sub-centre in Gram Panchayat Kachhardih.

Taking their demands seriously, Parliamentary Secretary and MLA Shri Chandrakar responded to their demands and along with drawing the attention of the government, he assured to take appropriate

initiative. The delegation of farmers of village Kachhardih, Ulba and Amora met the parliamentary Secretary and told that Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Society Maryadit Raitum paddy is sold by the farmers of Kachhardih, Ulba and Amora villages.

By opening a paddy procurement sub-centre here, not only hundreds of farmers of Kachhardih but also Ulba and Amora villages will get the facility, they demanded.

Shortage of female doctors plagues district's largest govt hospital

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Sep 20: Despite a year passing since the district hospital's construction, the largest government civil hospital in the region finds itself ailing with various issues. While government efforts are underway to improve the hospital's conditions after the establishment of the Chhattisgarh State, the problems remain unresolved.

Presently, the female patients seeking treatment, including expectant mothers, daughters, and young girls, are facing several hardships. The hospital is grappling with a shortage

of female doctors, and there is a continuous dearth of women MBBS physicians in the civil hospital. Due to the shortage of female doctors at the hospital, female patients are encountering various difficulties.

In cases involving pregnant women or the post-mortem examination of female bodies, the absence of female MBBS doctors is felt keenly. Currently, there are two RMAs (Rural Medical Assistants) at the hospital, with one male doctor, Dr. Akash Kannauje, and one female doctor, Dr. Anuradha Verma. In the MBBS doctors, there is one female



doctor, Dr. Harsha Mukundan, and three male doctors, Dr. P.S. Parihar, Dr. Pankaj Vaishnav, and Dr. Vivek Bisben. In addition, there is a female MBBS doctor, Dr. Preeti Vaishnav, who is currently on a two-year leave due to her postgraduate studies, creating a scarcity of qualified female medical practitioners at the moment.

As a result of these circumstances, cases of sexual assault and other sensitive matters are being referred to Rajnandgaon Medical College for examination and post-mortem procedures, causing distress to the affected fami-

lies. Several such cases have arisen, and victims are compelled to travel many kilometers to reach Rajnandgaon Medical College for medical care.

It's important to note that while there are male MBBS doctors available in the Civil Hospital in Kairagarh, the shortage of female MBBS doctors remains a critical issue. This issue should be brought to the attention of the authorities and higher officials in order to address the situation promptly.

Despite the availability of Dr. Ravishankar Satyarthi as the district medical and health officer (CMHO), the position of a

district medical officer has remained vacant since his appointment. Moreover, the BMO of Khairagarh, has been given additional charge as CMHO by Collector Gopal Verma.

What officer says

Due to the presence of only one female MBBS doctor in the Civil Hospital, there is inconvenience. Arrangements will be made soon as needed, and female doctors will be called from the district CHC center. Dr. Vivek Bisen, CMO Khairagarh, and Acting CMHO KCC.



into action with a quick take-down move from a right-leg attack. Unperturbed, the 19-year-old Indian began to defend well and foiled two similar attempts, not conceding any more points till the end of first period.

With her strong defense continuing, Panghal did not let Parrish make any attacking move with the result the American was put on clock. Panghal got hold of the American's left leg and converted that into a successful take-down move to draw parity. She tried to get a leg lace but could not pull off the move.

The American lost a point on passivity. Standing wrestling followed and Panghal defended her slender lead to walk out a winner. She needed only one minute and 38 seconds to outplay Rokhsana Marta Zasina in her next bout, beating the Poland wrestler by technical superiority to move into the quarterfinals. After two take-down moves, Panghal pulled off leg-lace move with perfection to finish the bout in a jiffy.

In the quarterfinal, she led 6-0 but the Russian effected a comeback with a take-down and consecutive gut-wrench points to make it 6-6. On counter-attack Panghal took the lead again. She extended the lead with a left-leg attack which she converted into a take-down. About 30 seconds were still left in the bout but Panghal denied her rival. However, Manisha (62kg), Priyanka (68kg) and Jyoti Berwal (72kg) have lost their bouts and exited the tournament.

Antim Panghal shocks reigning world champion Parrish, reaches semifinal

Belgrade, Sep 20 (PTI):

Antim Panghal shocked reigning champion Olivia Dominique Parrish en route to the World Championship semifinals, raising hopes of locking a quota for the Paris

Olympics even as other Indian contenders bit the dust in their respective categories, here Wednesday.

