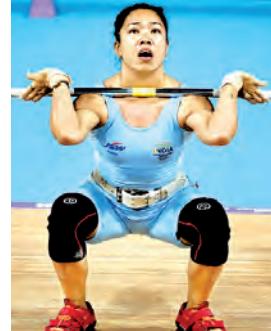




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CENTRAL Chronicle



PAGE 11

Raipur, Friday, September 15, 2023 | Pages 12 | Price ₹ 3.00 | City Edition | Fastest growing English Daily of Chhattisgarh

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'Beware of 'INDIA' as it wants to erase Bharat'

Raigarh, Sep 14:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched a scathing attack on the newly formed opposition front 'INDIA', saying it wants to destroy Sanatan Dharma and erase Bharat as well as its culture of thousands of years as he asked people to remain vigilant from them.

Addressing a 'Vijay Sankhna' rally at Kondatarai village in Raigarh district of poll-bound Chhattisgarh, Modi also targeted the Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress government in the state, saying it lagged behind in welfare of the poor, but was ahead in corruption.

"I want to make you aware about a conspiracy that is being hatched against our faith and the country. Those whom you kept away from the power for the last nine years (at the Centre) and those who are continuously losing elections are now filled with so much hatred against you that they are now targeting your identity and your culture," he said.

Referring to the national-level bloc of anti-BJP parties, the PM, said

these people have come together and have formed an 'Indi' alliance. This 'ghamandia' (arrogant) grouping of opposition parties wants to destroy Sanatan Dharma, he said



State Govt lag in welfare but ahead in corruption'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the Congress government in Chhattisgarh indulged in corruption in cow dung procurement scheme. Addressing a rally in Raigarh, Modi also targeted the Bhupesh Baghel-led government in Chhattisgarh, saying it lagged in welfare of the poor but was ahead in corruption. "There was a time when Chhattisgarh was known only for Naxalite attacks and violence. After the efforts of the BJP government, today Chhattisgarh is being recognised because of the development work done here," Modi said. The Congress government in the state is not engaged in development work but indulges only in empty talk and claims, he said. "Today, world's major institutions are talking about learning from India's success," Modi said. "There is a festive atmosphere in the entire country these days," Modi said, referring to the Chandrayaan mission and G20 Summit. During G20 summit, world leaders were impressed with India's efforts for development and welfare of poor, he said. "Many leaders, who visited India for the G20 Summit, were left impressed by development in India. Every state and region in the state is getting equal importance in development," Modi said. "Chhattisgarh is like the power-house for development in the country. In the last 9 years, we worked for the multidimensional development of Chhattisgarh. Today, a new chapter is being written in the development of railways in the state," he said.

in a sharp attack on the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), which was formed in June this year to take on the BJP-led NDA in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

"In greed for power, these people now want to break the culture which has existed in India for thousands of years. Sanatan culture is the one in which Lord Ram calls Shabari as his mother and enjoys eating her half-eaten ber (jute ber)," said Modi, the BJP's star campaigner. The PM said the age-old Sanatan culture is based on a person's karma (action) and not birth. "Sanatan culture is the one wherein Ram considers forest dwellers and Nishad Raj greater than his brother. Sanatan culture is the one where Ram embraces the boatman rowing the boat. Sanatan culture is one which gives priority not to birth, but to a person's karma (action)," he said.

The PM's comments came in the wake of Tamil Nadu minister Udhayanidhi Stalin's controversial statement comparing Sanatan Dharma with diseases like malaria and dengue, and calling for its "eradication".

BANK FRAUD CASE

Naresh Goyal sent to 14-day judicial custody

Mumbai: A special PMLA court here on Thursday remanded Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal in 14-day judicial custody in a money laundering case linked to an alleged fraud of Rs 538 crore at the Canara Bank. The court accepted Goyal's request to send him to the Arthur Road jail in South Mumbai.

Shri Ganesh Walkathon 2023 Season - 12

Presents

24th September 2023

6:00 am

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Now, only birth certificate enough to get many services

New Delhi, Sep 14 (PTI):

Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023 (20 of 2023), the central government hereby appoints the 1st day of October, 2023, as the date on which the provisions of the said Act shall come into force," according to a notification issued by Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, Registrar General and Census Commissioner.

Private Jet crashes at Mumbai airport

■ Eight injured

Mumbai, Sep 14 (PTI):

A small aircraft veered off the runway while landing at the Mumbai airport on Thursday amid heavy rains and all the eight people, who were onboard, have been hospitalised with injuries, according to officials. Following the incident at little past 1700 hours, both runways at the airport were shut for a brief period, and one of the runways resumed operations at around 1847 hours, the officials said. The Learjet 45 aircraft VT-



DBL belonging to VSR Ventures, was coming from Vishakhapatnam and skidded off the runway while landing at the Mumbai airport, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said in a statement.

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निःशुल्क सिलाई/कढ़ाई का प्रशिक्षण
प्रशिक्षण के बाद मिलती है निःशुल्क
सिलाई मशीन

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छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार
भरोसे की सरकार

Teeja-Pora Tihar celebrated with great pomp and fervour at CM House

Baghel actively participated in the rituals and the festivities



- Tijarin mothers and sisters were overjoyed to have Chief Minister serve them 'Karuhaat' and perform rituals for them
- Women enjoyed Raichuli swing, traditional games and dancing to the folk tunes

Raipur, Sep 14:

Grand celebration of Teeja Pora Tihar was organized at CM House today. On the invitation of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, thousands of women arrived at CM House dressed in traditional attires to celebrate Teeja-Pora.

On this occasion, Chief Minister's residence was decorated in traditional Chhattisgarhia style. Various rituals of Teeja-Pora Tihar from serving 'Karu Bhaat' to 'Bidaai' (farewell ceremony) were performed for the Tijarin sisters at the Chief Minister's residence.



A magnificent example of Mahadev was made for the sisters to perform customary rituals.

CM Baghel enjoyed Raichuli swing with his family

A group of Chhattisgarh folk artists staged a unique performance with Chhattisgarhi songs and music. Women enjoyed dancing to the

songs like 'Tija Pora Ke Tihar Bahini Neek Laage Mor and Gada Gada Johar...'. Raichuli swing was also put up near the main gate, which the women enjoyed immensely.

Chief Minister Mr. Baghel also enjoyed the Raichuli swing with his family. Mothers and sisters were excited to take selfies with the Chief Minister.

CM's residence decorated in traditional Ch'garhia style

Chief Minister's residence was decorated in a traditional manner for the Teeja-Pora Tihar program. Symbols of Chhattisgarhi rural cul-

ture and life as well as Teeja-Pora festival were significant aspects of the theme of the decoration. The main gate was decorated with traditional Nandiya Bala of Pora festival. The gallery was given an attractive look with colorful fringes. The walls were decorated with panoramic paintings related to rural culture. Chhattisgarhi traditional jewelry was also displayed here.

Women enjoyed applying mehendi on their hands and mahur on their feet

To further add to the joy and festivities, special arrangement of mehendi, mahur and makeup were made at the Chief Minister's residence for the Tijarin mothers and sisters.

The thought behind these grand arrangements was to give homely feel of 'Mayka' to these women on this occasion of Teeja-Pora Tihar. Women were overjoyed by the pampering offered to them at CM House today.

RBI organises panel discussion on Digital Banking



Raipur, Sep 14:

The 4th Framework Working Group meeting under India's Presidency of G-20 has been scheduled on September 18-19 in Raipur. National and international partners will also be participating in this meeting. The Reserve Bank of India is co-hosting the finance track in these meetings. In this context, Reserve Bank of India is organizing Jan Bhagidari Events from September 12-16, 2023 at Raipur.

Under the second Jan Bhagidari event, a panel discussion on Digital Banking as an enabler to Financial Inclusion was organized at IIM Raipur on September 13, 2023.

Vishal Saxena, Deputy General Manager, SBI, Ajay Kumar Sharma, HDFC Executive Vice President, Abhay Parekh, Product head, AEPS, Aadhar etc., National Payments Corporation of India Satyasa Das, Pro IIM, Raipur were the panellists.

A quiz on Financial literacy was also conducted wherein students from IIM Raipur, NIT, Raipur, HNLU, IIIT and Pt DeenDayal Upadhyay university were participated. The winners of the quiz were given prizes by Mohan Rawat, DGM, FIDD, Raipur present in the programme. i PSS Vidyasagar, Director, International Department, RBI was also present at the event.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has conveyed his heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all engineers on the occasion of Engineer's Day. In his congratulatory message, he highlighted that Engineer's Day is celebrated on September 15 in commemoration of the birth-day of the great Indian engineer, Bharat Ratna Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya. With his extraordinary vision

and talent, he made incomparable contributions to the field of engineering in India. He is revered with immense honour as the modern-day Vishwakarma of India. Chief Minister emphasized the pivotal role that engineers play in the development of any nation and state.

He further added that Sir Visvesvaraya's unwavering dedication and commitment to his work serve as an inspirational example for all.

CM extends greetings on Engineer's Day

Raipur, Sep 14:

The competition promises to be fierce, with six teams competing in both the Men's and Women's categories.

In the Men's tournament, KCA, JSCA, MPC, ACA, and two teams from the host state, Chhattisgarh, will vie for supremacy. On the Women's side, Goa, Vidarbha, Odisha, Chandigarh, and two teams representing the host state will showcase their talent.

Regarding the prize money, the Organizers informed that Men's category winner would get cash award of Rs 3 lakh whereas the Women's category winner would fetch cash reward of Rs 2 lakh.

