



BRIEF



Children of Dawoodi Bohra community participate in a religious procession on the occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi, in Bhopal, Sunday.

Protest

New Delhi: A group of people on Sunday staged a protest against Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the Jantar Mantar here, accusing him of supporting Khalistani separatists. The protesters led by United Hindu Front chief Jai Bhagwan Goyal also submitted to authorities a memorandum addressed to the prime ministers of Canada and India, the outfit said in a statement.

Willpower

Darjeeling: Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) chief executive Anit Thapa on Sunday said that the BJP needs "political willpower" to carve Gorkhaland state out of West Bengal. Thapa, who is also the Bharatiya Gorkha Prajatantrik Morcha (BGPM) supreme, asserted that the Gorkhaland issue is known to everyone and there was no need for any tripartite talks (between the Centre, Gorkha parties and West Bengal government).

Landslide

Gangtok: Heavy rain in the hills of West Bengal and Sikkim triggered a landslide that caused a cave-in on the National Highway 10 in Darjeeling district on Sunday, disrupting vehicular movement on the key arterial link between the two states, officials said. Following heavy rain, a massive amount of rocks and slush rolled down the hill and damaged the highway at Sethi Jhora in Bengal, around 30 km from Siliguri, they said.

Rescued

Leh: A tourist from Germany was rescued from a remote area in southern Ladakh after he fell sick during a trekking expedition and made a distress call, police said on Sunday. A police team safely evacuated Cristo, a German national, from Nurbo Sumdo in Nyoma subdivision, 75 km from Korzok, near the Himachal Pradesh border on Saturday evening, the police said.

Cooperation

New Delhi: Ways to expand bilateral maritime security cooperation in sync with fast-expanding India-US strategic partnership figured prominently during Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar's four-day visit to the US, officials said on Sunday. The Chief of Naval Staff visited the US from September 19 to 22 primarily to attend the 25th International Seapower Symposium (ISS).

Injured

Palanpur: All 46 pilgrims travelling on a private luxury bus were injured after the vehicle moving down a slope hit a rock on the roadside near the temple town of Ambaji in Gujarat's Banaskantha district on Sunday, police said.

Weather
High 31 Low 24

Terrifying robbery on Sambalpur-Jammu Tawi Exp

- Over a dozen passengers assaulted
- Belongings worth Rs 76,000 looted

Latehar, Sep 24 (PTI):

Over a dozen passengers were assaulted and belongings worth Rs 76,000 were looted by robbers in Sambalpur-Jammu Tawi Express in Jharkhand's Latehar district in the wee hours on Sunday.

The incident happened around Saturday midnight between Latehar and Barwadih stations under Dhanbad division of East Central Railway (ECR). Around 10-12 robbers boarded the train at Latehar station and threatened passengers by firing in the air near Chhipadohar station, a passenger claimed.

Two passengers, who received bullet wounds, are admitted in



Passengers, injured by robbers in Sambalpur-Jammu Tawi Express, being treated, in Jharkhand's Latehar, Sunday.

Medininagar government medical College hospital at Daltonganj.

Vikas Mittal, one of the passengers in S9 coach of the train travelling in the 18309 Sambalpur-Jammu Tawi Express said he was going to Vaishnav Devi with family members. About 10 robbers boarded the train at Latehar station

as passengers. They started beating the passengers with rifle butts and did not spare even children and women. Two passengers, who resisted the loot, were hit by bullets on their heads. The robbers snatched mobile sets, ornaments and Rs 75,000 cash from the passengers. They deboarded the train

near Chhipadohar station and carried many suitcases with them.

Senior divisional commercial manager of Dhanbad division Amresh Kumar told PTI, "The incident happened in S9 coach. Seven passengers received minor injuries, while belongings of 13 passengers worth Rs 75,800 were looted." He said an FIR has already been registered. "Around eight mobile phones were also looted. Four of them were found active in the morning. Our technical team is tracing their locations," he said.

Passengers created a ruckus against the loot when the train reached Daltonganj station. The train was stopped there for around two hours. Daltonganj sub-divisional magistrate Rajesh Kumar Shah, who also reached the station last night, said that the injured were admitted to Medinirai Medical College and Hospital. Two of them are little serious, he said.

Modi flags off 9 Vande Bharat trains with new features

- Speed and scale of infrastructure development matching aspirations of 140 cr Indians

New Delhi, Sep 24 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the speed and scale of infrastructure development matched the aspirations of 140 crore Indians as he flagged off nine Vande Bharat Express trains connecting religious and tourist destinations across 11 states.

Flagging off the Vande Bharat Express trains via video conferencing, Modi also slammed the previous governments for not paying



PM Modi virtually flags off nine Vande Bharat Express trains via video conferencing, in New Delhi, Sunday.

adequate attention for modernisation of railways and assured that the "day is not far when Vande Bharat will connect every part of the country". Governors, chief ministers, Union ministers and elected representatives were present at the nine railway stations from where the indigenously built semi-high speed trains were flagged off. The trains

stopped at various stations where they were welcomed by enthusiastic school children and hoards of people with elected representatives addressing functions en route. Union minister Kailash Choudhary and Rajasthan BJP president C P Joshi boarded the Vande Bharat Express train at Udaipur and travelled till Chhittorgarh where a huge

crowd of BJP workers raised the slogans of "Vande Mataram" and "Bharat Mata ki Jai" as the train chugged into the station.

In his address, the prime minister said the popularity of Vande Bharat trains was rising constantly and more than 1.11 crore passengers have already travelled in them.



AP Skill Devt Corpn Scam

CID interrogates Naidu for 2nd day in jail

Rajamahendravaram, Sep 24 (PTI):

A team of Andhra Pradesh Police CID officials has concluded its two-day interrogation of TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu in the Skill Development Corporation scam case on Sunday at Rajamahendravaram Central Prison. The Anti-Corruption Bureau Court had on Friday granted the CID two days' custody of the 73-year-old TDP chief for interrogation in the case. In compliance with the court's orders, Naidu's questioning by CID officials was allowed from 9:30 AM to 5 PM on both days (September 23 and 24) with regular five-minute breaks given to him to consult his lawyer. Coastal Andhra Range DIG of prisons M R Ravi Kiran told PTI that Naidu was handed back to the jail authorities by CID officials after completing their interrogation.

Two Shimla school students donate pocket money

Towards 'Aapada Rahat Kosh'

Shimla, Sep 24 (PTI):

Two students of a school here donated their pocket money towards the state disaster relief fund on Sunday by presenting their piggy banks to Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, a statement said.

Aahana Verma of class 7 and Jiya Verma of class 2 contributed Rs 10,229 and Rs 9,806 respectively towards Aapada Rahat Kosh, it said.

Appreciating the gesture of the students, Sukhu said that it was a matter of happiness that the children were also donating towards the noble cause to mitigate the sufferings of the disaster-affected people.

INT'L LAWYERS' CONFERENCE

'Three proposed criminal laws seek to provide justice rather than punishment'

New Delhi, Sep 24 (PTI):

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the three proposed criminal laws are people-centric, have the flavour of Indian soil and their main purpose is to protect the constitutional, human and personal rights of citizens.

Addressing the International Lawyers' Conference organised by the Bar Council of India here, Shah also said the approach of the three bills is also to provide justice rather than mete out punishment. He appealed to all lawyers in the country to provide their suggestions to the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS-2023), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS-2023) and the Bharatiya



Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses the concluding session of the 'International Lawyers' Conference 2023 organised by the Bar Council of India, in New Delhi, Sunday.

Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA-2023) so that the country can have the best laws that benefit all.

The three bills, which were introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 11, will replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Criminal Procedure Act, 1898, and the Indian Evidence Act,

1872 respectively. "India's criminal justice system was imprinted with colonial law. All three new bills do not have colonial imprint but have the flavour of Indian soil. The central point of these three proposed laws is to protect the constitutional and human rights of citizens as well as their personal rights," he said. Shah said the initiative has been taken to comprehensively change the criminal laws keeping in mind the present-day demands.

"These laws are coming after almost 160 years with a completely new approach and new system. Along with new initiatives, three initiatives have also been taken by the government to create a law-friendly ecosystem," he said.

'Nationwide cleanliness drive to be conducted on Oct 1'

New Delhi, Sep 24 (PTI):

A nationwide cleanliness drive will be conducted on October 1 responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal for "one hour of shramdaan for swachhata", the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs said on Sunday.

In a statement, the ministry said that in the run up to Gandhi Jayanti, a unique call has been given by the prime minister to fellow citizens.

In the 105th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat', the prime minister appealed for "one hour of shramdaan for swachhata" at 10 am on

October 1 by all citizens collectively, and it will be a 'swachhanjali' to Mahatma Gandhi on the eve of his jayanti, it said.

"This mega cleanliness drive calls upon citizens from all walks of life to join in actual cleaning activities of public places like market spaces, railway tracks, water bodies, tourist locations, religious places etc," the statement said. "Every town, gram panchayat, all sectors of the government like civil aviation, railways, information and technology etc, public institutions will be facilitating cleanliness events led by citizens," it said.

WOMEN POWER



Assistant Loco Pilot Rubby Kumari (R) and Loco Pilot Guddy Kumar during the flagging off ceremony of Patna-Howrah Vande Bharata Express, at Patna Railway Station, Sunday.

'Kullu Dussehra festival to see participation of 20 countries'

Shimla, September 24 (PTI):

Despite the worst-ever natural calamity in Kullu this monsoon, the upcoming Dussehra festival in the district will be a gala affair, with troupes from 20 countries participating in it, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said on Sunday.

Releasing the promo of the 'International Kullu Dussehra Festival', Sukhu said this event would mark the revival of tourism in the region by sending across the right signal that the situation has normalised in Kullu and Manali and these places are all set to welcome



tourists. He also virtually inaugurated several development projects worth Rs 12 crore for the Kullu assembly constituency, including a four-storey multipurpose building of the Deputy Commissioner Office, constructed at a cost of Rs 5.49 crore, a statement issued here said.



Chhattisgarh Government
Transforming Housing Dreams into Reality

Awaas NYAY Sammelan

25 September 2023 | 2:00 PM

Fire & SDRF Ground, Parsada (Sakri)
Block Takhatpur, Bilaspur



In the Esteemed Presence of
Hon'ble Member of Parliament
Shri Rahul Gandhi

Approval letters to **30,000 beneficiaries** of
Mukhyamantri Gramin Awaas NYAY Yojana