The two-time U20 champion Panghal slipped to a 0-2 deficit at the start of the bout against the American but edged her rival 3-2 in

the women's 53kg opening round. She later outplayed Poland's Rokhsana Marta Zasina by technical superiority and followed that up with a 9-6 win over Russian Natalia Malysheva, who is competing as a neutral athlete. The American swung

Mohammed Siraj back to No. 1 in ICC ODI bowling rankings

Dubai, Sep 20 (PTI):

Indian pacer Mohammed Siraj has regained his number one spot in the men's ICC ODI bowling rankings after his six-wicket haul in the final of the recently-concluded Asia Cup.

Siraj, who first grabbed the top position in January before being displaced by Josh Hazlewood in March, has surged eight spots after his memorable performance that helped dismiss Sri Lanka for just 50 runs and enabled India to complete a 10-wicket victory in the summit clash.

Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav has moved down three places to ninth.

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah climbed up two places to 27th while Hardik Pandya rose eight spots to 50th. Among batters, openers Shubman Gill and Rohit Sharma have retained their second and 10th spots respectively while star batter Virat Kohli moved up a rung to eighth.

Pandya is the only all-rounder in the top 20, climbing up a spot to the sixth place.



Paris, Sep 20 (AP):

Striker Kylian Mbappe continued his scoring spree and right back Achraf Hakimi also found the net as Paris Saint-Germain opened its Champions League campaign with a 2-0 home win against Borussia Dortmund.

Mbappe's penalty put PSG ahead in the 49th minute following a video review. Referee Jes s Gil Manzano stuck to his decision and ruled that defender Niklas S le handled the ball from Mbappe's shot.

The France striker stroked the ball into the bottom left corner and just out of the reach of goalkeeper Gregor Kobel for his eighth goal in five games this season. It extended his club-record tally to 220 goals in 265 games. Nine minutes later, Kobel was beaten from close range when

ICC confirms New York, Dallas, Florida as US venues for T20 WC 2024

Dubai, Sep 20 (PTI):

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday confirmed New York, Dallas and Florida as the three venues for the USA-leg of the ICC Men's World Cup 2024.

Broward County (Florida), Grand Prairie (Dallas) and Eisenhower Park (New York) will be the three stadiums hosting the matches in the US. This is the first time the tournament will be played in the USA, and they will co-host it with the West Indies. The ICC had awarded the event to the USA in 2021. Geoff Allardice, the Chief Executive of the governing body, said, these venues have been zeroed in after an extensive evaluation process.

"We're delighted to announce the three USA venues that will host part of the biggest ICC Men's T20 World Cup ever staged, with 20 teams competing for the trophy. "We explored a number of potential venue options in the country, and we were hugely encouraged by the enthusiasm the event generated amongst prospective hosts," said Allardice in an ICC release. Allardice said the existing venues at Florida and Dallas will be expanded to accommodate more fans, media and premium hospitality areas using the modular stadium solutions.

He said the same technology will be used to build a 34,000-seat modular stadium at Nassau County, New York, and he hoped to acquire the required permit from local officials by next month.

I have just 900 euros in my account, not living a very good life: Sumit Nagal



New Delhi, Sep 20 (PTI):

After arranging for a sustenance budget of Rs one crore that keeps him going on the ATP Tour, India's number one tennis player Sumit Nagal is left with less than Rs one lakh in his bank account and a morose feeling of not leading a good life.

He has been training at the Nansel Tennis Academy in Germany for a few years but lack of funds meant that he could not train at his favourite place in the first three months of season 2023.

His friends Somdev Devvarman and Christopher Marquis helped him stay in shape in January and February before he finally managed to

fund his stay in Germany.

The fund crunch is the story of probably every Indian tennis player but the fact that the country's number one singles player is not saving enough money for himself and his family just exposes the unhelpful system and the brutal Tour where the players wage lonely battles.

To stay and play on the extravagant ATP Tour, Nagal has invested all his prize money, his salary from IOCL and the support he gets from Maha Tennis Foundation.

The expenditure is related to his stay at the training centre in Peine and his travel for tournaments along with either his coach or a physio.

"If I look at my bank bal-

ance, I have what I had at the beginning of the year. It is 900 euros (approx Rs 80,000). I did get a bit of help. Mr Prashant Sutar is helping me with MAHA Tennis Foundation and I also get monthly (salary) from IOCL but I don't have any big sponsor," Nagal told PTI in an interview.