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In a bid to provide more

local cricketers with the opportunity to shine on a bigger stage, two teams each representing Chhattisgarh - CSCS Blue and CSCS Red - will be actively participating in these tournaments, as shared by CSCS spokesperson.

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The grand finale of the Women's T20 would be played on September 25 and the Men's final on October 8.

Ch'garh Cup T-20 Cricket tournament from Sept 17

Six teams from five states to participate in the event

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Sept 14: The Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh (CSCS) will be organizing Chhattisgarh Cup T20 tournament at the Naya Raipur-based Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium for Women from September 17 and for Men from September 29 respectively. Addressing a press conference here on Thursday afternoon, the CSCS President Jubin Shah and other office-bearers said that six teams from five states including Chhattisgarh would be participating in the above tournament with the objective to start preparations for the upcoming Syed Mushtaq Ali T20

Tournament and other domestic competitions on the horizon. Shah further informed that teams representing states such as Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Vidarbha, Kerala, Goa, and Chandigarh will descend upon Naya Raipur to participate in this eagerly awaited cricket extravaganza. Launching the trophies for the mega tournament, the CSCS President Shah expressed his enthusiasm and noted that this platform would help Chhattisgarh's cricketing talents prepare for the up-

coming competitive tournaments. ITW would be the Commercial partner for the above tournament whereas Fancode is the Sponsor and it would be live on the above digital platform whereas Sports Eye and Dafa News too are among the sponsors for the above tournament.

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In a bid to provide more

CM inaugurates newly constructed bridge on River Kharun

Baghel attends Pola Utsav in Mahuda



Bhilai, Sep 14:

There has been a demand for construction of a bridge on Kharun River by the regional people for years. With the construction of the bridge, a population of approximately 50000 of 24 villages of the area will be benefited.

The much awaited demand of the people has been fulfilled by the construction of the bridge. Besides, a direct transportation facility has been

come available from the Durg district headquarters of the capital Raipur.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel visited Baba Kutir Hanuman Temple on the banks of Kharun River in village Ufra. He offered prayers to Lord Hanuman and prayed for the happiness and prosperity of the people of the state. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel participated in the Pola

Mahotsav organized in village Mahuda. Addressing the Pola Mahotsav, Chief Minister Baghel congratulated the youth, elders and women of the village on Pora Tihar.

Before this, the Chief Minister worshipped the bulls and inaugurated the bull race. Local public representatives and a large number of people were present in the festival.

BSP observes 'Hindi Diwas' by inaugurating 'Rajbhasha Pakhwada'

Bhilai, Sep 14: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Rajbhasha Department observed the Hindi Diwas Programme on September 14, 2023. A Rajbhasha Pakhwada (Official Language Fortnight) was inaugurated virtually by Nisha Soni, Acting ED (P&A) at ED (P&A) Conference Hall, Ispat Bhawan, Bhilai. Sandeep Mathur, CGM (Personnel) was also present on this occasion, along with other senior officials. Various EDs, CGMs, Hindi Coordination Officers, personnel and Hindi lovers also participated in the programme virtually.

At the onset of the programme, Prashant Tiwari, GM (Public Relations) welcomed all the guests by offering Books, while Shailendra Dhoke, Sr Mgr (L&A) delivered the wel-



come address. Shamshad Raza, DGM (Geology) and Hindi Coordination Officer (Rajbhasha Mines) spoke about the Rajbhasha Pakhwada (Official Language Fortnight) and Hindi Diwas celebrations in Rajhara and other Mines areas.

Smita Jain, DGM (F&A) and Poetess, Manish Kumar Shukla, Sr Mgr (L&A) and Anil Kumar Aggarwal, Master Operative cum Technician

recited self-composed poems on Rajbhasha Hindi and Patriotism. Chief Guest Nisha Soni released poster themed on Rajbhasha Hindi Fortnight, along with a 'Hindi Diwas' commemorative E-greeting prepared by BSP's Public Relations Department.

Addressing the gathering Nisha Soni, Acting ED (P&A) congratulated everyone on Hindi Diwas and said that everyone's presence at this pro-

gramme proves that Bhilai Steel Plant is determined for the compliance of Hindi as its Official Language. The day is not far when our Plant will do the entire Official Correspondence in Hindi language only. Heartfelt gratitude to the poets who inspired us in today's programme. At present, continuous efforts are being made to promote Hindi even at the government level. Hindi was also used extensively in the G-20

International Summit held in Delhi this month, Soni said.

Various competitions will be organized under the Rajbhasha Pakhwada-2023 at the Plant and Mines level, including "Online Quiz" competition on September 16, "Essay Writing" competition on September 18, "Poetry Writing" competition on September 20, "See picture and write story" competition on September 21 and Eloquence competi-

tion on the topic "Meri Maati Mera Desh- Unnat Bharat ka Parivesh" on September 22, 2023.

All regular employees including those working in the mines areas of Bhilai Steel Plant will be eligible to participate in these competitions. Plant's Rajbhasha Department has appealed to all the employees to participate in these competitions in maximum numbers. The Valedictory Ceremony and Prize Distribution Ceremony will be organized on 29th September 2023.

The program was compered by Jitendra Das Manikpuri, Asst Mgr (L&A and Rajbhasha), while Manoj Soni, Jr Translator cum Coordinator (Rajbhasha) proposed the Vote of Thanks.

The audience understood the importance of simplicity in life and understood the way to reduce unnecessary stress in their lives by understanding the difference between needs and attachments. The welcome address of Swami Narasimhanand ji and Dr Omprakash Verma ji was given by OA President Narendra Kumar Banchhor and the vote of thanks to the guests and audience was given by OA General Secretary Parvinder Singh.

parents should groom the children without gender differentiation. The program was attended by the post graduate students of the college. The Administrator of the college, Dr Joshi Varghese ap-

preciated the efforts of the

organizers and always en-

CBI Court awards jail terms to AICTE officials and educationists

Bhilai, Sep 14:

A Special CBI Court in Raipur awarded jail terms to two officials of All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) and three educationists of Durg - Bhilai in a case of corruption which occurred in the year 2012.

The three educationists had bribed the AICTE officials to provide recognition to their colleges. Special Judge of CBI Court (Raipur), Mamta Patel convicted AICTE officials Pushya Mitra Mishra and Sanjay Soni as well as Durg - Bhilai based college owners / officials Praveen Vishwakarma, Sanjeev Khullar and Sushil Chandrakar (Secretary of Bharti College of Engineering and Technology) reached Hotel Avlon with gold coins and cash to bribe the AICTE Officials. Meanwhile, CBI received a tip off and conducted a raid at the hotel.

the month of May 2012. They were staying at Hotel Avlon in Durg during their visit. It was alleged that they demanded bribes from the owners of 12 colleges after discovering deficiencies in their institutes. The accused Praveen Vishwakarma of Shri Sai Polytechnic Durg; Sanjeev Khullar of Sai Shanti Shiksha samiti and Sushil Chandrakar (Secretary of Bharti College of Engineering and Technology) reached Hotel Avlon with gold coins and cash to bribe the AICTE Officials.

Meanwhile, CBI received a tip off and conducted a raid at the hotel. CBI sleuths recovered 12 gold coins and Rs 11.71 lakh cash from Sanjay Soni at the hotel. Later, Sanjay Soni, Praveen Vishwakarma, Sanjeev Khullar and Sushil Chandrakar were arrested

ed. After interrogation, Pushya Mitra Mishra was arrested from Bhopal.

After trial, the Special Court found the accused guilty and awarded different jail terms for different sections of PC Act under which the accused were tried. Pushya Mitra Mishra and Sanjay Soni were awarded rigorous jail term of three years and Rs 5000 fine under section 120 B of IPC; three years rigorous imprisonment and Rs 5000 fine under section 7 of PC Act and three years rigorous imprisonment and Rs 5000 fine under section 13 (1 and 13 (2) of PC Act. The jail terms would run concurrently.

Further, Praveen Vishwakarma, Sanjeev Khullar and Sushil Chandrakar were awarded rigorous jail terms of three years and Rs 5000 fine under section 12 of PC Act.

DSCET celebrates Teachers' Day



Bhilai, Sep 14:

on the topic "Meri Maati Mera Desh- Unnat Bharat ka Parivesh" on September 22, 2023.

All regular employees including those working in the mines areas of Bhilai Steel Plant will be eligible to participate in these competitions. Plant's Rajbhasha Department has appealed to all the employees to participate in these competitions in maximum numbers. The Valedictory Ceremony and Prize Distribution Ceremony will be organized on 29th September 2023.

The program was compered by Jitendra Das Manikpuri, Asst Mgr (L&A and Rajbhasha), while Manoj Soni, Jr Translator cum Coordinator (Rajbhasha) proposed the Vote of Thanks.

Director of the college, Jyoti Sharma was the chief guest. During the program, a colourful cultural presentation, guru vandana and competitions for teachers

were organized by the students of the college in honour of the teachers. The teachers were honoured by the students during this function.

The college management also honoured the teachers by presenting gifts for their excellent work. Director, Principal and all the teachers thanked the students for organising this programme.

Talk on 'Gender Sensitization' organised in St Thomas College



Zoology, Dr Jyoti Bakshi, Head Department of Botany and Dr Neetu Raj Panicker Asst Professor, attended the program. Dr Jayaasree Balasubramanian delivered the welcome address. Ayush Dubele of MSc I Semester proposed the vote of thanks. Saytym Bharadwaj, Tejaswi Sharwa and Naveen, student participants, expressed their views on the topic.

also present on the occasion, along with other senior officials and personnel of BRM.