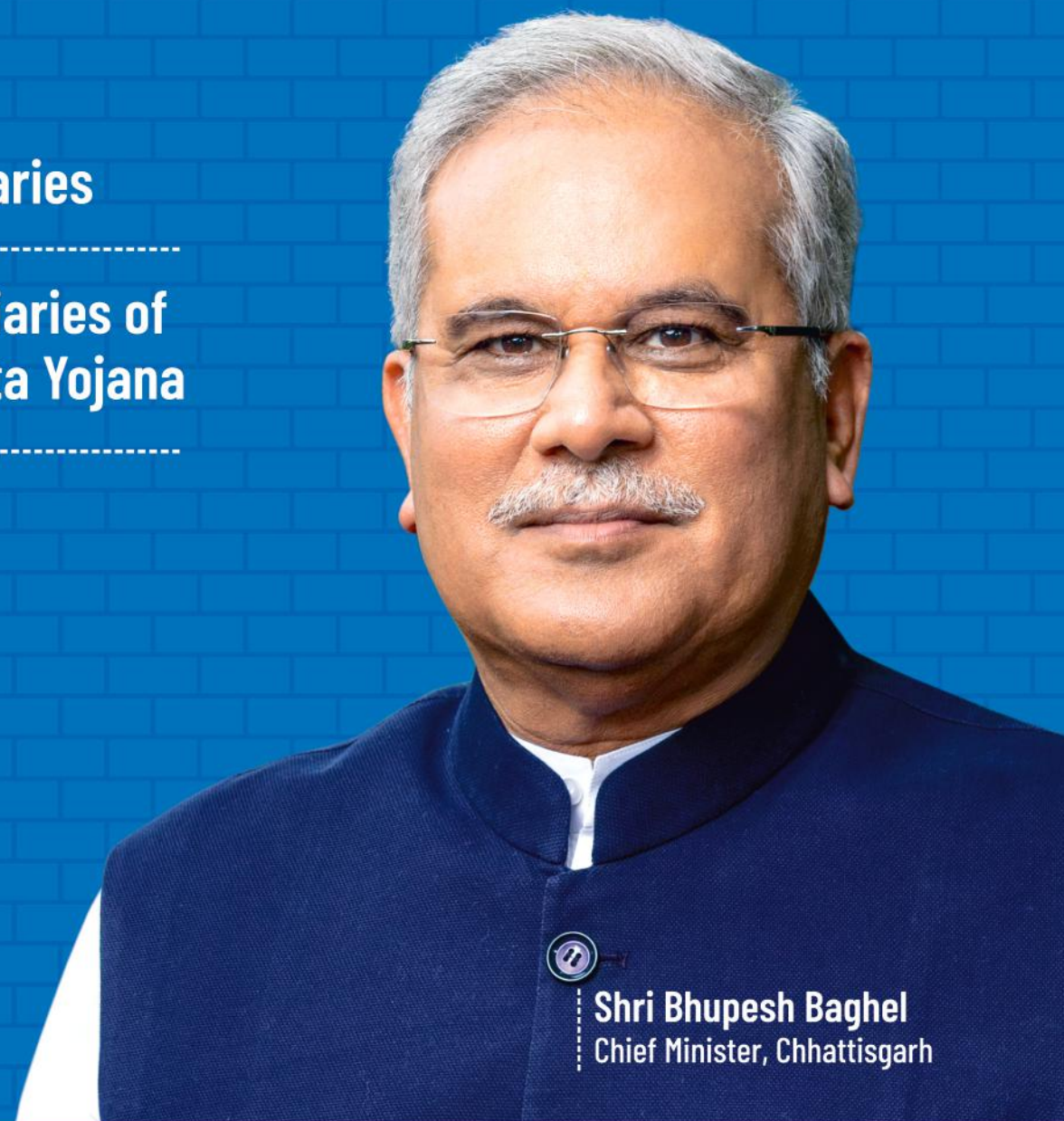
Disbursement of the 1st instalment of
₹25,000 each to **1 lakh** PMAY (Rural) beneficiaries

Disbursement of **₹1 lakh** each to 500 beneficiaries of
Mukhyamantri Nirman Shramik Awaas Sahayta Yojana

Issuance of appointment letters to
2,594 teachers from various districts

Distribution of **1,117 forest rights titles**
in urban areas

Inauguration and foundation laying of
185 projects and development works worth
₹524.33 crore of Bilaspur district



Shri Bhupesh Baghel
Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh Government Pro Active - Pro People



कांग्रेस अब दे रही 'आवास का न्याय'

आवास न्याय सम्मेलन

25 सितम्बर 2023, दोपहर 2 बजे

फायर एवं एसडीआरएफ मैदान, परसदा (सकरी), विकासखंड तखतपुर, बिलासपुर



मुख्य अतिथि

श्री राहुल गांधी जी

के कर कमलों से

छत्तीसगढ़ ग्रामीण आवास न्याय योजना के 30,000 हितग्राहियों को आवास स्वीकृति पत्र का वितरण

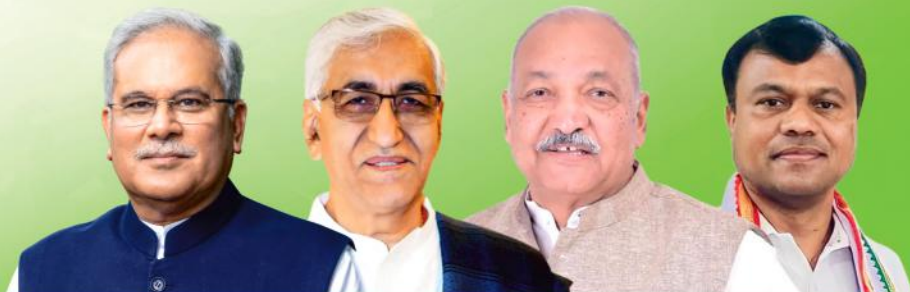
पीएमएवाय (ग्रामीण) के 1 लाख हितग्राहियों को 25-25 हजार रु के मान से प्रथम किस्त का वितरण

मुख्यमंत्री निर्माण श्रमिक आवास सहायता योजना के 500 हितग्राहियों को 1-1 लाख रु की राशि का वितरण

विभिन्न जिलों के 2,594 शिक्षकों को नियुक्ति पत्र

नगरीय क्षेत्रों में 1,117 वन अधिकार पत्रों का वितरण

बिलासपुर जिले में 524.33 करोड़ रु की लागत वाले 185 विकास व निर्माण कार्यों का लोकार्पण एवं भूमिपूजन



छत्तीसगढ़ प्रदेश कांग्रेस कमेटी

Physiotherapists played a crucial role in removing the adverse effects of COVID in the body: CM

● People should be made aware of the importance of physiotherapy: Singh Deo



mentos. CM Baghel said that due to increasing material comforts and modern means of transportation, the amount of physical activity in humans has declined, which has led to many problems and diseases. We have to understand that our body needs adequate hard work along with rest to function properly. He said that today, not only has physiotherapy emerged as an important necessity in the field of sports, it has also enhanced the physical ability of players. Baghel said that it can be seen in hospitals that patients suffering from a fracture or experiencing pain are advised physiotherapy. One thing to keep in mind is that physiotherapy should always be conducted under the supervision of a trained physiotherapist. Regular exercise and yoga also keep the body healthy.

Deo, while addressing the program, said that in the present times, physiotherapy has the utmost importance in the lives of common people as well as in the field of sports. Physiotherapy has become an integral part of sports. Today, sportspeople depend on physiotherapy for better performance. He also mentioned the contribution of physiotherapy to the improvement of the health of the former CM Minister Ajit Jogi after his accident, and shared his personal experiences related to physiotherapy. The Dy CM Singh Deo stressed the need to convey the importance of physiotherapy to people.

Dr. Sanjiv Jha, the National President of Indian Association of Physiotherapists, also addressed the program. The President of the Indian Association of Physiotherapists (Chhattisgarh branch) Dr. Prashant Chakraborty, physiotherapists Dr. Faizan, Dr. Ali Irani, Dr. Joji John, Dr. Ruchi Wasnik, and Dr. Avinash Kushwaha, along with other physiotherapists from all over the state were present on the occasion.

Eleven caught for gambling

● Rs 2 lakh in cash with 9 mobile phones, 2 bikes seized

Jaish, resident of Ramsagarpara behind Hanuman Mandir near Azad Chowk, 32-year old Manish Patel, resident Moudhapara Akbar Bada beside Shiv Mandir, 27-year old Rohit Motwani, resident of Ramsagarpara behind Anuman Mandir near Yashwant Kirana Shop, 38-year old Devesh Kumar (son of Hari Singh Thakur), resident of Ganjpara behind Hanuman Mandir, 30-year old Shiv Tandon, resident of Ganjpara, 19-year old Aman Yadav, resident of BSUP Colony Kabir Nagar, 53-year old Sohan Lal Kosle, resident of Gogaon Gudiary, 27-year old Shubham Rathor (son of Ajay Rathor), resident of Rathor Chowk and 28-year old Kishor Wadhvani, resident of Ramsagarpara, Azad Chowk Raipur.

More than 250 hooligans, rowdies paraded in police stations



Raipur, Sep 24: In view of the rising incidents of violence and other crimes in the city and ongoing festivals and upcoming elections, classes for goons and rowdies were held in all the police stations of the city. They have been advised to stay away from crime. More than 250 goons, history sheeters and other criminal elements were brought to the police stations and paraded. SSP Prashant Agrawal told all police gazetted officers and SHOs to keep close eyes on miscreants and rowdies in their respective areas and take necessary legal action against them in a bid to ensure peace during ongoing

'Ganeshotsav' celebrations. On Saturday, under the leadership of Additional Superintendent of Police City Lakhan Patle, under the supervision of all the city Superintendents of Police, Acting on this instruction all the police station in-charges summoned more than 250 miscreants and criminal elements in their respective police station areas under the direction of Additional Superintendent of Police City Lakhan Patle and supervision of all CSPs. All the miscreants and criminal elements were paraded and advised to stay away from crime and live a peaceful life with their families.

Anwita Vishwakarma shines bright at 38th Chakradhar Samaroh



Raipur, Sep 24: In a remarkable display of talent and dedication, 9-year-old Anwita Vishwakarma, a student of DPS Raipur, stole the spotlight as the youngest Kathak performer at the 38th Chakradhar Samaroh 2023 held in Raigarh from September 19th to 21st. Anwita's enchanting performances, including the mesmerizing

renditions of the Shiv Tandav and Krishna Leela, left the audience in awe and admiration. Anwita's exceptional journey to the stage was made possible through the unwavering guidance and blessings of her Kathak guru, Dr. Rajshree Namdev, and Smt. Anjani Thakur. Their support and mentorship

Anwita's talent and paved the way for her outstanding performance at this prestigious event. The young prodigy received well-deserved recognition as she was felicitated by Ved Mani Singh Thakur and the esteemed Raigarh Collector, Taran Prakash Sinha, who praised her extraordinary talent and dedication to the art of Kathak.

'NH Walkathon' held to promote heart health



● Hosted by Narayana Health-Raipur

nessed enthusiastic participation from across the city, all coming together to promote a heart-healthy lifestyle. The event was a resounding success, with over 1000 participants of all ages joining in to walk for a cause.

Dignitaries, including Pramod Dubey (Speaker RMC), Sanjay Sharma (ADG NCC) were present. The event was powered by Shri Ganesha Gulal and Krishna Public School, co-powered by Rishabh Builders, and supported by AT jewellers and Gaya Milk. NH Walkathon was graced by the presence of

Anup Jain (Co - Gaya Milk) and officials from various banks, MYFM team, and IBC24 team. Facility Director of Narayana Health, Raipur Tapani Ghosh, graced the occasion with their presence along with Ravi Bhagat (DGM - Marketing), Dr. Akshay Kiledaar (MS). Ghosh, while addressing the participants, emphasised the importance of regular physical activity in preventing heart diseases. He said, "The NH Walkathon is a testament to our commitment to heart health. It's heartening to see so many people come together to

prioritise their well-being." The event also saw the active participation of doctors from Narayana Health, Raipur, who joined hands to spread the message of heart health. Dr. S. S. Padhi, Dr. Sunil Gounyal, Dr. P.K. Harikumar, Dr. Kinjal Bakshi, Dr. Snehil Goswami, Dr. Sumit Gupta, Dr. Prashant Madharia, Dr. Rakesh Chand, Dr. Dharmesh Lad among others actively participated in the event. Their presence underscored the importance of community support in raising awareness about heart diseases.

The NH Walkathon not only encouraged physical fitness but also fostered a sense of togetherness within the community. It served as a reminder that a small step towards a healthier lifestyle can lead to significant improvements in heart health. Narayana Health, Raipur extends its gratitude to all participants, dignitaries, and volunteers for making the NH Walkathon a grand success. The hospital remains committed to its mission of promoting heart health and well-being in the community.

