



BRIEF



PM Modi with US President Joe Biden at Mahatma Gandhi's memorial Rajghat on the final day of the G20 Summit, in New Delhi, Sunday.

Suspended

Maharajan: Five policemen, including a sub-inspector, were suspended and 14 others have been sent to the police line here for negligence in a rape and murder case against a local BJP leader, an official said on Sunday. The action came after accused BJP leader Masoom Raza Rahi, the district president of the BJP's minority morcha, went absconding. Superintendent of Police Dr Kaustubh said that police outpost in-charge Sadar Praveen Singh, constables Abid Ali, Akhilesh Yadav, Akhilesh Chaudhary and Priyanka Singh have been suspended for alleged negligence and mishandling the case.

Oil spill

New Delhi: State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) on Sunday said there was no damage to either farmers or fishermen due to last week's minor oil spill near Uran in Mumbai. "In the morning hours of September 8, 2023, a minor quantity of oil leaked from one of the crude oil storage tanks at ONGC Uran Plant. Due to heavy rains, the leaked oil entered the stormwater drain channel. "As the quantity of oil leakage from the plant area was minimal, the leaked oil got trapped between rocks on the beach with only traces reaching the shoreline," the company said in a statement.

Rescued

Bokaro: The staircase of a residential building in the Bokaro Steel Plant colony here collapsed on Sunday, an official said. Around 21 people, who were trapped in the building, were rescued by the fire brigade and CISF team of Bokaro Steel Plant. A resident of the building Chaitali Acharya said that the building is in dilapidated condition.

Weather
High 33 Low 27

Renewed push for UNSC expansion

New Delhi, Sep 10 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday made a renewed push for expansion of the UN Security Council and reforms in all global institutions to reflect world's "new realities", as the G20 summit drew to a close with the US, Russia and France praising the meeting outcomes under Indian presidency.

Marking the ceremonial transfer of the rotational G20 presidency, Prime Minister Modi handed over the gavel to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who hailed India for giving voice to topics of interests of emerging economies. Lula also said

PM hands over 'One Earth, One Family' Baton to Brazil

New Delhi, Sep 10 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday handed over the customary gavel of the G20 chair to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and proposed a virtual summit by November to take stock of initiatives taken during the Indian Presidency. Brazil will formally assume the G20 Presidency on December 1 this year. Prime Minister Modi extended full support to Brazil and expressed confidence that its presidency will take forward the shared goals of the G20 bloc. "India passes the gavel to Brazil. We have unwavering faith that they will lead with dedication, vision and will fur-



ther global unity as well as prosperity," Modi said. Modi proposed a virtual G20 Summit by November end to take stock of the suggestions and decisions made at the leaders' summit that concluded here on Sunday. "In the last two days,

you have put forward your views, given suggestions and a number of proposals have been put forward. It is our responsibility that the suggestions that have come forth are closely looked upon as to how they can be speeded up," Modi said.

the UNSC needs new developing countries as permanent and non-permanent members to regain political strength and greater representation for emerging countries at the World Bank and the IMF.

In his concluding remarks at the final session of the two-day G20 summit, the prime minister also proposed a virtual session of the G20 around the end of November to take stock of the suggestions and decisions made by the leaders of the major developed and developing countries here. The 55-country African Union was also granted permanent membership on Saturday in a milestone for India's presidency.

'India believes in taking everyone along'



Ludhiana, Sep 10 (PTI):

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday said many countries of the world are looking towards India for it believes in taking everyone along.

Bhagwat made the statement addressing a congregation organised by the Namdhari mission here held in memory of Satguru Partap Singh and Mata Bhupinder Kaur at Namdhari International headquarters Bhaini Sahib, about 30 kms from here in this district on Sunday. "India's job is to create balance in the world and it is playing its role very well. India is not a selfish country. It believes in taking everyone along with it," Bhagwat said.

G20: World leaders hail Modi's 'decisive leadership'

New Delhi, Sep 10 (PTI):

With India's G20 presidency ensuring several tangible outcomes, world leaders at the two-day summit here hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "decisive leadership" and for championing the voice of the Global South, sources said on Sunday.

The world leaders also hailed India's hospitality and praised Prime Minister Modi for presiding over a successful

summit, while noting that the country's message of 'one earth, one family, one future' resonated strongly with all the delegates.

"Under India's leadership, we have demonstrated that we can come together, at a time when it really matters. When you walk around in 'Bharat Mandapam' and see the displays, we can see what PM Modi, the digital initiative and technology can do - delivering service to people in

remote corners of our nations," a source quoted British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak as saying at one of the meetings.

During the summit, while Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida hailed Prime Minister Modi for providing "great leadership" of the G20, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov called for strengthening G20 cooperation based on "the foundation created by the Indian presidency", sources said.

Chandrababu sent to 14-day judicial custody

In multi-crore scam case

Vijayawada, Sep 10 (PTI):

A local Court in Vijayawada remanded TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu in judicial custody for 14 days in an alleged multi-crore corruption scam on Sunday.

In a pre-dawn operation on Saturday at Nandyal, officers knocked on the door of the caravan in which Naidu was sleeping and arrested him for his alleged role in the Skill



Development Corporation scam. The former CM was arrested by the CID around 6 am on Saturday from outside a marriage hall, where his caravan was parked, at Gnanapuram in Nandyal.

After an arrest saga of more than 36 hours, the ACB Court gave the re-

mand order around 6.50 pm on Sunday evening.

"It is a clear case of fraud involving Rs 370 crore. The court accepted our arguments," Ponnaveolu Sudhakar Reddy, AP Additional Advocate General told PTI.

Naidu was arrested in connection with a fraud case involving misappropriation of funds from the Skill Development Corporation, leading to a loss of Rs 300 crore to the state government, AP CID Chief N Sanjay said on Saturday.

PM visits media centre at Bharat Mandapam

New Delhi, Sep 10 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday evening visited the International Media Centre at the Bharat Mandapam, the venue of the G20 Summit. After holding a series of bilateral meetings with world leaders following the conclusion of the summit, Modi came to the media centre and greeted those present there.

He waved at journalists, both from India and abroad, as camerapersons vied to click him. Amid cheers, Modi walked in the cavernous hall on the ground floor of the International Media Centre (IMC) which was all decked up. G20 logos were splashed across huge decorative panels put up in the hall on the theme 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' -- 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.

Three Naxalites arrested

Gadchiroli, Sep 10 (PTI):

Three Naxalites involved in murders, landmine blasts and arson and collectively carrying a reward of Rs 6 lakh have been arrested in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district, the police said on Sunday. The arrests were made in two operations in the past three days. According to a release by the Gadchiroli police, 70 Naxalites have been arrested in the district since January 2022.

Modi conveys to Canadian PM strong concerns over anti-India activities

Of extremist elements in Canada

New Delhi, Sep 10 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday conveyed to his Canadian counterpart Justin Trudeau India's strong concerns about the continuing anti-India activities of extremist elements in Canada that were promoting secessionism, inciting violence against its diplomats and threatening the Indian community there.

In his talks with Trudeau on the sidelines of the G20 Summit, Modi also mentioned that a relationship based on "mutual respect and trust" is essential for



PM Modi with Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

the progress of the India-Canada relationship, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. "The prime minister highlighted that India-Canada relations are anchored in shared democratic values, respect for rule of law and strong people-to-people ties," it said. "He conveyed our

strong concerns about continuing anti-India activities of extremist elements in Canada. They are promoting secessionism and inciting violence against Indian diplomats, damaging diplomatic premises, and threatening the Indian community in Canada and their places of worship," it said.

Will always defend... Trudeau on Khalistan question

Asked about India's concerns over the increasing activities of the Khalistani elements in Canada, Trudeau said at a press conference that his country will always defend freedom of peaceful protest but at the same time asserted that it will always prevent violence and push back against hatred. "Canada will always defend freedom of expression, freedom of conscience, and freedom of peaceful protest and it is extremely important to us," he said. "At the same time, we are always there to prevent violence and to push back against hatred."

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Elephant found dead on farm

Raigarh, Sep 10:

An elephant died allegedly of electrocution on a farm in Chhattisgarh's Raigarh district on Sunday, an official said. The carcass of a male elephant, aged around 40-45 years, was found with the tusks intact near Medarmar village around 4 am, said Abhishek Jogawat, division forest officer of

Dharamjaigarh division.

"Prima facie, it appears that the elephant died of electrocution due to the presence of electric fences at the scene. It entered the farm belonging to one Dev Singh Rathia," the official said. However, the exact cause of death will be known once the post-mortem report arrives, he said, adding that further probe into the matter is underway.

Deve Gowda confirms meeting BJP leadership

Bengaluru, Sep 10 (PTI):

Amid the possibility of BJP and JD(S) forging an understanding for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda on Sunday confirmed that he has held discussions with the saffron party's leadership in Delhi, in the interest of the state and to save his outfit. Stating that his son and party leader H D Kumaraswamy will be holding discussions with the BJP leadership and

decide regarding poll understanding, the JD(S) supremo said the seat sharing was not discussed during his talks in the national capital.

"It is being criticised (by Congress leaders) that Deve Gowda went and met someone in Delhi. Yes, this party needs to be saved. I have worked forty years for this party. I saved this party even when Kumaraswamy went with BJP (forming alliance government in 2006)," Gowda said.

Chief Minister participates in Shri Krishna Janmashtami 'Shobha Yatra'

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Sep 10: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Sunday participated in the Shri Krishna Janmashtami "Shobha Yatra" programme organised under the auspices of Kosaria Yadav Mahasabha at Old Bus Stand in Durg.

MLAs Arun Vora and Devendra Yadav, Durg Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal and Bhilai Mayor Neeraj Pal, Vice Chairman of State Backward Classes Commission RN Verma and District Cooperative Central Bank President Rajendra Sahu were specially present.

Addressing the program, Chief Minister said that Yadav Samaj is the one that believes in Lord Krishna. We celebrate Lord Krishna in various forms. Today the community is celebrating the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna.



Advocating for representation in government from every community, Chief Minister said that all the communities should get opportunities in democracy. He said that the government has planned growth for all sections of the society.

Chhattisgarh is a state of farmers and today the farmers here are happy. Along with agriculture, trade and industry are all running in the state.

Along with paddy, milk production has also increased in the state. There is no community of the society to which the government has not given land.

Land has been made available to all communities. Apart from this, funds are also being given to construct the building as per the demand. Referring to the demand of the Yadav Samaj, the Chief Minister said that the Yadav community



should submit an application for land in the Collectorate and get the land arranged as per the prescribed criteria.

After getting the land, the government will provide funds for the building. He said that with the development of Chhattisgarh, the government is arranging employment for the people here.

Baghel congratulated the people participating in the Shobha Yatra on the

occasion of Shri Krishna Janmashtami.

In the welcome speech, President of Kosaria Yadav Samaj Durg, Bodhan Yadav drew the attention of the Chief Minister towards various demands of the Samaj.

On this occasion, a large number of people of the Kosaria Yadav Samaj including local party representatives, distinguished citizens and other officials were present.

BSF recovers Improvised Explosive Device

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Sep 10: On Sunday, 30th Battalion of Border Security Force personnel traced and unearthed a Tiffin IED weighing two kg, planted by Maoists on Antagarh - Koylibeda road with the intention of causing huge damage to the security forces and the general public.

The Bomb Disposal Squad of BSF Regional Headquarters, Kanker foiled the dangerous plans of Maoists by neutralizing the IED at the spot. If the above IED was not detected and destroyed in time, there could have been a huge loss of life and property. The vigilant BSF jawans once again foiled a Naxal bid.

On this success of the Border Security Force, Satish S Khandare, IPS, IG, Frontier Headquarters, Border Security Force,



Chhattisgarh, congratulated all the personnel of the team and assured the common citizens that BSF is committed to the

security of people and in future, BSF will continue to take similar actions with promptness and bravery.

Teacher's Day celebrated in St Thomas College



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Sep 10: NSS unit of St Thomas College, Bhilai celebrated the Teachers Day to honour their beloved teachers and organised a cultural program. After the lamp lighting, Principal Incharge Dr James Mathew congratulated all the teachers and students and gave his best wishes for their successful future. Administrator of the college Fr Dr Joshi Varghese and Principal Dr MG Roymon congratulated the NSS unit for successfully organising the event. During the program Principal Incharge Dr

James Mathew, First shift Incharge Dr Chanda Verma, Second Shift incharge R Debnani Mukherjee and NSS co convener Dr J Maju honored the NSS post holders by giving them badges and certificates. The whole program was organized under the guidance of NSS program officer Mahendra Ikhar. The program was conducted by NSS volunteers Khomendra, Utkarsha and Disha Diwan and NSS volunteer Dhananjay Yadav proposed the vote of thanks. They presented a very sweet and colorful program. On this occasion Students and staff members were present.

Sheonath - BSP water project to benefit thousands of farmers as well: Vashisth

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Sep 10: Bhoomipujan ceremony for the Rs 336.40 crore project of bringing water of River Sheonath to Bhilai Steel Plant will be held on September 11 at Kala Mandir in Civic Centre. Water Resources Minister Ravindra Choube will be the chief guest of this programme.

Under this project, an 18 km pipeline will be laid from Konari Bharda to Maroda Reservoir to supply 400 MLD water from Sheonath to BSP. Height of the anicut at Konari Bharda will be raised by one meter.

Senior Corporator Vashisth Narayan Mishra

has played an important role in finalisation and approval of this project. While interacting with Central Chronicle, Mishra said that he came to know about this proposed project last year when the Bhilai Township was suffering from dirty water supply.

At that time, Mishra tried to explore alternative measures for clean water supply and spoke to many officials of the irrigation and water resources department. Meanwhile, he came to know about a pending proposal of BSP submitted to the state government for an 18 km pipeline project to bring water from Sheonath to

Maroda Tank.

As per the existing agreement, the state government supplied 4TMC water to BSP. The new project was an alternate source arrangement to tackle any situation of crisis. Mishra immediately contacted BSP CEO and collected detailed information of this project.

It was proposed to fetch water from Sheonath between August 15 to January 26, when there is surplus water in Sheonath. Mishra said



Vashisth Narayan Mishra

that this project was not only beneficial for the farmers as well.

He submitted a detailed representation before the district collector on July 08, 2022 and thereafter he sought appointment

and met the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and explained the possible benefits of this project. Mishra said that when the BSP will get additional water from Sheonath, the leftover water in the Gangrel canal can be provided to

the farmers for irrigation.

The CM adopted a sensitive approach and directed the concerned officials to finalise this project. The project is ready now for implementation, Mishra said.

He further informed that the new project will help in maintaining a standard level of water in the Maroda II Tank. In such a situation, the top layer clean water will be pumped for filtering and supply in the township. This will resolve the dirty water problem of the township.

The second benefit will be available for the farmers of the villages located in the 120 kilometer

stretch of the Tandula and Gangrel canals. The leftover water in the canals can be used for irrigation purposes.

Mishra asserted that thousands of farmers will be able to get the second crop with this water in Patan, Durg (Rural) and other assembly constituencies.

The third benefit can be provided to Risali Municipal Corporation which is presently dependent on Bhilai Municipal Corporation for water supply. Water can be supplied to Risali Municipal Corporation from the Sheonath - Maroda pipeline project to benefit the residents of this civic body.

National Lok Adalat disposes of 51449 cases

Settlement amount sums up to Rs 24.62 crore

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Sep 10: National Lok Adalat was organized in District Court and Tehsil Civil Courts in Durg on Saturday. Benches were constituted in Civil Court Bhilai-3, Civil Court Patan and Civil Court Dhamdha and Juvenile Justice Board, Labor Court, Permanent Lok Adalat (Public Utility Services), Revenue Court and Consumer Forum in Durg.

District and Sessions Judge Neeta Yadav inaugurated the National Lok Adalat by garlanding the portrait of Maa Saraswati and lighting the lamp. Sirajuddin Qureshi (Principal Judge, Family Court Durg), Shailesh Kumar Tiwari (Special Judge SC/ST Act), Sanjeev Kumar Tamak (First Additional District and Sessions Judge Durg), Bar Association President Neeta Jain and other office bearers, judges, advocates and managers of various banks were present.

A total of 32 benches were constituted in the National Lok Adalat. 02 Division Bench for Family Court Durg, 23 for District Court Durg, 02 Division Bench in Tehsil Court Bhilai-3, 01 Division Bench for Tehsil Patan, 01 Division Bench in Tehsil Court Dhamdha, 01 for Juvenile Justice Board, 01 for Labour Court and one bench of Permanent Lok Adalat (Public Utility Services) were constituted. Apart from this, a division bench was also formed in the Revenue Court.

Compoundable criminal cases and matters of civil, family, motor accident claims were placed in the National Lok Adalat and were resolved on the basis of mutual reconciliation and agreement. Apart from this,



Quick execution of warrants can reduce court case pendency: Bhaduri

Justice Bhaduri interacted with media persons after inspection. In response to the questions regarding pendency of cases older than 10 years, Justice Bhaduri said that as the population increases, the number of cases also increases but in proportion to the increase in cases, the number of courts is less. Even though old cases are still being resolved. At the same time, the role of the police department is also significant in the resolution of the cases. If the police department serves and executes the summons / warrants quickly, then the resolution of the cases will increase rapidly. Justice Bhaduri further said that Permanent Lok Adalat Public Utility Services are also functioning in the district in which the area of hearing of cases is wide but due to lack of information about the said Lok Adalat among the common people, lesser cases are resolved in the said Lok Adalat. He added that the media can play a significant role by publicizing information about the Permanent Lok Adalat so that the common people can take benefit from the Lok Adalats. At present, a Legal Aid Defense Counsel system has been established in all the districts. Due to lesser settlement of cases through the Panel Lawyer system, the Legal Aid Defense Counsel system has been established in all the districts so that the parties can get good advocates.

While explaining the importance of Lok Adalat, Justice Bhaduri said that the ratio of disposal of cases in Lok Adalat is very good in the state of Chhattisgarh. In Lok Adalat, both the parties remain happy and due to compromise, the case gets settled quickly, neither anyone loses nor anyone wins.

pre-litigation cases related to banking/financial institutions, electricity and telecommunication were also resolved.