Nagal's racquet, shoes and apparel needs are being taken care of by Yonex and ASICS respectively.

This year in 24 tournaments played, Nagal has earned about 65 lakh with his biggest pay cheque coming from the US Open where he lost the first round of the Qualifiers and still pocketed USD 22,000 (approx Rs 18 lakh).

"I am investing whatever I am making. The yearly cost where I travel with one coach is costing me around 80 lakh to 1 crore and that is just with one travelling coach (no physio). Whatever I have made I have already invested.

"I feel like I am lacking support despite being India's number one player for past few years. I am the only player to qualify for Grand Slams, only player to win a (tennis) match at the Olympics (Tokyo) in last few years, and still the government has not added my name to the TOPS.

Mbappe and Hakimi score as PSG wins 2-0 against Dortmund

Paris, Sep 20 (AP):

Striker Kylian Mbappe continued his scoring spree and right back Achraf Hakimi also found the net as Paris Saint-Germain opened its Champions League campaign with a 2-0 home win against Borussia Dortmund.

Mbappe's penalty put PSG ahead in the 49th minute following a video review. Referee Jes s Gil Manzano stuck to his decision and ruled that defender Niklas S le handled the ball from Mbappe's shot.

The France striker stroked the ball into the bottom left corner and just out of the reach of goalkeeper Gregor Kobel for his eighth goal in five games this season. It extended his club-record tally to 220 goals in 265 games. Nine minutes later, Kobel was beaten from close range when



Hakimi swapped passes with midfielder Vitorinha and cut inside a defender before curling the ball into the bottom left corner with the outside of his right foot. "It's a very important

game for us, we've started the competition well," said the 23-year-old Portugal international Vitorinha, who is in his second season with PSG. "It's important for me as well. I want to help the

team even more in the upcoming matches."

In the other Group F game, seven-time European champion AC Milan wasted chances in a 0-0 draw with Newcastle. PSG, which has never won the competition, played last season with superstar Lionel Messi and Neymar in attack, yet went out in the last 16 for the second straight season.

That led to coach Christophe Galtier's dismissal and the hiring of former Barcelona coach Luis Enrique. "We needed to do better in the last 15 minutes of the match, but otherwise it's pretty much a perfect night," Luis Enrique said. When Luis Enrique took charge, he was thrust into a difficult situation. Messi and Neymar left PSG, leaving only Mbapp from that attack.

India face Bangladesh in must-win Asian Games football match

Hangzhou, Sep 20 (PTI):

Battered by hosts China in their opening match after playing without any training session, India will be up against a tricky Bangladesh side in their must-win group match in the Asian Games football competition here on Thursday.

A rag-tag Indian team reached here late Monday evening and played its first match without proper rest and sleep and was hammered 1-5 by China on Tuesday. Igor Stimac's team needs to beat Bangladesh in its second Group A game to remain in the fray for the knock-outs. A loss on Thursday may not straightaway knock India out of reckoning as the best third-placed teams from the six groups can also advance to the Round of 16, but that will leave the team with a lot of uncertainties in the final game.

Asia gears up for the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou

Dr.Vasishth M.C.

In a world filled with turmoil and uncertainty, where borders often divide nations and cultures, there exists a remarkable gathering of hope, camaraderie, and sheer athletic brilliance. After an unprecedented five-year hiatus, the youth of Asia are poised to converge upon the vibrant city of Hangzhou, China, from September 23rd to October 8th for the grandest sporting event in the Asian continent - the Asian Games. This colossal celebration of athleticism, camaraderie, and culture was initially slated for 2022 but was rescheduled due to the sweeping pandemic that gripped the globe.

The Asian Games, fondly known as the Asiad, are meticulously orchestrated by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), an esteemed organization in affiliation with the International Olympic Committee (IOC). These games, second in magnitude only to the illustrious Olympic Games, serve as a profound proclamation of Asia's triumphant emancipation from centuries of colonial subjugation.

A colossal congregation of 480 million souls from 46 diverse nations will unite under the banner of sport and unity.

To appreciate the significance of the Asian Games, one must traverse back in time to the era of 'great voyages' and 'discoveries' during the 15th and 16th centuries. It was a period when intrepid Portuguese and Spanish navigators boldly charted unknown waters, thus unearthing new lands ripe for European colonization. This historical epoch marked the genesis of European colonialism, with Portugal and Spain emerging as early victors. However, it was the British Empire that ultimately claimed the lion's share, famously earning the axiom that "the sun never sets on the British Empire."