BRM aims at 100% customer satisfaction by giving utmost priority to product quality. BRM's feat of substantially increased production was made possible by continuous monitoring and hard-work of the mill personnel and full cooperation of the concerned departments.

Products manufactured at BSP's BRM's are playing an important role in country's development and has been used at India's prestigious infrastructural projects like Central Vista, Bullet Train Project, Ram Mandir Ayodhya, Border Road Organization, Samir Pandey, and Shikhar Tiwary were

programme. An Engineer himself by qualification, Anirban Dasgupta will also be felicitated with the "Life Time Engineering Excellence Award" by the Institute of Engineers' on this occasion. The former Chairman and Secretary of IEI, Bhilai Local Centre, along with Engineering and Diploma College students who secured good ranks will also be felicitated by the Dignitaries at the Engineers' Day-2023 Programme organized by IEI, Bhilai Local Centre on September 15, 2023. The programme will be inaugurated by lighting of Ceremonial Lamp and paying Floral Tributes to Bharat Ratna M Visvesvaraya, followed by welcoming of guests.

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BSP's Bar & Rod Mill marks new Day Record

Bhilai, Sep 14:

SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Bar & Rod Mill has once again achieved a milestone by creating a new best ever day record in production.

The Mill that rolls out TMT Bars achieved a 'Day Record' in production on September 13, 2023 by rolling-out a record 3,303 Tonnes (1,598 billets) in the challenging profile of 12mm TMT Bars, by surpassing the previous best of 3,298 Tonnes (1,581 billets) achieved on December 31, 2022.

Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (Bhilai Steel Plant) along with Tapas Dasgupta, CGM I/c (Iron), Mukesh Gupta, CGM (BRM) and Plant's other Senior Officials reached the shop floor and congratulated BRM's

team on this achievement and motivated them to work with the same spirit to achieve all the goals of this year and create many more such records. Congratulating the entire mill fraternity on this achievement, HOD Mukesh Gupta, CGM (BRM) said that the feat of substantially increased production was

made possible by continuous monitoring and hard-work of the mill personnel and full cooperation of the concerned departments. The General Managers of BRM Department, including SK Behera, KK Thakur, S Tripathy, Ashish, Saswat Mohanty, Samir Pandey, and Shikhar Tiwary were

also present on the occasion, along with other senior officials and personnel of BRM.

The 56th "Engineers' Day-2023 Programme" will be jointly organized by the SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant in association with the Institution of Engineers' India (IEI), Local Centre Bhilai on September 15, 2023 at Engineers' Bhawan, Indira Place, New Civic Centre, in the evening. The theme of Engineers' Day 2023 is "Engineering Innovation for a More Resilient World". Dr Rajiv Prakash, Director (Indian Institute of Technology, Bhilai) will be the Chief Guest on this occasion, while Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (Bhilai Steel Plant) shall be the Special Guest and keynote speaker at the

programme. An Engineer himself by qualification, Anirban Dasgupta will also be felicitated with the "Life Time Engineering Excellence Award" by the Institute of Engineers' on this occasion. The former Chairman and Secretary of IEI, Bhilai Local Centre, along with Engineering and Diploma College students who secured good ranks will also be felicitated by the Dignitaries at the Engineers' Day-2023 Programme organized by IEI, Bhilai Local Centre on September 15, 2023. The programme will be inaugurated by lighting of Ceremonial Lamp and paying Floral Tributes to Bharat Ratna M Visvesvaraya, followed by welcoming of guests.

Chauhan Automobiles Maruti Suzuki Nexa Service Center inaugurated

Bhilai, Sep 14:

The first Nexa Service Center of Durg - Bhilai region was inaugurated during a glittering function at Chauhan Automobiles located on Durg - Rajnanda Bypass, near D-Mart, in Katubol, Bhilai on Thursday. On this occasion, Vijay Gupta, MD, BSBK Beekay Engineering Group, Ajay Chauhan, (MD, Chauhan Group), Kazim Baig (RSM, Nexa), Ravijit Singh (ASM - NEXA), Sonu Thakur (ASM - ARENA) were present.

This first service center of Nexa is equipped with all the modern facilities. Nexa genuine spare parts are available here. Also, all the technicians are completely proficient in their work, which ensures quality repair work. According to Suraj Chauhan, Director of Nexa Service Center, this service center has a comfortable customer lounge and fully equipped machines to provide better service satisfaction to the customers. Also, at Nexa Service Center the vehicle is serviced in minimum time. Sales, service and spares are available under one roof at Chauhan Automobiles Nexa Showroom.



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NTPC Ltd. pays final dividend of Rs 2,908.99 cr

For FY 2022-23

Korba, Sep 14:

NTPC Ltd., India's leading power generation company, has announced the payment of its Final Dividend for the financial year 2022-23. This Final Dividend payment of Rs 2908.99 crore constitutes 30.00% of the paid-up equity share capital of NTPC Ltd. The total dividend disbursed for FY 2022-23 stands at an impressive Rs. 7,030.08 crore, being 41% of the Profit after Tax (PAT) for the financial year.

This marks the 30th consecutive year in which the company has distributed dividends, underscoring its dedication to providing consistent returns to its investors. As a key player in the Indian energy sector, NTPC Ltd. continues to drive excellence, sustainable growth, and shareholder satisfaction through its strategic initiatives and robust financial performance.

Economic blockade of coal in Kusmunda successful

**Displaced people captured the mine and silo
SECL suffered a loss worth crores, tripartite talks will be held on 21st**

Korba, Sep 14:

The economic blockade of coal, which started from Tuesday morning on the call of All India Kisan Sabha affiliated Chhattisgarh Kisan Sabha, Rojgar Ekta Sangh and other organizations of land displaced people, lasted for about 36 hours till 4 pm today and was tremendously successful. After all the efforts to break the movement and intimidate the leaders failed, finally the SECL management had to bow down and agree to talks on all the demands of the agitators on Sept 21 with the mediation of the district administration. Due to this agitation, the wheels of more than 4000 trucks transporting



coal stopped and train loading was also affected due to closure of silos on the second day, because the agitators had captured the coal mines and silos. Due to this, SECL is likely to suffer a loss of hundreds of crores of rupees in these two days.

The land displaced people of Korba, Kusmunda, Gevra and Deepka areas of Korba district participated in the movement. Yesterday, thousands of people gathered in front of the Kusmunda General

Manager's office and took out a rally, held a big mass meeting and then systematically closed all three exits from the mine and the silos. To make the economic blockade successful, a campaign was being conducted through street meetings, pamphlet distribution, by rice-pulses collection, taking out torch procession and Adhikar Yatra in every village. This movement has been supported by the CPI(M) since the beginning and a large number of CPI(M)

workers also joined the movement.

It is noteworthy that the movement has been going on here for the last two years on the demands related to employment, rehabilitation, lease to the land displaced people occupying resettlement villages and return of unusable land to the original farmers. Under the pressure of the movement, SECL management has been giving assurances to the displaced people, but never implemented. This

has increased the anger of the villagers. After the initiative of Kisan Sabha, all small and big organizations of land displaced people in this area have united and called for an economic blockade.

On this call, thousands of villagers from 54 mining affected villages took to the streets and on the second day of the movement, silos (where coal is loaded for transportation in trains and taken to the siding) and 8 km long coal mine area was captured by the displaced people. Women also participated in this movement in large numbers along with their children and they spent the night on the streets. Due to this, SECL management's plan to transport coal at night also failed. After the intervention of the district administration in favour of the agitators, an agreement was reached for tripartite talks on 21 September and coal transportation could start after 36 hours.

In a joint statement, Chhattisgarh Kisan

Sabha and Bhoo-visthapit Rojgar Ekta Sangh have expressed gratitude to the workers, farmers, citizens, rural people and business class of the area for making the economic blockade of coal successful. They have said that if the management does not take the right stand on the question of employment and rehabilitation on September 21, then a fierce agitation will be launched again.

CPI (M) District Secretary Prashant Jha said that SECL management will not be allowed to earn profits at the cost of employment and rehabilitation, returning the unused acquired land to the original land owners and giving compensation and other benefits as per the new rehabilitation policy including land rights, to provide employment to displaced and unemployed people of mining affected villages on priority basis, to provide employment to rural women under self-employment scheme, to provide basic human facilities in rehabilitation villages etc.

Kanwar, Dev Kunwar Kanwar, Sanjay Yadav, Damodar Shyam, Resham Yadav, Raghu, Dinanath, Jai Kaushik, Sumendra Singh Thakral, Dev Patel, Jaipal Kanwar, Ajay Patel, Balram Yadav, Raju Yadav, Komal Khare, Bhir Singh, Santosh Rathore, Dilharan Das, Brijesh Sriwas led the movement.

The 11-point charter demand of the land dis-

placed includes providing unconditional permanent employment to all small and big account holders affected by land acquisition, returning the unused acquired land to the original land owners and giving compensation and other benefits as per the new rehabilitation policy including land rights, to provide employment to displaced and unemployed people of mining affected villages on priority basis, to provide employment to rural women under self-employment scheme, to provide basic human facilities in rehabilitation villages etc.

Kisan Sabha leaders Jawahar Singh Kanwar and Deepak Sahu, CPI(M) councilor Rajkumari Kanwar and leaders associated with land-displaced organizations Shivdayal Kanwar, Subhadra Kanwar, Basant Chauhan, Vijay

schools will get food in the morning.