Justice Gautam Bhaduri (Executive Chairman, State Legal Services Authority) inspected the benches constituted in the court and met

the parties to the cases. District and Sessions Judge Neeta Yadav, Shailesh Kumar Tiwari (Special Judge SC/ST Act), Anand Prakash Wariyal (Member Secretary, Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority, Bilaspur), Santosh Thakur (Chief Judicial Magistrate,

Important cases resolved in National Lok Adalat

The bench of Family Court presided by Principal Judge Sirajuddin Qureshi succeeded to reunite two separated couples. In the first case, a speech impaired lady, who had been living separately from her husband for four years, started her married life again by mutual agreement with her husband. The girl, who was unable to speak, was married to a young man of Bhilai in the year 2017. After a year, the husband started beating his wife and harassed her for dowry. Due to this dispute, the husband and wife had started living separately. As the girl was less educated and had no source of income, the matter of maintenance was presented in the family court. On the Court's advice, the husband and wife agreed to reunite and live a happy life again.

In another case, the bench of Family Court disposed of a divorce case. The lady had filed the divorce case after 27 years of marriage. She was fed up with her husband's violent behaviour under the influence of alcohol. The Court gave advice to the husband and wife. The husband agreed to stay away from alcohol and promised that he will not beat his wife. Finally the matter was disposed of with mutual agreement and the couple went back home happily.

The National Lok Adalat settled many cases through video conferencing. In a case of Section 379 (Theft), the applicant was in Bihar for studies. He appeared before the Division Bench No 09 Presided by Sarojini Janardan Khare (JMFC) through video conferencing. Through video conferencing, the parties reached a mutual agreement after which the matter was resolved. In the Bench No 12 presided by Satyanand Prasad (JMFC), the applicant, who works in Army Headquarters in Delhi, appeared through video conferencing in a case of Section 294, 506, 323/34 IPC. The case was resolved by the Court through video conferencing by mutual agreement between the applicant and the accused.

Division Bench No 07 Presided by Santosh Thakur (CJM, Durg), the applicants in two cases appeared before the bench through video conferencing. A case of motorcycle theft and a case related to section 294, 323, 506 IPC were disposed of through mutual agreement. Division Bench No 22 presided by Poyal Topno (JMFC) gave advice to the husband and wife in a case of domestic violence. After being counselled, both the parties agreed to lead their married life happily.

Durg) and DLSA Secretary Ashish Dahriya accompanied him during the inspection.

In this third National Lok Adalat of the year, a total of 4368 court cases and a total of 47081 pre-litigation cases were resolved in which total settlement amount was Rs 246214315/-. The cases re-

solved included 548 criminal cases, 96 claim cases, 149 family cases, 416 cheque dishonour cases, 50 civil suit cases, 21 cases of Juvenile Justice Board, 57 cases of Labour Court and a total of 537 cases of Permanent Lok Adalat (Public Utility Services), Durg.

Official visit of District President of Lyness Club



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Sep 10: To evaluate the service and administrative work being done by Lyness Club Bhilai unit, District President Lyness Sonali Oswal along with Cabinet Secretary Lyness Lakshmi Agarwal visited Bhilai unit.

The President of the unit Savita Srivastava informed the visitors were first welcomed at Nehru Nagar Gurdwara, by giving a sapling and then after paying obeisance, the team donated some medicines to the pharmacy of the Gurudwara.

Thereafter, the guests and team reached the residence of Lyness Anjana Vinayak where breakfast was served, followed by a board meeting. After this, all the members reached Jyotiba Phule School and donated two fans and also conducted exams for the students enrolled in free sewing class, certificates were also given to them by District President. Then followed a visit to Prayas

Deaf and Dumb School where a shooter was installed and two benches were provided.

After this, the convoy reached Vaishali Nagar Girls School where they gave uniforms to 30 children there and then to Feel Parmarth Foundation, where monthly breakfast ration, along with cleaning material, diapers, a medical bed, a wheelchair and a drip stand were given.

This was followed by a visit to dog shelter home. There every month rice is given for the dogs to eat and some sheets and curtains etc. for their care. After giving all this, they reached the residence of Vibhav Bhutani where general body meeting was held.

The general body meeting was addressed by Bhilai President Savita Srivastava, Secretary Nandini read her secretarial report and Treasurer Seema Kukhrani gave the details of income and expenditure. After that, Area Officer Meena Singh, Rashmi and Sonali ad-

dressed the GBM.

GDP Tripta Kaur Kambo, Nutan Gandhok and past president and many officials and members of the club were present in the meeting. Mementoes were given to Sonali and Rashmi. From September 01-07, various activities were carried out during the Seva Week. On first day, the team participated in Jyotiba Phule School.

On second day, whole vegetables and bananas etc. were distributed to the children under Food for Hunger activity. Also food was served to the elderly living in Feel Parmarth Foundation. The unit also conducted eye checkup of the elderly people living there and also distributed medicines to them.

Under environmental awareness, saplings were planted and protected with tree guards. At the end of the service week, a fancy dress competition was organized for children in Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir Gyan Mandir.

More than 2000 yoga practitioners perform 'Setubandha Asana'



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Sep 10: Chhattisgarh has registered its name in golden letters in the Golden Book of World Records for the performance of 'Setubandha Asana' with more than 2000 yoga practitioners from all over the

state collectively performing 'Setubandha Asana', forming a pattern of the tricolor at the Late Balbir Juneja Indoor Stadium in Budhapara, capital Raipur today.

In his congratulatory message on this achievement, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said 'As

long as Chhattisgarh does yoga, it will remain healthy'. 'Setubandha Asana' connects the mind and body under the bridge, he said. Dr. Manish Vishnoi, Asia Head of Golden Book of World Records, announced the creation of the record and presented a provisional

certificate to Chhattisgarh Yog Aayog.

In this program organized by Chhattisgarh Yog Aayog with the aim of making people aware of the importance of yoga and motivating them for a healthy lifestyle, Pradeep Sharma said that getting the name registered in the Golden Book of World Records by Chhattisgarh Yog Aayog is a historic achievement. Gyanesh Sharma said that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, keeping the health of the people as priority, handed over an important responsibility to Chhattisgarh Yog Aayog. To fulfill this, the Aayog has started about 50 regular free yoga practice centers in the state. Yoga is being propagated from village to village by providing training to yoga practitioners of all divisions.

Parliamentary Secretary Vikas Upadhyay highlighted importance of Yoga for healthy mind and

body. Free yoga centers have been opened in more than 90 percent wards of his constituency.

Dr. Kiranmayi Nayak said that all the yoga practitioners should teach yoga to 10 people each. Next year, huge numbers will set all records once again.

In the group yoga practice program, other 'asanas', 'pranayama' and meditation were also practiced with 'Setubandha Asana'.

In the program, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Housing Board Kuldeep Juneja, Vice President of Chhattisgarh Tourism Board Chitrarekha Sahu, members of Chhattisgarh Yog Aayog Rajesh Nara, Ravindra Singh, Ganesh Yogi, President of Sanskrit Vidyamandalam Dr Suresh Sharma, IG Ratanlal Dangi a large number of yoga instructors and common citizens were present.

TABLEAU IN THE MAKING



The artists are giving final touch to tableau by different Ganeshotsav Samitis for the 10-day Ganesh Chaturthi festival in the coming days.

CM Baghel pays tribute to Acharya Vinoba Bhave

● On his birth anniversary

Raipur, Sep 10: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has paid tribute to Acharya Vinoba Bhave, the founder of 'Bhoodaan' movement, social reformer and free-

dom fighter, on his birth anniversary on 11 September. Mr. Baghel said that Acharya Bhave dedicated his entire life to social service and human welfare. He had a significant role in creating mass awareness towards the importance of

freedom. He worked tirelessly to eliminate inequality in the society. Mr Baghel said that the teachings and philosophy of Acharya Vinoba Bhave will continue to guide us towards the right path in future as well.

Police seizes 30 kg silver worth Rs 21 lakh

● Along with 121 sarees from a bus cabin worth Rs 2 lakh

Bilaspur, Sep 10: During daily investigation, the Civil Lines Police Bilaspur recovered 30 kg silver worth Rs 21 lakh from a car. The driver could not produce any valid documents in support of it and therefore the police seized the entire lot.

Kota Police recovered 161 pieces of sarees in abandoned state and it is estimated to cost around Rs 2 lakh. Along with this the Kota Police has seized Rs 2.50 lakh from a pick-up and cash of Rs 6 lakh from a car under Belgahana thana.



Bilaspur Police has issued instructions to all the TIs of all thanas in the division to conduct thorough checking in all the check-points of inter-state border and the vehicles coming from outside. This in compliance to the instructions by the EC during his last visit to the state in view of prepara-

tions for the forthcoming VS polls.

On Saturday night the Civil Lines police was conducting checking at Maharana Pratap Chowk and Rajiv Gandhi Chowk. During this a from Raipur was coming towards Bilaspur. When the police stopped the vehicle and checked on the inside, they

found 30 kg silver worth Rs 21 lakh. The drive disclosed his name as Mohit Patel (21), R/o Kamal Vihar, Raipur. When asked about the documents in support of it, he could not produce any and therefore entire lot was seized along with the vehicle.

Sarees found in abandoned condition



In the Pushparaj Bus coming from Bilaspur to Kota,

a total of 161 pieces of sarees were found in abandoned condition and it is estimated to cost around Rs 1.68 lakh. The sarees were packed in a polythene bag and kept atop the cabin. This collection too seems to be in view of forthcoming VS polls.

Cash of Rs 2.50 lakh recovered from pick-up



In the action by Kota police, a pick-up was stopped in Bilaspur and on conducting checking, cash of

Rs 2.50 lakh was seized. The pick-up was bearing No. CG 10 C 9720.

Cash of Rs 6 lakh seized



During checking at Kenda Naka Chowki Belgahana, the police found a bag full of cash and on counting it turned out to be Rs 6 lakh. The driver informed that this is payment for the contractual work in Railways and for the labour payment. The police is holding inquiry with A Satyanarayan who was driving this vehicle.

BJP's chariot ready for Parivartan Yatra

Home Minister Shah to launch from Dantewada

BJP President Nadda to launch from Jashpur



Raipur, Sep 10: The chariots of Bharatiya Janata Party's state-wide 'Parivartan Yatra' are ready to set out on their target path. The first Rath Yatra will be inaugurated by the country's Home Minister Amit Shah from Dantewada on 12th September. BJP National President JP Nadda will inaugurate the 'Parivartan Yatra' starting from Jashpur on September 15.

Giving information, Mahesh Gagda said that the people of Chhattisgarh

are desperate to uproot the corrupt, inefficient and cruel government. BJP is setting out on a journey with the pledge of a prosperous Chhattisgarh, blowing the trumpet of change, he said, adding that there is tremendous enthusiasm among the public towards BJP's 'Parivartan Yatra'.

He told that the chariots of 'Parivartan Yatra' will be the center of attraction. The chariots are equipped with modern safety equipment. A stage has been arranged on the roof of the chariot. An automatic staircase has been arranged to reach this platform.

Cement prices have increased due to Modi's love for Adani: Congress

Raipur, Sep 10: Cement prices have increased due to the policies of the Central Government and Prime Minister Modi's love for Adani, Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) alleged here today. PCC Communication Chief Sushil Anand Shukla said that the country's cement industries had also been taken over by Modi's friend Adani.

Adani has bought the major cement manufacturing companies of Chhattisgarh and due to the Centre's patronage to Adani, the cement companies are increasing the prices by forming a caucus without any control, he alleged. The state government had earlier also taken strict action against this type of attitude of cement companies, he said.

Shukla said that due to the monopoly being given to the



Adani Group on the country's industrial resources by the Modi government and the faulty economic policies of the Centre, the prices of not only cement but all types of materials were increasing. Adani captured all the important sectors like coal, power, airport, food, mining and electricity due to which Adani Group is now arbitrarily increasing prices in the areas under its monopoly, he said. According to Shukla in order to benefit Adani, the

Center made a rule for all the big companies that 20 percent of the coal they consume should be compulsorily used as imported coal. Adani Group is India's largest coal importer. The price of imported coal is four times higher than that of domestic coal due to which the cost price of companies has increased, he said.

Due to this rule, power companies are also forced to use 20 percent foreign coal and due to this, electricity prices have also increased, he said, adding that due to the huge increase in the price of diesel imposed by the Modi government, the transport fare has also increased. Coal, electricity and diesel are also major components for cement companies and this is also a major reason for the increase in cement prices, he added.

112 accused nabbed under different crimes

● In surprise raid by 100-member police in capital city

Raipur, Sep 10: The capital police conducted searches and raids during wee hours in the morning at 5:00 am and this created sensation in various localities. A total of 100 police team conducted the raids at sensitive places and nabbed 112 accused having criminal background or cases against them.

As per instructions by the SSP Prashant Agrawal, it is for prevention of crime in view of forthcoming Vidhan Sabha polls that this action was taken. In this action, the gazetted officers of police along with TIs of different thanas, police



force from thana and anti-crime and Cyber crime team were part of the 100 member police force which conducted raid on Sunday morning.

The police conducted these raids in BSUP Colony, Devararoad, Nehru Nagar, Gokul Nagar, Kalibadi, Birgaon,



Gajinagar, Ramangar, Khamtarai locality, and at railway station and bus stand.

According to the police, during raid, knives were seized from 7 persons, 'Ganja' was seized from 3 persons and case under Narcotics Act was filed and 3 accused were nabbed with liquor and a

total of 4 cases under Excise Act was filed.

During this raid against criminals, 20 were arrested with arrest warrants against them; 3 were with permanent warrant and another accused under section 327 who was absconding was also nabbed. There were total of 68 persons having charges of being involved in crimes of theft, dacoity and due action was taken under prohibitory orders.

In BSUP Colony, apart from checking the people living in the quarters, the verification of tenants from city and outside was also done. This type of campaign and drives by the Raipur police would continue in the coming days as well.

Among the police personnel under whose lead-

ership this raid and checking included TI Azad Chowk thana a Mayank Gurjar, City SP VS Udayan Behar, City SP Kotwali Yogesh Sahu, City SP Urla Avinash Mishra, City SP Purani Basti Rajesh Choudhary, City SP Civil Lines Manoj Dhruv, DSP Crime Dinesh Sinha. The police officers and employees from in-charge ACCU Thana in-charge Mujgahan, Purani Basti, Khamardih, Telibandha, Civil Lines, Kabir Nagar, Azad Chow, DD Nagar, Saraswati Nagar Thana, Pandari thana, Vidhan Sabha thana, Tikrapara, Golebazar, Ganj, Moudhapara, Dharshiwa and others were part of the 100-member team which conduct these raids.

Bastar women give millet gift to First Ladies attending G20 Summit

● First Ladies relished millet laddus prepared by women farmers of Bastar; women farmers invited the First Lady to visit Bastar

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Sep 10: Bastar's millet, especially the laddus made from ragi, were liked a lot by the heads of states and their wives who came to G-20. First ladies and spouses of the participating heads of G-20 countries were extended a special invitation to an agricultural exhibition at the IARI complex on Pusa Road on 9 September. Women from Bastar, Chhattisgarh had



prepared special dishes made from millet for the dignitaries of G-20 Summit being held in New Delhi.

Sangeeta Kashyap, who came from Bastanar block of Bastar district, informed that she had prepared dishes from millet like millet laddu, ragi

cookies, ragi chakli, kodokutki etc and gifted a basket full of these dishes to the First Lady of Australia.

The women also invited the First Lady to visit Bastar. Rukmani Kottam, nodal officer of Chhattisgarh Agriculture Department, who came

with these women, said that a stall was also set up by the Chhattisgarh Agriculture Department in Pusa. On behalf of the department, in the stall, products made of bamboo like Supa, Tukni, Tokri, Tuma, Chhatrai as well as products made of millet are kept, which are very

much liked by the visitors coming here. She said that the stalls of Chhattisgarh's Dhokrakala and Kosa made from natural dye were also the center of attraction for the visitors.

Nirmala Bhaskar, from the women's group of Gotul Munda village of Durg Kondal block of Kanker, said that they gifted a basket containing millet products prepared by a women's group of Chhattisgarh, to the First Lady of New Zealand.

She said that the First Lady also took a selfie with her and told her that she will share it with her family members in New Zealand. Nirmala Bhaskar said that it was a memorable moment which can never be forgotten.

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Sep 10: A case of cheating a woman on the pretext of friendship and love in a dating app has come to light. A young man living abroad, after befriending a woman online, cheated her to the tune of Rs 1 lakh 25 thousand three times in the name of custom duty clearance on the pretext of sending her a gift. Rajendra Nagar police station has registered an FIR. The swindler claimed to be a government servant in the Finance Ministry in Scotland.

The incident took place between July 17

and August 10. A 43-year-old woman, resident of Rajendra Nagar area told the police that she befriended a young man from Scotland through a dating app of internet media. After calling her he tempted her to a gift. The young man asked for information to send a gift. On this the woman fell into the trap and gave all the information. After a few days, he called from another number and told that parcel had been sent. A mail was received from Global Express Logistics Service. After this a call was made and it was said that Rs 25 thousand would have to be paid in

custom charges.

The woman sent the money to the number given by him. After this a call was made and it was said that the parcel contained some gold jewellery, gifts and 30,000 US dollars.

After this it was said that the woman was implicated in a money laundering case. One lakh rupees were charged for getting the parcel cleared.

According to information available swindler had taken the woman into a trap and used to talk to her continuously on WhatsApp regarding marriage. He used to talk to the woman in both Hindi and English.

Arpita Mahila Samithi celebrated Teej with great fervour



Raipur, Sep 10: The members of Arpita Mahila Samithi at NTPC-Nava Raipur came together to celebrate the colorful festival of Teej on September 9, in a jubilant and spirited gathering. The event, hosted at the NTPC Nava Raipur Office, saw the enthusiastic participation of club members adorned in traditional attire, engaging in lively dances and singing folk songs.

The program commenced with the inauguration by the Chief Guest of the occasion, Smt. Reena Babasaheb Kangale, IAS, Chief Electoral Officer of Chhattisgarh. She lauded the participants for their vibrant cultural performances that represented various regions of India. "This event truly represents the essence of Mini-India, with members of



the ladies' club showcasing dances and songs from different parts of the country. That is the beauty of our nation," she remarked. Smt. Kangale also commended the Arpita Mahila Samithi for its commitment to social welfare and emphasized the pivotal role women play in both their homes and society at large. She encouraged all to exercise their voting rights during elections.

During the event, the Chief Guest, along with the office bearers of Arpita Mahila Samithi, crowned Smt. Megha Agarwal as the Teej Queen and presented other awards to deserving winners. Smt. C Padmaja, President of Arpita

Mahila Samithi, spoke about the significance of the Teej festival, expressing her delight at the overwhelming participation in celebrating this vibrant occasion. She also welcomed the guests alongside Smt. Dipali Acharya, General Secretary of the organization.