Basis of the beliefs of Vanbandhus is rooted in science: Prof. Chakrawal

Tribal Studies and Research: Conclusion of a Two-day Workshop on Inclusive Education under the National Education Policy 2020

Bilaspur, Sep 24:

A two-day national workshop organized on 'Tribal Studies and Research: Inclusive Education under the National Education Policy 2020', organized under the joint aegis of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University) and All India Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, concluded at 2.30 pm on September 24, 2023 at the Smart classroom of the Department of Biotechnology. The Chief Guest of the concluding program was Prof. Sachchidanand Shukla, Vice Chancellor of Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Raipur. The program was presided over by the Honorable Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal.

At the conclusion of the workshop, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal said that for tribal development, we will have to make integrated, organized, consolidated and combined efforts. He said,



"The beliefs of the Vanbandhus have a scientific basis but the British spread many types of misconceptions in the society to create differences between the Vanbandhus and the Nagarbandhus. We need to remove the misconceptions that have persisted since the colonial period."

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Chakrawal further said that tribal societies are a great source of knowledge and we need to know and understand them. Lord Ram lived his life in the forest with his brothers. Similarly, the need of our times is also that we should spend time among our brothers living in the forest area so that our study gets a proper basis.

The Vice-Chancellor of

Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Raipur, Prof. Sachchidanand Shukla appreciated that many valuable ideas were exchanged in the two-day workshop. He said that Chhattisgarh is a tribal dominated area and it is important to understand Chhattisgarh to understand the soul of India. He said that both the universities together can cooperate in this field.

At the conclusion of the two-day workshop Shri Vaibhav Surange, social worker, All India Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, urged the researchers to go to the forest-dwelling areas and conduct research and study there. He pointed out that the solution to various problems of the present society lies in looking at the knowledge

tradition, culture, life values and nature of the tribal society.

Before this, the guests lit the lamp and garlanded the portraits of Goddess Saraswati and Saint Guru Ghasidas Baba. Also, the guests on the stage were welcomed with saplings. The workshop coordinator, Prof. Praveen Mishra delivered the welcome address.

The guests present on the stage were honored by presenting mementos. The participants at the workshop expressed their views in the concluding program. The workshop coordinators were Prof. Mukesh Singh, Prof. Praveen Kumar Mishra and Prof. Jagdish Kumar. In the end, the vote of thanks was presented by the Registrar of the University, Prof. Manish Srivastava and the event was conducted by Dr. Shweta. More than 150 participants had registered in the program and they were presented certificates. Deans of various schools, heads of departments, teachers, and students were present in the workshop.

District level voting awareness competitions held in Dantewada



Students from 6 tehsils of the district participated in rangoli, quiz, speech, slogan and poem writing events

Dantewada, Sep 24:

Dantewada district in Chhattisgarh has taken a giant leap towards strengthening its democracy by organizing District-Level Voting Awareness Competitions. These initiatives, conducted under the guidance of District Election Officer and Collector Dantewada

Vineet Nandanwar, in collaboration with SVEEP Nodal Officer cum CEO District Panchayat Kumar Biswaranjan, are propelling civic participation to new heights.

With crucial assembly elections on the horizon in Chhattisgarh, the Election Commission of India and the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer have made it their mission to educate and engage citizens on the importance of voting. This drive has culminated in a series of dynamic voting awareness competitions held across schools and six tehsils within Dantewada district.

At the District Panchayat Office, the grand District Level Voting Awareness competitions featured a diverse range of contests, including rangoli, quizzes, speeches, slogan creation, and poetry writing in regional languages, all aimed at nurturing the civic spirit among school children.

Assistant Director Panchayat Mithileshwar Kisan underscored the pivotal roles that students and teachers play in disseminating voting awareness across families, villages, and cities. Kisan passionately called upon citizens to complete Form

6 and submit it to the nearest polling centers, Panchayat offices, Tehsildar offices, and the District Election Department for new voter registrations and inclusion in the voter list.

The event garnered participation from 70 students, teachers, and officials representing six tehsils of the district, reaffirming the commitment to building an informed and engaged electorate. Notably, winners were celebrated with trophies, books, compass boxes, and pens, marking a significant step toward shaping the future of democracy in Dantewada.

Public will break Congress 'pot of sins' in elections: Shalini Rajput

BJP Mahila Morcha protests corruption with pot breaking ceremony

Jagdalpur, Sep 24:

The BJP Mahila Morcha staged a unique protest against the Congress government's alleged misgovernance and corruption by smashing a symbolic "pot of sins" at the Golbazar intersection. State President of BJP Mahila Morcha, Shalini Rajput, actively participated in the demonstration.

Rajput emphasized that the metaphorical "pot of sins" representing the Congress-led Chhattisgarh government's alleged transgressions is now overflowing. In response, the BJP Mahila Morcha organized



this protest, shattering the pot to symbolize their discontent. Concerns over rising crimes against women, escalating crime rates throughout the state, and deteriorating law and order were highlighted during the protest. Additionally, allegations of corruption, embezzlement, and scams associat-

ed with various government projects were brought to the fore, all of which have marred the five-year tenure of the Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress government.

She criticized the Congress government for betraying the state's citizens with empty promises and asserted that people

from all walks of life, including women, elders, youth, farmers, and laborers, are disheartened by the ineffectual Congress government. The public is determined to hold the Congress government accountable in the upcoming assembly elections by symbolically breaking the "pot of sins."

Smt. Sudha Mishra, Mahila Morcha District President, raised concerns about the lack of employment opportunities for women in Chhattisgarh. She accused Bhupesh Baghel's government of outsourcing jobs through commissions, labeling it as yet another unfulfilled promise.

The pot-breaking protest witnessed the participation of several prominent members, including Kiran Dev, Vedwati Kashyap, Sanjay Pandey, Suresh Gupta, Avinash Srivastava, Maheshwari Thakur, Mamta Rana, Ram Kumari Yadav, Kiran Diwan, and many others.

Medicine fraudster arrested, millions worth scam uncovered

Jagdalpur, Sep 24:

The Kotwali police station in Jagdalpur has taken swift action against a case of fraudulent activities involving the purchase and sale of medicines worth crores of rupees. Mayank Bajaj, a local businessman engaged in wholesale medicine trading in Golbazar, reported the alleged fraud to the police, leading to the arrest of the prime suspect, Sharad Pade, the proprietor of Swastik Medical Agency in Raipur. The investigation revealed that Sharad Pade had been procuring medicines from Mayank Bajaj's business for an extended period, with a substantial quantity purchased in 2019.



However, after this major transaction, Sharad Pade ceased making any payments to Bajaj, leaving an outstanding amount of Rs 26,80,19,24. As a result of this fraudulent activity, a case was registered against Sharad Pade under Section 420 of the Indian Penal Code at the Kotwali police station, prompting a thorough investigation.

During the course of the inquiry, Sharad Pade confessed to withholding payment for the substantial medicine purchase made from Dhanraj Agency in Gol Bazaar, Jagdalpur, owned by Mayank Bajaj. Subsequently, Sharad Pade was apprehended and presented before the court to face charges related to the fraud.

NSS volunteers conduct successful cleanliness drive



Dongargaon, Sep 24:

Under the guidance of Dr. BN Meshram, Principal of Government Postgraduate College, and

with direction from Dr. Asharam Sahu, the program officer for the NSS program, a cleanliness campaign was conducted by the National Service

Scheme (NSS) unit at Dongargaon College. This initiative was part of the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign and aimed to promote cleanliness and awareness.

Led by Yashwant Nayak and assistant leader Daneshwar Sahu, the campaign took place on September 21st at the Botanical Garden of Dongargaon College, with active participation from dedicated NSS volunteers, including Gagan, Deekshant, Tejesh, Umesh, Mukesh, Thaneshwar, Kanishka, Reena, Kajal, Heena, Goveshwari, Anisha, and others.

Protest leads traffic jam after schoolgirl's accident

Community unites for safer roads

Dongargaon, Sep 24:

In the village of Arjuni, a fervent call for road safety resonated as concerned citizens rallied together following a serious road accident that left a schoolgirl injured. The incident, attributed to a substantial pothole on the main road, prompted BJP workers and villagers from neighboring communities to stage a two-hour road block during the afternoon, causing temporary traffic disruption.

The unfortunate incident occurred near Arjuni market on the main road when Kiran Sonkar, a 9th-



grade student at Kisan High School in Gram Barsan Tola, was returning home on her bicycle. A treacherous pothole in the road caused her to lose balance and fall, leading to a collision with a school bus. Kiran suffered a severe head injury and was promptly transported to Rajnandgaon Hospital.

Due to the critical nature of her condition, she was later referred to Raipur. The entire incident was captured by a nearby CCTV camera and quickly circulated on social media, prompting swift action from the community.

In response to the distressing accident, BJP workers, supported by

local villagers, organized a roadblock in protest. Their primary demand was the urgent repair of potholes and overall road improvement. During the demonstration, residents also engaged with their local M.L.A., Daleshwar Sahu.

Dongargaon police, recognizing the importance of addressing the commu-

nity's concerns, arrived at the scene and collaborated with the villagers. The roadblock was eventually cleared after officials from the Public Works Department provided written assurances of necessary repairs.

The state of the State Highway, extending from the district headquarters to Dongargaon, has deteriorated not only in Arjuni but also throughout the region. Despite the dangers posed to motorists by large potholes, inaction from local authorities has persisted.

A particular concern is the road near Gram Sukhri, which has significantly deteriorated, heightening the risk of accidents.

District-level election training workshop concludes successfully



Jagdalpur, Sep 24:

In a concerted effort to ensure the upcoming assembly elections proceed smoothly, a one-day training workshop was conducted at the Shaurya Bhawan Auditorium under the leadership and guidance of Deputy Inspector General of Police and Senior Superintendent of Police, Jitendra Singh Meena.

The primary objective of this workshop was to prepare police officers for the unique challenges they might encounter during the upcoming assembly elections. By equipping law enforcement with essential knowledge and strategies, the authorities aim to conduct the elections in a fair, transparent, and peaceful manner. Deputy Inspector General of Police Jitendra

Singh Meena and Senior Superintendent of Police Mrs. Nivedita Paul played pivotal roles in informing police officers about their responsibilities before, during, and after the voting process.

They also provided vital guidelines regarding the adherence to the model code of conduct, emphasizing the importance of maintaining election integrity.

The workshop included discussions about the roles and responsibilities of police personnel after the implementation of the Model Code of Conduct and covered the guidelines issued by the Election Commission. Attended by various high-ranking police officials, including Additional Superintendent of Police Yogesh Dewangan, Additional Superintendent of Police Medha Tembhukar, City Superintendent of Police Vikas Kumar, SDOPs, Deputy Superintendents of Police, police station/post in-charges, and other officers and staff, the training aimed to ensure a successful and peaceful electoral process.

Ayushman Bhava campaign boosts healthcare in Korba

Health fair encourages organ donation and free medical services

Korba, Sep 24:

Korba district is witnessing a transformative healthcare drive known as the "Ayushman Bhava" campaign, following the directives from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. As part of this initiative, Ayushman Mela is currently being held at community health centers, primary health centers, and health and

wellness centers across the district. The campaign operates on two fronts. Healthcare professionals at various levels, including primary health centers, health and wellness centers, and sub-health centers, are conducting screenings for communicable diseases, diabetes, hypertension, cancer, NCDs, TB, and leprosy.

Additionally, it emphasizes maternal and child health facilities, offering free treatment to those in need. The campaign also promotes organ donation, encouraging individuals to register for this noble cause. A recent "Ayushman Bhava" health fair at the

Community Health Center Patadi on September 22nd was highly successful. Specialist doctors from Medic College and healthcare practitioners from Samu Health Center Patadi provided free health check-ups, consultations, and treatments, along with essential medicines. During the event, 156 patients received crucial medical attention, and 40 individuals pledged to donate their organs, reflecting the campaign's community impact.

Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. S. N. Keshari administered the oath for organ donation on September 21, en-

couraging public figures like Mrs. Hareesh Kavar, President of District Panchayat Korba, as well as officers, employees, and citizens to participate in this noble cause.