DEO Rajendra Jha said that the children coming to study in the ashram here will have morning meal along with the children of the ashram, till now they have been getting only midday meal. In the National Education Policy, there is a proposal to provide free breakfast to children in government or aided schools along with mid-day meal. It is being said that this scheme will increase interest in eliminating malnutrition among children and attracting them towards schools.

Collector Ajit Vasant said that this scheme has been started in Narayanpur district with the aim of ensuring 100% attendance of children in schools and providing them nutritious food items.

To generate interest among children in going to school and also to deal with the problem of drop out, the administration has made arrangements for breakfast to 13 thousand 510 school children of the district before going to school in the morning. The plan will

cost approximately Rs 2.5

crores, the funds will be

arranged by Niti Aayog

and DMF, this will benefit

more than 14 thousand

children, the scheme has

also been started with the

meeting of Bastar Area

Tribal Development Authority on 11th

September.

According to the test,

different breakfast will be

provided on different

days. Poha will be given

for breakfast on Monday

and Thursday, children

will eat upma on Tuesday

and Friday. Apart from

this, porridge will be

available for breakfast on

Wednesday and pulses,

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CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 48 No. 340

Rethinking Sedition

Protecting Democracy's Core

The decision of the Supreme Court to subject Section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), commonly known as the sedition law, to rigorous examination by a bench comprising at least five judges is a welcome step. This move by the judiciary is especially significant given that the entire IPC is currently undergoing a comprehensive revision, and the government had expressed its desire to halt any review of this particular law for the time being. In 2022, the apex court had already taken a stance on the matter, ordering a suspension of the sedition law and instructing all agencies of the Union and state governments to refrain from initiating cases based on it. The court's rationale was crystal clear: the sedition law was out of sync with the prevailing social milieu and the democratic principles that underpin the Constitution. The sedition law, Section 124 A of the IPC, was a vestige of the colonial era, designed to protect and preserve the interests of a foreign government on Indian soil. It is an anachronism in a democratic republic where citizens hold the power to elect their own government. The very notion of criminalizing dissent against the government or the state goes against the essence of democracy. Despite the government's assertion that it is committed to legal reforms, there are concerns within the legal community about the direction of these reforms. A significant faction believes that the draft of the proposed Bharatiya Nyay Samhita (BNS), intended to replace the IPC, actually broadens the scope of the sedition law and intensifies its penalties. This raises questions about the government's true intentions regarding legal reform in line with contemporary societal norms. It is pertinent to note that the Law Commission's stance on the sedition law differs from that of the Supreme Court. The Commission, in contrast to the court's opinion, argues for the retention of the law, contending that its repeal could jeopardize national security and integrity. This argument seems to have influenced the drafting of the BNS, which significantly shifts the focus of the sedition law from offenses against the "government established by law in India" to acts against the "sovereignty or unity and integrity of India." This subtle shift in wording is not merely a semantic alteration but holds significant implications. It implies that individuals could potentially face sedition charges for criticizing the system within the country, not necessarily the government in power. The government may argue that it has receded as the complainant, replaced by the nation itself, and thus, actions against it are no longer prosecutable. However, given the historical misuse and misinterpretation of this law by government agencies, expanding its scope only exacerbates the threat it poses to citizens' freedom of expression. In line with the Law Commission's recommendations, the draft BNS maintains the possibility of life imprisonment but elevates the minimum punishment from three years to seven years, while eliminating the court's discretion to impose fines as an alternative penalty. It is crucial to reiterate that democratic constitutions place citizens at their core, not the state. Any law that criminalizes expressions of dissent against the government or the state subverts the fundamental tenets of democracy. Therefore, it is imperative for the Supreme Court to scrutinize the contours of the sedition law in all its forms and articulate its position. This will provide much-needed guidance to the government as it moves forward with its legal reforms. In a democracy, robust and open debate should be encouraged and protected, not stifled. The sedition law, in its current and potentially revised form, carries the risk of being used as a tool to suppress dissent and silence voices of criticism. It is the duty of the judiciary to ensure that the legal framework aligns with the principles upon which our democracy is built: liberty, equality, and the right to free expression. In this endeavor, the Supreme Court's vigilance is of paramount importance, as it safeguards the essence of our democracy and ensures that the citizenry remains at the heart of our constitutional framework.

Taming Inflation

Prudent Path Forward

Inflation, an ever-looming specter in the economic landscape, has been the subject of intense scrutiny in recent times. India, like many nations, has grappled with the unwelcome surge in retail inflation, which reached a 15-month high of 7.44 percent in July. However, August brought a modest respite, with the inflation rate easing to 6.83 percent. While this may appear as a glimmer of hope, the shadows of soaring food prices continue to cast a long and concerning shadow over our economy. The root cause of this persistent concern can be traced back to the capricious behaviour of Mother Nature. Over the past year, erratic weather conditions have wreaked havoc on the production of essential commodities such as vegetables, milk, and cereals. A weak monsoon has plagued several regions of our vast nation, exacerbating the agricultural woes. Simultaneously, the relentless surge in crude oil prices has exerted unrelenting pressure on food prices, making the average Indian household's grocery bill a cause for anxiety. In August, the specter of food inflation continued to haunt us, with an alarming rise of 9.94 percent. This disconcerting trend followed an 11.51 percent surge in July. The Indian consumer, already burdened with various challenges, finds their resilience tested as they grapple with the relentless ascent of food prices. In this disconcerting scenario, it's the middlemen who have, once again, seized the opportunity to reap profits while leaving both consumers and growers in a state of unease. Ironically, the skyrocketing prices of certain commodities have not translated into prosperity for the farmers who toil tirelessly to cultivate them. Consider the tomato crisis that gripped the nation in July and August. The prices of this humble vegetable soared to astronomical heights due to weather-induced crop damage. In some parts of northern India, tomatoes reached an astounding Rs 300 per kilogram, while in Maharashtra, they commanded a retail price of Rs 160. Yet, today, following a glut in supply, tomatoes are being sold for as low as Rs 2 per kilogram. The consequence of this erratic price behaviour is clear: it leaves our farmers vulnerable, trapped in a cycle of unpredictability where they often end up as net losers, regardless of whether prices surge or crash. Amidst this tumultuous economic landscape, the Reserve Bank of India Governor has voiced cautious optimism, suggesting that the spike in vegetable prices is likely to subside. However, prudence prevails as he advises the monetary policy committee to maintain vigilance over the evolving inflation situation. A prolonged pause in policy rates seems increasingly probable, as the authorities grapple with the intricate task of striking a balance between economic stability and growth. As the nation approaches crucial elections, it is evident that reigning in inflation has taken center stage on the government's agenda. In its pursuit of stability, the government has initiated a series of measures, including a ban on the export of non-basmati white rice and the imposition of a 40 percent tax on onion exports. These steps, while significant, represent just the tip of the iceberg in addressing the multifaceted challenge of inflation. It is essential to recognize that inflation is not solely a monetary phenomenon but often a reflection of deeper structural issues within our agricultural sector. The need of the hour is a comprehensive and holistic approach that addresses these root causes. This includes bolstering agricultural infrastructure, investing in irrigation, and promoting sustainable farming practices. Such measures would not only mitigate the impact of weather-related shocks but also ensure fair returns to our hardworking farmers. Furthermore, addressing the middlemen issue is paramount. Empowering farmers with direct access to markets and fair pricing mechanisms can alleviate their vulnerability to price fluctuations. Initiatives that promote farmer-producer organizations and enhance market linkages must be accelerated to create a more equitable food supply chain.

Engineers: The Backbone Of Any Nation



ER. PRABHAT KISHORE



In year 1968, Government of India has declared 15th September as "Engineers Day" as a tribute to the greatest Engineer Bharat RatnaMokshagundamVishveshwaraIyai. Born on 15th September 1860, Dr. VishveshwaraIyai went to become India's most prolific civil engineer, dam & bridge builder, economist, statesman and can be counted among the last century's foremost nation-builders. Nation as well as society recalls the engineering expertise by constructing stone bridge "Shri Ram Setu" across the ocean between present day Dhanushkodi in Rameshwaram (Bharat) & Mannar (Sri Lanka). The bridge, having approximately 30-35 Km length & 3 Km width, is the unique model of ancient engineering dexterity.

Engineers play a very important role in every walk of life. They are technically skilled professionals, who are responsible for solving problems through the use of machines, devices, systems, materials and processes. They convert knowledge of basic sciences into products. Their main focus is on making things work efficiently and effectively by applying the theories and principles of sciences and mathematics to research, and develop economic solutions to technical problems. The engineer differs from scientist by the nature of their training. While the scientists try to explore the natural world and discover new knowl-

edge about the universe and how it works, engineers apply that knowledge to solve real problems, often with an eye toward improving cost and efficiency.

Their works are the link between the perceived social needs and economic applications. They are the bridge between science and art. Engineers are the backbone of nation building and the purpose of engineering is to innovate, design, create and maintain products, system and equipment for the benefit and wellbeing of humans. They help improve living conditions for the common people. If a country fails to realize the role of engineers in her nation building and the engineers are leaving for better opportunities abroad, then the country will continue to experience collapsed buildings and bridges, substandard products, failed roads, communication failures, environmental hazards, epileptic power supply etc. Engineers contribute to the nation's technological & industrial progress. As nations in the world are undergoing reformation and the economy is getting more modernised, consumption patterns have expanded and demand is constantly on the increase. There is therefore a growing consciousness of quality control at every level of production.