The festivities included Kajari, a skit performed by Nanhe Kadam, cultural performances, entertaining games, and, of course, the Teej Queen competition, adding joy and a sense of unity to the celebration.

During this occasion, Smt. Rupali Sinha, Vice President and other office bearers and members of Arpita Mahila Samithi were present.

Chhattisgarhia Olympics at divisional level till Sep 20

Raipur, Sep 09: The Chhattisgarh Olympic Competition, which is being run to promote traditional sports in Chhattisgarh, is now going to enter the divisional level from September 10 and it will continue till September 20 at the divisional level. Chhattisgarh Olympics, which is being run under the initiative of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and the guidance of Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Mr. Umesh Patel, is getting unprecedented popularity this year too.



100 meter race and wrestling in the state level competition of Chhattisgarh Olympics as excellent players.

This provision will come into effect from this session. After the conclusion of the divisional level competition, in the final phase, the state level Chhattisgarh Olympics will be organized in Raipur from September 25th to September 27th. It is noteworthy that in

Chhattisgarh Olympics, 16 traditional sports competitions of the state are being organized in team and single categories. Sports like Gilli Danda, Pittool, Sankhali, Langdi Run, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Tug of War and Baati (Kancha) have been included. And the sports of single category include billas, fudgi, cart race, bhanvra, 100 meter race, long jump, rope jump and wrestling.

CM extends best wishes on the occasion of Paryushan Parv

Raipur, Sep 10: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has extended greetings and best wishes to the people of the state, especially the followers of Jainism, on the occasion of Paryushan Parv. On this occasion, Mr. Baghel has said that Paryushan Parv is an important festival of Jain community that brings an opportunity to develop virtues of inner-purification, abstinence, renunciation and self-consciousness. This festival gives the message of non-violence, kindness and love. It is believed that on this day, Lord Mahavir gave his teachings and established the main principles of Jainism.

DIGGING OF ROADS



The digging of roads for laying of cables and pipelines continues in different parts of capital city and it is posing lots of inconvenience to vehicle riders and people.

Action taken against heavy vehicles parked randomly on the road

● Fine of Rs 35400 collected from 25 vehicles

Korba, Sep 10: Under the direction of Collector Saurabh Kumar, under the leadership of District Transport Officer Korba Shashikant Kurre, action was taken on Sunday to improve the traffic sys-

tem on Sarvamangala, Kumdanda, Imlichhappar road. In which a fine of Rs 35 thousand 400 was collected on 25 vehicles violating traffic rules by taking challan action against heavy vehicles parked haphazardly in the middle of the road and in no parking areas on these routes.



Teachers Day celebrated with great pomp

● In Kalinga University

Naya Raipur, Sep 09: On Teachers' Day, the Dean of Students' Welfare organised an elaborate programme to express appreciation and gratitude to Kalinga University's committed faculty members. The event was graced by distinguished visitors and highlighted the university's dynamic talent.

The presence of the renowned Chief Guest Manorama Shrivastav, a recipient of the National President Award in 1990 for her remarkable contributions to the area of Chemistry, was the highlight of the event. Her participation enhanced the event's stature and motivation. Sudarshan Arora, the Guest of Honour, made the ceremony, making more spectacular, with her presence.

Dr. Sandeep Gandhi, Registrar, and Dr. Jasmine Joshi, Dean of Students' Welfare led the felicitation



event, expressing their sincere regard and admiration for the university's teaching staff's arduous efforts. Students from several disciplines showcased unique skills via engaging cultural performances that included beautiful songs, mesmerising dances, and dazzling group displays. These performances were an homage to the instructors who have helped shape the lives of countless students. The beautiful Teachers' Day ceremony at Kalinga

University was a wonderful homage to the educators who work diligently to shape the brains of tomorrow's leaders. It exemplified the university's commitment to cultivating a culture of gratitude and respect for its hardworking faculty members. Kalinga University is a reputed educational institution in Central India. For providing innovation and quality education, the university has been granted B+ recognition by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council

(NAAC). It is the only private university in Chhattisgarh, which is included in the NIRF Ranking in the year 2022 and 2023 in the band of top 101-150 Universities. The students are trained through high-quality multidisciplinary research-focused education and skill development programs to inculcate innovation in the students as per the global benchmarks to develop a sense of responsible citizens with the development of leadership power.

Teacher's Day celebrated at Allons Public School

Bemetara, Sep 10: The belated teacher's day was celebrated on Sep 09 at Allons Public School, Bemetara in the presence of the Chief Guest K. Shrinivasan, Regional Officer, CBSE, Bhubaneswar. The programme started with applying of 'tilak' to the Chief Guest, the Guest of honour, the special Guest, Principal & Teachers. A sapling was presented to the chief guest by Dr. Satyajit Hota, principal and the members of the eco-club for paying him regard. The chief guest was escorted by the march past of the students holding the different school flags of the Sahodaya (Allons Public School, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Shri Swaminarayan International Gurukul School, Shikhar Academy School, Academic World School, D.A.V. Mukhyamantri School), The Hubs of Learning (K. H. Memorial School, Rungta Public School, Milestone Academy, Amresh Sharma Public School, Shiva Public School) and other associated schools (Delhi Public School, Mata sundari public school, Gurukul Public School, Riverdale



Schools, Vichakshan Jain Vidyapeeth, JP International School, Sadhu Ram Vidya Mandir, DDM Public School, Aadharshila Vidya Mandir, Genesis Public School & Columbia Global School etc.) to go to the Abdul Kalam Auditorium of the school. The Chief Guest K. Shrinivasan - Regional Officer, CBSE, Bhubaneswar, Guest of honour Kamaljeet Arora Ji-Chairman, Special Guest-Govind Mudaliar, Dr. Satyajit Hota-Principal, Principals of the schools of the Sarvepalli Sahodaya Complex, Bemetara, the Principals of the Hubs of Learning, the Principal of

the Schools of the associated groups and the teachers lighted a lamp and gave a floral tribution with the recitation of the Vedic Mantras by the students named Neha, Palak, Charushila, and Vinita from class-VIII to the Great Teacher Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. The programme started with the singing of the Chhattisgarh state anthem. The welcome song, the regional patriotic song and the song named as 'Pata nahi kis rup mein' was sung by the students of the Lata Mangeshkar Club. The dances were performed by the students of the Natraj Club, Gurukul School, Jawahar

Navodaya Vidyalaya School, Dance Drama by DAV Janta. The audience became astonished. The teachers named Banani Kar, Sushmita Singh performed the Bharatanatyam & Khilshwari Thakur performed the Kathak leaving the audience spellbound. The playing of Violin was performed by K. Meshram & HariomSoni with the students and the Flute & the Tabla were performed by Hariom Soni & Girija Soni enchanting the audience. The dance without music performed by Talina and her group members named Santanu Giri, Sayantan Kundu, Mr. Abhra Sarkar, Mr. Sandeep Banarjee,

Banani Kar, Ankita Roy, Aditya Ghosh and Attriara Goswami proved to very hilarious for the audience.

Dr. Satyajit Hota - Principal said that the Guru, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan opened the eyes of people blinded by the darkness of ignorance with the light of the knowledge. He saluted to the noble Gurus, who have made it possible to realize the state which pervades the entire cosmos, each animate and inanimate. He said that at the sweet juncture of the belated Teacher's Day, it's my fortune that I have got the privilege to extend my welcome as a President and Principal of the chapter district Sarvepalli Sahodaya Complex, Bemetara at the premises of Allons Public School. He said that the Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan is the symbol of all the teachers of our country. He said that we are tremendously grateful to our great teacher Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. The Head boy named Rupanshu Kumar Anand gave the speech about the Great Teacher, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

Two women of the same family killed by an elephant

In Katghora forest division; treatment of two men continues
Forest staff including DFO reached Podi-Uprora Health Center

Korba, Sep 10: A herd of elephants created havoc and targeted four villagers in the dump area of Chotiya under Kendai range of Katghora forest in Korba district. Two women died and two villagers were seriously injured due to this elephant attack.

Let it be known that Narsingh, his wife Rajkumari, sister Punni Bai and nephew Deepak Singh of the same family living in village Korbi in the dump area near Chotia under Kendai range of Katghora forest range, all of them had gone together to collect forest prey. Meanwhile, a herd of elephants suddenly arrived, due to which one elephant attacked the Rajkumari and Punni Bai and killed them, while the other one injured Narsingh and nephew Deepak. Somehow, as soon as this



news was given to the forest staff, the Forest Department team reached the spot, chased the elephants towards the forest and took the injured to the Community Health Center of Pondi Uprora with the help of dial 112. Treatment of villager Nar Singh is going on at Community Health Center, Podi Uprora, while nephew Deepak Singh has suffered minor injuries, his treatment is also going on at Podi Uprora Center. As soon as information about the incident was received, Katghora Forest Division DFO Kumar Nishant and Ranger Pondi Uprora reached Uprora Community Health Center where the DFO inquired

about the condition of the injured and provided immediate assistance to the deceased. It is noteworthy that herd of more than 45 elephants are roaming in different areas in Kendai, Etma Canal, Pasan, Korbi area of Katghora forest range. Along with the crops of the villagers, their houses have also been damaged by the elephants. The forest department is continuously monitoring the elephants and warning the villagers, but the villagers are ignoring the advice of the administration and marching towards the forest, risking their lives. They themselves are suffering the consequences of this.

GANESH CHATURTHI PREPARATION



Devotees carry an idol of Lord Ganesha to a pandal ahead of the Ganesh Chaturthi festival, in Mumbai, Sunday.

Rig Veda, Apollo Statue, Mona Lisa enrich G20 venue

New Delhi, Sep 10 (PTI):

Certified original copies of the US' Charters of Freedom, a 'fahua'-lid jar from China and Panini's grammar treatise "Ashtadhyayi" from India are among the historic items displayed at the Bharat Mandapam as part of a G20 'culture corridor'. The one-of-its-kind project was unveiled on Saturday, coinciding with the opening of the summit. The exhibition of artefacts - in physical and digital form - has been set up on the same floor where the leaders' meetings took place. They walked through this corridor while moving into and out of the summit room. The two-day G20



Summit attended by top world leaders ended on Sunday. A New Delhi Leaders' Declaration was adopted after the meeting on Saturday. The 'Culture Corridor - G20 Digital Museum' was envisioned by the Union Ministry of Culture under India's presidency of the bloc as a 'phygital' project. Manuscripts of the Rig Veda from India, a rare copy of the Magna Carta from the UK and an anamorphic digital image of the Mona Lisa -- the 16th century Leonardo da

Vinci masterpiece on display at the Louvre in Paris -- are among the several artefacts being exhibited at the 'culture corridor'.

Officials had earlier this month said there was a plan to open the corridor to the public after the summit. 'India's G20 presidency theme is 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and with this international project, we are walking the talk that the world is one family as we will display cultural objects from all 20 members and nine invited countries as part of this 'culture corridor', envisioned as a G20 legacy project, a 'museum in the making', a source had earlier said.

Cong shares video of waterlogging at Bharat Mandapam

Says govt's 'hollow development' exposed

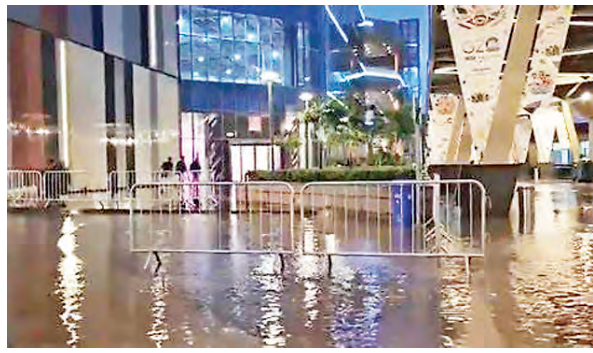
New Delhi, Sep 10 (PTI):

The Congress on Sunday shared on X a video of waterlogging at the newly constructed Bharat Mandapam, the venue for the G20 Summit, and said it has exposed the "hollow development" under the Modi government. In the video, people are seen walking in a waterlogged corridor.

"Hollow development exposed. Bharat Mandapam was prepared

for G20. Rs 2,700 crore was spent. It was lost in one rain..." the Congress said in its post. Party spokesperson Supriya Shrinate spoke in the same vein. "Efforts are underway to remove water with machines. Rains are also part of international anti-national conspiracy," she said while sharing the video on X.

"Who are these corrupt people who stole so much money and did such shoddy work," she asked. Addressing a rally in Niwai in poll-bound Rajasthan's Tonk district, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi



Vadra took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the waterlogging. "Perhaps what the people of our country are not able to say due to fear, God has said: Reduce your ego, this country has made you a leader, put it first and make the people supreme," she said. Party spokesperson Pawan Khara also targeted the government. "I vividly remember the criticism our govts - both state and cen-

tral - faced due to waterlogging in the basements of the flats of CWG Village 15 days before the event.

"The Bharat Mandapam gets flooded in the middle of a 'G20 India 2023' event, but not a squeak in the media," he said. "Modi ji, you didn't learn from us how to govern India, but we must learn from you how to manage the media," Khara said.

Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala said, "In the 'Bharat Mandapam', built at a cost of about Rs 3000 crore, today 'development' was seen floating even in the slightest rain."

Over 81,000 farmers deemed ineligible for PM-Kisan scheme

In Bihar

Patna, Sep 10 (PTI):

Over 81,000 farmers have been deemed ineligible for the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme in Bihar, and the government has asked state-owned banks to expedite the process of collecting refunds from them, a senior official said.

These farmers were found disintitiled for the

central government programme on account of paying income tax and other reasons, he said.

"After proper scrutiny, a total 81,595 farmers (45,879 income tax payees since 2020 and 35,716 for other reasons) have been identified as ineligible beneficiaries in Bihar.

The state's agriculture department has asked all the banks concerned to expedite the process of collecting the refund amount worth around Rs 81.6 crore from the farmers," Alok Ranjan Ghosh,

Director (Agriculture), told PTI.

At a recent meeting of the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC), senior officials were asked to accord top priority to initiating the process of the collection, he said.

The lenders have also been asked to issue fresh reminders, if required, to the ineligible farmers, as well as freeze such accounts. Nearly Rs 10.3 crore refund money has so far been collected from these farmers by certain banks, Ghosh said.

'Puja Kasekar is a real rock star'

Mumbai, Sep 10:



'Superhit model, dancer and actress of Marathi folk dance, Marathi films and serials, Hindi films-music albums or South Indian films Puja Kasekar is a name to reckon with on the basis of her exceptional acting talent. She has made her mark in Telugu, Tamil and Kannada films and also busy in corporate shows, wedding dance shows and also performed stage shows in foreign countries along with bollywood's top music directors and singers.

Talking to media Puja said, she is from Mumbai and from initial days her focus is on dance. She further informed to have assisted many choreographers of

bollywood. From here she got chance as a lead dancer and prior to that she made a mark in Marathi folk dance. The films in which her role was applauded are Badlapur Boys, Mumbai Mirror, The Saturday Night and many more. According to Puja, Do not store dreams in your eyes, they may roll down with tears.

'BJP rule in MP marked by scams'

Bhopal, Sep 10 (PTI):

Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath on Sunday alleged that 18 years of BJP rule in the state is marked by scams, which he termed as "Ghotala 18 or G18", inviting a sharp reaction from the ruling party.

"G20 took place in Delhi. But, G18 is going on in Madhya Pradesh under the rule of the BJP government. BJP's misrule in MP has completed 18 years. And, only Ghotalas (G) are going on. "In the 225 months of



Kamal Nath

government, more than 225 major scams have taken place, and small scams are not counted. Shivraj government's G-18

OXEN RACE



Participants during oxen race competition, at Perumanna in Kozhikode, Sunday.

Bilingual books to help young readers explore South Asian culture

New Delhi, Sep 10 (PTI):

A new set of three bilingual board books introduce young readers to Indian clothes, wildlife, and musical instruments. The verse books -- "Pagdi for Sinh", "One Elephant" and "Two Monkeys and Animal Band" -- are written in Hindi and English by Chitwan Mittal and illustrated by Ambika Karandikar.

Published by AdiDev Press, it aims to help children learn a new language as well as explore South Asian culture. "I'm so excited to be creating bilingual books that will help parents everywhere introduce their kids

to Indian culture and languages. "As a parent myself, I have often wished for a fun way to teach my kids about their heritage, and that was my motivation in writing these books," Mittal, the author of the series, said in a statement.

While "Pagdi for Sinh" is a bilingual story told in rhyme introducing young readers to Hindi and English vocabulary for clothes and wild animals from the Indian subcontinent, "One Elephant" introduces children to numbers, animal names and colour names through a little boy's adventures with his animal friends.

Priest returns church service licence to fulfil dream of visiting Sabarimala temple

Thiruvananthapuram, Sep 10 (PTI):

A Christian priest in Kerala returned his church licence for performing pastoral services following a row over him observing the 41-day abstinence followed by Lord Ayyappa devotees to offer prayers at the famous Sabarimala shrine.

Rev Manoj K G, a priest under the Anglican Church of India, has been observing the 41-day-long traditional 'vratham' as part of his plans to go to

the temple on a pilgrimage later this month. "When the church came to know about it, they said such conduct was unacceptable and sought an explanation from me as to why I violated its doctrines and rules. "So, instead of offering an explanation, I returned the ID card and licence given to me by the church when I took up priesthood," he told PTI. He also admitted that what he did was against the rules and doctrines of the Anglican Church of

India. The priest said that his work was not based on the doctrines of the church, instead it was based on the "Lord's" doctrines. "God has asked to love everyone irrespective of their caste, creed, religion or beliefs. Loving others also includes joining their activities. So you can decide whether you want to follow the church doctrine or the doctrine of God. "Whether you love God or the church, you can decide," he said in an appar-

ent video response on Facebook to those who criticised his decision to take the 41-day abstinence. He also said that by 'church' he means the traditional, made-made customs. Manoj was a software engineer before he took up priesthood. He said that he took up priesthood in order to give authenticity to his spiritual teachings. Visuals showing him wearing a customary black attire used by Ayyappa devotees recently surfaced online.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender Notice No.: TRS-BIA-23-24-HLC-05

Name of Work: Modification in WAP-7 locomotives for fitting of Hotel Load Converter, Transformer, Ducting Assembly and associated machines room modification.