Dr. Keshari has urged stakeholders to actively promote the upcoming "Ayushman Bhava" health fair scheduled for September 27 in Katghora. Public representatives are encouraged to motivate beneficiaries to attend the camp for a comprehensive free health check-up, treatment, and the opportunity to obtain an Ayushman card, ensuring healthcare accessibility for all residents of Korba district.

State govt is working to promote culture and tradition of Ch'garh: Dr. Dahria



Raipur, Sep 24: Urban Administration Minister Dr. Shivkumar Dahria said that the state government has established the Official Language Commission to promote the culture and tradition of Chhattisgarh. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the state government is doing better work in preserving and promoting the food, lifestyle, clothing and Teej festivals of the state. The state government worked to restore the disappearing culture and tradition of Chhattisgarh and has brought respect to the peo-

ple of state. The objective of the commission is becoming meaningful. Minister Dr. Dahria was addressing the two-day seventh divisional conference organized by the Official Language Commission at a private hotel in Raipur.

Minister Dr. Dahria said that our government has done the work of giving respect to Chhattisgarh. He said that there is no dearth of talent in Chhattisgarh, by providing opportunities to such talents, the state will have a distinct identity. Parliamentary Secretary Kunwar Singh Nishad

said that about 1652 types of mother tongue are available in the country. Each state has different dialects and languages.

Everyone is proud of their mother tongue. Our Chhattisgarhi dialect is full of sweetness. We all should be proud of our mother tongue. Nishad stressed upon the people to use Chhattisgarhi language in their daily life. He explained the importance of Chhattisgarhi dialect, the rich mother tongue of our ancestors, through Chhattisgarhi songs.

Addressing the conference, Dr. Anil Bhatpahari,

Secretary of Chhattisgarh Official Language Commission, said that efforts are going on to include Chhattisgarhi language in the Eighth Schedule. Chhattisgarhi language is being standardized. He said that on the announcement of the Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel, the process of including Chhattisgarhi in the curriculum in schools from class 1 to 5 of the state is going on. In Bastar and Surguja division also, the process of including local dialects in the curriculum is going on. On this occasion, Vice Chancellor of Chhatrapati Shivaji Mahavidyalaya Dr. Kesari Lal Verma, former Chairman of Chhattisgarh Official Language Commission Dr. Vinay Pathak, senior litterateur and linguist Pardeshiram Verma and a large number of litterateurs and district coordinators were present.

Former CM Dr Abdullah to release book of author Shiv Gwalani

• **Book reflects the tragedy of Sindh Hindu partition of India**

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Sep 24: The book Master of Everything WD, written by Chhattisgarh's literary writer Shiv Gwalani, will be released at the Constitution Club of India, New Delhi on October 11, Wednesday, by the former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Dr. Farooq Abdullah.

Three-time Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Dr. Farooq Abdullah was welcomed in New Delhi by writer Shiv Gwalani by offering him a 'gamcha' from Chhattisgarh. Gwalani met him at the National Conference House in Delhi and requested him to release his book Master of Everything WD. On Gwalani's request, Dr. Farooq Abdullah happily accepted it. Dr. Farooq Abdullah thanked the land of Chhattisgarh and



the newspapers of Chhattisgarh and said that through these newspapers the story of Hindu-Muslim unity has come to light while there is an atmosphere of hatred in the country.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah reached the Parliament wearing Chhattisgarhi 'Gamchha' as an example of friendship between Shiv and Shafi, of Kashmiriyat, of love has emerged, this is the real identity of Hindu-Muslim, friendship. Today again hatred is spreading in the country, it has to be stopped. We all have to love each other only then true India will be created.

Dr. Abdullah praised writer Shiv Gwalani and said that he writes true

stories in his books. He has written about Kashmiri culture, now he has written the true story on the tragedy of partition, and not the film story, which are these days very common.

A true story has been written by the author.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah said that the real 'India' was made up of Hindus and Muslims. The British had divided India into two parts by discriminating between Hindus and Muslims. The British had not only divided the country but also the hearts of people. Dr. Abdullah said that actually this is the true India for which he went to Chhattisgarh in December.

From the soil of Chhattisgarh, the story of friendship between Shiv and Shafi, of Kashmiriyat, of love has emerged, this is the real identity of Hindu-Muslim, friendship. Today again hatred is spreading in the country, it has to be stopped. We all have to love each other only then true India will be created.

Dr. Abdullah praised writer Shiv Gwalani and said that he writes true

stories in his books. He has written about Kashmiri culture, now he has written the true story on the tragedy of partition, and not the film story, which are these days very common. Writer Shiv Gwalani dressed in Chhattisgarhi gamchha reached National Conference House located at B.9 Tilak Marg, where Farooq Abdullah lives, and thanked him for agreeing to release the book written by him.

With a request to attend the book launch ceremony, Shiv Gwalani also contacted PMO House and also went to South Block, New Delhi where he gave the invitation letter to National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. Advocate and one time Additional Solicitor General of Supreme Court and two time Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Krishna Tankha will also participate in the book release ceremony. The author met him at his residence at 78 Lodhi Estate in New Delhi and made the request, which he accepted.

'CAIT demand digital payment regulation board & waiver of charges on digital payments'

Raipur, Sep 24: CAIT National Senior Vice President Amar Parwani, chairman Mangal Maloo, Amar Gidwani, State President Jitendra Doshi, States Working President Vikram Singh Deo, Parmanand Jain, Vashu Makhija, State General Secretary Suriender Singh, State Working General Secretary Bharat Jain, and State Treasurer Ajay Agrawal informed that in furtherance of the vision of Government for adoption of Digital payments and landmark decision of G20 summit to extend digital economy to MSMEs, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has urged Union Minister for IT Ashwini Vaishnav and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to constitute a Digital Payment Promotion Board in order to make India a less cash economy, the faster adoption of digital payments by trade & commerce as also by public at large. The CAIT has also urged that

in order to ensure smoother adoption & acceptance of digital payments by small businesses which are more than 9 crore in India, the transaction charges on digital payments needs to be subsidised by the Government directly to the Banks relieving both traders & consumers from the burden of transaction charges.

CAIT National Senior Vice President Mr. Amar Parwani and State President Mr. Jitendra Doshi informed that also opined that National Payment Corporation (NPCI) should run UPI, Bheem etc and a separate Regulatory Authority should be set up for monitoring and regulate the payment Industry.

He also said that when open network is being created as a policy by the Government then payment industry should also be given open network ensuring best services to the users. Undoubtedly, the Rupey has played an im-

portant role in the Country.

Mr. Parwani & Mr. Doshi said that burden of transaction charges is one of the major deterrent in adoption and acceptance of digital payments in the Country and as such steps are needed to incentivise usage of digital payments. It will also help the efforts for bringing informal economy to formal economy.

Mr. Parwani & Mr. Doshi suggested that on usage of ATMs beyond three times in a month, a nominal fee should be levied for subsequent cash withdrawal at ATMs. Further, an incentive scheme for greater usage of digital payments needs to be introduced and all sorts of debit and credit cards all other mode of digital payments including POS terminals, M-POS, mobile wallets, mobile applications, QR code, UPI & Aadhar enabled applications should be brought under the ambit of incentive schemes.

CM Baghel inaugurates new Musaria Mata Temple in Chhindigarh



• **Society leaders were also respected**

Konta/Sukma, Sep 24: The Chief Minister of the state Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated Naveen Mata Musaria Temple at the cost Rs 30 lakh, located in Chhindigarh here on Sunday. Let it be known that Mata Musaria is considered as highly worshipped Goddess of the villages of 64 Parganas of the region. Before reaching the temple building, CM was accorded warm welcome by the regional Gedi dance groups of the area.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister honored the community leaders of 64



Parganas, Gaita, Sirha, Perma, Manjhi and Patel drivers by wearing traditional turbans.

He also worshipped Musaria Mata and wished for the well-being of the residents of the area. On this occasion, Excise Minister Kawasi Lakhma, Sarpanch Chandana Negi, other public representatives and Collector Haris. S, SP Kiran Chavan, other officers and employees along with villagers were present.

SECL CMD honoured with MGMI Excellence Award



• **For outstanding contribution in the field of mining**

Korba, Sep 24: In an award ceremony by the Mining, Geological and Metallurgical Institute of India held in Kolkata. SECL CMD Dr. Prem Sagar Mishra has been awarded the prestigious "MGMI Award for Excellence in Coal Mining" for his outstanding contribution in the field of coal mining. The said award was presented by B. Veera Reddy, Director (Technical), Coal India, at the National Seminar on Green Mining and Net Zero organized by the Mining, Geological and

Metallurgical Institute of India (MGMI) in Kolkata. On this occasion, in a noble gesture the Dr. Mishra donated the cash prize received to the MGMI library.

Dr. Mishra has more than 16 years of experience in various positions in the coal industry. He completed B.Tech (Mining) from Indian School of Mines in 1987 and obtained first class certificate in Mining in 1990.

He also has a PhD in Management Studies from IIT (ISM) -Dhanbad. Before SECL, he had also been the CMD of Eastern Coalfield Limited (ECL).

Under the able leadership of Dr. Mishra, SECL has set new records in coal

production and various other areas. In the year 22-23, SECL recorded the highest coal production, OBR and offtake in its history and this year also in the period of April-August 2023, the company has made the record of highest coal production, OBR and offtake.

Along with this, SECL is continuously making efforts for quick employment and proper settlement of project affected people. The company has made positive changes in the liabilities of land acquisition. In this financial year '23-24, employment approval has been given to a record 254 land oustees from April to July 2023.

Games should be played in sportsman spirit: Bhagat

• **23rd state level school sports competition begins, 390 players are participating**



Raipur, Sep 24: Food and Culture Minister Amarjeet Bhagat inaugurated the four-day 23rd state level school sports competition at the Government Multipurpose Higher Secondary School ground in Ambikapur of Surguja district. In the state level competition, there was a march past by the players from all the divisions representing their district, after which an oath was taken to play the game

with sportsman spirit. Minister Bhagat said on this occasion that players should play in the spirit of the game without worrying about victory or defeat. Chhattisgarh government is very conscious about sports due to which talents are getting opportunities. Chhattisgarhia Olympics is playing an important role in reviving folk sports.

Players from all five divisions of the state, Durg, Raipur, Bastar Bilaspur and Surguja divisions are taking part in the competition. 78 players from each division i.e. a total of 390 players are participating in the competition. The winning players of division level games will represent the state in the national level competition. On

this occasion, CGMSC President and Lundra MLA Dr. Pritam Ram, District Panchayat President Mrs. Madhu Singh, Vice President of Twenty Point Implementation Program Mr. Ajay Aggarwal, District Panchayat member Mr. Rakesh Gupta, Collector Mr. Kundan Kumar, Telghani Development Board member Lakshmi Gupta, Food Preservation and Civil Supplies Commission member; Abhishek Singh, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Abhishek Kumar, local public representatives and players from all divisions were present.

Children are being taught skills of stage management

Kareli badi, Sep 24: Apart from bookish knowledge, practical knowledge is also important, only then it can be said that the student's development is all-round. Many students are introverts who hesitate to come forward and speak on stage. Jitendra Sukumar Sahir, teacher and poet of Government Higher Secondary School Kareli Badi, in order to develop the expression skills in his school organizes along with poetry recitation, songs, speeches, the qualities of stage management on every Saturday in his first period. JS Sahir informed that every Saturday it is



the turn of a boy and girl student respectively to run the stage and prepare the plan for the programme.

Principal of the institution, Kishore Kumar Jangde praised this innovation and said that it is

helping in the expression development of children. Teacher Avadh Ram Sahu, who arrived for inspection, enjoyed the presentation of the students and while addressing the children said that in our time no teacher has taken

any such initiative due to which even today there is hesitation while speaking from the stage. He was all praise for JS Sahir for providing a good opportunity to all students and appeals all to take its full advantage.