The cataclysmic events of World War II, spanning from 1939 to 1945, initiated the gradual decline of the British Empire and heralded the rise of independent Asian nations. With newfound sovereignty came a reshaping of the global map, paving the way for an Asian counterpart to the Olympic Games, a gathering



that would unify the youth of this sprawling continent beneath one roof.

The precursor to the Asian Games was the Far Eastern Games, conducted from 1913 to 1934, a testament to the seeds of unity that were sown. It was under the visionary leadership of India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, that New Delhi was designated as the inaugural host of the Asian Games. Although originally scheduled for an earlier date, the games were postponed to 1951 due to technical considerations.

From that historic moment in 1951 until the eagerly anticipated year of 2023, a total of 18 Asian Games have unfolded across various Asian nations. 1954 (Manila, Philippines) 1958 (Tokyo, Japan) 1962 (Jakarta, Indonesia) 1966 (Bangkok, Thailand) 1970 (Bangkok) 1974 (Tehran, Iran) 1978 (Bangkok) 1982 (New Delhi) 1986 (Seoul, South Korea) 1990 (Beijing, China) 1994 (Hiroshima, Japan) 1998 (Bangkok) 2002 (Busan, South Korea) 2006 (Doha, Qatar) 2010 (Guangzhou, China) 2014 (Incheon, South Korea) 2018 (Jakarta, Indonesia).

Bangkok, the bustling capital of Thailand, holds the distinction of hosting the most games, a record of four times. India, a nation steeped in history and tradition, was honored to host the games twice, first in 1951 and later in 1982.

China, the dragon of the East, made its debut in the Asian Games in Tehran, Iran, in 1974. In the span of these 18 editions, India has left an indelible mark, amassing a remarkable tally of 672 medals, including 155 gold, 201 silver, and 316 bronze. The Indian contingent stormed to second place in the maiden Asian Games in 1951, securing 15 gold medals. Regrettably, this pinnacle would prove elusive in the subsequent years. Nonetheless, India showcased its mettle by securing a third-place finish in the medal tally during the 1962 Jakarta Games.

The 1982 Asian Games, held on Indian soil, brought forth a respectable 13 gold medals for the host nation, though it translated to a fifth-place standing in the overall medal rankings. The 1990 Beijing Games, marked by a solitary gold in the sport of Kabaddi,

proved to be a stark contrast as India struggled, yielding its worst performance in recent memory. In stark contrast, the host nation of China, with an impressive haul of 183 gold medals, secured the top spot in the medal standings.

India's journey in the Asian Games was not devoid of challenges. At times, it found itself trailing behind Pakistan in the medal count, a poignant reminder of the historical rivalry between the neighboring nations. Instances from the 1954 Manila Games and the 1958 Tokyo Games stand testament to this competitive spirit.

However, it was the 2018 Jakarta Games that etched a glorious chapter in India's sporting history. The Indian contingent dazzled with a total of 55 medals, including 16 gold, 23 silver, and 31 bronze, reaffirming their prowess on the Asian stage.

As the 19th edition of the Asian Games beckons, India prepares to send a formidable contingent of athletes to the vibrant city of Hangzhou. This year's Games bear witness to a historic moment as India's cricket teams, both men and

women, participate for the very first time, adding a new dimension to the sporting extravaganza. The Indian squad boasts an exceptional roster of gifted athletes, particularly in track and field events. The nation's medal prospects hinge on sports such as boxing, wrestling, weightlifting, and shooting, where India has consistently excelled. Anticipation runs high among sports enthusiasts in India, with many expecting the nation to secure a commendable fifth-place finish in the overall medal tally.

The forthcoming fifteen days, commencing on September 23rd, promise to be a celebration of youth, athleticism, and unity. Asia's finest athletes will converge in Hangzhou, ready to compete earnestly across a myriad of sports, each striving to etch their name in history and secure precious medals. This colossal athletic fiesta is not just a competition; it is a testament to the power of sports in transcending boundaries and uniting diverse cultures. Welcome to the grandest spectacle of unity and athletic excellence - the 19th Asian Games.

Kurmi stir hits Rajdhani, Vande Bharat, other trains



Kurmi community people stage a protest at Muri Junction railway station demanding Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for the community, in Ranchi, Wednesday.