Cost of the Work: ₹ 22,79,752.92 (Rs. Twenty Two Lakhs Seventy Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Two and Ninety Two Paise only), Bid Security/Earnest Money Deposit: ₹ 45,600.00 (Rs. Forty Five Thousand Six Hundred only), Completion Period of the Work: 06 (Six) Months from the date of issue of LOA. Date and Time of Closing of Tender: At 11:30 Hrs. on 05.10.2023

Website particulars and details of the Tender can be seen at: http://www.reps.gov.in

Sr. Divl. Electrical Engineer-TRS South East Central Railway, Bhitilai

PR/TRS/FL/126 South East Central Railway @secrail

TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Regd. Add.: 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400013

Branch Address: 1st Floor Pujari Chambers NH No. 43 Pachpedi Naka Raipur Chhattisgarh - 492001

NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (Under Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)

E-Auction 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 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the below Borrower and/ Co-Borrower, or their legal heirs/representatives (Borrowers) in particular that the below described immovable property mortgaged to Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd. (TCHFL), the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of TCHFL, will be sold on 29-09-2023 on "As is where is" & "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" and without any recourse basis, for recovery of outstanding dues from below mentioned Borrower and Co-Borrowers. The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit is mentioned below. Notice is hereby given that, in the absence of any postponement/ discontinuance of the sale, the said secured asset / property shall be sold by E-Auction at 2.00 P.M. on the said 29-09-2023. The sealed envelope containing Demand Draft of EMD for participating in E-Auction shall be submitted to the Authorised Officer of the TCHFL on or before 27-09-2023 till 5.00 PM at Branch address TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED, 1st Floor Pujari Chambers NH No.43 Pachpedi Naka Raipur Chhattisgarh 492001.

The sale of the Secured Asset/ Immovable Property will be on "as is where condition is" as per brief particulars described herein below

Loan A/c No.	Name of Obligor(s)/ Legal Helr(s)/ Legal Representative(s)	Amount as per Demand Notice & Date of Demand Notice	Reserve Price	Earnest Money	Type of possession
9856428	Mr. Kamal Kishore Arora (Borrower) M/S. Gijnan Associates (Co-Borrower), Mrs. Kallash Rani Arora (Co-Borrower), Mrs. Chand Arora (Co-Borrower),	Rs. 2,02,87,756/- (Rupees Two Crores Two Lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Six Only) 27-02-2019	Rs. 24,30,000/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Thirty Thousand Only)	Rs. 2,43,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Forty Three Thousand Only)	Physical

Description of the Immovable Property: Plot No. - 312, Sada, New Khursipar Zone-I, Ward No.36, Plot Area 1064. Sq.Ft at New Khursipar. Special Area Development Authority, Municipal area Bhitilai, Tahseel & Dist. Durg Chhattisgarh 491001. **Bounded:- East Site- Plot of Somnath Sharma, West Site- Plot of Balbeer Singh, North Site - Road, South Site - Open Plot.**

At the Auction, the public generally is invited to submit their bid(s) personally. The Borrower(s) are hereby given last chance to pay the total dues with further interest within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the Immovable Property will be sold as per schedule. The E auction will be stopped if, amount due as aforesaid, with interest and costs (including the cost of the sale) are tendered to the Authorised Officer or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such secured debt, interest and costs has been paid before the date of the auction.

No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with this sale shall, however, directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the Immovable Property sold.

The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 and to the following further conditions:

NOTE: The E-auction of the properties will take place through portal <http://bankauctions.in/> on 29-09-2023 between 2.00 PM to 3.00 PM with limited extension of 10 minutes each.

Terms and Condition: 1. The particulars specified in the Schedule herein below have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. In the event of any dispute arising as to the amount bid, or as to the bidder, the Immovable Property shall at once again be put up to auction subject to the discretion of the Authorised Officer. 2. The Immovable Property shall not be sold below the Reserve Price. 3. Bid Increment Amount will be: Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) 4. All the Bids submitted for the purchase of the property shall be accompanied by Earnest Money as mentioned above by way of a Demand Draft favoring the "TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD." Payable at Branch address. The Demand Drafts will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders after auction. For payment of EMD through NEFT/RTGS/IMPS, kindly contact Authorised Officer. 5. The highest bidder shall be declared as successful bidder provided always that he/she is legally qualified to bid and provided further that the bid amount is not less than the reserve price. It shall be in the discretion of the Authorised Officer to decline acceptance of the highest bid when the price offered appears so clearly inadequate as to make it inadvisable to do so. 6. For reasons recorded, it shall be in the discretion of the Authorised Officer to adjourn/discontinue the sale. 7. Inspection of the Immovable Property can be done on 29-09-2023 between 11 AM to 5.00 PM with prior appointment. 8. The person declared as a successful bidder shall, immediately after such declaration, deposit twenty-five per cent of the amount of purchase money/bid which would include EMD amount to the Authorised Officer within 24hrs and in default of such deposit, the property shall forthwith be put to fresh auction/Sale by private treaty. 9. In case the initial deposit is made as above, the balance amount of the purchase money payable shall be paid by the purchaser to the Authorised Officer on or before the 15th day from the date of confirmation of the sale of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be a Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day. 10. In the event of default of any payment within the period mentioned above, the property shall be put to fresh auction/Sale by private treaty. The deposit including EMD shall stand forfeited by TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD and the defaulting purchaser shall lose all claims to the property. 11. Details of any encumbrances, known to the TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD, to which the property is liable: as per table above. Claims, if any, which have been put forward to the property and any other known particulars bearing on its nature and value: as per table above. The Intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities arrears of property tax, electricity etc. 12. For any other details or for procedure online training on e-auction the prospective bidders may contact the Service Provider, M/s. 4 Closure, Block No.605 A, 6th Floor, Maitravivan Commercial Complex, Ameerpet, Hyderabad 500038 through its Co-ordinators Mr. Arjit Kumar Das, 8142000725, 8142000066, 8142000062 Email - arjit@bankauctions.in and Email - info@bankauctions.in or Manish Bansal, Email id Manish.Bansal@tatacapital.com Authorised Officer Mobile No 8588983696. Please send your query on WhatsApp Number 9999078669. 13. TDS of 1% will be applicable and payable by the highest bidder over the highest declared bid amount. The payment needs to be deposited by highest bidder in the PAN of the owner/borrower(s) and the copy of the challan shall be submitted to our company 14. Please refer to the below link provided in secured creditor's website <http://surl.li/ttwwg> for the above details. 15. Kindly also visit the link: <https://www.tatacapital.com/property-disposal.html>

Place Note - TCHFL has not engaged any broker/agent apart from the mentioned auctioning partner for sale/auction of this property. Interested parties should only contact the undersigned or the Authorised officer for all queries and enquiry in this matter.

Sd/ Authorized Officer
Place : Raipur
Date : 11-09-2023
Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd.

Collector takes swift action to ensure uninterrupted Power supply

Mungeli, Sept 10:

In a commendable move, the Collector of Mungeli, Rahul Dev, has taken decisive steps to enhance electricity services in the district. This approach comes in response to numerous complaints from residents about frequent power cuts.

In a meeting held at the Maniyari Conference Hall in the district collectorate, Collector gathered electricity department officials to discuss and resolve grievances related to electricity supply. During the meeting, he stressed the importance of ensuring uninterrupted power supply and swift resolution of transformer-related issues.

One of the key instructions from the Collector was for officials to promptly attend to areas affected by power cuts whenever complaints were received. He also emphasized the urgent replacement of faulty transformers and encouraged the submission of proposals for new transformers.

Furthermore, the Collector did not hesitate to issue show-cause notices to two junior engineers in the electricity department due to negligence and indifference in handling pending cases at the call center. This stern action serves as a reminder to all officials to take their responsibilities seriously.

Rahul Dev acknowledged the persistent complaints about electricity problems in both urban and rural areas of the district. He emphasized that it is the department's duty to address these concerns promptly, ensuring that citizens do not face electricity-related issues. In addition to resolving existing problems, the Collector discussed the Half Electricity Bill Scheme, which offers benefits to eligible beneficiaries. He urged officials to

actively promote and ensure wider participation in the scheme among residents. Additionally, he directed the compilation of a list of officials and employees stationed at a single location for extended periods.

The meeting was attended by Joint Collector Mrs. Menaka Pradhan, along with officials from the electricity department, including the Executive Engineer. This proactive approach by Collector Rahul Dev signifies a positive change and a commitment to providing efficient electricity services to the people of Mungeli.

Commissioner K.D. Kunjam's inspections of polling centers in Bilaspur and Beltara assembly constituencies are set to pave the way for a seamless electoral process in the upcoming elections. His comprehensive visit covered key locations, including Swami Atmanand School in Mopka, the Zonal Office in Mopka, Government Girls' Higher Secondary School in Nutan Chowk, and the Shepherd School polling center. Accompanying him on this important mission were Additional District Magistrate (ADM) R.A. Kuruvanshi and Bilaspur Tehsildar Atul Vaishnav.

Commissioner Kunjam meticulously scrutinized all polling centers, conducting a specialized and efficient review of voter lists. This review encompassed additions, deletions, modifications, and transfers, involving designated officers, Booth Level Officers (BLOs), and supervisors. He ensured the online entry of forms 6, 7, and 8, underlining the importance of timely completion. Furthermore, he provided clear directives for the inclusion of different-

Commissioner inspects polling centers ahead of elections

Bilaspur, Sep 10:



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Enthusiastic celebration of International Literacy Day

At Pandaria-Nagar Girls' School

Pandaria, Sep 10:

Pandaria-Nagar Government Girls' Higher Secondary School celebrated International Literacy Day with fervour and dedication, aiming to raise students' awareness about the crucial role of literacy in societal progress. The event commenced with an illuminating address by R.K. Mehra, a distinguished educator at the school, who shed light on the purpose of observing International Literacy Day and underscored the profound importance of education in individuals' lives. Mehra emphasized that literacy serves as the bedrock of a nation's quality and is not only instrumental in its development but can also address a multitude of national and



international challenges. Following this enlightening discourse, S.P. Mishra, another eminent educator, engaged with the students, delving into India's ancient culture and educational methods. He underscored the remarkable knowledge embedded in India's culture, Vedas, and education, emphasizing India's distinctive global contributions in areas such as education, culture, yoga, and technology.

On the occasion of International Literacy Day, Ms. Shaila Biswas, the Cultural Coordinator, stressed that literacy should transcend mere bookish knowledge and extend to self-realization and the continuous generation of innovative ideas across all facets of life. She also provided students with insights into government initiatives aimed at promoting women's literacy and empowerment.

International Literacy Day celebrated with a spectrum of activities

Inspiring rally and enriching activities illuminate celebration

Arang, Sep 10:

Arang Development Block celebrated International Literacy Day with an array of dynamic activities that lit up the community. Guided by Development Block Education Officer N.P. Kurre, these events unfolded throughout the Literacy Week, from September 1st to 8th, encompassing a diverse range of activities, including rangoli, art, mehndi, speeches, essays, quizzes, and more.

On Friday, a remarkable series of educational events unfolded at the Government Primary



School on Sadar Road in Arang, marking the grand finale of the celebration. The day included engaging reading sessions, enlightening awareness slogans, captivating storytelling, absorbing newspaper reading, and an invigorating awareness rally that united the community. The participation was nothing short of extraor-

dinary, with active involvement from several esteemed schools in Arang, including Government Bhalu Ram Bageshwar Primary School, Government Primary Girls' School Sadar, and Government Higher Secondary School Sadar Road.

Project Officer for Literacy, Yogeshwar Sahu, took the stage and deliv-

ered an impassioned speech. He underlined the significance of literacy, acknowledging that India's literacy rate currently stands at 74%. He urged the community to unite in their efforts to raise awareness and commit to achieving a 100% literacy rate in society.

Teachers Mahendra Kumar Patel and Arvind Kumar Vaishnav were a

source of inspiration, leading the audience with awareness slogans like "Aloo Bhata Karela Humu, Jabo Pudhe La" and stirring awareness songs that emphasized the importance of literacy in one's life. The program culminated on a sweet note, with every student leaving the event filled with newfound inspiration and enthusiasm. Distinguished figures who graced the event included Jaya Verma, Indra Sahu, Bhikhamchand Devangan, Ashok Sahu, along with dedicated teachers such as Sonal Mishra, Nitin Mishra, Pavan Kumar Sahu, Rajesh Sahu, Sunita Verma, Chitra Devangan, Roshni Pradhan, Pinky Gupta, Seema Vishal, Chameli Dhruv, Pankaj Pradhan, and many more.

Political parties' representatives inspect strong rooms and polling stations

For Upcoming Elections

Korba, Sep 10:

The stage is set for the upcoming 2023 Legislative Assembly elections in Korba district, with a keen focus on transparency and security. In compliance with the Election Commission's directives, preparations for the polls in constituencies Ramapur (20), Korba (21), Katghora (22), and Pali Tanakhar (23) are now in full swing. To guarantee the safety of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and streamline the distribution of election materials to polling teams, the designated IT College Jhagraha's Block B and Block C have been reserved. Under the able guidance of Collector and District Election Officer,



Saurabh Kumar, the Sub-District Election Officer for Korba, Mrs. Seema Patre, led a comprehensive inspection of IT College on Friday at 11 a.m. This inspection was specifically aimed at briefing political party representatives who are actively gearing up for the 2023 Legislative

elections. During the tour, the Deputy District Election Officer provided essential insights into the initial preparations for the forthcoming elections, including a firsthand look at the designated strong rooms. Block C of IT College showcased the strong rooms ear-

marked for the secure storage of EVMs. The inspection encompassed the careful commissioning of EVMs in these designated strong rooms and familiarization with the collection points for election materials. Furthermore, the layout for the efficient distribution of election materi-

als at each counter was reviewed, along with the meticulously planned procedures for the return of these materials post-polling.

Once the polling comes to a close, the collected EVMs will be stored securely in these strong rooms, ensuring the utmost integrity of the electoral process. This inspection also provided valuable information concerning the deployment of election officials, agents, and the logistics of their arrival and departure.

Present during this crucial inspection were political party representatives, including Deputy Collector Pradeep Sahu, who actively engaged in gaining deeper insights into the meticulous election preparations, fostering a collaborative spirit for a smooth and transparent electoral process.

Korba, Sep 10:

Chhattisgarh Newspaper Distributors Association (CNDA), following the guidelines issued by the Election Commission to make the common voters aware, has done commendable work by getting pamphlets printed for the voters and distributing it through newspapers. This will benefit the voters in adding, deleting or any changes for as many voter as possible. District President of Chhattisgarh Newspaper Distributors Association (CNDA), Vipendra Kumar Sahu said that under the voter awareness campaign, the Newspaper Distributors Association got hand bills printed and worked as a link in the voter awareness campaign from door-to-door through daily newspapers. A campaign has been launched in Korba city through



hand bills to awaken the voters regarding addition, deletion, amendment etc. in the voter list issued by the Election Commission. This campaign was inaugurated by Municipal Corporation Mayor Rajkishore Prasad. On this occasion, Korba Municipal Corporation (KMC) Mayor Rajkishore Prasad, while inaugurating the event in TP Nagar in front of the present newspaper distributors and the people who came out for the morning walk, said that CNDA registers its presence in small events. The work is not big or small, it should be done with dedication and devo-

tion which CNDA members are doing. Unemployed youth should learn something from them. The Mayor also praised all the office bearers and members of CNDA. On this occasion, in the presence of dignitaries go out for the morning walk including Director of Singh Motor Driving Institute BN Singh, President of District Industries Association, Shrikant Budhiya, State President of Chhattisgarh Newspaper Distributors Association, Vinod Sinha, welcoming the visiting guests as part of the voter awareness campaign.

'Aim to unite the members of Utkal Community'

Bilaspur, Sep 10:

With an aim to unite the people Utkal Community living in Chhattisgarh, Purander Mishra is on a mission from the month of June and in this connection visited Bilaspur on June 10. The members of Utkal Community welcomed Mishra on his arrival in Bilaspur, informs Bilaspur Utkal Community president Amit Mishra.



Mishra while speaking at the programme said, he was pleased to find huge gathering and it seems his aim to unite the people of their community is fulfilled. He added, people of the community are now easing up for their dignity. Mishra expressed concern over new generation divert-

ed towards wrong doings and his aim is to unite the people of community.

Purander Mishra reached Bilaspur at 10:30 am and the programme was organised at Community Hall Patrakar Colony here. Along with Mishra, Ashok Panda Retired Judge Chhattisgarh High Court, Satyadeo Sharma, Utkal Mahila Vahini president Mrs Sushmita Mishra, Mrs Nivedita Mishra and others attended the programme. Bilaspur Utkal Community president Amit Mishra also addressed the gathering along with Subhash Jena, Ravi Mishra and others.

Mungeli grapples with electricity woes

Mungeli, Sep 10:

The Mungeli region continues to battle a persistent electricity problem, causing mounting frustration among both urban and rural residents. Despite repeated warnings from the collector, the district's electricity issues remain unresolved, with recent power outages lasting up to four hours, leaving people in the dark.

The repercussions of these undisclosed power cuts extend beyond inconveniences, affecting farmers' livelihoods. Recent efforts to irrigate dry crops following rainfall were thwarted by the ongoing electricity problem, leaving borewells idle

and fields parched. This issue has been worsening over the past 15 days, prompting protests by the Bharatiya Janata Party and a stern rebuke from the collector during a time-bound meeting. Electricity department officials initially attributed the problem to a lack of water supply, but even after its restoration, electricity issues persist due to outdated equipment. Some well-informed individuals assert that the transfer of the previously stationed executive engineer has played a significant role in the deteriorating electricity infrastructure, compounding the challenges faced by Mungeli residents.

Tableau of Shri Krishna turns out to be major attraction

With a special presentation by Bal-Gopal

Korba, Sep 10:

A grand celebration of Janmashtami festival was organized by Sankalp Mahila Mandal H.T.P.S., Korba West on Sept 7 at Ravindra Cultural Bhawan (Senior Club). In which children of different age groups gave various Krishnamayi presentations. The special attraction of the program was the tableau of Shri Krishna presented by Bal-Gopal. This was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present in the auditorium. In this sequence, a captivating presentation of Krishna-Leela was made by child artists through drama and various dances like Dashavatar, Krishna Arjun Sakha and melodious bhajans were sung. On this occasion, Chief Engineer Sanjay Sharma participated in the pot-breaking program with the



children and encouraged them. In making the event successful, the efficient direction and guidance of Niharika Sharma, President of Sankalp Mahila Mandal along with all the Vice Presidents of the club Rukmani Singh, Co-Secretaries Sarita Rathore and Smita Karkare, Treasurer Neeta Aggarwal, Sports Secretary Shivkala Kanwar and Trishna Karmahe had special contributions.