Husband appeals SP for justice in case of his wife's suicide case

• **Appeals to appoint two employees of Kalinga company as police captain**

Korba, Sep 24: In the famous private contract company Kalinga, operating in Korba District, SECL, Manikpur, the work of providing jobs was going on openly by paying money, the videos of which went viral in the social media many times. But after this, neither the colliery management nor the famous private contract Company Kalinga paid attention to it. As a result, the wife of a driver working in the same company ended her life by

hanging herself. The deceased was repeatedly requesting the well-known Kalinga Company to employ her husband, but despite this the deceased's husband was not employed.

The deceased's husband, Rumel Singh, lodged a written complaint with the Korba District Police Captain and said that his wife Jindi Singh had committed suicide after being fed-up with the torture and harassment by officers Alok Kumar Panda and Prashant Kumar Deori of Kalinga Company Manikpur. Rumel Singh, husband of the victim and the deceased, told that I am a resident of Amraiyyapara Bypass



Road Police Post Manikpur. Earlier, I was working as a driver in Narayani Company under Manikpur Coal Field, during this time Narayani Company ended its work and became SECL. Kalinga Company again took charge of the SECL Manikpur project by signing a contract with the SECL management system on the new contract system which was adopted from the Manikpur mine. After taking charge, Alok Kumar Panda and Prashant Kumar Deori started hiring people by taking money. Rumel said that since he was already working as a driver in Manikpur Coal Mines he should have been taken in the post of driver on priori-

ty basis. Despite many requests, initially I was kept being taken around by the said two officers by assuring them of employment and after that they demanded Rs 40,000 from me in the name of getting me a job and it was said that on giving the said amount I would be released.

In this regard, assurance has also been given to me in writing by the above two officers. Trusting this, I was forced to withdraw Rs 20,000 from my bank and my wife borrowed Rs 20,000 from her acquaintances and gave it to me. Then I took the said Rs 40,000 in cash and gave it to the two officers, but even after this I did not get employment.

Rumel said that when his wife Jindi Singh, went with him and requested the said two officers several times due to the bad condition of their family, the wife was badly harassed and humiliated by the said two officers and they refused to give me a job. Angered and upset by this, my wife Jindi Singh had gone towards Kalinga Company's office to commit suicide on 6 July 2023 due to the tortures of the above mentioned two officers, but on the way, she committed suicide by hanging herself in Manikpur Coal Mines. It was done for which both the above mentioned officers are fully responsible, he alleged. Not only this, my wife's body remained lying

at the spot from July 6, 2023 to July 9, 2023, because even after a lot of searching, we could not find her. After which, after receiving the information on 9th July 2023, the post-mortem of my wife was conducted by the police on 10th July 2023. Rumel Singh has demanded from the Superintendent of Police that Alok Kumar Panda and Prashant Kumar Deori officers of Kalinga Company Manikpur are responsible for his wife's murder and it was getting fed-up with the torture and harassment by the two, she committed suicide and cime should be registered against the two and punishment be given for forcing her wife to commit suicide.



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India's Naval Buildup

Amidst Pakistan-China Submarine Deal

India's maritime security is facing a significant test as Pakistan prepares to acquire eight Chinese Yuan-class submarines between 2023 and 2028. This development has thrust immense pressure upon Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL) to swiftly finalize a deal for the construction of three additional diesel-electric Kalvari-class submarines, in collaboration with the French Naval Group. The urgency arises from the risk of MDL's submarine-building capacity, currently at 11, becoming idle by year-end. MDL is currently completing the last of the six Kalvari-class submarines, INS Vagsheer, soon to undergo sea trials. Simultaneously, negotiations with the Naval Group are underway for the additional three submarines, which will boast operation-specific features along with indigenous torpedoes and air-independent propulsion (AIP) for extended endurance. Currently, the indigenous torpedoes and AIP systems are undergoing operational validation in France. Pakistan's existing submarine fleet comprises an aging French Agosta 70 (PNS Hurmat) and an upgraded Agosta 90 B (PMS Hamza) equipped with French single-use MESMA AIP technology. Furthermore, it is set to welcome four Yuan-class diesel-electric submarines this year. Of note, the Yuan-class submarines represent a significant advancement, featuring AIP and potentially submarine-launched cruise missiles. The three additional submarines under discussion are expected to outperform the Kalvari-class in terms of advanced capabilities. These submarines, approved for necessity by the Modi government in July, could be up to seven meters longer than the Kalvari-class if the Navy opts for a pure diesel-electric model, accommodating additional batteries for extended submergence. Alternatively, they could be 10 meters longer to house the AIP unit designed by DRDO. These vessels will be equipped with advanced optronics, electronic warfare suites, and heavyweight torpedoes boasting a 40-kilometer range and higher explosive content. Future iterations may also include SM-39 Exocet missiles and SCALP 1000-kilometer range submarine-launched cruise missiles. Furthermore, a recent memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Naval Group and MDL has opened doors for submarine exports to countries like Indonesia and Malaysia, giving India an opportunity to showcase its Scorpene-class submarines. Collaborative efforts are also underway with Kolkata-based GRSE to build surface combatants, such as destroyers and frigates, for export to third countries. This strategic move ensures that the capacity of these dockyards does not dwindle due to a lack of work orders. Given India's depleting submarine force strength, characterized by aging Shishumar and Sindughosh-class submarines facing spare parts issues, the Indian Navy requires additional sub-surface combatants. These vessels are vital for safeguarding the nation's 7,500-kilometer coastline and establishing a deterrence against regional rivals, namely Pakistan and China. The Kalvari-class submarines have been actively patrolling Pakistan's Makran coast, located a mere six hours from Mumbai. These submarines also played a pivotal role in Operation Balakot in 2019 when they were operationally deployed outside Karachi and Gwadar harbors. As the U.S. anticipates a military crisis in Taiwan by 2027, and with China likely to extend its naval presence in the Indian Ocean by 2025-2026, India's indigenous submarine building capacity assumes paramount importance. This capacity forms a vital component of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Atmanirbhar Bharat" plan in defense and security, emphasizing self-reliance and security in these strategic domains.

Equity in SC Reservations

An Imperative Move

The proposition of implementing a sub-quota within the Scheduled Castes (SC) reservation system signifies an essential stride towards rectifying the prevailing imbalance in benefit distribution among these marginalized communities. It is indeed a commendable initiative. The system of reservations was established with the noble intent of offering opportunities for representation in prominent political and bureaucratic positions to the underprivileged and oppressed segments of society. However, the data gathered over the generations since its inception reveals a stark reality - the lion's share of these privileges has consistently funneled into the hands of a select few families or segments that have already reaped the advantages of the reservation system. This unfortunate trend has created a lopsided scenario, wherein the more disadvantaged factions within the SCs have been systematically excluded from access to jobs and educational prospects, resulting in their continued marginalization. The root cause of this predicament lies in the fact that the offspring of those who have secured government positions through reservations invariably hold a significant advantage over their peers. This advantage translates into preferential treatment when it comes to securing reserved seats in prestigious educational institutions and coveted government jobs. It's essential to recognize that the SC community itself encompasses a broad spectrum of distinctions, ranging from sub-groups of agricultural laborers to those who endure the harsh reality of manual scavenging. Consequently, it comes as no surprise that certain segments of the SC population in various states are vehemently advocating for a sub-quota within the overarching SC reservation. They have resorted to legal avenues, with the matter currently awaiting a Supreme Court verdict. The government, too, finds itself at a crossroads, pondering over the merits and demerits of this proposition. While it could await the court's judgment, it also possesses the prerogative to amend the reservation rules autonomously. The timing of this issue is noteworthy, particularly in an election year, where it has taken center stage, particularly in states like Telangana. Here, the Madiga community has raised its voice, contending that the Mala community has disproportionately seized the majority of opportunities available within the SC quota. In light of these developments, it is imperative for the government to address this issue judiciously and promptly. The objective should be twofold: firstly, to guarantee that the original intent of reservations - uplifting the most marginalized and underprivileged - is upheld, and secondly, to ensure that the advantages of this system are more equitably dispersed among the diverse factions that constitute the SC community. The principle of reservations is a powerful tool to address historical injustices and offer a semblance of justice to those who have been systematically oppressed. However, it must evolve with changing times to remain effective. The introduction of a sub-quota within the SC reservation is a step in that direction, aimed at fine-tuning the system to make it more inclusive and representative. The government faces a critical choice. It can choose to adapt and proactively address this matter or await a judicial directive. However, given the urgency and the aspirations of marginalized SC communities, it would be wise for the government to act swiftly. A fair, just, and inclusive society is the collective vision of a thriving democracy, and ensuring equitable distribution within the SC reservation is a vital component of realizing this vision.

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

KARMA, A HARVEST FESTIVAL



Tribal youth perform a cultural programme on the eve of Karma, a harvest festival, in Ranchi, Sunday.

Coaching hub 'Kota' facing the eclipse of innocent suicides?



RAJENDER KUMAR SHARMA



Some time ago, a heart-wrenching news was in the headlines that in just 24 hours, 3 students of a renowned coaching institute in Kota committed suicide. It is being told that 20 children have sacrificed their lives in the last 11 months. According to a recent news, a student of this famous coaching institute of Kota committed suicide. According to this news, in the last 245 days, 18 students committed suicide in same coaching institute. The figure is shocking. The future generation of the country is having to wither before it can blossom. Some time before, similar news also came from another branch of the same coaching institute located in Jaipur, where first the issue of suicide of a student was heated up and then the issue of two girl students of the same institute leaving the hostel without informing, made headlines in Newspapers. Earlier such incidents were limited to Kota, but now as renowned coaching institutes have started expanding their institutes as branches in other cities of the country, such tragic incidents are gradually becoming common there too. Such accidents are not new in Kota city, which is called Kashi of coaching. Recently, I was saddened to read the painful news of another student committing suicide in the same coaching town of Rajasthan. The student was from Orissa state who was living in Kota for the last six months and taking coaching. It is not new that there is a close connection between Kota

coaching and student suicides. After analysing the data related to suicide published in various newspapers, it was found that from the year 2012 to 2016, about 73 students committed suicide in Kota. In 2019 alone, 19 students committed suicide and this year also many students have committed suicide. How much truth is there in these figures is a matter of research and investigation, but such news is often read. This matter is no less than a big tragedy for a sensitive society. Coaching institutes and administration cover up the reason behind these suicides by citing mental pressure or by showing a love affair. Does the government or administration have any logic or analysis or any research paper or report of any investigation committee that can tell the country what is the reason behind such a large number of suicides of minors? Has the responsibility of the coaching institutes that reaped profits worth crores of rupees been fixed? How do these education shops give admission to the child without checking his/her ability? Was it ever investigated what kind of education was being given to 150 children in a single class? What remedial resources do these coaching institutes have for children's mental pressure related problems? When a child is not able to accommodate in these coaching institutes, do these institutes refund the full fee and guide the child and his parents? After the suicide of so many

children, have these coaching institutes made any analysis public till date on the causes and prevention of suicides? Do institutions conduct psychometric tests (educational psychological tests) of children to assess their mental ability and intelligence quotient (IQ) before admission?

These are the real questions to which neither these coaching institutes nor the administration have the answer. It is often seen that the reasons for these suicides are that immature children are unable to bear the pressure of this blind race of competition and the unlimited expectations of the parents force the students to take such drastic steps. Parents ignore the child's natural and innate talents and abilities and put pressure on their children to achieve things for which the child is not inclined. In such a situation, students become frustrated, either become victims of depression or take suicidal steps like suicide.