Ranchi/Bhubaneswar, Sep 20 (PTI): Several trains under the purview of SER and ECoR were cancelled or diverted on Wednesday, including the premium Rajdhani Express and Vande Bharat Express, owing to the blockade by members

of the Kurmi community in Jharkhand and Odisha, officials said.

A total of seven trains were cancelled and nine others diverted, the South Eastern Railway (SER) said in a release.

The trains that were diverted "due to ongoing ag-

itation by Kurmi Samaj" include the Patna-Ranchi Vande Bharat Express and Howrah-Mumbai Durgam Express, while those cancelled were the H o w r a h - M u m b a i Gitanjali Express and H a t i a - K h a r a g p u r Express, among others, it

said. Meanwhile, the East Coast Railway (ECoR) in another release said a number of trains have been cancelled and diverted for the day, which include the Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Durgam Express and Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express.

"Agitation by Kudmi Adivasi Samaj, which was cancelled yesterday as per the directions of Hon'ble High Court of Kolkata, has taken a new turn today with agitation taking place at various places in Jharkhand like Manoharpur near Chakradharpur, Gomoh and at other places near Muri," it said.

Vedanta Aluminium's engineers re-commit to India's manufacturing excellence

New Delhi, Sep 20:

On the occasion of National Engineers Day, Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest aluminium producer, re-committed itself to nurturing its workforce, comprising thousands of highly skilled engineers in several functions, towards contributing to the rich legacy of Indian engineering. In doing so, the company aims to celebrate their unwavering dedication to driving operational excellence and tech-led innovation within India's industrial landscape, thereby building the nation into a global manufacturing hub for a plethora of sectors.

Given the size and scale of Vedanta Aluminium's operations, it is host to several kinds of engineers, including chemical, comput-

er, civil, electrical, mining, safety, and mechanical engineers. A significant part of the company emerging as India's largest producer of aluminium today can be attributed to this skilled pool of talent, who are at the forefront of product innovation, knowledge-sharing and extensive research and development within the domestic aluminium industry.

Together, they are tasked with overseeing one of the world's largest aluminium smelting facilities at Jharsuguda and a world-class alumina production facility at Lanjigarh in Odisha, in addition to nurturing BALCO, India's iconic aluminium producer based in Korba, Chhattisgarh. These responsibilities also include managing one of the largest captive thermal

power portfolios in India, with a massive capacity of about 5500 MW of thermal power spread across the country.

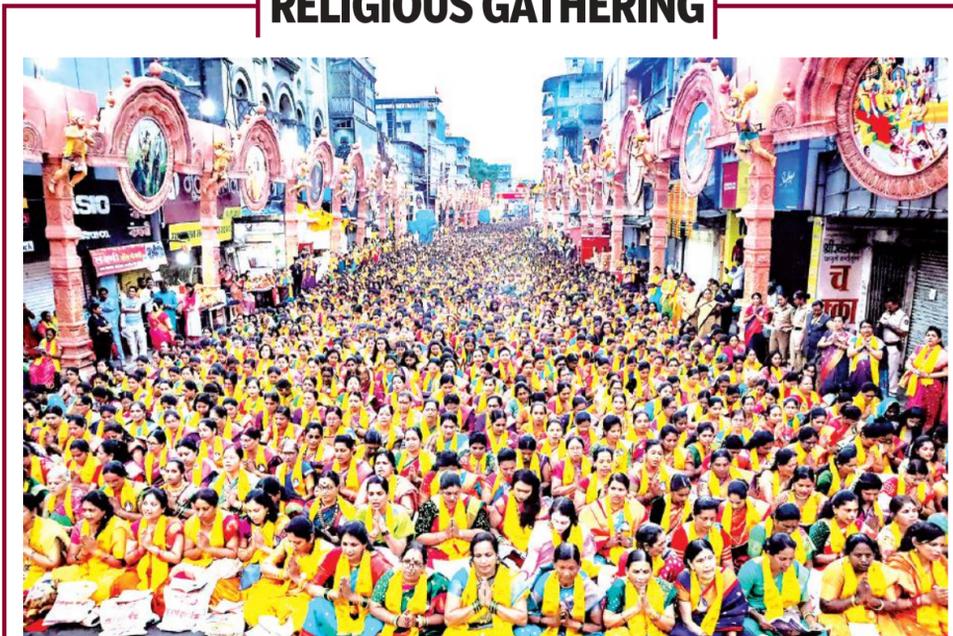
Vedanta Aluminium advocates non-linear approaches to solving challenges, empowering its engineers to experiment, implement and recalibrate as needed. A spirit of innovation, excellence and entrepreneurship, imbued as part of its core values, is actively encouraged as well.