'Nothing Hindu' about what the BJP does: Rahul Gandhi

London, Sep 10 (PTI):

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has hit out at the BJP during an interaction with students and academics in Paris, saying that the governing party is out to get power at any cost and that there is "nothing Hindu" about their actions.

During the interaction on Saturday at the Sciences PO University in Paris, a leading social sciences institution in France, the 53-year-old Opposition leader covered a broad range of topics such as his Bharat Jodo Yatra, the Opposition alliance's fight to defend India's democratic structures, changing global order and other key issues.

He stressed that the Opposition was committed to fighting for the "soul of India" and the country would "come out just fine" from the current "turbulence". "I've read the Gita, I've read a number of the



Upanishads, I've read many Hindu books; there is nothing Hindu about what the BJP does, absolutely nothing," said Gandhi, in response to a question about the rise of "Hindu nationalism" in the country at the interaction, a video of which was released on Sunday.

"I have not read anywhere, in no Hindu book, from no learned Hindu person have I ever heard that you should terrorise, harm people who are weaker than you. So, this idea, this word, Hindu nationalists, this is a wrong word. They're not Hindu nationalists. They have

nothing to do with Hinduism. They are out to get power at any cost, and they will do anything to get power. They want dominance of a few people and that is what they are about. There is nothing Hindu about them," he said.

Asked about the cases of violence against the Dalit and other minority communities in the country, Gandhi said it requires "political imagination" to combat the issue "head on" and the Opposition is committed to that fight.

"What the BJP and the RSS are trying to do, the heart of what they're trying to do is trying to stop the expression, the participation of lower castes, other backward castes, tribals and minority communities. And, for me, an India where a Dalit person or a Muslim person, tribal person, upper-caste person, anybody, is being mistreated, is being attacked, is not the India I want," he

said. "If the Prime Minister tomorrow morning was to decide there would be no chest thumping and no violence in India, it would stop. It is the direction that the leadership of the country gives, the imagination that the leadership of a country gives that shapes people," Gandhi, now on a tour of Europe, said.

"The feeling right now is that you can do whatever you want and nothing's going to happen to you. This is an attack on the soul of India, and the people doing this should pay a price for it," he said.

Referencing his own experiences, the Congress leader pointed to 24 legal cases against him and also the "first time in Indian history" that somebody was given the maximum sentence for criminal defamation. But he stressed that the fight to keep the democratic structure of India is "ongoing and very vibrant".

African leaders welcome AU admission into G20

Johannesburg, Sep 10 (PTI):

Several African leaders have welcomed the unanimous decision by the G20 countries at a summit hosted by India to admit the African Union (AU) as its 21st member.

"Honoured to welcome the African Union as a permanent member of the G20 Family. This will strengthen the G20 and also strengthen the voice of the Global South," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday as he embraced Comoros President Azali Assoumani, who is also the Chairperson of the African Union, and invited him to join the proceedings at the summit in New Delhi.

African leaders affirmed Modi's view in their reactions to how the inclusion of the Africa as the 21st

member of the G20, which the AU had been requesting for several years now, would boost the continent's efforts to have a more effective voice in addressing global challenges.

Moussa Faki Mahamat, chairperson of the AU Commission, which is the AU's secretariat and undertakes the day-to-day activities of the Union, welcomed the bloc's entry into the G20 as a full member.

"This membership, for which we have long been advocating, will provide a propitious framework for amplifying advocacy in favour of the Continent and its effective contribution to meeting global challenges," he wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, the previous chair of the AU, was among the first African

leaders to share the decision announced by Modi.

"We are delighted that the #G20 has accepted the @AfricanUnion as a member of the #G20. Global reconstruction in the wake of the #COVID19 pandemic presents a unique opportunity to accelerate the transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient, sustainable societies,"

Ramaphosa said in a post on X. "Developing economies are bearing the brunt of climate change, despite carrying the least responsibility for this crisis. As African and other developing economy countries, we face the task of meeting our climate commitments in the midst of significant developmental challenges like poverty, inequality and unemployment," Ramaphosa added.

Drone attack kills at least 40 in Sudan's capital

Cairo, Sep 10 (AP):

A drone attack Sunday on an open market south of Sudan's capital, Khartoum, killed at least 40 people, activists and medical workers said, as the military and a powerful paramilitary group battle for control of the country. At least three dozen others were injured in the attack in Khartoum's May neighborhood, where paramilitary forces battling the military were heavily deployed, according to an activist group known as the Resistance Committees and two health care workers at the Bashair University Hospital, where the casualties were treated.

The activist group, which helps organize humanitarian assistance,



U.S. President Joe Biden participates in a welcome ceremony hosted by Vietnam's Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi, Vietnam, Sunday.

Pak couple arrested on blasphemy charges in Pak

Lahore, Sep 10 (PTI):

A Pakistani Christian couple has been arrested on blasphemy charges after 'torn pages of Quran' were recovered from the rooftop of their house and in the street in Lahore, police said on Sunday.

The couple — Shaukat Masih and Kiran Masih — are facing life imprisonment as they have been booked under section 295-B of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPP) which carries a life sentence for the desecration of the holy book.

The case has been registered against the Christian couple of Doga Town, Rangers Headquarters, Harbanspura Lahore on the complaint of a Muslim man, Mohammad Taimur, of the same area.

According to the FIR, Taimur said he was standing at a food shop of Doga Town Street on Friday when he found some pages of the Muslim holy book there.

"It appeared that the pages had been thrown from the roof of a house under which they were found. I knocked on the door and a woman named Kiran Masih opened the door. I showed her the torn pages of the Quran to her. She responded that her minor daughters — Sundas and Rubi, and son Sabir — might have thrown the pages. Taimur went to the rooftop of the house and found a pink colour bag with more pages of the Quran," the FIR says.

The complainant then informed the police on the emergency number after

which the North Cantonment police Station reached and arrested the suspects.

Police officer Mahmood Ahmad told PTI on Sunday that the police registered the blasphemy case against the Christian couple after the "torn pages of holy Quran" were found at their home and in the street.

"The couple's three children could have also been booked after their mother alleged that they might have thrown the pages in the street. However, only Kiran and her husband have been booked under 295 B of PPC," he said.

A police source told PTI that Shaukat Masih was not at home when the complainant accused Kiran of blasphemy on Friday midnight.

Moroccan villagers mourn after earthquake brings destruction to their rural mountain home

Moulay Brahim, Sep 10 (AP):

The ground shook with a force few had ever felt, thundering through the remote Moroccan village in the dark of night.

When the earthquake was over late Friday, the town carved into the Atlas Mountains lay in devastation, with possibly dozens dead, scores of homes crumpled and walls reduced to rubble. Soon crews were listening for desperate sounds of life within the ruins of Moulay Brahim.

A village of fewer than 3,000 people, Moulay Brahim attracted tourists and outdoor enthusiasts with its stunning vistas and proximity to Marrakech. Streets brimmed with small hotels and cafes overlooking gorges and green valleys.

But after the 6.8-magni-



tude earthquake that killed more than 2,000 across Morocco, the scene in the village is bleak.

People in the poor rural community about 45 kilometers (28 miles) northeast of the quake epicenter live in homes made of clay brick and cinder block, many of which are no longer standing or safe to inhabit. Fallen walls exposed the innards of damaged homes, their

rubble sliding down hills.

"We felt a huge shake like it was doomsday," resident Ayoub Toudite said. "Ten seconds and everything was gone."

Others, like 19-year-old student Abdelfattah El Akari, said the quake felt much longer, seeming to go on more than a minute. "The ground moved and homes cracked," he said. Chaos and terror followed as frightened vil-

lagers sought safety in the streets.

When they returned to their neighborhoods, some used bare hands to clear debris and start pulling out bodies, one after another. People gathered and cried outside a community health center as news trickled in of more deaths.

Search crews peered into crevices looking for more casualties or people in need of rescue following the biggest earthquake to hit the North African country in 120 years.

The majority of the deaths, at least 2,012 as of Saturday night, were in Marrakech and five provinces near the epicenter, with at least 2,059 more people injured, including 1,404 critically, the Interior Ministry reported.

Six killed, 50 injured in bus accident in Pakistan's Punjab province

Lahore, Sep 10 (PTI):

An overloaded speeding bus carrying Christian pilgrims for a religious gathering overturned while taking a turn in Pakistan's Punjab province on Sunday, killing at least six people and injuring 50 others. The accident took place in Sheikhpura, some 50 km from Lahore.

According to rescue officials, the bus was carrying Christian pilgrims to the religious gathering at the National Marian Shrine in Mariamabad when it overturned while taking a turn at Khanka Dogran,

Jerusalem, Sep 10 (PTI):

Welcoming the announcement of the ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has described it as the "largest cooperation project in our history" that will "change the face of the Middle East, Israel, and will affect the entire world".

The new economic corridor, which many see as an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative, was jointly announced on Saturday by the leaders of the US, India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, France, Germany, Italy and the European Union on the sidelines of the G20 summit in New Delhi.

In a video message released late Saturday



evening, Netanyahu said that Israel is at the focus of an unprecedented international project that will link infrastructure from Asia to Europe. "I welcome the statement that was released today by the United States, India, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and the European Union, as well as France, Italy and Germany," Netanyahu said. "A good week to you, citizens of Israel. This evening, I am pleased to inform you (of) some major

news," the Israeli Prime Minister said.

His message came as hundreds of thousands of Israelis protested on the streets against the government's judicial overhaul plan they think will undermine the authority of the judiciary. "Israel is at the focus of an unprecedented international project that will link infrastructure from Asia to Europe. This link will also realise a multi-year vision that will change the face of the Middle East, and Israel, and will affect the entire world," he said.

"This vision starts in India, passes through the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel before reaching Europe," Netanyahu said. The announcement of the ambitious project comes amid discussions around the

normalisation of ties between Israel and Saudi Arabia. The two countries do not have diplomatic relations but the Gulf kingdom has been seen to be recently softening its position towards Israel by allowing Israeli airlines to use its air space.

It is said to have also demanded, as per media reports, several concessions from the United States for the normalisation of ties to happen with the Jewish state, some very contentious ones.

"They announced the launch of a pioneering initiative to develop an economic corridor from India, through the Middle East, to Europe. I am pleased to inform you, citizens of Israel, that our country, the State of Israel, will be a central junction in this economic corridor," Netanyahu said.

Afghanistan is the fastest-growing maker of methamphetamine: UN drug agency

Islamabad, Sep 10 (AP):

Afghanistan is the world's fastest-growing maker of methamphetamine, a report from the United Nations drug agency said Sunday.

The country is also a major opium producer and heroin source, even though the Taliban declared a war on narcotics after they returned to power in August 2021.

The United Nations' Office on Drugs and Crimes, which published the report, said meth in Afghanistan is mostly

made from legally available substances or extracted from the ephedra plant, which grows in the wild.

The report called Afghanistan's meth manufacturing a growing threat to national and regional health and security because it could disrupt the synthetic drug market and fuel addiction.

It said seizures of meth suspected to have come from Afghanistan have been reported from the European Union and east Africa. Annual meth seizure totals from inside the country rose from less

than 100 kilograms (220 pounds) in 2019 to nearly 2,700 kilograms (6,000 pounds) in 2021, suggesting increased production, the report said. But it couldn't give a value for the country's meth supply, the quantities being produced, nor its domestic usage, because it doesn't have the data. Angela Me, the chief of the UNODC's Research and Trend Analysis Branch, told The Associated Press that making meth, especially in Afghanistan, had several advantages over heroin or cocaine production.

Pakistan unveils new visa policy to attract foreign investors

Islamabad, Sep 10 (PTI):

Pakistan, in a bid to revive its ailing economy, has introduced a new visa policy to attract business communities from across the world to invest in the cash-strapped country.

The decision was taken in the two-day consultation meeting held under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), a civil-military hybrid body set up by the previous Shehbaz Sharif government to tackle the country's economic woes. Caretaker

Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, who chaired the fifth apex committee meeting of SIFC, announced in a recorded message that a new easy visa regime has been approved for foreign businessmen desiring to visit Pakistan. He said foreign businessmen who want to visit Pakistan would be issued easy visas on the basis of a single document from their country or international business organisations.

"If Pakistan's chambers of business or business organisations issue a document to

a foreign businessman, easy visas will also be issued to them," the statement quoted caretaker Prime Minister Kakar as saying. He expressed hope that under this new visa regime, Pakistan would enter a new phase of business and economy. Later, addressing a press conference with other ministers, caretaker Foreign Minister Jaail Abbas Jilani said that the SIFC was briefed on Pakistan's relations with China, the United States and other Middle East countries.



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India's G20 Triumph Leading the World Stage

As the G20 summit concluded on Sunday, India stood out for its efforts in fostering consensus and cooperation on a global scale. With the theme of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - One Earth, One Family, One Future," India's G20 presidency under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership showcased its commitment to playing a significant role in international affairs. Modi's vision of India as a "vishwa guru" or a global leader was clearly on display during the summit. In his opening remarks at the G20 Summit, Prime Minister Modi evoked a 2,500-year-old pillar inscription in Prakrit, which carries a timeless message: "The welfare and happiness of humanity should always be ensured." This message, originating from India, resonated with the world's leaders gathered at the summit and set the tone for the event. It emphasized India's historical role in promoting the well-being of all humanity. While China's President Xi Jinping's absence from the G20 summit was seen as an attempt to diminish India's prominence, the event demonstrated how India, in collaboration with the United States and Europe, effectively countered China's influence on the global stage. The G20 nations praised India's success in reaching a consensus on crucial issues, including Russia's war in Ukraine. They also elevated the African Union to full G20 membership and addressed vital matters like climate change and debt sustainability, aligning with the priorities of emerging economies. Although Ukraine expressed dissatisfaction with the compromise on the language regarding the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the United States and its allies considered it a small price to pay for bolstering India's position as a rising power capable of countering China's global influence. President Joe Biden led this charge, recognizing India as a pivotal ally in isolating China and Russia while reinforcing the U.S.-led world order. This successful outcome indicated that the United States is adapting to the language and priorities of the so-called Global South, with India serving as a principal guide. The willingness of Western nations to ensure India's victory underscores their recognition of India's significance on the global stage. A pivotal moment at the summit was President Biden's meeting to discuss delivering more financing to developing nations. Alongside World Bank President Ajay Banga, the first Indian American in this role, Biden joined Prime Minister Modi, Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, and South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa - key members of the BRICS grouping. This bloc's expansion posed a challenge to the Group of Seven advanced economies earlier this month. US Deputy National Security Advisor Jon Finer highlighted the unity of the "three democratic members of the BRICS" and their commitment to the G20's success, pointedly contrasting this with China's absence. Xi Jinping's decision to skip the G20 summit marked a shift in behaviour from last November when he emphasized the importance of "getting along with other countries." China's negotiators appeared petty in their efforts to thwart India's progress, objecting even to minor issues like Modi's use of a Sanskrit phrase and the U.S.'s bid to host the G-20 gathering in 2026. The Global Times, an affiliate of the Communist Party, criticized the U.S. as a "copycat" regarding the Mideast infrastructure plan. As the summit unfolded, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak accused China of hindering progress toward a joint statement. At one point, Beijing raised the issue of semiconductor access during discussions on climate action, leading U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan to criticize the notion of "holding climate hostage" to unrelated issues. Premier Li Qiang, representing China in Xi's absence, emphasized the need for unity and cooperation within the G-20. However, China's stance towards India and its pursuit of its own agenda was criticized by a Chinese think tank affiliated with the country's top spy agency. More importantly, India seized the moment to assert a global leadership role. Prime Minister Modi declared that "history has been created," while his chief negotiator, Amitabh Kant, labeled India as "the spokesperson of all the Global South." This summit amplified the voice of the Global South, highlighting India's capacity to unite the world on developmental and geopolitical issues. Modi's vision of India as a "vishwa guru" is becoming a reality, and the world is taking notice of India's leadership in addressing global challenges. As India continues to rise on the world stage, its role as a catalyst for international cooperation and progress is set to grow further.

Connecting Continents

India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor

The announcement of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) represents a significant milestone in global economic integration and infrastructure development. Jointly declared by leaders from India, the United States, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, France, Germany, Italy, and the European Union during the G20 summit, this initiative has captured the world's attention. IMEC, viewed by many as a potential alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative, has far-reaching implications for the participating nations and beyond. IMEC comprises two crucial corridors: an eastern corridor linking India with the Gulf region and a northern corridor connecting the Gulf region to Europe. This expansive network includes railways, ship-rail transit routes, and road transport avenues. The primary goal is to stimulate economic growth and foster greater connectivity and economic integration across Asia, the Arabian Gulf, and Europe. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Joe Biden co-chaired an event on Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) and IMEC, underlining the strategic importance of this endeavor. The emphasis on financial viability over debt-burden and adherence to environmental guidelines in connectivity projects highlights a commitment to responsible development. IMEC is more than just a series of transportation routes; it represents a comprehensive strategy to boost economic cooperation, promote trade, and create a sustainable future. The initiative consists of two critical corridors: the East Corridor, connecting India to West Asia and the Middle East, and the Northern Corridor, linking West Asia or the Middle East to Europe. The inclusion of a rail line, once completed, will establish a reliable and cost-effective cross-border ship-to-rail transit network. This will facilitate smoother goods and services transshipment between South East Asia, India, West Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. Moreover, the railway route is envisioned to support the laying of cables for electricity and digital connectivity, as well as pipes for clean hydrogen export, reinforcing the initiative's commitment to sustainability. IMEC's potential impact is multifaceted. It will strengthen regional supply chains, enhance trade accessibility, streamline trade facilitation, and prioritize environmental, social, and governance considerations. These aspects align with the global goals of sustainable development and responsible infrastructure investment. Modi's emphasis on connectivity as a cornerstone of human civilization's development echoes India's historical commitment to infrastructure development. The PGII, designed to bridge infrastructure gaps in developing countries and advance sustainable development goals, complements IMEC's objectives. Moreover, Modi's call to extend connectivity beyond regional borders underscores India's belief in fostering trust and cooperation among nations. While promoting connectivity initiatives, Modi stressed the importance of adhering to international norms and respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations. IMEC represents an extraordinary opportunity for economic growth, global cooperation, and sustainable development. As this corridor unfolds, it symbolizes human endeavor and unity across continents, setting a positive course for the future. The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor is not merely a transportation network; it is a testament to the shared aspirations and dreams of nations collaborating for progress and prosperity. As history is made, may IMEC illuminate the path to a brighter, interconnected future.

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UK PM'S TEMPLE VISIT



UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak with wife Akshata Murthy visits the Akshardham Temple in New Delhi, Sunday morning, Sept. 10. Sunak is in Delhi for the G20 Summit.