In the year 2016, according to a news, in the suicide note written by a student after committing suicide in Kota, she made a poignant request to the government to close these coaching institutes. Just think... a child, who has not lived his life and wants to live it, but if the ambitions of his parents and the pressure of studying in coaching institutes take away his right to live, then before whom should he beg for his life? The student is interested in humanities or any other subject but the parents have only one dream that their children become a great surgeon or an engineer from IIT itself, this ambition is responsible for taking the child to this position. It hurts more when even learned intellectuals are seen supporting coaching without exception.

The government will have to take strict steps in this direction. If any coaching institute admits students without assessing the mental capabilities of the children and their natural interests, then strict action should be taken against such institutes and such parents also need to be put in the dock

who do not allow their children to study despite knowing about the mental capabilities of people, they put such pressure on them.

This is enough to expose the rules of coaching institutes, our education system and education boards. There is a rule of all the education boards of the country that only those students can give the board examination, who have minimum 75 percent attendance in regular school. How the thousands of students who are taking coaching in the coaching institutes of Kota, while staying in Kota, are achieving 75% school attendance is a big question, the answer to which neither the School Education Board nor our education system can give. Let's understand the mechanism: Because it is not possible that all the students who have enrolled them in some coaching in Kota, take coaching only in the evening and then who is ensuring the attendance of the students, taking coaching in the morning sessions in Kota i.e. during school time? This is a matter of investigation.

It is a strict rule of almost all School Education Boards that no school can admit students in the classes as dummy or non-attending students and if the schools are doing so, then should strict action be taken against them and should their recognition be terminated? Shouldn't it be done? The future of the country is dying, it would not be an exaggeration to call it murder instead of suicide. This highly ambitious civilized society and parents are not ready to introspect even after the suicides happening every day. Hon. Supreme Court of the country will have to come forward to protect the little children so that the flowers do not have to wither before they bloom. Their right to live, see and celebrate the world should be protected at any cost.

(Sr. Educationist & Columnist, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The views expressed above are the author's own. They do not necessarily reflect the views of Central Chronicle.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

China's Arunachal Pradesh Maneuvers

China is making strategic moves in Arunachal Pradesh by recruiting local Bhutanese youths proficient in the Chinese language for the People's Liberation Army (PLA). China has enlisted one hundred such individuals, with fifty already deployed in the PLA and the remainder undergoing training, after which they will be stationed in the Arunachal Pradesh region. China appears to be gaining an advantage despite decades of poor communication infrastructure in the area, which lacked adequate road, rail, and air connectivity. Recent developments have transformed this landscape, with improved communication networks and the establishment of airbases to facilitate rapid responses and logistical support. In response, India has been recruiting locals fluent in the Chinese language to bolster its military capabilities. China has persistently pursued an encroachment policy, expanding its territorial claims in Arunachal Pradesh over the years, identifying vulnerabilities in India's administration since the country's independence.

Rathin Kumar Chanda, Hooghly.

Indo-Canadian Strain

Canadian PM Justin Trudeau's accusation of Indian government involvement in the assassination of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar has sparked a diplomatic crisis, leading to the expulsion of diplomats from both sides. This stand-off will adversely impact Indian students and potential immigrants to Canada. With a historically strong bond between the two nations and a significant Indian diaspora in Canada, Trudeau faces a critical choice between his pro-Khalistanist vote bank and maintaining a healthy relationship with the world's largest democracy.

MK Nair, Raipur

Gender Equality

The passage of the Women's Reservation Bill marks a historic and progressive step for the nation, fostering gender equality and empowering women in politics. The recent display of unanimity among MPs from different parties in the new Parliament building offers hope for future legislation related to public welfare. While seeking unanimous support for such bills is commendable, it's crucial to acknowledge that robust debates, discussions, and dissent remain vital components of a healthy democracy.

Shiv Kumar Mishra, Raipur

Why are simultaneous elections harmful to India's democracy?

Dr Satyavan Saurabh



There is also a possibility that the federalism of the country will be challenged by simultaneous elections. There is a danger of simultaneous elections blurring these specific platforms and areas of democracy, as well as the risk that state-level issues get subsumed into national issues. If elections for the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies are held simultaneously, there is a greater possibility that regional issues may become secondary to national issues or, on the contrary, national issues may lose their existence in front of regional issues.

Simultaneous elections imply that elections to the Lok Sabha and all state assemblies across India will be held simultaneously, with voting possibly taking place around the same time. The idea of simultaneous elections, or "one nation, one election", was first formally proposed by the Election Commission of India in a 1983 report. Along with some potential benefits of holding simultaneous elections, there are also some drawbacks, which raise the question: Is holding simultaneous elections harmful to India's democracy?

Analysts against One Country One Election believe that the Constitution has provided us with a parliamentary model under which the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies are elected for five years, but our Constitution is

situation, the possibility of re-election increases due to an unexpected reversal in the political equation of the concerned state. All these circumstances are completely contrary to one country one election.

Holding simultaneous elections would require a constitutional amendment to coordinate the terms of the State Legislative Assemblies with the terms of the Lok Sabha. In addition, the Representation of the People Act as well as other parliamentary procedures would require amendments. The main fear of regional parties regarding simultaneous elections is that they will not be able to raise their local issues strongly, as national issues will take center stage. Additionally, they will not be able to compete with national parties in terms of election expenditure and election strategy. There is also a possibility that the federalism of the country will be challenged by simultaneous elections. There is a danger of simultaneous elections blurring these specific platforms and areas of democracy, as well as the risk that state-level issues get subsumed into national issues.

Blurred attribution prevents voters from holding governments accountable for poor performance or rewarding them for good performance. Having separate elections for different levels of government makes it clear to the voters which level of government is responsible for what and focuses on the performance of the respective government. The result will

be a strong effort to save the government from collapse, even if it would, under normal circumstances, have lost the confidence of the House. There is a possibility of an explosive situation of horse-trading if elections are held simultaneously.

One Nation, One Election would be contrary to the federal structure of the country and would be a fatal step for parliamentary democracy. If elections for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies are held simultaneously, the tenure of some assemblies will be increased or reduced against their wishes, which may affect the autonomy of the states. The federal structure of India is inspired by the parliamentary system of governance and the frequency of elections in the parliamentary system of governance is an irrefutable fact. If elections for the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies are held simultaneously, there is a greater possibility that regional issues may become secondary to national issues or, on the contrary, national issues may lose their existence in front of regional issues. The nature and issues of Lok Sabha and Assembly elections are completely different. While Lok Sabha elections are held to form the national government, Assembly elections are held to form the state government. Therefore, while issues of national importance are given prominence in the Lok Sabha, issues of regional importance remain at the forefront in the Assembly elections.

Democracy is called the rule of the people. Being a parliamentary system

in the country, elections are held at different times and the public representatives have to remain continuously accountable to the public. Apart from this, no party or leader can act autocritically after winning an election because it has to face some elections at short intervals. Analysts believe that if both elections are held simultaneously, the chances of this happening will increase. India is the second largest country in the world in terms of population. Therefore, in the absence of a large population and infrastructure, it does not seem logical to hold elections for Lok Sabha and state assemblies simultaneously.

There are many compelling reasons in favor of simultaneous elections. However, achieving political consensus among different political parties, especially regional parties, is a legal and political challenge in itself. Therefore, there is a need to harmonize the views of stakeholders including national political parties, the Election Commission of India, bureaucrats, academicians, and experts on the proposal of holding simultaneous elections in the country. There is no doubt that India, the world's largest democracy, seems to be surrounded by an electoral maze all the time.

(Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, All India Radio and TV panelist. The views expressed above are the author's own. They do not necessarily reflect the views of Central Chronicle.)

BRIEF



Higher targets

New Delhi: LT Foods Ltd, which owns basmati rice brands - Daawat and Royal, is looking at 'Convenience & Health' segment as a "growth enabler" for the company, as it targets up to 8 to 10 per cent revenue from this category in the next five years, its MD & CEO Ashwani Kumar Arora said. The company is leveraging existing brands and distribution strength for its ready-to-cook and ready-to-eat products in the Convenience & Health segment, a category where consumption has increased in Indian homes, particularly after the pandemic.

Deadline

New Delhi: All individual demat account holders and mutual fund investors have time till September 30, to nominate a beneficiary or opt out of it by submitting a declaration form, failing which their demat accounts and folios will be frozen, and they will not be able to redeem their investments. This mandate applies to both new as well as existing investors, according to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). The move is aimed at helping investors to secure their assets and pass them on to their legal heirs.

Agreement

New Delhi: State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has signed an agreement to sell crude oil it produces from Mumbai offshore fields to HPCL - the second such agreement in as many months, as India's top oil and gas producer prefers term contracts over auctions where refiners hammer deep discounts. In a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, ONGC said it has inked "term agreement with HPCL for sale of crude oil from Mumbai offshore." While it did not give details, sources aware of the matter said the pact for sale of about 4.5 million tonnes per annum of crude oil to Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd's (HPCL) Mumbai refinery.

Investment



New Delhi: Fertiliser cooperative Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd (KRIBHCO) is investing around Rs 1,100 crore to set up three ethanol manufacturing plants using maize and broken rice as feedstock. These three plants are being set up in Gujarat, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh with a capacity of 250 kilo litre per day. "We are setting up three bio ethanol plants as part of our diversification plan," KRIBHCO's Chairman Chandra Pal Singh said.

'Govt has 'mismanaged' economy across all sectors'

New Delhi, Sep 24 (PTI):

The Congress on Sunday alleged that the government has mismanaged the economy across all sectors and since it is "too inept" in fixing issues such as unemployment and price rise, it is distorting the data instead.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said now that the special session of Parliament is over, it is clear that the Modi government was trying to "distract and divert" the nation from some critical issues "the Adani scam, the caste census and especially the rising unemployment, growing inequality and the economic distress".

In a statement, he said no matter how much the Modi government hides the data, the reality is that the vast majority of people are suffering. He claimed that some of the facts re-



Jairam Ramesh

ported last week are being "brushed under the carpet". He said RBI's latest bulletin of September 2023 shows the "complete failure" of the Modi government to execute a recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Forty-three per cent of people were in the labour force in February 2020. Over 3.5 years later, the participation rate remains around 40 per cent. As a matter of grave concern, a report from Azim Premji

University shows that over 42 per cent of graduates under the age of 25 were unemployed in 2021-22," Ramesh said.

In 2022, women were still making only 85 per cent of their earnings before the pandemic, he claimed. "Remember that India was already facing the highest unemployment rate in 45 years before the onset of the pandemic a statistic that the Modi government tried hard to hide from the public domain," he alleged.

The Congress leader highlighted that the prices of essential commodities have been rising sharply impacting the household budget of ordinary families.

"After the uncontrolled spike in tomato prices, now tur dal prices are up 45 per cent from January 2023, and overall pulses inflation has touched 13.4 per cent.

NMDC wins Champion of Champions at PRCI Excellence Awards 2023

Hyderabad, Sep 24:

NMDC bagged the Champion of Champions Award, sweeping the 17th PRCI Global Communication Conclave 2023, to bring home seventeen Corporate Communication Excellence Awards. The awards were presented at the Global Communication Conclave organised by Public Relations Council of India (PRCI) in New Delhi.

NMDC won the Crystal Award for CSR Campaign and the Platinum Award for Digital Newsletter, followed by the Diamond Award for Annual Report, Corporate Brochure and Website of the Year; Gold Award for Wall Calendar and Unique HR Initiatives; Silver Awards in the categories of House Journal - Print (Regional), Health care Communication Films, Best Use of CSR Project for Childcare and Most Resilient Company of the Year; Bronze Awards in



Visionary Leadership Campaign of the Year, Best Use of Social Media, Best Corporate Event, Customer Friendly Company of the Year and Internal Communication Campaign. NMDC was also recognised under Arts, Culture and Sports campaign category for the NMDC Hyderabad Marathon. P Jaya Prakash, General Manager (Corporate Communication), NMDC and Somnath Acharya,

DGM, Regional Office, New Delhi received the awards on behalf of NMDC. Jaya Prakash said, "We strive to create communication campaigns that are deeply intertwined with our company's core values. These awards reaffirm our consistent efforts and propel us to continue crafting impactful narratives of the NMDC story for the nation." Congratulating NMDC's Corporate Communication team for

this outstanding achievement, Amitava Mukherjee, CMD (Additional Charge) said, "NMDC's global brand recall value is a result of the deftness of our communication team in cross-collaborating with all departments and articulating our achievements accurately to all our stakeholders. We remain committed to communication excellence and upholding our company values with pride."