The deep expertise present at Vedanta's operations ensures peak performance and the seamless production of high-quality aluminium. By partnering with technology providers from around the globe, and with emerging startups offering innovative new solutions, the company ensures that its employees are continuous-

ly upskilled with in-depth knowledge about their domains. Artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), IIoT, and digital twins are just a few of the Industry 4.0 technologies deployed at Vedanta Aluminium's operations, providing valuable knowledge to its engineering teams and outlining its commitment to resource efficiencies, plant excellence, and seamless asset management.

On the occasion, Mr. Sunil Gupta, COO, Vedanta Ltd. - Aluminium Business, remarked, "Engineers are a key cornerstone of our organisation, and at Vedanta Aluminium, our unwavering commitment is to cultivate an environment that nurtures innovation and empowers them to sculpt the future.

RELIGIOUS GATHERING



Women devotees chant 'Atharvashirsha' at Shreemant Dagdusheth Halwai Public Ganpati Trust in front of Utsav Mandap on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi festival, in Pune, Wednesday.

'Socialist', 'Secular' missing from new copies of Constitution: Adhir

New Delhi, Sep 20 (PTI):

Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Wednesday alleged that the words "secular" and "socialist" were missing from the Preamble in the copies of the Constitution given to lawmakers on the opening day of proceedings at the new Parliament building.

As many Opposition leaders also hit out at the government over what they called was a "serious" issue and a "crime", Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said the copies carried the original version of the Preamble of the Constitution and that these words were added later to it after constitutional amendments.

"This is as per the original Preamble. Amendments were made later," he asserted.

Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi also said the words were not



there in the Preamble.

"Have you seen the full Constitution or only the Preamble. In the Preamble, it was not there," Gandhi said outside Parliament when asked on Chowdhury's claim.

Termining the matter as serious, Chowdhury said the words have been "cleverly removed" and expressed doubts over the intentions of the BJP government.

"The Preamble of the Constitution in the copy that we carried to the new building does not include

the words secular and socialist. They have been cleverly removed...this is a serious matter and we will raise this issue," he told reporters.

Chowdhury said he knows that the words were added later in 1976 to the Constitution.

"For me this is a serious issue. I doubt their intentions as their heart does not seem to be clear on this," he said.

The Congress Leader of the House in Lok Sabha also said that if someone gives a copy of the Constitution today, it

should carry the version of it as of today.

Former law minister Ashwani Kumar said he does not think the government will ever attempt to remove the words.

"It cannot be done without a constitutional amendment and will be clearly counter productive for the government."

Binoy Viswam of the CPI termed the omission of the words as a "crime".

TMC member Dola Sena said the Constitution has been amended several times and if a copy of it has been given now it obviously should include all the amendments till date. She said she will raise the issue in the house.

She said the BJP is now claiming that this is the original copy of the Preamble to the Constitution and not the latest version, they should have mentioned clearly in the copy given to MPs.

Fresh spell of rain boosts water level in major dams across Guj

Aggregate stock now above 93 pc

Ahmedabad, Sep 20 (PTI):

The revival of monsoon activity in parts of Gujarat over the past few days has boosted the water level of reservoirs, with the stock in 207 major dams across the state rising to 93.44 per cent, officials said on Wednesday.

Of these 207 major dams, the Sardar Sarovar dam built over the Narmada river, which is considered the lifeline of the state, currently has 3.33 lakh million cubic feet (mcf) of water,

which is 99.73 per cent of its total storage capacity, a release by the Gujarat government said. As per the government figures, 54 dams are 100 per cent full, 90 dams, including the Sardar Sarovar Dam, have a water stock of 70 to 100 per cent of their storage capacity, 29 dams are filled up to 50 to 70 per cent, 23 dams are filled up 25 to 50 per cent, while 10 dams have water less than 25 per cent of their capacity. In all, 104 dams in Gujarat are filled up to 90 per cent and they have been put on 'high alert' as a precautionary measure, the government release said. Parts of north

Gujarat, Kutch and Saurashtra region have been witnessing rainfall over the past few days. With the recent spell of showers, Gujarat's average rainfall for this year's monsoon season now stands at 101.08 per cent as the state has so far received 886 mm of the average annual rainfall, it said. Kutch region received 158.73 per cent of its average annual rainfall, Saurashtra region 119.68 per cent, east-central region 96.11 per cent, north Gujarat 95.52 per cent and south Gujarat received 88.31 per cent of the average rainfall, the release said.