G20 must act now for the health and wellbeing of women, children, and adolescents around the world

AMITABH KANT & HELEN CLARK



Investing in women's, children's, and adolescents' health is critical to sustainable economic growth globally. Every year, across all G20 countries, nearly two million preventable deaths occur among mothers, newborns, children, and adolescents—including stillbirths.(1, 2) In recent years, the key drivers of these negative outcomes have included the "four Cs": covid-19, conflict, climate change, and the cost of living crisis. These factors have combined to inflict immense damage on the health and wellbeing of women, children, and adolescents. Systemic discrimination and an increase in extreme weather events, food insecurity, and poverty are major causes of the lack of progress in women's, children's, and adolescents' health. In 2000, the climate emergency was already responsible for more than 150 000 deaths worldwide and an increasing global burden of disease, 88% of which fell on children. (3, 4) It is estimated that 80% of people displaced by the climate emergency are women, largely due to economic and social disparities between genders. (5) Such inequalities, environmental damage, and loss of human life and capital are profoundly distressing. As a result, women are negatively impacted, exacerbating the "feminisation of poverty." Throughout the world, women continue to earn less than men, even when accounting for similar education levels. (6) The G20 countries are home to two thirds of the global population and the actions they take collectively have global scale. The G20 must act now to improve the health of women, children, and adolescents and tackle preventable loss of life. India currently holds the G20 presidency and is committed to achieving universal health coverage and improving healthcare service delivery globally. For example, India has proposed several initiatives for digital health solutions as part of a digital strategy launched in 2021. (7) These digital tools enabled the registration of a billion people in order to monitor immunisation coverage, and the administration of more than 1.78 billion doses of the covid-19 vaccine. India has also proposed initiatives on the climate-health nexus. (8) Given the ongoing impacts of the climate crisis on public health, and on efforts towards better pandemic preparedness and response. It is important to ensure that these initiatives are gender and age sensitive, for instance

through prioritising women-centric digital health services.

Cooperation across countries is critical for sharing good practices and addressing shared challenges. For example, effective adaptation to climate change requires both systemic approaches and, for countries to support each other's efforts in raising financial resources and building technological capacities through South-South and North-South cooperation. G20 countries must also take more substantial action to overcome the health and wellbeing challenges faced by women, children, and adolescents. Firstly, G20 countries must prioritise increased cross-cutting financing to strengthen health systems, enhance access to essential health services, and address the social determinants of health, such as poverty and gender inequality. Investments in physical and digital infrastructure through a gender lens could reduce the burden of unpaid work, improve wellbeing, create jobs, increase labour force participation, reduce the digital gender gap, bolster productivity, and foster economic growth. (9)

Secondly, numerous countries are struggling to maintain pre-pandemic levels of health spending. That is affecting women's, children's, and adolescents' health worldwide. Global efforts are required to help countries strengthen their health systems by attracting more development assistance for health, and finding sustainable solutions to alleviate debt burdens. The G20 must advocate for this. Thirdly, we need robust data systems to monitor and implement policies and programmes effectively. Given that G20 countries account for approximately 85% of global GDP,

two-thirds of the global population and carry significant political influence, they are well positioned to advance research and the development of new and improved health technologies and vaccines. When investing in these areas and making decisions, it is essential to meaningfully engage women, children, and adolescents.

Fourthly, investing in the early years of childhood is vitally important, including in family-friendly policies and universal social protection. Such investments can boost cognitive capital—the complete set of intellectual skills, primarily nurtured prenatally and in early childhood, that determines human capabilities—leading to inclusive economic growth. (10) Tackling youth unemployment across the G20 requires developing adolescents' skills, such as digital literacy, and building technology-driven and environmentally conscious growth.

The G20 must prioritise the health and wellbeing of women, children, and adolescents by making it a permanent fixture on its agenda for action. That requires dedicated, enhanced, and sustained financing, as well as more global coordination and solidarity so that no woman, child, adolescent, or country is left behind. The health and wellbeing of women, children and adolescents are essential for sustainable economic growth worldwide. This cannot be optimised without strong G20 leadership.

Amitabh Kant is India's G20 Sherpa, representing the country at the G20, and he has previously served as the CEO of NITI Aayog.

Ms. Helen Clark is the Chair of the PMNCH Board and a former Prime Minister of New Zealand.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INDIA vs. NDA: Bypoll results and future prospects

The bypoll results in six Indian states have served as a litmus test for the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA). These results carry significant implications for the upcoming five state assembly elections later this year and the pivotal Lok Sabha polls in 2024. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's charisma and the difference between assembly and Lok Sabha elections give a slight edge to the NDA. INDIA's 4-3 victory over the NDA in this derby hints at a potential 2024 election pattern if they unite. However, seat sharing could be a stumbling block, leading to five more years of uncertainty. The Ghosi (UP) bypoll highlighted the rejection of BJP for fielding a "turncoat," emphasizing the importance of unity. In Kerala, NDA struggled, while the Left parties face challenges in Kerala, Tripura, and West Bengal. **Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad**

State anthem

Kudos to the West Bengal Government for declaring "Banglar Mati Banglar Jol" as the state anthem to honour Rabindranath Tagore's soul-stirring tribute to the region and his clarion call of protesting against the 1905 Partition of Bengal through this song. This song has also assumed special significance in West Bengal today as the merchants of hatred are overactive in fragmenting the state in terms of religion (psychologically) and region (physically) through demand of separate North Bengal/Kamtapur/Koch states. **Kajal Chatterjee, Kolkata**

Brahmaputra Water Concerns

The Brahmaputra River, a lifeline for Assam's inhabitants, plays a pivotal role in agriculture, fishing, and as a source of drinking water. Compared to other Indian rivers, its water quality has been relatively good. However, a recent news report has raised questions about its safety. The alarming revelation exposes high levels of pollutants entering the Brahmaputra, far exceeding acceptable standards. Particularly concerning is the Bharalu River, which flows into the Brahmaputra in Guwahati. This tributary has turned into a threat to public health and hygiene due to the severe pollution caused by the dumping of hazardous waste materials. The safety of the Brahmaputra's water is now under scrutiny, prompting concerns for the well-being of those dependent on it. **Keshav Raj, Guwahati**

India's Cricket Odyssey

A Historical Chronicle of the Gentleman's Game



Dr. Vasishth M.C

In the vast landscape of sports, cricket stands as a timeless emblem of India's collective passion and identity. As the cricketing world converges once more on Indian soil for the World Cup, a 12-year hiatus ended, it is fitting to revisit the historical context that has shaped this beloved sport in the subcontinent. Cricket, once a leisurely pursuit confined to the upper echelons of English society, underwent a remarkable metamorphosis. Over time, it traversed continents and transcended social boundaries, finding its deepest roots in the hearts of the underprivileged and emigrant populations of India. Today, as we witness the fervour of millions of fans cheering for their favorite teams, it's hard to imagine that cricket was once a privileged diversion. Yet, cricket was indeed the pastime of the elite in English society. Its evolution into a sport beloved by all is a story interwoven with history, culture, and resilience. Ashis Nandy, a prominent Indian social psychologist, argues that, apart from a smattering of English terminology, cricket's identity has evolved to be intrinsical-

ly Indian. The sport's journey from its colonial origins to becoming an indelible part of the Indian ethos is a testament to the power of transformation. In addition to shaping the sporting landscape, cricket has given rise to a fascinating branch of literature. Eminent scholars like Ramachandra Guha, Mihir Bose, Mukul Kesavan, Prashant Kidambi, and Boria Majumdar have made significant contributions to this literary realm. Their studies have often revolved around a central question: How did this complex Anglican sport become the favorite pastime of marginalized sections of Indian society?

The historical records indicate that the first recorded cricket match in the Indian subcontinent took place in Kutch in 1721. However, the formalized version of the sport did not find its footing in India until the latter half of the 19th century. Cricket's growth in the Indian subcontinent unfolded in tandem with the expansion of British colonialism, which was inherently capitalistic. Unlike other contemporary European sports and games, cricket placed a premium on boundary-crossing and the art of scoring sixes. This aligning of capital and cricket was emblematic of an era where both sought to transcend boundaries.

It was in 1848, in England, that two young German men, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, authored the Communist Manifesto. The ripple effect of this seminal work led to revolutions in Western European nations. These revolutions, often crushed or unsuccessful, were driven by the proletariat—a class born out of the Industrial Revolution. The English, wary of the burgeoning class awareness and organizational abilities of the proletariat, embarked on a strategy of "exporting their capital" to their colonies. As fate would have it, one of those colonies was India. Amidst the influx of British capital, cricket began to steadily gain popularity

in India after the tumultuous events of 1857. This period saw the establishment of three universities—Bombay, Madras, and Kolkata—at the presidencies of British India. It was a time when peasants and sepoys of the Indian subcontinent rose against the British under the leadership of formidable figures such as Rani Lakshmi Bai, Tanya Tope, and the Begum of Oudh. Curiously, these universities became the primary breeding grounds of Indian cricket.

The year 1848 marked a significant milestone in the history of Indian cricket with the establishment of the Oriental Cricket Club in Bombay. Founded by Parsis, this club signified a pivotal moment in the narrative of Indian cricket. The Parsis, known for their strong ties with the British, played a pivotal role in the sport's proliferation. In fact, the Parsis went on to establish numerous cricket clubs, many of which bore names inspired by Roman deities. Manekji Kavajji Patel, a Parsi historian of Parsee Cricket, contends that the Parsis strategically employed cricket to forge deeper connections with the British and to leverage the opportunities offered by colonial rule. The Parsis, known for their business acumen, recognized the potential of cricket as a bridge to the British establishment. Cricket also found patronage among local rajahs of the Indian subcontinent, further solidifying its presence.

In 1886, a Parsi cricket team embarked on a historic tour of England—a journey that symbolized their growing ardor for the sport. While the Parsis initially aligned themselves with the British, the latter half of the 19th century saw the Parsis themselves affected by the adverse consequences of colonial policies. One of the defining moments in Parsi cricket history came on January 30, 1890, when a Parsi team faced an English cricket team captained by G.F. Vernon. Against all odds and predictions, the Parsis

emerged victorious, capturing the imagination of a nation. The standout performers of the game were Machliwalla and Meherwanji Pavi, two Parsi fast bowlers. This historic celebration of Parsi cricket was not confined to Bombay; it resonated throughout India.

Beyond the Parsis and local rajahs, the latter decades of the 19th century witnessed the burgeoning popularity of cricket among the general populace. Cricket clubs began to sprout across British settlements in India. It was during this era that an Indian cricket team, representing diverse socioeconomic classes, embarked on a tour of England in 1911. This tour marked a significant moment in the annals of Indian cricket. In 1932, shortly after Mahatma Gandhi's iconic salt satyagraha, India played its first official test match against England at Lord's, the Mecca of cricket. Leading the maiden test team was C.K. Nayudu, India's first cricketing superstar. However, from 1932 to 1936, India played only a handful of test matches. During this period, India produced three remarkable centuries. Lala Amarnath was the first, notching up 100 runs for India against England (he made his test debut on December 17, 1933). Mustaq Ali, along with his opening partner Vijay Merchant, became the first Indian to score a century abroad on July 27, 1936, in Manchester.

The turning point arrived in 1952 when Vijay Hazare led India to its first-ever test victory over England in Madras on February 10th. The victory ignited the hopes and aspirations of a nation. In 1968, India secured its first test series win abroad by defeating New Zealand. The iconic year of 1971 saw India triumph in test series against both the West Indies and England, under the captaincy of Ajit Wadekar. Yet, India's crowning glory in cricket came in 1983 when Kapil Dev led the team to a historic World Cup victory. The images of Kapil Dev lifting the coveted

trophy remain etched in the collective memory of a nation. The triumph was an affirmation of India's growing prowess in international cricket. The culmination of India's cricketing journey was the 2011 World Cup victory, ending a 28-year-long wait for glory. India's cricketing legacy was further enriched with victory in the inaugural ICC T20 World Cup in 2007.

As we fast-forward to 2023, we witness a cricketing landscape that has undergone monumental changes. In the contemporary cricketing world, the fast-paced and electrifying format of T20 cricket has taken center stage. The one-day format, once a pinnacle of limited-overs cricket, now faces the specter of being overshadowed by even shorter formats like 10-10 cricket. With each passing year, cricket's popularity in India continues to soar to unprecedented heights. The sport has transcended the boundaries of age, gender, and socioeconomic backgrounds, uniting the diverse tapestry of the nation. Cricket is more than just a game; it is an expression of the nation's aspirations, dreams, and fervour. It is not inconceivable that cricket may soon claim a coveted spot on the Olympic stage, further solidifying its status as a global phenomenon. As India stands poised to host the World Cup once again, it is evident that cricket has woven itself into the very fabric of the nation.

As we embrace the unpredictable twists and turns of the beautiful game, we also celebrate its enduring legacy—a testament to the indomitable spirit of a cricket-crazy nation. So, let us welcome the ultimate spectacle in the beautiful game of glorious uncertainty, as India once again plays host to the cricketing world.

(Author is a distinguished scholar and former Head of the Department of History at Malabar Christian College in Calicut.)

BRIEF**Expansion**

Kolkata: The textile division of Grasim Industries is planning to expand its footprint in smaller cities and towns by opening around 100-120 retail stores over the next couple of years, a senior official of the company said. It also hopes for a surge in demand for textile products in the upcoming festive season. "We are optimistic about the growth story of India. We plan to expand in both retail and wholesale businesses. Over the next two years, we plan to open 100-120 Linen Club retail stores in smaller cities and towns," Satyaki Ghosh, CEO, (Domestic Textiles), told PTI in an interview.

Growth

New Delhi: India has produced 66.14 MT crude steel in January-June 2023, registering a 5 per cent year-on-year growth and the up-trend is likely to continue in second half of the year as well, according to SteelMint. The domestic industry had produced 63 million tonnes (MT) crude steel in the January-June period of 2022, the research firm said. The increase in production was mainly on account of improved capacity utilisation rates coupled with the ramping up of capacities by key Indian steel players, it said.

Stake

New Delhi: Billionaire Gautam Adani-led promoter group has increased stake in two of the group's listed companies, as the ports-to-energy conglomerate continues to work on a claw back strategy after being hit by damaging reports. The promoter group has increased stake in flagship Adani Enterprises to 71.93 per cent from 69.87 per cent, according to stock exchange filings. This is the second time in less than a month that the promoters have raised stake in the flagship firm that incubates new businesses.

Match

New Delhi: The government has taken several steps in the last nine years to resolve issues that were coming in the way of Indian industry and the latter needs to match what has been done, according to Maruti Suzuki India Chairman RC Bhargava. In order to grow faster and become globally competitive, the Indian industry also has to look at itself and see what could be done to improve overall efficiency, productivity and cost control, he told PTI.

Dismiss

New Delhi: The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal has dismissed an operational creditor's petition to initiate insolvency proceedings against Wipro Ltd. A two-member Chennai bench of the appellate tribunal held earlier that there was a pre-existing dispute over the payment between Wipro and the petitioner and observed that the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code was not framed for being a "mere recovery legislation for creditors".

'Countries need to pursue growth oriented structural reforms'

■ For faster economic recovery

New Delhi, Sep 10 (PTI):

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on Sunday said global recovery is slow and uneven and underscored the need to pursue sound policies for financial stability and growth-oriented structural reforms.

Speaking at G20 Leaders' Summit here, Georgieva said, G20 members must lead by example in delivering on the promises of USD 100 billion per year for climate finance, supported by strengthening Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs).

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has secured over USD 40 billion to support vulnerable countries through its



Kristalina Georgieva

Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST) to build climate resilience, she said.

Countries also need to mobilize domestic resources to finance and manage the green transition through tax reforms, effective and efficient public spending, strong fiscal institutions, and deep local debt markets, she said.

Observing that global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is slow and

uneven, she said, all countries should pursue sound policies to support economic and financial stability and growth-oriented structural reforms against this background.

This is especially important in emerging and developing countries, where such reforms can boost output by up to 8 per cent over 4 years, she said.

"We also need to further invest in international cooperation. This implies swiftly addressing debt problems where they arise, including through the G20 Common Framework and the new Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable," she said.

To make the global economy stronger and more resilient in a more shock-prone world, she said, it is vital to reach an agreement to increase IMF's quota resources before the end of the year and secure

the needed resources for the Fund's interest-free support to the poorest countries through the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust.

During the India Presidency a lot of work has been done on MDB reforms, a government official said, adding, "quota reforms are under discussion and we do expect that something will come out."

This is one of the priorities under the India Presidency and quota reforms agenda is expected to come up in Marrakesh, Morocco meeting of the finance ministers and Central Bank Governors next month, the official said.

To build a prosperous future, Georgieva said the world needs to harness the potential of digital technology and India's achievement in developing top-tier digital public infrastruc-

ture (DPI) stands as a beacon for others.

"More work lies ahead, including in the realm of digital money and crypto assets. To this end, G20 has tasked relevant institutions to improve regulation and supervision of crypto assets the IMF is contributing to proposals for a comprehensive policy framework; and advance the debate on how central bank digital currencies could impact the global economy and financial system," she said.

Appreciating that India's G20 presidency is a powerful reminder that when the international community comes together to solve global problems, much can be accomplished, she underlined the need to further strengthening the bonds of international cooperation to create a more prosperous and resilient global economy for all.

Schneider Electric hosts 'Innovation Summit'

Bhopal, Sep 10:

Schneider Electric, the global leader in the digital transformation of Energy Management and Automation, hosted their multi-city "Innovation Summit" in Raipur. This summit served as a platform for local industries to convene, exchange ideas, and collaboratively devise solutions that address India's future energy requirements. The event, which witnessed a footfall of over 200 customers, partners, and end user, addressed potential solutions to mitigate climate change challenges to make this planet more sustainable. With India's industrial base currently on the rise to cater to the needs of the country and global demand, the need for energy is going up significantly. To effectively utilize the finite amount of energy that is produced year after year, a concerted effort must be made by industries across all segments to adopt more digitization and automation. It is therefore paramount for industries to inculcate a culture of digitization in a targeted manner and

at an accelerated pace. This event provided an opportunity for industries and large commercial establishments to come together and ideate on integrating digital cutting-edge technologies that, if combined, can deliver maximum positive impact. Speaking on the collaborative nature of the summit, Nikhil Pathak, VP, Offer Marketing and Business Development, Schneider Electric India said, "With an ever-changing world, a constant necessity to innovate is the need of the hour. Innovation, however, requires a holistic approach, garnering partnerships that can lead to easy to implement solutions. The multi-city innovation summit hopes to achieve just this, by creating a space for everyone within the Indian industrial base to come together and become the harbingers of change for embracing digital transformation, leading to reliable, safe, and efficient processes in industrial environment. Digitisation and next gen automation help us lead the positive change for sustainable future."