INDEPENDENT EXPERT GRP MEETING



Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman chairs a meeting with Independent Expert Group, in New Delhi.

HMSI launches 2023 Repsol Editions of Hornet 2.0 and Dio 125

New Delhi, Sep 24:

Gearing up for the maiden Grand Prix of Bharat and transforming Honda's racing DNA into sheer thrill of street riding, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) today launched the exciting 2023 Repsol Editions of Hornet 2.0 and Dio 125. Attractively priced at Rs. 1,40,000 and Rs. 92,300 respectively, these new Limited Edition Repsol models will be available at all Honda Red Wing dealerships across the country.

Introducing HMSI's latest offerings, Tsutsumu Otani, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India, said, "Racing is the heart of Honda. The pinnacle of motorcycle racing, MotoGP, is happening in India for the first time

ever and there is a lot of enthusiasm among the Indian fans to witness history in the making. To further amplify their excitement, we have launched the 2023 Repsol Editions of Hornet 2.0 and Dio 125. We wish the upcoming BharatGP to be a great success." Commenting on the launch of the 2023 Repsol Limited Edition models, Yogesh Mathur, Director, Sales and Marketing, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India, said, "We are excited to launch the new 2023 Repsol Edition of Hornet 2.0 and Dio 125. Both these models have delighted customers in their respective segments and with the launch of these Limited-Edition versions, we are happy to transform Honda's racing DNA on Indian roads for the MotoGP fans in India.

Apple to scale up production over 5 times in India

To USD 40 bn in 5 years

New Delhi, Sep 24 (PTI):

iPhone maker Apple has plans to scale up production in India by over five-fold to around USD 40 billion (about 3.32 lakh crore) in the next 4-5 years, according to government sources.

According to the official, who did not wish to be named, the company has crossed the USD 7 billion production mark in the last financial year.

"Apple has plans to increase production in India to over USD 40 billion in the next 4-5 years. It has crossed USD 7 billion in the last fiscal," the official said. An email query sent to Apple did not elicit any reply. Apple manufacturers' iPhones in India and has plans to start manufacturing AirPods from next year. The officer said



A customer poses for photos with his new Apple iPhone at Select City Walk mall, at Saket in New Delhi.

that Apple has no immediate plans to make iPads or its laptops in India.

"They don't have any plans to participate in IT hardware PLI. They may come at a later stage but as of now their focus is to

scale up existing production levels," the officer said. The company globally sold iPhones worth USD 191 billion and products worth USD 38.36 billion in the wearable, home and accessories segment in the financial year ended on September 25, 2022.

In the first nine months of the current fiscal, the company recorded about a 4 per cent dip in iPhone sales at USD 156.77 billion and a slight decline in the wearable, home and accessories segment at USD 30.52 billion.

The company has become the largest exporter of mobile phones from India. According to industry sources, sales of Apple's iPhone 15 series registered a 100 per cent growth compared to that of the iPhone 14 series on the launch day on Friday.

BOSS Appliances introduces India's first hand blender

Mumbai, Sep 24:

BOSS Appliances, a name synonymous with innovation and excellence, proudly introduces India's first Hand Blender featuring an industry-disrupting 5-year warranty. With a rich history dating back to 1985, BOSS embarked on its mission with perseverance, continuous growth, and strategic reformation. The result was the creation of India's very first Hand Blender, a product that not only redefined cooking practices but also shaped the way Indian households operated. BOSS has evolved into a powerhouse of kitchen innovation, expanding into a diverse array of products, including mixer grinders, juice extractors, food processors, oven toaster grillers, and many more.

With a visionary outlook and a dedication to delivering exceptional value, BOSS has expanded from a single product offering to a comprehensive product range encompassing over 60 products across 13 distinct categories. This remarkable feat is supported by an expansive Pan India service network, along with a robust retail presence of 6000+ retailers. BOSS Appliances' offerings have captured the hearts, trust, and preference of not just Indian households, but have also made their mark in international markets, including the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and the USA.

With 35 years of leadership in India's kitchen appliances sector, the brand has garnered numerous awards for its superior quality, user-centric design, and innovative edge.

Why everyone wants a pie of Adani Green Energy

New Delhi, Sep 24 (PTI):

French energy giant TotalEnergies SE's USD 300 million investment in clean energy projects of Adani Green Energy Ltd has taken the total investments poured in by global investors in India's largest renewable power producer to USD 1.63 billion or about Rs 14,000 crore, sources close to the company said.

Last week, Total announced it will hold a 50 per cent stake in the new joint venture firm where Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) will hold the rest. The joint venture will hold a portfolio of 1,050 MW, including 300 MW of already operational capacity, 500 MW under construction and 250 MW under-development assets with a



blend of solar and wind power.

Total already has a 19.7 per cent stake in AGEL. It also has an equal joint venture with AGEL, called AGE23L that holds a portfolio of 2,353 MW.

The USD 300 million investment Total is making in the joint venture is the first since the Hindenburg report in January highlighted Adani Group's debt pile and alleged accounting fraud and stock manipulation, which Adani de-

nies. Sources said AGEL is one company within the Adani Portfolio, which has attracted a range of investors over the past few months including repeat strategic investor Total, one of the largest emerging market funds GQG Capital Partners and one of the world's largest sovereign funds Qatar Investment Authority.

Together these three investors have invested USD 1.63 billion or close to Rs 14,000 crore over the past few months, taking advantage of the attractive valuations post the short-seller report, they said.

GQG Partners has taken a 6.8 per cent stake in AGEL while QIA picked up 2.7 per cent. IHC International Holding Company has another 1.3 per cent stake.

'G20 declaration should spur govt to give big push to MSMEs'

New Delhi, Sep 24 (PTI):

The declaration of G20 nations under India's presidency should spur the government to give a big push to the MSME sector by simplifying the regulatory process and enhancing their access to affordable capital, say experts.

The commitments made in the G20's New Delhi declaration with regard to the MSMEs ought to be followed by the member nations as the sector has the potential to generate employment and promote sustained growth.

The New Delhi Declaration adopted early this month said the G20 recognise that startups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are natural engines of growth. They are key to socio-economic transformation by driving innova-

tion and creating employment. "We welcome the establishment of the Start-up 20 Engagement Group during India's G20 Presidency and its continuation," it said. Chairman of CII Delhi State Council and MD and CEO of Samtel Avionics Limited Puneet Kaura said the MSME is considered important the world over and the G20 declaration has once again underlined the need for extending financial and non-financial support by the governments to this sector.

"It was heartening for the MSME to have received the due recognition by the G20 under India's presidency. These promises, however, should not remain on paper but must result in action on the ground as the sector has immense potential to generate quality

employment across the country and contribute to the country's exports which have been suffering on account of global problems," he said.

Bhagyashree Bhansali, CEO of The Disposal Company (TDC), said that to further promote startups/MSMEs, the government should simplify regulatory processes, enhance access to affordable capital, foster industry-academia collaborations for innovation, and provide targeted skill development programmes. Creating robust incubation and mentorship ecosystems will also nurture entrepreneurship and innovation in India. "Startup/MSMEs are at the forefront of promoting digital technology and sustainable growth. They drive innovation in AI adoption, enhancing efficiency and reducing environ-

mental footprints. By creating tech-driven solutions, they enable businesses to operate sustainably, fostering a future where technology and environmental stewardship go hand in hand, advancing India's socio-economic transformation," she said.

The G20 Declaration said it recognises challenges MSMEs, particularly in developing countries, face with respect to access to information and thus, welcomes Jaipur Call for Action for enhancing MSMEs' access to information to promote the integration of MSMEs into international trade. Deepak Bhardwaj, co-founder, IoTechWorld Avigation, said MSMEs are the backbone of organised as well as unorganised sectors and provide employment to millions of people.

EXPERTS VIEW

Railway board's member reviews SECR's remarkable progress

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Sep 24: In a significant development, Rup Narayan Sunkar, Member Infrastructure of the Railway Board, embarked on a fruitful one-day official visit to the Southeast Central Railways in Bilaspur on September 23.

Sunkar conducted a comprehensive review meeting with Alok Kumar, the General Manager of Southeast Central Railways, and the heads of various departments at the Southeast Central Railways headquarters Hall.

The visit highlighted substantial advancements



in numerous projects within the jurisdiction of Southeast Central Railways. Some sections have already completed their tasks, while others are actively in progress.

Notably, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Champa-

tion and the Dalli Rajhara-Raoghat New Rail Line, are proceeding with great momentum.

During the meeting, Alok Kumar, the General Manager of Southeast Central Railways, provided vital updates on the progress and activities associated with these rail development projects aimed at enhancing the infrastructure of Southeast Central Railways.

The meeting was attended by department heads and other officials, including the Chief Administrative Officer (Construction), in the headquarters' hall in Bilaspur.

Indian Labour Union's sit-in protest highlights workers' rights

Management and Union engage in dialogue

Central Chronicle News

Pandaria, Sep 24: The Indian Labour Union, led by the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Cooperative Sugar Factory in Pandariya, embarked on an indefinite sit-in protest starting last Friday, focusing on labour rights. The demonstration, which has drawn the active participation of hundreds of workers, extended into its second day on Saturday.

Lalit Chandravanshi, the union's General Secretary, clarified that the Indian Labour Union had initially



presented a set of seven demands to the factory's management via a memorandum.

However, given the lack of satisfactory responses from the management, the union felt compelled to resort to a sit-in protest. He emphasized their commitment to continue the protest until their demands receive attention and action

from the administration. The demands outlined by the Indian Labour Union primarily concern the wages of contract labourers, advocating for fair compensation based on their experience and qualifications.

The union is also pressing for uniform wage increments for all contract workers, an assured minimum

monthly wage, timely distribution of recovery bonuses, and Diwali bonuses for workers before the festival.

Additionally, they seek job security for existing workers when changes are made and the inclusion of a weekly off in the fiscal year 2023-24, with additional compensation for those engaged in work on that day.

Deteriorating road challenges students and residents

Community demands urgent action for improvement

Central Chronicle News

Balrampur, Sep 24: The village panchayat of Tangarmari, nestled in the heart of the Balrampur Development Block, is grappling with the deplorable state of a dirt road that leads to the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya. This issue has grown into a major concern for students, parents, and local residents, making daily commutes to the school a daunting challenge.

The problem began when a new Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, constructed at a cost exceeding 23 crores, was inaugurated in Tangarmari last year. Although the school commenced operations,

funds allocated by the central government were solely for the construction of the school building, neglecting the dire need for road development. As a result, no tenders were floated for road construction, exacerbating the road's lamentable condition.

During rainy days, the road becomes an impassable quagmire, riddled with potholes and mud. This poses significant challenges, especially to parents who visit the school to meet their children.

The temporary principal of the Navodaya Vidyalaya had previously approached the District Collector, urging the prioritization of road construction. Unfortunately, the Collector's transfer, followed by the principal's replacement, left the issue unresolved.

On a disheartening note, despite the Gram Panchayat's expenditure of lakhs of rupees to re-



pair the road, no improvements have been discernible. This has raised suspicions among locals, who suspect embezzlement of funds by Panchayat officials. Villagers also allege that the Sarpanch and Secretary have siphoned off significant amounts earmarked for various development projects under

the Gram Panchayat's purview.