'National hypertension programmes key to BP control in adults'

New Delhi, Sep 20 (PTI):

About 4 out of every 5 people having hypertension are not adequately treated, according to a new report by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Nearly 76 million hypertension-related deaths could be averted between now and 2050, if countries scaled up treatment coverage, the report detailing devastating impacts of hypertension said.

The improved coverage could further prevent 120 million strokes, 79 million heart attacks, and 17 million cases of heart failure in the same time period, the report said.

Affecting 1 in 3 adults

worldwide, hypertension, or high blood pressure, is often referred to as a "silent killer".

"(This is because) its symptoms are often unnoticeable until it has already caused significant damage to the heart, blood vessels, and other organs," said Ajay Kaul, chairman of Cardiac Sciences, Fortis Hospital Noida.

The report said that people living with hypertension - blood pressure of 140/90 mmHg or higher or taking medication for hypertension - doubled between 1990 and 2019, from 650 million to 1.3 billion.

It went on to say that nearly half of people with hypertension globally are

currently unaware of their condition, with more than three-quarters of adults with hypertension living in low- and middle-income countries.

"People may have high blood pressure for years

without knowing it, which can lead to serious health complications such as heart disease, stroke, kidney damage, and more," said Kaul.

"It catches people unaware and has proven to be one of the most common causes of mortality and morbidity in India and worldwide," said Viveka Kumar, principal director & chief of Cath

Labs, Pan Max - Cardiac Sciences. Salt intake is an important factor that heightens hypertension risk, even as lack of physical activity, family history of hypertension, external stress and obesity, along with high alcohol consumption, are major contributors towards developing the condition, said the cardiologists.

"A diet high in sodium (salt), saturated fats, and low in potassium can contribute to hypertension," said Kaul.

"Indian foods and food habits include high amount of salt, almost 10 times higher than that recommended by WHO," said Kumar.

In a fact-sheet titled "Salt reduction" and issued in September, 2023, WHO has recommended less than 2000 mg/day of sodium or less than 5 g/day salt - just under a teaspoon.

The prevention, early detection and effective management of hypertension are among the most cost-effective interventions in health care and should be prioritised by countries as part of their national health benefit package offered at a primary care level, the report said.

The economic benefits of improved hypertension treatment programmes outweigh the costs by about 18 to 1, it said.

PARL VISIT



Visitors at the Parliament House to watch the proceedings during the special session, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

'Greater one-horned rhinos thriving in India, Nepal despite poaching threat'

New Delhi, Sep 20 (PTI):

The greater one-horned rhino population in India and Nepal continues to grow on the back of strong protection, wildlife crime law enforcement and habitat expansion, according to a new report.

The State of the Rhino Report, 2023, by US-based International Rhino Foundation (IRF) comes ahead of World Rhino Day, an annual global celebration of the five rhino species and their conservation on September 22.

According to the report, the two most significant factors causing rhino populations to decline are poaching and habitat loss but climate change is also increasingly impacting many facets of their survival.

"Poaching still threatens all five rhino species - black, white, greater one-horned, Sumatran and Javan - and has increased in several regions that had not previously been targeted," it states.

However, the report pointed to some bright spots.

Greater one-horned rhinos continue to thrive due to strong protection and enforcement and, though the governments of India and Nepal did not conduct an official census this year, the authorities believe the population is growing, the foundation said.

India, Bhutan and Nepal work together to implement a trans-boundary management strategy for the greater one-horned rhino. Thanks to this col-

laboration and strict government protection and management, the greater one-horned rhino population has steadily increased over the last century and grown about 20 per cent over the past decade, it said.

According to estimates, India is home to 3,262 rhinos.

The black rhino population is increasing despite constant poaching pressure, the IRF said.

South Africa continues to battle devastating poaching losses of its white rhinos as poachers target the Hluhluwe Imfolozi Park and other reserves in the KwaZulu-Natal province, it added.

One of the major concerns is that the status and whereabouts of 12

of the approximately 76 remaining Javan rhinos is unknown.

Signs of Sumatran rhinos are increasingly hard to find, creating more uncertainty about their population in the wild, the report states.

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