MG Motor India launches 'Blackstorm' limited edition

Gurugram, Sep 10:

MG Motor India, a British automobile brand with a 100-year-old legacy, launched the Blackstorm edition of the MG Astor - India's Most Advanced SUV in its class. With the Blackstorm edition, MG India offers its customers yet another stylish option to choose from the popular MG Astor range. It offers a captivating appeal to customers who are looking for a Bold, Sophisticated, and Stylish SUV.

The Astor Blackstorm limited edition comes with a panoramic skyroof, an All-Black Honeycomb pattern Grille, Black alloy wheels with red front brake callipers, black finish Headlamps, glossy Black Door Garnish and Black Finish Roof Rails that amp up the overall look of Astor Blackstorm.



The SUV has the 'Blackstorm' emblem on its front fenders on both sides. The interior of the model commands aesthetic appeal with a Tuxedo Black Upholstery with red stitching, Sangria red-themed AC Vents, an all-black Floor Console, steering wheel and doors with red stitches. The Astor Blackstorm also comes with JBL speakers and customer can get them fitted 'at all authorized MG dealerships pan India.

Commenting on the launch, Gaurav Gupta, Deputy Managing

Director, MG Motor India, said, "As the whole country preps up for the upcoming festive season, we at MG Motor India, want to ensure that our customers feel extra special with the Astor's latest limited edition - Blackstorm. It has a premium finish with a bold and distinctive design that is sure to win our customers' heart as they look to upgrade their existing vehicles with tech-enabled cars that are not only futuristic but also delivers a superior driving experience.

'Payment security mechanism, subsidies to help in growth of electric mobility'

New Delhi, Sep 10 (PTI):

A well defined payment security mechanism for long-term contracts would help support large-scale rollout of electric buses in the country, according to Ashok Leyland Chairman Dheeraj Hinduja.

In an interaction with PTI, he also emphasised on the importance of subsidies in faster adoption of electric mobility in India.

"So I would say two areas -- one, the subsidies or whatever benefits that the government can consider for promoting electric vehicles is of course welcome, and then some type of payment security mechanisms are also required. It would help the industry to grow at a faster pace," Hinduja said. He was replying to a query to list initiatives which could aid in the growth of electric vehicles



Dheeraj Hinduja

in the country. Hinduja said the government is already looking into some form of security of its payment structure.

"When you're looking at these GCC (Gross Cost Contracting) contracts for 10-12 years, the OEMs do want some security of how to ensure that the payments will happen during this long duration of time," he noted. A payment security mechanism is essen-

tially a payment security fund that provides interest-free capital in case of default in payments. In the case of electric buses, the onus of unhampered payments to the service provider lies on the state transport undertakings (STUs).

Many of the STUs remain in bad shape financially. Electric bus makers are, therefore, asking the government to set up such a security fund something which already exists in the power sector.

Hinduja noted that overall the government has really been doing a very good job in terms of supporting the requirements for cleaner fuels and cleaning up the pollution within the cities.

"They have provided subsidies for the production of electric vehicles as well...So a lot of private customers who have their

commitments of net zero, they are purchasing vehicles directly irrespective of any subsidies," he said.

In the case of buses and light commercial vehicles, it is dependent on government support in terms of subsidies, Hinduja said.

"Wherever there is support from the government, there is clear pick-up in the demand," he noted.

He further said, "When it comes to a very large uptake, I think that might still be some time away. But at least for major city requirements, such as for buses, light vehicles, I do believe that the trend is in the right direction."

There is going to be a period of time when electric and other alternative fuels will co-exist with diesel, Hinduja said.

Ashok Leyland is the country's second-largest commercial vehicle maker.

SC dismisses plea against GlaxoSmithKline pharma

■ For deficiency in service

New Delhi, Sep 10 (PTI):

The Supreme Court has dismissed a plea by a man against an order of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) which held that he has miserably failed to establish deficiency in service on the part of GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Ltd in relation to the administration of a hepatitis vaccine.

According to the case, the man in order to achieve immunity against contracting Hepatitis B approached his family physician to administer the repeat dose of the vaccine Enderix-B, along with his family members.

The family members of the appellant had no adverse reaction to the said drug but, after four days of being vaccinated, the appellant felt severe pain in his left shoulder at the site of the injection and he suffered pain while moving his shoulder and developed myositis. The appellant contended that he developed a sudden permanent disability in his shoulder which according to him was caused due to adverse reaction of the vaccine Enderix-B manufactured by Glaxo.

A bench of Justices A S Bopanna and Prashant Kumar Mishra said the drug is made available in the market after certification and nothing has been placed on record to indicate that this is a drug which was available "of the shelf", without prescription.

'Our customer services should epitomise aspirations of new India'

New Delhi, Sep 10 (PTI):

Railway Board chairperson Jaya Varma Sinha has asked all employees to work on five key priorities - safety, integrity, capacity augmentation, revenue generation, and customer amenities and experience.

Calling these five priorities as "Indian Railways' Panch Pran", Sinha, in her first written communication to employees after taking charge as Chairperson and CEO of the Railway Board on September 1, said that the national transporter has a rich and enduring legacy spanning more than 150 years. "In recent years, we



Jaya Varma Sinha

have embarked on a transformative journey marked by unprecedented investments in tracks, rolling stock, stations and terminals," Sinha wrote. Noting that safety is paramount, she said, "We must recognise that every accident can be prevented, and

it is incumbent upon us to ensure strict adherence to established safety protocols. It is imperative that we actively engage in the field, setting an exemplary standard for all."

Sinha, the first woman head of the Railway Board, said integrity is non-negotiable for public servants. "We shall maintain a zero-tolerance stance towards any acts of misconduct. We shall continue to enhance transparency in our process."

On capacity augmentation, she said the government has demonstrated immense confidence in Indian Railways through an investment of Rs 2.4 lakh crore in the current fiscal.

'Frictionless credit initiative slashes operational costs for lenders by 70 %'

Mumbai, Sep 10 (PTI):

The frictionless credit initiative being piloted by the Reserve Bank is helping lenders slash their customer acquisition cost by a whopping 70 per cent, while for borrowers the saving is 6 per cent of the loan amount, a senior central bank official has said.

The pilot started with an all-digital KCC (kisan credit card) lending, developed by the RBI Innovation Hub on the public tech platform, in Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh this April. The pilot has been extended to four more states - Maharashtra,



Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat (for dairy farmers) from August 17 this year. The pilot launch of the public tech platform for frictionless credit to farmers has helped reduce operational costs for lenders by more than 70 per cent, while for the farmer, the saving is 6 per cent of the loan

amount, Ajay Kumar Choudhary, an executive director and head of the fintech department at the RBI, said here over the weekend while addressing the three-day global fintech festival. Moreover, there is massive savings in opportunity cost, as earlier a farmer had to make six to eight weekly rounds to the bank which has come down to a maximum of 0 minutes now, Choudhary said.

Choudhary further said this has also reduced traditional charges that banks used to levy from borrowers, as with all documents available digitally, there is effective-

tively no cost in customer acquisition with this model of lending. The platform was created by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub, an independent subsidiary of the central bank, enabling seamless flow of necessary information to lenders. This in turn will help in disbursing frictionless credit.

On April 17, the RBI rolled out a pilot project for pure retail products such as kisan credit card loans up to Rs 1.6 lakh per borrower, dairy loans, un-collateralised MSME loans, personal loans, and home loans, in Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

'India's external debt-service ratio at 5.3 pc within comfort zone'

New Delhi, Sep 10 (PTI):

India's external debt of USD 624.7 billion at March-end 2023 with a debt-service ratio of 5.3 per cent is within the comfort zone and modest from a cross-country perspective, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said.

In her foreword to 'India's External Debt: A Status Report 2022-23' released earlier this month, Sitharaman said the ratio of external debt to GDP declined to 18.9 per cent at March-end 2022-23 from 20 per cent a year ago.

The long-term debt constituted 79.4 per cent of total external debt, while short-term debt, which is 20.6 per cent of the total external borrowing, is basically incurred to finance imports, enhancing the



Nirmala Sitharaman

stability aspects of the total external debt, she said. "From a cross-country perspective, India's external debt position is better than most of the Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) as measured by select vulnerability indicators, such as share of short-term debt in total external debt, external debt to GNI (Gross National Income), forex reserves to external debt and external debt to exports," the minister noted.

Chouksey Group of Colleges welcomes Engineering and MBA Students

Local leaders demand better facilities

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Sep 10: Newly admitted Engineering and Management students of 2023-24 were welcomed in the Chouksey Engineering College Bilaspur, through the welcome program "Diksharambh".

In this program, Dr. Ajay Kumar Garg, Professor, Government Engineering College, Raipur and former Joint Director, Technical Education Raipur was present as the Chief Guest on online and Dr. Ashish Jaiswal, Managing Director, Chouksey Group of Colleges, Bilaspur as the Chief Patron.

Along with this, Principal in-charge of the college, Dr. Dheeraj Ahirwar and Heads of all



the departments were also present in this induction program "Diksharambh". The program began with the lighting of a lamp and the offering of flowers to Goddess Saraswati. Newly admitted students were then welcomed by ap-

plying tilak, giving them flower bunches and college badges. Parents of the students were also invited to the event and were welcomed with flowers.

In his message, Dr. Garg congratulated the students on their admission at

Chouksey Group of Colleges and wished them a bright future. He said that the college provides excellent academic and extracurricular facilities and that the students can achieve their full potential if they work hard.

Dr. Ashish Jaiswal also wished the students well and said that the college is committed to providing them with the best possible education. He urged the students to take advantage of all the opportunities that the college has to offer and to make the most of their time there.

Principal in-charge of the college, Dr. Dheeraj Ahirwar, while welcoming the newly admitted students, informed the students about the history of the college along with the academic activities, non-academic activities, facilities, schemes, training and placement, curriculum, examination conduct, NSS, NCC. He also stressed the importance of hard work and dedication in achieving success.



● **Memorandum handed to Station Master in preparation for Sept 13 rail blockade protest**

Central Chronicle News

Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Sep 10: In a move, led by Tourism Mandal President Atal Srivastava and District President Uttam Vasudev,

local leaders expressed their dissatisfaction with current arrangements by presenting a memorandum to the Railway Station Master. The memorandum signals their intent to stage a rail blockade protest on September 13, advocating for significant improvements. The delegation presenting the memorandum was comprised mainly of

Tourism Mandal President Atal Srivastava, District President Uttam Vasudev, Nagar Panchayat Vice President Pankaj Tiwari, District Youth Congress President Aman Sharma, along with Archana Porte, Amol Pathak, Omprakash Banka, Shankar Kavar, Organization Minister Pushparaj Singh, and numerous others.

Pratima Patwa demands action against toxic liquor deaths

Woman passenger gives birth safely at Raigarh station

● **BJP women's wing takes stand as party to organize rally today**

Central Chronicle News

Manendragarh, Sep 10: Pratima Patwa, the District President of the Bharatiya Janata Party Women's Wing, is taking a stand against the alarming rise in toxic liquor-related deaths in Chhattisgarh. Patwa points fingers at the Congress-led state government, holding them responsible for the tragic deaths of Kiran Kumar Suryavanshi and Lalita Suryavanshi in Amoda village, Janjgir-Champa constituency.

Highlighting the gravity of the situation, Patwa reminds the public that just three



Pratima Patwa

months ago, three families in Rogda village suffered a similar fate due to toxic liquor consumption. All victims belonged to the Scheduled Caste community, underscoring the urgency of the issue. The Bharatiya Janata Party has consistently raised concerns about the unchecked illicit liquor trade thriving across the state. Despite their efforts, the corrupt Bhupesh govern-

ment has allowed this hazardous business to flourish in every nook and cranny. Patwa now calls for an end to the tragic chain of alcohol poisoning deaths in Chhattisgarh. She demands swift and robust action against those responsible, urging the Bharatiya Janata Party's state organization to take stringent measures. In response to this critical situation, the Bharatiya Janata Party Women's Wing, joined by dedicated party workers, will stage a rally on Monday, September 11th, commencing at 10 AM in front of the Tehsil Office in Manendragarh. Their rally will culminate with a blockade of the Excise Department office on Amakherwa Road, sending a powerful message against toxic liquor trade.

● **With help of railway doctor's team**
● **Swift assistance by Bilaspur Division Rail Administration to passengers**

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Sep 10: In a heart-warming incident on September 8, the Bilaspur Division Rail administration sprang into action when they received news of a pregnant passenger in distress. Hasina Khatoon, travelling from CSMT to Howrah, experiencing labour pains while onboard the CSMT-Hawra Mail (train number 12809) in seat number 17 of the S-1 coach.

The Main Station



Manager of Raigarh, upon receiving the urgent call for assistance, swiftly coordinated efforts with the Railway Health Unit in Raigarh, the Health Inspector,



Checking Staff, and Sanitation Workers. A dedicated medical team from the Railway Health Unit, led by Dr. Piyush Priyadarshan, Pharmacist Preeti Singh,

and Attendant Uttam Jatav, was dispatched to Raigarh Station.

The moment of truth arrived when the train pulled into Raigarh Station at 10:10 PM.

Thanks to the exceptional teamwork between railway personnel and the medical experts, a safe delivery took place right at the station. Both the mother and the newborn are now in excellent health.

Following an initial examination by the Railway Medical Team, mother and child were transported by ambulance, with the invaluable support of the Railway Protection Force (RPF), to Raigarh Medical College for further care and observation.

S. Minarul, a fellow passenger who assisted Hasina Khatoon during this remarkable event, expressed profound gratitude to the railway administration for their prompt and effective response.

Indian Public School celebrates Krishna Janmashtami

● **Students pay homage to Radha-Krishna and respect teachers**

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Sep 10: In a heartwarming celebration, the Indian Public School in Dongargaon embraced the joy of Krishna Janmashtami with a unique twist - paying tribute to teachers. Organized by the Human Welfare Society and Education Committee, the event brought together students from all grades in a spirit of devotion and gratitude.

Youngsters from Nursery to Class 5 radiated joy as they dressed up as Radha and Krishna, evoking the divine atmosphere of the occasion. The school campus was



transformed into a Vrindavan-like setting as students from Class 6 to 8 enthusiastically participated in the "Dahi Handi" event.

A significant highlight was the respect and homage paid by students from Class 9 to 12 to their teachers, commemorating Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan's birth anniversary. The Chief Guest, Sunil Kumar

Pandey, Principal of the Indian Public School, along with Administrative Incharge Birendra Kumar Rajput and special guest P.L. Baya, Headmaster, graced the occasion.

The program featured an array of performances, including Saraswati Vandana by Ekta Patel, a captivating welcome dance by Megha and her team, a mesmerizing

Adivasi dance by Kask and team, and inspiring speeches by Ishika Rajput and Shrayani, emphasizing the pivotal role teachers play in shaping young minds.

In a touching gesture, teachers, including Devendra Sahu, Lunakaran Yadav, Renuka Sahu, Anuradha Sonawane, Jamuna Sahu, Jitendra Chandravanshi, Venuka Nirmalkar, Komal Sen, Guruvindar, Kanta Sen, Lakhna Sahu, Rashmi Devangan, Lakshmi Rajput, and many others, were honored with tilak and thoughtful gifts.

The event was expertly conducted by Harsh Sahu, creating a day filled with devotion, camaraderie, and appreciation within the Indian Public School community.

Aditi Baghmar celebrates Adivasi heritage and contributions

World Adivasi Day shines a spotlight on cultural pride

Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Sep 10: A vibrant celebration of World Adivasi Day unfolded in Gram Bemetra, with Aditi Baghmar, a member of the District Panchayat, gracing the occasion as the chief guest. In a heartwarming address, Baghmar underscored the need to not only observe this day but also to remain vigilant and informed about the rights and unique culture of the Adivasi community.

Adivasi Day holds immense significance as it provides a platform to honour the diverse cultures, languages, traditions, and social contributions of the Adivasi community to our state, nation, and the glob-



al stage.

Baghmar lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to appoint Dropadi Murmu, a representative from a rural Adivasi region, as the President of India. This choice reflects the positive and empathetic approach

of our Prime Minister towards the Adivasi society.

Highlighting the Adivasi community's progress across various sectors, Baghmar stressed the importance of active participation in education, health, sports, politics, and social initiatives to ensure

a brighter future for the community.

She acknowledged the pivotal role of the Adivasi community in preserving our natural heritage, attributing the continued existence of our natural treasures to their contributions.

Baghmar extended her heartfelt wishes for a prosperous future for the entire Adivasi community, emphasizing the vital principle of equality in society.

The event witnessed the presence of prominent members of the Adivasi community and local residents, uniting in solidarity to celebrate the rich heritage and invaluable contributions of the Adivasi society.

Chirmiri hosts empowering legislative assembly-level resolve camp

AAP picks farmer leader Tejaram Vidrohi as Rajim VS candidate

Congress leaders unite to rally for upcoming state elections



Central Chronicle News

Chirmiri, Sep 10: Chirmiri played host to a dynamic Legislative Assembly-level Resolve Camp at the Dornahil Football Ground, where political leaders came together to invigorate their party's vision and commitment.

Esteemed guests, including Kumari Sailja, Chief

Secretary of AICC, T.S. Singh Deo, Deputy Chief Minister, Deepak Baij, President of PCC, Dr. Charandas Mahant, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Mohan Markam, Minister in Charge, Rajesh Tiwari, Secretary of AICC, and Jyotsna Mahant, Member of Parliament from Korba Lok Sabha Constituency, graced the event with

their presence.

Though some designated guests were unable to attend due to weather-related issues, the one-day camp kicked off successfully with Gulab Kamro, BharatpurSonhat MLA, leading the way as the chief guest.

Dr. Vinay Jaiswal, Manendragarh MLA, took the stage during the event, expressing his unwaver-

ing commitment to the Congress party's policies for the forthcoming Legislative Assembly elections. He rallied the dedicated party workers, igniting their passion and determination.

With an array of compelling speeches from various speakers, this camp aimed to fortify the resolve of party members, motivating them to work tire-

lessly for the Congress party's victory in the upcoming Chhattisgarh state elections.

Congress District President Ashok Shrivastava, along with elected representatives from Chirmiri, Nagarpalika Nigam, and other local bodies, were active participants, contributing to the camp's success.