The engineers have to realize their responsibility and play an effective role in tackling today's complex issues in the nation building. To build a nation is to make it habitable for the citizens by providing social amenities, infrastructural facilities, job creation and security and many more; the engineers therefore have a very important role to play. Thus, they are duty bound to design products, machineries and plants to manufacture these products, and systems to ensure quality and efficiency. They are to design,

plan and supervise construction of buildings, and ensure their safety and stability against hazards; design highways, bridges, railways and transit systems, dams, irrigation canals, power systems, ports, harbours as well as offshore structures.

Engineers should equally know that it is their duty to develop and implement improved ways to extract, process and use raw materials; develop new raw materials that can improve product performance and take advantage of advances in technology to harness the power of the sun, the gas, the earth, atoms and electricity to supply the nation's power needs; analyse the impact of the products they develop or systems they design on the environment and the people; design ways of managing the nation's waste, converting or recycling them to useful products. Parts of their functions also include determining the cause of component failures, estimating the time and cost of completing new projects as well as maintaining the existing ones.

Engineers are pivotal not only in infrastructure, but can act as a catalyst in the field of trade and commerce too. In sales and management, an engineering background enables one to discuss the technical aspects of projects/products and assist in the planning, installation and product use. With such a vast and varied nature of their job, the engineers are really the foundation stone of a nation's building and their role cannot be neglected in a nation's all round progress. The engineers on their part should be proud of what they do and contribute effectively towards the growth of their country and the world at large.

(The Author is a technocrat and educationist)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Global Glimpse of India

The two-day G-20 summit convened dynamic world leaders in Delhi, where foreign dignitaries immersed themselves in Indian culture and folk art. Women, in particular, embraced Indian attire with enthusiasm. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak embraced a desi look, while Yuko Kishida, Japan's First Lady, donned a traditional Banarasi saree. Even the Prime Minister of Bangladesh graced the conference in a saree. Kristalina Georgieva, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), elegantly sported a traditional suit-salwar. India's successful hosting of the G-20 has garnered global acclaim, earning pride for the nation on the world stage.

Ashraf Nawaz,
Hyderabad

Pollution Free Environment

The Delhi government has taken a decisive step towards combatting pollution by imposing a complete ban on the manufacturing, storage, sale, and use of firecrackers in the national capital. This move is part of a comprehensive plan to mitigate winter pollution. Environment Minister Gopal Rai has emphasized the strict enforcement of this ban by the Delhi Police. Violations could lead to penalties of up to Rs 5,000 and three years of imprisonment under Section 9B of the Explosives Act. Firecrackers are notorious for causing pollution and endangering public health. Following Delhi's lead, cities across India should adopt similar measures to safeguard the environment and protect all living beings.

Mohammad Taukir,
West Champaran

Economic Integration

The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor is a pivotal component of the wider global connectivity endeavor, primarily aimed at streamlining trade and commerce. This corridor holds the promise of fostering prosperity across participating nations, particularly through enhanced collaboration in the realms of energy and digital communications. While advanced technologies have the potential to yield immense benefits for humanity, unlocking their full potential hinges on adapting and enhancing our response mechanisms and governance structures. Against this backdrop, the corridor, unveiled during the G20 summit, signifies a momentous leap towards fortifying economic bonds and connectivity spanning India, West Asia, and Europe.

MK Nair, Raipur

Children are being forced to live a double life



Rajender Kumar Sharma

In today's world, children and teenagers often find themselves caught in the complexities of living a double life. This struggle has led to increased frustration and depression among them, resulting in behavioural issues and a lack of discipline. However, not all youngsters face this challenge in the same way; it largely depends on their upbringing.

The teenage years can be tumultuous, marked by rebellion and resistance to authority. During this

phase, adolescents may become agitated when corrected or interrupted. We've all experienced this stage, believing that we know what's right and wrong, feeling like masters of our destiny. Yet, as time passes, we begin to understand our responsibilities and align ourselves with societal norms. It's crucial for parents to recognize this delicate phase in their children's lives and avoid imposing forceful measures.

The solution to this problem lies with parents and teachers who can help shape a positive attitude in adolescents with patience and understanding. Rather than constantly issuing directives, we need to allocate time to communicate with our children. Often, when youngsters venture into the outside world, they become enamored with external influences, such as lifestyles, diets, and conversations, often prioritizing them over family values. Disobedience and stubbornness have become commonplace among today's youth.

But why do children and teenagers exhibit such behaviour?

It's because they witness a stark contrast between the values and principles preached to them and the actions of their elders or parents. We expect our children to follow the ideals of figures like Mahatma Gandhi, Swami Dayanand, Swami Vivekananda, and Lord Mahavir, yet we often fall short of embodying these ideals ourselves. So, why do we hold our children to standards that we ourselves struggle to uphold?

This doesn't mean we should stop introducing our children to these ideals and great personalities or cease inspiring them to adopt virtuous values. However, it's crucial to remember that the values we teach should be a reflection of our own actions. Failure to do so can result in a negative impact on our children, forcing them to lead double lives—one they present to us and one they yearn to live for themselves.

This has become a widespread issue, with even innocent children and teenagers falling prey to the materialistic culture. They understand that their needs will be met by their

parents, but only if they adhere to their parents' directives. This realization often leads to a dual life, where their true selves differ dramatically from the personas they present to their parents.

Living this double life has led to frustration and depression among children and teenagers. They feel trapped in a world where they are not truly free or happy. They are unable to express joy or sorrow genuinely. In this era, children often find themselves ensnared in a make-believe world.

Guardians, particularly parents, bear the significant responsibility of instilling good habits and competence in their children. This is a complex task that requires thoughtfulness, wisdom, seriousness, and psychological insight. While many parents consider their role limited to providing basic needs and education, they play a substantial part in their children's development. Teaching children good habits and virtues is akin to transforming animality into humanity—a subtle science.

The rise in unruliness, indiscipline,

and self-will among children can be largely attributed to parenting mistakes. Parents' seemingly innocuous behaviour can inadvertently foster undesirable habits in their children. What parents may perceive as improvement can sometimes be the root cause of their children's misbehaviour.

To instill discipline and obedience in children, there is no need for authoritarianism or pressure. Love and affection, when applied with consistency, can encourage children and teenagers to cooperate without resistance.

Therefore, it is important for parents, elders at home or teachers in schools, who wish to instill values and ideals in children and teenagers, to lead by example. Actions should align with words to bridge the gap between expectations and reality, allowing children to follow a single, genuine path without frustration, depression, or the need for a double life.

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

BRIEF

Appointment



New Delhi: Mastercard India on Thursday announced the appointment of former SBI head Rajnish Kumar as its non-executive chairman. In this critical, non-executive advisory role, Kumar will guide Mastercard's South Asia executive leadership team led by Gautam Aggarwal, Division President for South Asia & Country Corporate Officer, India, in navigating the vibrant domestic payments landscape, Mastercard India said in a statement.

IPO price

New Delhi: Ethnic apparel retailer Sai Silks (Kalamandir) Ltd on Thursday said it has fixed a price band of Rs 210-222 per share for its Rs 1,201 crore initial share sale, which will open for public subscription on September 20. At the upper end of the price band, the IPO will fetch about Rs 1,201 crore. The bidding for the anchor investors will open on September 18. Investors can bid for a minimum of 67 equity shares and in multiples of 67 equity shares thereafter, the company said.

Employees DA



Shimla: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Wednesday approved a three per cent dearness allowance to the employees of the Forest Corporation from January 1, 2022. Presiding over the 213th meeting of the Board of Directors, Himachal Pradesh State Forest Development Corporation, Sukhu also approved to regularise the services of the eligible employees of the corporation, who have completed four years of service as daily wagers.

GLOBAL INVESTOR SUMMIT



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami speaks during the curtain raiser event of Global Investor Summit Uttarakhand 2023, in New Delhi, Thursday, Sept. 14.

PM to inaugurate mega exhibition-conference centre in Dwarka on Sep 17

New Delhi, Sep 14:



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate an exhibition-conference hub, developed as part of the phase-I of the India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC), at Dwarka on September 17, a senior official said. Special Secretary and IICC Dwarka Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Sumita Dawra said that the phase-I of the project has been completed. The first phase of the project has been built at a cost of over Rs 5,400 crore. The IICC is being developed as a modern centre to promote

Govt not planning to levy any tax on diesel vehicles: Gadkari

New Delhi, Sep 14:



Seeking to clarify his remarks on taxation of diesel vehicles, Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said that he wanted to convey to automobile manufacturers to take steps to reduce pollution, and also added that there is no proposal to levy tax on such vehicles.

Earlier this week, the road, transport and highway minister's remarks regarding the need to levy 10 per cent tax on diesel-run vehicles to help cut emissions had generated lots of controversy. "I am not against diesel fuel and neither we are going to levy any tax on diesel vehicles," Gadkari told CNBC-TV18.

The road transport and highways minister noted that from the pollution point of view, diesel is very hazardous and it is really causing health problem in the country. Gadkari emphasised that he is not against any industry and pointed out that the government is already giving incentives for

New Delhi, Sep 14:

Fitch Ratings on Thursday retained India's growth forecast for the current fiscal at 6.3 per cent saying the Indian economy continues to show resilience despite tighter monetary policy and weakness in exports, but upped year-end inflation projection on El Nino threat. The Indian economy grew 7.8 per cent in the April-June quarter of current fiscal on strong services sector activity and robust demand. "The Indian economy continues to show resilience despite tighter monetary policy and weakness in exports, with growth outpacing

other countries in the region," Fitch said, while projecting 6.3 per cent growth for current fiscal, and 6.5 per cent for next fiscal.