● **Delight and high hopes among party workers**

Central Chronicle News

Fingeshwar, Sep 10: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has set the stage for a significant development in the Rajim Vidhan Sabha constituency by nominating Tejaram Sahu, renowned as "Vidrohi," a prominent farmer leader with a robust record of advocating for farmers' rights and addressing agricultural concerns over the past 5-7 years in the Rajim Vidhan Sabha region. Hailing from the village of Beltukri in the Fingeshwar development block, TejaramVidrohi's nomination has generated excitement and anticipation among party workers and the local electorate.

TejaramVidrohi's active participation in last year's largest



and longest protests in Delhi, coupled with his tireless work alongside the region's farmers, has solidified his deep-rooted connections with local farming communities. His dedication and commitment to addressing their issues and struggles have earned him respect and recognition.

In a testament to his growing influence and commitment to change, TejaramVidrohi, along with approximately 200 fellow activists, enthusiastically joined the Aam Aadmi Party

in Rajim just last month. Under his leadership, a "Badlav Padayatra" journeyed from Fingeshwar to Gariaband in recent days, drawing the participation of hundreds of AAP supporters and featuring 8-10 Matador four-wheel vehicles.

Tejaram's entry into politics as the AAP candidate for Rajim Vidhan Sabha comes as no surprise, given the party's recent surge in activities and his active involvement in the constituency. This nomination is expected to create a triangular contest in the upcoming elections, adding a compelling dimension, especially concerning caste dynamics in the region.

TejaramVidrohi's political foray has ignited excitement and high hopes among the local electorate, who are eager to see his farmer-centric perspective and commitment to change make a lasting impact on the political landscape.

Coco Gauff wins US Open for her first Grand Slam title

New York, Sep 10 (AP):

Coco Gauff is still a teenager, after all, and so it should surprise no one that she was on her phone in the locker room, scrolling through social media, right up until 10 minutes before heading out on court for the U.S. Open final. What the 19-year-old from Florida was reading, she would say later, were various comments, negative ones, "saying I wasn't going to win today; that just put the fire in me."

As a pro athlete from a young age, as someone of whom greatness has been expected by some and doubted by others, Gauff has always taken it all in and kept moving forward, trying to learn from each setback. And now, at a tournament she used to visit as a kid to see her idols, Serena and Venus Williams, Gauff is a Grand Slam champion herself and a certified star. Setting aside a so-so start Saturday, Gauff surged to a 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 victory over the soon-to-be No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka in



the final at Arthur Ashe Stadium, delighting a raucous crowd that backed her from start to finish.

When Gauff walked into her news conference

phone in hand, of course she noticed that a large screen on the back wall was rotating pictures of her from the match. So she tucked her new silver trophy under one arm and used the other hand to snap a selfie with those photos in the background.

"Right now I'm just feeling happiness and a very, very small bit of relief," she explained. "Because honestly, at this point, I was doing it for myself and not for other people."

Gauff, who is from Florida, is the first American teenager to win the country's major tennis tournament since Serena Williams in 1999. If last year's U.S. Open was all about saying goodbye to Williams as she competed for the final time, this year's two weeks in New York turned into a "Welcome to the big time!" moment for Gauff. Famous people were coming to watch her play, including former President Barack Obama, who was among those sending congratulatory wishes on Saturday.

India's Kiran George wins Indonesia Masters to grab second super 100 title

Medan (Indonesia), Sep 10 (PTI):

Rising Indian shuttler Kiran George claimed his second BWF World Tour super 100 title, lifting the Indonesia Masters trophy with a hard-fought straight game win over Japan's Koo Takahashi in men's singles final here on Sunday.

The 23-year-old from Kochi, who had won his maiden title at Odisha Open last year, beat the world No 82 Takahashi 21-19, 22-20 in a 56-minute battle. "It is an excellent win, it is about converting these chances and consistently playing well. Other players are young and equally good, so I'm quite pleased with him," Vimal Kumar, the director of Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy (PPBA) and former chief national coach, told PTI.

"Now it is about not to relax but continue his preparation as he is travelling to Hong Kong. He has nothing to lose, so he should look to create upsets."

Kiran, who trains at PPBA in Bangalore, fell 1-4 behind at the start of the match but slowly caught up with Takahashi at 8-8 be-



fore gaining a two-point lead at the interval. A tight fight ensued before the Indian jumped to an 18-15 lead. Takahashi slowly reduced the deficit to 19-20 before the Indian sealed the opening game.

After the change of sides, the duo once again engaged in a close battle, moving together till 6-6 when Kiran slowly managed to move away 16-11. Takahashi, however, kept breathing down his neck and managed to

draw parity at 19-19. But Kiran kept his nerves to convert his second game point after squandering the first. On way to the final, the world No 50 Kiran defeated veteran Tommy Sugiarto 23-21, 16-21, 21-8, while getting the better of Thailand's Panitchaphon Teeraratsakul, Japan's Takuma Obayashi, Singapore's Jia Wei Joel Koh and Chinese Taipei's Huang Yu Kai in the earlier rounds.

India lose 0-1 to Lebanon in King's Cup third-place game



Chiang Mai, Sep 10 (PTI):

Centre-back A Kassem El Zein's late strike off a bicycle kick guided Lebanon to a 1-0 win over India in the third-place match of the King's Cup football tournament here on Sunday.

After a goalless first half, El Zein scored in the 77th minute to help his team finish third and win the bronze medal in the tournament.

After an excellent save by India goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu off a header, the rebound

fell on the path of Al Zein, who found the back of the net to give Lebanon the lead.

India were robbed of victory following a debatable penalty in the semifinal against Iraq, which they lost 4-5 in the penalty shootout.

Manju Rani punches her way to gold

In Mustafa Hajrulahovic Memorial Tournament

New Delhi, Sep 10 (PTI):

Manju Rani outpunched Afghanistan's Sadia Bromand 3-0 in the final as India finished with nine gold and a silver medal in the 21st Mustafa Hajrulahovic Memorial Tournament in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina on Sunday. The Indian boxer's skills in the ring also earned her the title of the 'Best Woman Boxer'.

In men's 51kg category, Barun Singh Shagolsheem defeated Poland's Jakub Slominsk 3-0, while in the men's 57kg category, Akash Kumar fought valiantly but narrowly went down in the final to Sweden's Hadi Hadrous 1-2. In the men's 63kg category, Manish Kaushik dominated his bout, triumphing over Palestinian Mohammed



Soud 3-0. India's dominance continued in the men's 92kg category, where Naveen Kumar emerged victorious in a nail-biting encounter, edging out Mateusz Bereznicki of Poland with a 2-1 scoreline. Jyoti, Shashi, Jigyasa, Vinakshi and Satish Kumar were also declared winners after their opponents did not play the finals.

Biggest challenge was to get rid of that fear and pain aspect of things: KL Rahul

Colombo, Sep 10 (PTI):

Overcoming the mental barrier was the biggest challenge India wicket-keeper KL Rahul faced while rehabilitating after suffering a serious quadriceps injury that laid him low for nearly four months.

Rahul had suffered the debilitating injury during the IPL, which later necessitated surgery in London.

The 31-year-old underwent rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru to get fit for the Asia Cup. But a "niggle" resulted in him missing the first two group matches of the tournament in Sri Lanka.

However, he was assessed again on September 4 and cleared to join Team India in Kandy for the continental tournament. He also figures in the provisional squad for the World Cup in India.

"A lot of times, it's also



like you fight a big mental battle where you're always thinking at the back of your head that, okay, I might feel pain. And when you are in that mindset, you can't really start focusing on skills," said Rahul in a video posted by BCCI on Sunday. "So, the biggest challenge was to get rid of that fear and get rid of that pain aspect of things."

He added that wicket-keeping requires a lot of strength in the quads and the biggest "question mark" in his mind while rehabilitating was how he

would convince himself to don the role again after such a big surgery.

"The big thing was to feel confident in my own body and be pain free in movements that require a lot of intensity. Especially, I knew coming back, I'll have to keep wicket as well."

"And that was one of the big concerns for physios and me, a big question mark in my head that the biggest challenge for me coming back will be wicket-keeping because of the quadriceps injury.

Indian archer Prathamesh Jawkar signs off with silver at World Cup final



Hermosillo, Sep 10 (PTI):

Indian compound archer Prathamesh Jawkar's dream run in his maiden 'World Cup Final' ended with a silver medal after he lost to Denmark's Mathias Fullerton by the narrowest of margins in an intense shoot-off finish.

Shanghai World Cup winner Jawkar, who stunned the world No 1 and reigning champion Mike Schloesser for a second time in four months to storm into the final, lost 148-148 (10-10*) to Fullerton, who was adjudged the winner by virtue of his arrow being closer to the centre.

The Denmark archer took an early lead after the Indian 20-year-old dropped one point in the opening round of their final clash,

here late on Saturday. Trailing 89-90 at the midway mark, Jawkar brought the final on an even keel when he shot 30 points out of a possible 30 to make it 119-all going into the last round. But in the designated final end, both the archers shot identical scores of 29 each to take it to shoot-off. The tiebreaker also saw a stalemate as the Indian missed Fullerton's arrow by narrowest of margins. In the semifinal, the Maharashtra archer dished out a flawless shooting of 150 out of a possible 150 points to pip Schloesser by one point (150-149).

The win also denied the Dutchman a hat-trick of World Cup Final titles. Schloesser is a winner of four 'World Cup Final' (2016, 2019, 2021 and 2022).

Campana scores twice as Inter Miami beats Sporting KC

Fort Lauderdale, Sep 10 (AP):

With Lionel Messi out of the lineup to play in a pair of World Cup qualifiers for reigning champion Argentina, Inter Miami got two goals from Leonardo Campana to beat Sporting Kansas City 3-2 on Saturday night.

Facundo Farias added the third goal for Miami (8-14-4), which remains 14th in the Eastern Conference table.

The match was a test for Miami, which is 11-0-1 in cup and MLS matches since Messi's arrival with the club. He already has 11 goals and eight assists with



the team. Miami was winless in 11 straight before Messi's debut on July 21. "Like I said (Friday), Leo's absence was going to be felt," Campana said in Spanish. "But he has in-

stilled so much confidence among the players. We believe now and know what we are capable of. Very happy with the result and the three points." Messi scored the winning goal in

Germany routed 4-1 by Japan in friendly

Wolfsburg, Sep 10 (AP):

Germany was jeered by its home crowd Saturday after slumping to a 4-1 loss to Japan to pile yet more pressure on coach Hansi Flick, nine months out from hosting the European Championship.

The German defence allowed Japan a string of chances on the counter and the result highlights the lack of progress since a 2-1 loss to Japan played a key role in Germany going out of last year's World Cup in the group stage. Flick's team has not won any of its last five games and conceded 13



goals in that time. "At some point, expectations and reality are so far apart that you have to accept that currently you aren't good enough," Germany captain Ilkay G nodan told broadcaster RTL. "Perhaps we also think that we are better than we really are." Flick said he believes he is still the right coach for Germany and he was supported by G nodan, who said he still trusts him. Another challenge comes Tuesday with a friendly against World Cup runner-up France.

Japan targeted Germany left-back Nico Schlotterbeck from the off. A low cross in the 12th minute allowed Junya Ito to score with a shot that appeared to take a deflection off Antonio R diger.

Warner and Labuschagne hundreds set up another big Australia ODI win

Bloemfontein, Sep 10 (AP):

Quick-fire centuries by David Warner and Marnus Labuschagne set up yet another big win by Australia against South Africa and a 2-0 lead in their one-day international series on Saturday.

Australia racked up 392-8, its third highest ODI total, and bowled out South Africa for 269 with 8.1 overs to spare.

The Australians won by 123 runs, after a three-wicket win on Thursday, and it follows a sweep of the Twenty20 series.

They can also clinch this series on Tuesday on the same ground.

Travis Head took a liking to Marco Jansen and Kagiso Rabada in the power play, in which Australia reached 102 without loss.

Head hit 64 off 36 balls before falling to Tabraiz Shamsi, who also got Mitch Marsh on review.

The baton was picked up by Warner, who got to his fifty off 52 balls. Warner took only 33 more balls to get his hundred, his fifth against South Africa, tying Sachin Tendulkar in ODIs against South Africa.



Labuschagne came in as part of the lineup, not as a concussion substitute as he was in his match-winning turn on Thursday. He went after spinners Aiden Markram and Shamsi. His first fifty took 54 balls but the second only 26. His two ODI hundreds have both been against South Africa.

He and Warner combined for 151, which ended when Warner tried to pull and was bowled by Andile Phehlukwayo, who was playing his first ODI since October.

G20 leaders pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat

● Sign on 'peace wall'

New Delhi, Sep 10 (PTI):

G20 leaders, including US President Joe Biden, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at his memorial Rajghat here on Sunday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the leaders at rain-drenched Rajghat.

He welcomed the dignitaries with an 'angvas-tram' or stole having in the background an image of Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram in Gujarat, which was his home from 1917 to 1930 and served as one of the main centres of India's



PM Modi, US President Joe Biden, Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Indonesian President Joko Widodo pay homage at Mahatma Gandhi's memorial Rajghat on the final day of the G20 Summit, in New Delhi, Sunday.

freedom struggle.

Modi was seen explaining to the leaders the significance of the ashram.

The G20 leaders paid tributes to Gandhi by laying wreaths together at his samadhi.

While some leaders, including Modi and Sunak, walked barefoot, others were seen wearing white

footwear provided to the visitors at Rajghat.

Later, Modi said in a post on X that at the iconic Rajghat, the G20 family paid homage to Gandhi — the beacon of peace, service, compassion and non-violence. "As diverse nations converge, Gandhi ji's timeless ideals guide our col-

lective vision for a harmonious, inclusive and prosperous global future," he wrote. Modi shared a video on X in which the leaders were seen signing on 'peace wall' at the 'Leaders Lounge'. "The ideals of Mahatma Gandhi reverberate globally," he wrote.

British PM Sunak, wife spent 45 minutes at Akshardham temple

● Enquired about its architecture and history

New Delhi, Sep 10 (PTI):

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his wife Akshata Murthy spent 45 minutes at the Akshardham Temple here on Sunday morning, offering prayers and learning about its architecture and history, according to temple management officials.

They reached the temple dedicated to Swaminarayan, believed to be an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, early morning and walked barefoot from the reception area to the main temple complex — a distance of about 150 metres. Sunak, who was dressed in a crisp white shirt and navy blue trousers, and his wife, who paired a beige kurta with a bright pink dupatta and loose pants, were accorded a traditional welcome at the temple. Sunak and his



UK PM Rishi Sunak with wife Akshata Murthy offers prayers at the Akshardham Temple in New Delhi, Sunday morning.

wife spent about 45 minutes at the Akshardham temple and offered prayers. They were gifted a marble elephant and a marble peacock besides a special replica of Akshardham, a senior temple management official told PTI.

"It rained but Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his wife graciously offered

prayers at our temple and it is a matter of great honour for us to have hosted them at this revered temple," he said.

A trustee of the BAPS Swaminarayan Trust, UK and a volunteer from the Neasden temple in London accompanied Sunak and his wife during their visit, said another temple management official who was

part of the reception team. "Prime Minister Sunak and his wife Akshata Murthy walked barefoot in the temple premises even in rainy weather. From the reception area to the main temple complex, there is a distance of about 150 metres and both of them walked barefoot back and forth," the official told PTI.

They first offered flower petals (pushparpan) to the golden idol of Swaminarayan ji and then offered 'aarti', he said. "They also offered flower petals to idols of Sita-Ram, Radha-Krishna, Laxmi Narayana and Shiva-Parvati in the temple complex. The UK PM enquired about the architecture of the temple and its history," the official said. He also saw some of the sanctified items that belonged to Swaminarayan ji, such as shoes and a garland, the official added. After the visit, Sunak joined the G20 leaders to pay tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at his memorial Rajghat.

World leaders experience India's rich musical heritage

New Delhi, Sep 10 (PTI):

An ensemble of musicians, some of whom played sursingar, mohan veena, dilruba and other rare instruments, regaled G20 world leaders during the ceremonial dinner hosted for them by President Droupadi Murmu. The gala dinner was hosted at the Bharat Mandapam on day one of the G20 Summit, which will end on Sunday.

Top world leaders, including US President Joe Biden, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Brazil

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Italy Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and several others, have gathered here for the G20 Summit.

Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the guests, before the start of the dinner, on a dais with its backdrop depicting the ruins of the ancient Nalanda University — a UNESCO World Heritage Site — in Bihar. On one side of the backdrop carrying a striking image of the monument, the logo of G20 was

depicted. In contrast, the other side carried the theme of the grouping under India's presidency — "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - One Earth, One Family, One Future".

India's culinary heritage in all its diversity was served on the platter to the world leaders, officials said, adding millet-based dishes were also on the specially-curated menu. Sources said sweets of varied kinds were offered, including 'ghewar', the traditional dish consumed during the monsoon season in India.

'Geopolitical issues should not hijack G20 discussions'

New Delhi, Sep 10 (PTI):

Geopolitical issues should not hijack the discussions at G20, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said on Sunday after assuming the presidency of the bloc of emerging and developed economies.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the G20 Summit here, Lula said the bloc was not interested in a "divided G20" and the challenges of the day could be faced only through joint action.

"We need peace and co-



Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva

operation instead of conflict," he said soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over the G20 presidency to him. The next summit will be held in Rio de Janeiro in

November 2024. "The path that will take us from New Delhi to Rio de Janeiro will require lot of dedication and commitment from everyone," Lula said. He said the Brazilian presidency will hold G20 meetings in cities in each of the five regions of the South American country.

The G20 bloc was divided on the war in Ukraine and a consensus on the New Delhi Declaration could be reached only after diluting the references to the conflict. The G20 declaration stopped short of criticising Russia and only

denounced the use of force for territorial gain.

Outlining his priorities for the Brazilian presidency, Lula said it would be his endeavour to make the political and financial tracks work in a coordinated and integrated manner. "There is no point in agreeing on the best public policy if there are no resources allocated for its implementation," he said. Lula said he would also ensure that the civil society engagement groups get an opportunity to report recommendations

and conclusions to the government directly.

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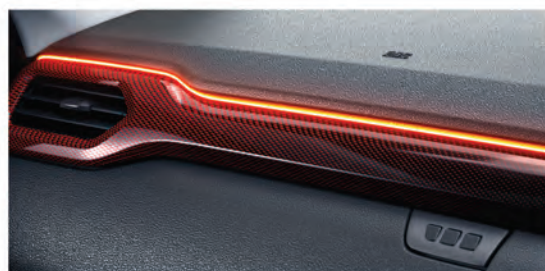
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