In its September update of the Global Economic Outlook Fitch, however, said that high-frequency indicators suggest that the pace of growth in the July-September quarter is likely to moderate. Growth in the July-September quarter is likely to moderate as exports continue to weaken, credit growth flattens and the Reserve Bank of India's latest bimonthly consumer confidence survey shows consumers becoming a little more pessimistic on income and

employment prospects, Fitch said. On the price front, it said that the temporary increases in inflation, in particular rising food inflation, in coming months could curb households' discretionary spending power.

"The inflation impact on consumers may be temporary but other more fundamental factors are weighing on the economy. India will not be immune to the global economic slowdown and the domestic economy will be affected by the lagged impact of the RBI's 250bps of hikes in the past year, while a poor monsoon season could complicate the RBI's control of inflation," Fitch said.

Annual headline inflation was 6.8 per cent in August after 7.4 per cent in July and 4.9 per cent in June. "The increase in inflation in recent months has been driven largely by a sharp increase in the price of tomatoes and other food products," Fitch said. Notwithstanding the risk of higher food prices, Fitch maintained its RBI's benchmark interest rate forecast at 6.5 per cent for the end of this calendar year.

The government has reacted by importing greater quantities of food (especially tomatoes), temporarily scrapping the import duty on wheat and restricting sugar exports, it said.

FADA seeks reduction in GST rates for entry-level two-wheelers to 18 pc

New Delhi, Sep 14:

ers segment experienced year-on-year growth, we are still 20 per cent behind the pre-COVID levels," Singhania said. Turning to Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, who was the chief guest at the function, he said, "That's why FADA strongly urges honourable minister to help us get a reduction in GST rate from 28 per cent to 18 per cent for entry-level two-wheelers that is the 100cc and 125cc segment."

Speaking at the Auto Retail Conclave here, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) President Manish Rai Singhania said in the ongoing fiscal so far, while the retail sales of total vehicles have grown by around 7 per cent, the entry-level two-wheeler segment is yet to witness the robust growth seen. "Although the two-wheel-

He further said, "This would not be merely a policy adjustment, it would act as a social economic catalyst, especially considering this segment constitutes 75 per cent of our total auto sales volume."

Rupee falls 2 paise to close at 83.03 against US dollar

New Delhi, Sep 14:

The rupee pared initial gains to settle 2 paise lower at 83.03 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, weighed down by a surge in crude oil prices and strong American currency overseas. However, a positive trend in domestic markets cushioned the downside for the local unit, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.98 against the US dollar and moved in a range of 82.93 and 83.04. The rupee finally settled at 83.03 (provisional) against the US dollar, down 2 paise from its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee closed at 83.01 against the US currency. "The Indian rupee fell on Thursday on a positive US Dollar and rising crude oil prices.

Tata Motors plans to set up separate sales network for EVs this fiscal year

New Delhi, Sep 14:



Shailesh Chandra, Managing Director of Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd, during the launch of Tata Motors' new SUV Nexon.ev, in New Delhi, Thursday, Sept. 14.

portfolio (of EVs)" Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Managing Director Shailesh Chandra told PTI in an interaction. He said the company would look at places

where it would be viable to have exclusive outlets for the EV range. "We need to separate outlets because there would not be enough space to keep both EVs, ICE models at the same place..So there's a practical difficulty.. we will not be able to do justice to both. So you will start seeing exclusive outlets starting slowly from the coming quarters," Chandra stated.

Tata Motors' current EV portfolio comprises the flagship SUV Nexon EV range, Tiago EV, Tigor EV and the XPRES-T EV. When asked about the locations where the exclusive outlets would come up, Chandra said: "We'll start with pilot cities. I can't disclose the locations right now. But as I said that within this financial year, we'll start with some experiment." The company recently introduced the new retail identity for its unit Tata Passenger Electric Mobility.

Nifty hits fresh record; Sensex extends rally for 10th day

Mumbai, Sep 14:



The NSE benchmark Nifty advanced over 33 points to close at a fresh lifetime high of 20,103 while Sensex ticked higher for the tenth straight session on Thursday, helped by fag-end buying in oil & gas, metal and commodity stocks amid a largely firm trend in global equities.

After swinging between gains and losses throughout the session, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 52.01 points or 0.08 per cent to settle at 67,519. During the session, it jumped 304.06 points or 0.45 per cent to hit its all-time intra-day high of 67,771.05. The Nifty advanced 33.10 points or 0.16 per cent to end at its all-time closing high of 20,103.10. During the day, it gained 97.65

points or 0.48 per cent to reach its lifetime intra-day peak of 20,167.65. Mahindra & Mahindra was the biggest gainer on the Sensex chart, rising 2.56 per cent, followed by Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, Nestle, Power Grid, Infosys, HCL Technologies, Axis Bank, UltraTech Cement and L&T. In contrast, Asian Paints, ITC, Bajaj Finserv, Bharti Airtel and Tata Motors were among the laggards.

India's G20 presidency under PM Modi 'historic': Jyotiraditya Scindia

New Delhi, Sep 14:



Guides world to address challenges

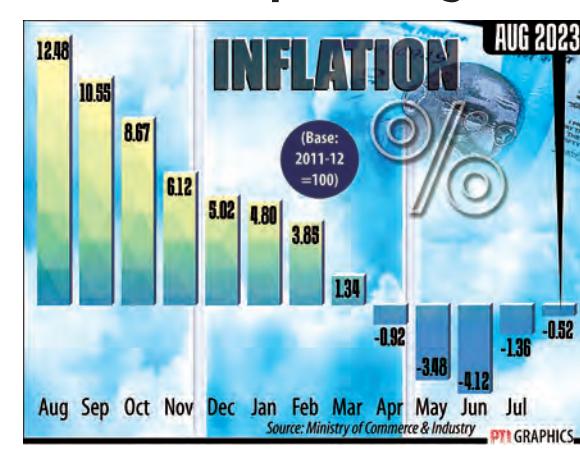
New Delhi, Sep 14:

Hosting G20 was a historic moment for India and the frameworks drafted during India's Presidency will help the world to address its challenges over the next decade, Union Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia said. The G20 Leaders' Summit concluded under India's Presidency on September 10. "Under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, it has been a historic G20 Presidency. When I use the word historic there are multiple reasons for that and the whole world experienced India. India's power and capability of influencing not only minds but also hearts has struck

an emotional cord with every delegate that came to India," the Union Minister of Steel and Civil Aviation told PTI. Last year India assumed the G20 Presidency for the first time to steer discussions and initiatives among member countries on challenges related to broad macroeconomic issues, trade, sustainable development, health, agriculture, energy, environment, climate change, and anti-corruption.

Wholesale inflation remains in negative for fifth month at -0.52 pc in August

New Delhi, Sep 14:



14.25 per cent in July. Wholesale inflation in vegetables was 48.69 per cent in August, against 62.12 per cent in July. In pulses, inflation was 10.45 per cent, while in onion it skyrocketed to 31.42 per cent in August.

"Within food, prices of vegetables, which surged in July, moderated sequentially in August, but year-on-year, inflation remains high. Additionally, a small sequential increase in prices of manufactured products (which have the largest weight in WPI) also contributed to the slower headline deflation," Barclays MD & Head of EM Asia Economics Rahul Bajoria said.

Flipkart surpasses 1.4 million sellers ahead of 'The Big Billion Days'

Mumbai, Sep 14:

Ahead of the 10th edition of The Big Billion Days, its annual flagship event, Flipkart has achieved a significant milestone of over 1.4 Million sellers on its platform. With a growth of over 27% of sellers on the platform since last year, the milestone signifies the growing ecosystem of sellers and MSMEs in the country. This is a testament to the faith that Indian MSMEs, small businesses, and enterprises today have in Flipkart, including Shoppy, as trusted partners to leverage the power of e-commerce to digitize and modernize their business, expand market reach and improve revenue.

Flipkart will kick start the festive season with its Sale Price Live (SPL) event in the coming week that has been introduced for sellers in a lead-up to TBBD (The Big Billion Days). This

is designed to encourage sellers to offer their products at attractive prices, equivalent to what they would provide during TBBD, thereby maximizing their benefits and growth ahead of the festive shopping season.

Speaking on the milestone, Rakesh Krishnan, Vice President and Head - Marketplace, Flipkart, said, "Flipkart is committed to building a cutting-edge e-commerce ecosystem for Indian MSMEs. As we gear up for the festive season, we remain steadfast in our mission to propel seller success through innovative tools and initiatives. Onboarding 1.4 million sellers underscores Flipkart's dedication to promoting inclusivity and convenience within our seller community. Building on Flipkart's commitment to supporting and empowering sellers, we recently concluded a series of pan India Seller Conclaves, which witnessed participation from over 4,500 seller entrepreneurs, while creating lakhs of

new jobs. We are immensely proud to be able to play a part in contributing towards this journey."

Commenting on the milestone, Rakesh Krishnan, Vice President and Head - Marketplace, Flipkart, said, "Flipkart is committed to building a cutting-edge e-commerce ecosystem for Indian MSMEs. As we gear up for the festive season, we remain steadfast in our mission to propel seller success through innovative tools and initiatives. Onboarding 1.4 million sellers underscores Flipkart's dedication to promoting inclusivity and convenience within our seller community. Building on Flipkart's commitment to supporting and empowering sellers, we recently concluded a series of pan India Seller Conclaves, which witnessed participation from over 4,500 seller entrepreneurs, while creating lakhs of

BJP leaders rally for change ahead of upcoming elections

Pivotal meeting sets stage for Parivartan rally in Lakhapur



Central Chronicle News

Lakhapur, Sep 14: In a significant step towards the upcoming Vidhan Sabha elections, a crucial strategy meeting was held at the residence of Rajesh Agrawal in Lakhapur-Ambikapur. The meeting, attended by BJP's key figures, brought together joint coordinators,

booth coordinators, and dedicated party workers from the Lakhapur Mandal.

Former Municipal President Rajesh Agrawal delivered an impassioned speech, stressing the need to spread awareness about the central government's initiatives to every corner of society.

He emphasized the im-

portance of reaching the most remote villages with information about government schemes and achievements. Furthermore, he called for exposing corruption and mismanagement under the Congress government and striving to bring the BJP back to power in Chhattisgarh.

Dinesh Sahu, BJP Mandal President, and Rajendra Jayaswal, Nagar Panjyat President, also shared their insights and encouraged the party workers to work tirelessly towards their common goal.

The event saw the participation of influential figures such as Ramnarayan Dubey, Brjkishor Pandey, Muneshwar Rajwade, Satnarayan Sahu, Pradeep Gupta, Saurabh Agrawal, Ravi Agrawal, Jitendra Pandey, and many others.

After onsite inspection MLA and Collector reviewed the construction work

Central Chronicle News

Bijapur, Sep 14: Bijapur, the last district of the state, is continuously moving towards development. Now basic facilities are easily available to the villagers in inaccessible places of the district. New schools are being constructed in the interior areas like Pamed, Pusnar, Nelsnar under the Chief Minister School Jatan Yojana. Where children are sitting under a pitched roof and building their future by studying and writing.

MLA Vikram Shah Mandavi,

Collector Rajendra Kumar Katara

reviewed various construction

works in detail in the

Collectorate meeting room. He

instructed the contractors and

engineers to complete all the under-construction works quickly. The Collector talked about expediting the construction work of social buildings of societies like Kudukh, Mahra, Urao, Maheshwari Cover, Pardhan. He also advised the contractors and engineers to use granite instead of tiles in the stairs of newly constructed school buildings and to make railings and make the roof of the school like a house.

MLA Vikram Madavi and

Collector Rajendra Kumar Katara

today inspected the new building

Central Library, Garment Factory,

Loha Dongri being constructed in

the district. After inspecting the

progress of the buildings, instruc-

tions were given to complete the

works on time. During this, CEO

District Panchayat Ravi Kumar

Sahu, Joint Collector Pawan

Kumar Premi and other officers

and employees were present.

Central Chronicle News

Raigarh, Sep 14: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday dedicated the MGR (Merry-Go-Round) system from Talaipalli Coal Mine to NTPC Lara STPS to the nation at a programme in Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh.

The 65-km-long electrified MGR System will play a key role in generation of low cost and reliable power from NTPC Lara, thus strengthening Energy Security of the country.

The MGR system built at a cost of Rs 2071 crore will be utilised for delivery of low cost, higher grade coal from NTPC's Talaipalli coal mine to 1600 (2x800) MW NTPC Lara Super Thermal Power Station in

Complaint to SSP against two constables

● Posted in Kasdol PS

Kasdol, Sep 14: Two constables posted in Kasdol police station namely Anurag Kosaria and Lorik Shandilya have been lined attached after accusation of bribe acceptance by them. Indra Kumar Sharma along with Manbodh Sahu of Kasdol police station area have made a written complaint to SSP Deepak Kumar Jha alleging that instead of imposing Section 376 including POCSO Act on the accused who had abducted his (Manbodh Sahu's) minor daughter on the pretext of marriage, the Kasdol police, after making a transaction with the accused, released the criminal by imposing General Section 151.

The victim Manbodh has accused constable Anurag Kosaria demanded first Rs 3,000 for searching his daughter, then



after bringing the daughter; a demand of Rs 10,000 was again made. The said constable is also being accused of continuously doing illegal extortion work in the police station area by posing as SP's special agent and had also been dismissed once in the past.

Apart from this, Inder Kumar Sharma alleged that the two constables had demanded money in exchange for not sending his son to jail, after which

the SSP took action. Based on the complaint lodged with the SSP, investigation has been started against the said constables and apart from this, a few days ago also a complaint was lodged with the SSP by Kansram of Avanrai about taking 40 thousand rupees by the said constable, in which the complainants said that 20 thousand rupees were given in cash and 20 thousand rupees were given via phone payment.

What officer says

A complaint was made by an applicant from Kasdol about constable Anurag Kosaria taking money and also another complaint has been received on the basis of which the said constables have been put on line and SDOP Bhatpara has been asked to investigate. As soon as the allegations are proven, further action will be taken. Deepak Kumar Jha- SSP, Balodabazar.



PM dedicates MGR System at NTPC Lara

Central Chronicle News



Chhattisgarh.

The coveted project will also be connected to Howrah-Mumbai main railway line, which can be utilized for transportation of coal to other parts of the country.

Further, the existing transportation system which is delivering 20,000 tonnes of coal on a daily basis will reach up to 8 MMTPA of coal transportation at its full capacity.

The MGR System will be a testimony to technological marvel in coal transportation from coal mines to power stations. With a 61-meter Girder Bridge over the existing railway line at Kotarlia, the newest MGR system will also have provision for crossing over of animals at several locations. The MGR system also boasts of more than 200 bridges and culverts on its complete stretch.

Villagers unite to remove illegal encroachment

Central Chronicle News



to remove the encroachments.

contrary, encroachment is at its peak in Kopedih, a dependent village of Hanchalpur.

Villagers told that Dharsa has been constructed by the Panchayat from the main road to the

drain and a plan is going on to build a Gauthan on the banks of Dharsa and the grassy land located on the banks of Dharsa has been encroached upon by eleven people including the village Panch.

A request has been made to the Sarpanch Tehsildar, SDM to free the said land from encroachment. In such a situation, the administrative officers have said that action will be taken as per the rules.

Tarpong, Sep 14: Under the aegis of Seva Sugandham Samajik Jan Kalyan Samiti (SSJSKS) Raipur, Talent promotion felicitation ceremony was organized in Government Pre-Secondary School in Mohda. Students of eight groups who stood first and second in classes 5th, 8th, 10th and 12th were honored with medals, certificates and life-use magazines.

Tikendra Upadhyay, the founder of the said organization and organizer of the program, said that the basic objective of this organization is to serve the public, be it marriage of poor girls, distribution of seeds to farmers, special assistance to the disabled and honoring talented students. The chief guest of the program, Shailesh Nitin Trivedi, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Textbook Corporation and having the status of Cabinet Minister, honored the

talented students. In his speech, while remembering his student life, he remembered his teachers and while addressing the present students and parents, he said that acquiring knowledge makes life meaningful. He recited many Sanskrit verses and explained their meanings and encouraged the children by giving the example of Vidya Dadati Vinayam. Special mention was made of 90-year-old retired teacher Puranlal Saha of village Mohda. The program was presided over by Bharat Ratne Sarparch Mohda, special guest Devendra Verma Vice President District Congress Committee Raipur Rural, Dr. Chiman Sahu District Member, Rekhram Dewangan District Member, Bindiya Verma Sarparch Ninawa, Manoj Madhuriya Sarparch Tarpong, Shivkumar Hanumanta Sarparch Khairkhot, Deputy Sarparch Khileshwar Koshe, Janak Ram Sahu, Gothan Committee President Ashok Kashyap, Kamta Verma, Santosh Bijora, High School Public Partnership Committee President Sunil Verma and many others.

every day, he said. In the year 2020, 32,757 trains were cancelled, while in the year 2021, 32,151 trains were cancelled and in the year 2022, 2,474 trains have been cancelled. In the year 2023, 2,008 trains have been cancelled till the month of April. Currently, in the current month of August, 24 trains have been cancelled.

BJP has stopped the senior citizens' discount in Railways in the state and concession given to students was stopped, local trains were closed and fares in special trains were increased, he further accused. State Congress Committee President Deepak Bhai, taking this issue seriously, said that the congress has decided to fight the battle of the common people of the state through agitation in a



phased manner. On September 13, 2023, Rail Roko movement was organized at all the railway stations of the state and where there is no railway station, a memorandum will be submitted to the local district administration officer. On this occasion,

Chhattisgarh Youth Commission member and District Congress Committee President Uttam Vasudev, Marwahi Assembly MLA DK Dhurva, Ajit Singh Shyam, Mohan Lal Shukla, Shivnaranay Tiwari, Ajit Pendro Shankar Patel, Mudrika Singh, Ajay Shukla, Ajit Singh Shyam, Gulab Aggarwal, BUND KUWAR MOSCOW Mamta Pawle, Gulab Raj Pramod Paraste, Vijay Kedia, Pawan Dubey, Narayan Sharma, Ajay Rai, Mamta Paikra, Ramesh Sahu, Awadhesh Gurjar, Jeevan Rathore, Arun Jaiswal, Nagar Panchayat Vice President Pankaj Tiwari, Yuva Congress District President Aman Sharma, Block President Amol Pathak, Manish Dubey, Shrikant Mishra, Afzal Khan, Shiva Rathore etc. were present.



DCC holds rail roko movement

Central Chronicle News

Gairela-Pendra-Marwahi, Sep 14: District Congress Committee started rail roko movement at Pendra Road station of GPM district, against cancellation of passenger trains. District Congress Committee Pendra Marwahi Chairman Uttam Vasudev said that the Modi government at the Centre is conspiring to end the passenger facilities of the country's most reliable passenger rail service.

For years, Indian Railways was synonymous with reliable, cheap and accessible transportation for the general public, which the Modi government is conspiring to destroy the credibility of the Railways and sell it to private hands and the operation of trains is being cancelled

'INDIA alliance wants to destroy Sanatan Dharma'

■ Push country into 1,000 years' slavery

Bina (MP), Sep 14 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday termed the Opposition's INDIA grouping as "ghamandia" (arrogant), and alleged that it wants to "destroy" Sanatan Dharma and push the country into "a thousand years' slavery."

The credit for the G-20 summit's success goes to the people of the country, he said, adding that it has boosted the self-confidence of even children in the villages.

The prime minister was speaking after laying the foundation stone of a Rs 49,000-crore petrochemicals complex at Bina Refinery in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh along with ten other industrial projects in the BJP-ruled state where assembly elections are due by the year-end. "The 'ghamandia' alliance met in Mumbai recently. They have neither any policies, nor issues, nor a leader. They have a



PM Modi addresses during the foundation stone laying ceremony of petrochemicals complex at Bina refinery and other industrial projects, in Bina, Thursday.

hidden agenda of attacking Sanatan Dharma which they want to destroy," Modi said.

Mahatma Gandhi drew inspiration from Sanatan Dharma and his struggle for freedom was centred around it, the prime minister further said.

Gandhi followed Sanatan Dharma all his life and his last words were "Hey Ram", Modi noted. Great historical personalities like Indore ruler Ahilyabai Holkar, Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi, Swami Vivekananda and

he further said.

The prime minister's attack on the Opposition bloc followed DMK leader and Tamil Nadu minister Udhayanidhi Stalin's controversial statement that Sanatan Dharma is against social justice and should be eradicated. A Raja, another DMK leader, likened Sanatan Dharma to diseases. The prime minister, meanwhile, also said that the credit for the success of the just-concluded G-20 summit went to the 140 crore people of India. The heads of the people of the country are high and their chests are filled with pride due to the success of the G-20, he said.

"They (the Opposition) have started speaking openly. They are going to sharpen their attack on us. Every follower of Sanatan Dharma in every nook and corner of the country and the nation-lovers have to be watchful," Modi said.

"The 'INDI' alliance wants to abolish Sanatan Dharma and push the country into a thousand years' slavery. But we have to stop these forces unitedly. With our unity, we have to thwart their attempt,"



Devotees seek blessings of Langurs at Neelkanth Mahadev temple, near Rishikesh, Thursday.

SEEK BLESSINGS

'Courts can't convict one accused and acquit other'

In case of identical evidence ascribing similar role

New Delhi, Sep 14 (PTI): Courts cannot convict an accused and acquit the other when there is identical evidence ascribing same or similar role, the Supreme Court has said while acquitting four people who were sentenced to 10 years in jail for alleged offences including dacoity with murder. The apex court said in such a matter where evidence is identical, the cases of both the accused will be governed by the "principle of parity", which means the courts cannot make a distinction between the two

as it will amount to discrimination. A bench comprising Justices Abhay S Oka and Sanjay Karol acquitted one of the accused while recalling the top court's May 11, 2018 order that had summarily dismissed his plea challenging a Gujarat High Court verdict. The high court had confirmed the conviction of seven accused in the case but reduced the sentence from life term to 10 years. The apex court also set aside the conviction of two accused, who had not preferred any appeal in May 2018.

While Article 136 of the Constitution deals with the power of the apex court to grant special leave to appeal in cases, Article 21 pertains to protection of life and personal liberty.

The bench noted the apex court had acquitted three accused in August 2018, while the plea by another accused was dismissed in May 2018.

CBSE cautions students, parents against paid sample paper fraud

New Delhi, Sep 14 (PTI): The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has made it clear that it has not collaborated with any private publisher for access to its sample papers for class 10 and 12, and has advised students to not be misled by such claims.

The clarification by the board came amid reports that the CBSE has collaborated with Edukart for its sample papers for board exams, which can be accessed on payment basis.

"As per NEP 2020 recommendations, the Board had initiated Competency Focused Education and Assessment in its affiliat-

Mumbai, Sep 14 (PTI):

In modern society, the burden of household responsibilities should be borne equally by husband and wife, the Bombay High Court has said.

A division bench of Justices Nitin Sambre and Sharmila Deshmukh made the observation on September 6 while dismissing an appeal filed by a 35-year-old man seeking

the dissolution of his 13-year-old marriage.

He could not establish his claim of 'cruelty' against his estranged wife, the judges held.

The man had challenged a March 2018 order of a family court dismissing his plea seeking divorce.

The couple had got married in 2010. The man contended in the plea that his wife was always on the phone with her mother

and did not do household work. The woman claimed

that she was forced to do all the household work after returning from office, and faced abuse when she contacted her family.

She also claimed that her estranged husband had physically abused her on several occasions.

The bench, in its order, noted that both the man and woman were employed, and expecting the

wife to do all the household work reflects a repressive mindset.

"In modern society the burden of household responsibilities have to be borne by both husband and wife equally. The primitive mindset expecting the woman of the house to solely shoulder the household responsibilities needs to undergo a positive change," the HC said.

Martyred Col Singh chose his men over peace posting



Srinagar/New Delhi, Sep 14 (PTI): "No Sir" was the prompt reply of Colonel Manpreet Singh when he was offered a peace posting upon his promotion in 2021. Instead, he volunteered to stay and command the 19 Rashtriya Rifles, a battalion credited with major kills of terrorists including Hizbul Mujahideen poster boy Burhan Wani. Col Singh, who is survived by his wife, a six-year-old son and a two-year-old daughter, was a combat veteran and was awarded Sena Medal during his tenure as second-in-command of the 19 Rashtriya Rifles, a battalion tasked with ensuring security in South Anantnag, Kokernag and Verinag Achabal including its higher reaches, which have

died is still missing. Major Dhomchak, 34, who had a close brush with death only a month ago, is remembered as an enthusiastic officer who used to go into the nitty gritty of every operation.

After his promotion in 2021 as a Colonel, Singh was given a choice to opt for peace area posting.

"No Sir, I would like to be posted in my 19 RR (Rashtriya Rifles) and be with my own men," was his prompt response, politely rejecting the offer that had been made to him. Col Singh always wanted to lead from the front and the reason generally given by him was "I have to ensure that every one under my command is safe."

SC slaps Rs 2k as costs on advocate for sending 'unprepared' junior to court

New Delhi, Sep 14 (PTI): The Supreme Court Thursday slapped Rs 2,000 as costs on an advocate on record for sending an "unprepared" junior to court in his place for seeking adjournment.

Advocate on record is a lawyer who is authorised to represent clients and file cases in the Supreme Court.

As a three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud took up the matter which was listed for hearing, a junior lawyer appeared before it and requested it to defer the matter as the main advocate was not available.

"You can't take us for granted like this. There are infrastructural costs involved in functioning of the court. Start arguing," the bench, also comprising Justices PS Narasimha and Justice Manoj Misra, said.

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GANGA AARTI



Devotees during 'Ganga Aarti' on 'Bhadrapada Amavasya' at Har Ki Pauri ghat, in Haridwar, early Thursday morning.

'ED notice issued to me is politically motivated'



Kavitha

Hyderabad/Delhi, Sep 14 (PTI): BRS MLC K Kavitha on Thursday said the Enforcement Directorate notice issued to her in the Delhi Excise Policy case is politically motivated, and that the party's legal team would decide the future course of action on it.

The Enforcement Directorate has summoned the daughter of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao to its Delhi office on Friday for questioning in the case over her alleged involvement in certain irregularities.

Kavitha was questioned several times in March at

queries on the notice, Kavitha, in a press conference in Nizamabad, said using central agencies has been the modus operandi of BJP in any poll-bound state and since Telangana is going to polls, the same technique is being used.

"I received the notice (from ED). We have given it to the party's legal cell. We'll go by their advice.

We strongly believe that it is a politically motivated notice because of the charged up environment in Telangana -- upcoming elections," she told reporters.

She compared the ED investigation to a "never ending TV serial".

Kavitha was questioned several times in March at

Big relief as antidote against Nipah reaches Kerala



A patient being admitted to a Nipah isolation ward at the Medical College in Kozhikode, Thursday.

Thiruvananthapuram, Sep 14 (PTI): The Kerala government on Thursday said the monoclonal antibody required for treatment of those infected by the Nipah virus has arrived in the state.

State Health Minister Veena George said a meeting was held between the Principal Secretary of the Health Department and the Union Health Ministry earlier in the day and now the monoclonal antibody has arrived. She told reporters that stability of the medicine, which is not clinically proven yet but is the only available antiviral treatment for Nipah virus infection, was discussed with a central expert committee. "Further

steps or course of action would be decided by the expert committee," she said. Earlier in the day, in the state Assembly, the Minister said there was no need to be apprehensive about the Nipah outbreak in Kozhikode district, but

caution needs to be exercised by people as they go about their daily activities. "There is no need for any apprehension. We can all together deal with the issue with caution," she said in a statement in the Assembly. The brain-dam-

aging virus has killed two people and infected three others in Kozhikode district. On Wednesday, a 24-year-old local health worker became Kerala's fifth confirmed Nipah case since its recent outbreak.

Of the three infected persons under treatment, the condition of a nine-year-old boy continues to remain critical.

Following the outbreak, all educational institutions in Kozhikode district were closed on Thursday and Friday.

Kozhikode District Collector A Geetha announced this in a Facebook post and said educational institutions can arrange online classes on the two days for students.