Notably, the district's pride, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, lies merely 6 kilometers from the district headquarters. Yet, it remains devoid of proper road connectivity, with neither the district administration nor Panchayat officials addressing the issue.

In response, Panchayat Secretary Mrs. Lalati Ravi claimed that the road had indeed been repaired and was presently in good condition. She attributed the muddy conditions during rainfall to the road's unpaved nature and indicated that a proposal for road construction had been forwarded to the District Panchayat.

She expressed optimism that, upon approval and fund allocation, road construction would commence. While a proposal for constructing a concrete road under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has been drafted and sent to the District Panchayat, a temporary resolution to address current road conditions is imperative. Coordination with the Panchayat Secretary is advised while awaiting the proposal's approval and subsequent action.

Health checkup camp promotes well-being of sanitation workers

Swachhata Hi Sewa 2.0 ensures health and awareness

Central Chronicle News

Chirmiri, Sep 24: A health checkup camp for sanitation workers and cleanliness ambassadors was organized under the "Swachhata Hi Sewa 2.0 - Indian Swachhata League" at Mangal Bhavan, Chirmiri Municipal Corporation, under the guidance of Mayor Kanchan Jayaswal. During the camp, health examinations were conducted for cleanliness workers, cleanliness ambassadors, and their family members.

The health camp, conducted for 213 sanitation workers and their family members, was a vital component of the ongoing "Swachhata Hi Sewa 2.0 -



Indian Swachhata League" program, which runs from September 15th to October 2nd. Attendees received health examinations related to various schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, health insurance, and the Mitan Yojana. The event also featured a rally to promote cleanliness awareness, accompanied by a collective pledge to uphold cleanliness standards.

Mayor Kanchan Jayaswal emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness not only within homes but also in the broader community.

She stressed the need for sustained awareness efforts to instill a culture of cleanliness.

Notably, the event witnessed active participation from several Municipal Corporation officials, including Sanitation Officer Umesh Tiwari, Vijay Badhawan, N.M.K Manager S.K. Tiwari, Municipal Corporation A.E. Gajendra Singh, Sub Engineer R.P. Sonkar, PIU Prashant, Nodal Officer Kanak Sai, and others, highlighting the collective commitment to promoting a healthier and cleaner environment for all.

Parivartan Yatra promises transformation across Chhattisgarh, says Gourishankar

Massive gathering anticipated in Kasdol for key BJP event

Central Chronicle News

Kasdol, Sep 24: The eagerly awaited "Parivartan Yatra," which embarked on its journey from Danteshwari Temple in Dantewada on September 12th, is set to make a significant impact as it reaches Kasdol on September 25th. Nearly 10,000 individuals are expected to gather to witness and hear Pradesh Adhyaksh Arun Sao during this pivotal event.

Former Legislative Assembly Speaker Gourishankar Agrawal, in a press interaction in Kasdol, expressed his belief that the Parivartan Yatra would not only bring transformation



to the Kasdol Assembly constituency but also resonate throughout Chhattisgarh, firmly asserting that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would secure a resounding majority in the upcoming elections.

In response to Congress' slogan of "75 against 15," Agrawal dismissed it as a mere dream, citing that the Congress' Jogi

PDS scam and coal scam. He underscored that slogans like "Narva Garva Ghurva Bari" have lost their significance as pressing issues remain unresolved.

Praising the recent passage of the women's reservation bill, Agrawal commended Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his commitment to women's empowerment, leaving opposition parties perplexed.

With the Parivartan Yatra's arrival in Kasdol approaching, the program will feature Central Minister Shripad Naik. Gourishankar Agrawal extended a warm invitation to the residents of the Kasdol region, encouraging them to actively participate in this significant event that promises positive change for Chhattisgarh.

Government, during its tenure from 2000 to 2003, had witnessed the BJP organize a Parivartan Yatra in the state. He criticized Congress for baselessly accusing the BJP of copying their campaign.

Agrawal didn't shy away from pointing out various alleged scams and corruption allegations that have plagued the Congress government, including the

'Congress's strong position in Ch'garh'

Preparations for legislative assembly elections in full swing

Central Chronicle News

Katagi, Sep 24: The impending legislative assembly elections slated for November in Chhattisgarh have set the political arena abuzz with activity. As the Congress and BJP lock horns in this electoral showdown, the focus of Chhattisgarh's citizens will be on assessing the performance of these two parties during the BJP's 15-year reign and the Congress's current five-year tenure.

Underlining the upcoming elections, Satish Sharma, Secretary of the Pradesh Congress Committee, noted that the BJP had clinched victory in the three elections preceding 2018.

However, the Congress secured a resounding mandate in 2018, and the marked distinction lies in

the Congress government's deep-rooted connection to the people and culture of Chhattisgarh.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's efforts to preserve the state's culture, traditions, clothing, and customs are poised to resonate with voters, bolstering the Congress's prospects.

Over the past five years, Chhattisgarh has experienced remarkable development, with the accomplishments of this period eclipsing those of the BJP's 15-year rule. Strides have been made in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and more.

The government has introduced a slew of initiatives benefitting the masses, such as the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, Godhan Nyay Yojana, Chief Minister Urban Slum Health Scheme, Swami



Satish Sharma

Atmanand English Medium School Scheme, Rajiv Yuva Mitan Club Scheme, Ram Van Gaman Tourism Path, and support for tendu leaf and forest produce at remunerative prices.

Initially, only seven forest produce items received support prices under the Bhupesh Baghel government. However, the Congress government has expanded this support to

65 minor forest produce items, procuring approximately 12 lakh quintals valued at around Rs 345 crores between 2018-19 and 2022-23.

This significant boost in tendu leaf prices has increased income for collectors, and the initiative to convert cow dung into vermicompost enhances soil fertility, offering a sustainable solution to the chemical fertilizer crisis and a fillip to agriculture.

Moreover, Chhattisgarh has harnessed cow dung for natural paint production, establishing small-scale industries, generating employment, and fostering economic growth. The Rural Industries Promotion Agency (RIPA) is facilitating the setup of small-scale industries at the gram panchayat level, empowering rural populations economically.

Women celebrate passage of Women's Reservation Bill

Historic legislation promises increased female representation in Indian politics

Fingeshwar, Sep 24:

Women across India are celebrating the momentous passage of the Women's Reservation Bill in both Parliament and state legislatures. This historic legislation, which guarantees 33% reservation for women in these political bodies, marks a significant step towards increased female representation in Indian politics and a more equitable society.

Sheetal Rajput expressed her appreciation for the government's significant step, saying, "This is a very commendable step by the central government. It will boost women's self-esteem in Indian politics. For the women who had to fight a long battle to reach the pinnacle of politics, there will be a change. With the passage of this law, the presence of women in the Indian Parliament will increase, which will strengthen their image as a symbol of women's empowerment."

Sheetal Rajput



Pramada Thakur

Pramada Thakur called the bill a "revolutionary step in the history of Indian politics" and, while acknowledging the delay in its passage, praised the government's commitment. She added, "It will increase women's participation in politics, and they will work for the welfare of women in the country."



Gayatri Banjara

Gayatri Banjara welcomed the bill and noted, "This bill is definitely welcome, and it will provide an opportunity for women to participate in the country's development. With the passage of this bill, the participation of women in Parliament and State Assemblies will increase."



Saroj Soni

Saroj Soni emphasized the importance of fully implementing the Women's Bill, stating, "The Women's Bill has not yet been fully implemented. It will be premature to say anything about it until it becomes a law. However, with its passage, it is certain that the influence of women in Indian politics will increase. This is a good start, and we hope that the demand for a long time will be fulfilled. Women have not yet been able to find their rightful place in politics."



Aditi Pahadia

Aditi Pahadia praised the government's historic decision, saying, "The government has taken a historic decision to empower women, and this is highly commendable. So far, no other party's government has been able to achieve this; it is the Bharatiya Janata Party that has made it happen. With the passage of this bill, women from the SC/ST communities will also benefit. This bill, after being passed, will undoubtedly increase the participation of women in both the Parliament and the state assemblies. This bill was first introduced in 1996 but could not pass despite several attempts. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it has now been passed. It reserves one-third of the seats in the reserved category for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women."

Puja Pahadia

Puja Pahadia expressed her optimism, stating, "The current government has been consistently making efforts to ensure that women receive equal status to men. The bill introduced in the Lok Sabha under the Matruvandana Act for women is undoubtedly commendable. It will provide women with greater strength and opportunity. The future belongs to women. This bill will prove to be a milestone for women in Indian politics. It will boost the confidence of women in the political arena."



Sheila Yadav

Women's representation will increase from panchayat elections to state legislatures and Parliament. Women's participation will grow in every sector. Women who have been sidelined for years will gain respect. This will lead to very positive outcomes in the future. The Women's Reservation Bill was much needed in Indian politics. It has been delayed multiple times, but this time, the possibility of its passage is strong.



Sheila Jeevanlal Shrivastav

Sheila Jeevanlal Shrivastav congratulated all sisters on the introduction of the Women's Empowerment Bill. She said that women's reservation is necessary for women's empowerment. Through this reservation, women will have the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process and contribute to the country's development. The Women's Empowerment Act will strengthen democracy.





India rout Uzbekistan 16-0 in Asian Games men's hockey

Hangzhou, Sep 24 (PTI):

In a spectacular display of prowess, the Indian men's hockey team initiated their Asian Games campaign with an overwhelming 16-0 victory over Uzbekistan, with Lalit Upadhyay, Varun Kumar, and Mandeep Singh each securing a hat-trick.

Ranked third in the world, India faced the 66th-ranked Uzbekistan as clear favorites in the Pool A match, and they lived up to the expectations, dictating the game from start to finish.

Lalit Upadhyay (7th, 24th, 37th, 53rd) and Varun Kumar (12th, 36th, 50th, 52nd) were unstoppable, scoring four goals each, while Mandeep Singh (18th, 27th, 28th minutes) found the net three times. Abhishek (17th), Amit Rohidas (38th), Sukhjeet (42nd), Shamsher Singh (43rd), and Sanjay (57th) were the other contributors to India's goal fest.

India's captain, Harmanpreet Singh, was rested for the match, having carried the flag alongside Olympic medalist



boxer Lovlina Borgohain during the Asian Games' opening ceremony on Saturday. The match witnessed complete domination by India, as they took just seven minutes to break the deadlock, unleashing a torrent of goals

against Uzbekistan. India's proficiency in penalty corners was notable, as they earned 14 throughout the game but converted only five, a point of concern for coach Craig Fulton. Despite this, the forward-line's synergy with the

midfield resulted in 10 field goals, with the other goal coming from a penalty stroke in the 36th minute.

Uzbekistan's goalkeeper, Davlat Tolibbaev, made some commendable saves early in the game, but Lalit Upadhyay eventually opened the scoring. Varun Kumar doubled the lead with a powerful penalty corner flick.

Mandeep Singh, who was instrumental in setting up goals, added two more to the tally just before half-time. India led 7-0 at the halfway mark.

The trend continued in the second half, with India's goalkeepers, PR Sreejesh and Krishan Bahadur Pathak, rarely called into action as India continued to dominate proceedings. In the last two quarters, India added nine more goals to complete their resounding victory. India's next match in the pool is against Singapore, scheduled for Tuesday. The dominant performance against Uzbekistan has set a high bar for the Indian team as they look to make a strong statement at the Asian Games.

Nikhat begins campaign with dominant win

■ Preeti cruises to QFs

Hangzhou, Sep 24 (PTI):

In a rematch of World Championship final, top Indian boxer Nikhat Zareen outclassed Vietnam's Thi Tam Nguyen 5-0 to move to the women's 50kg pre-quarter-finals while Preeti Pawar (54kg) sealed a place in the quarter-finals of the Asian Games here on Sunday. Two-time world champion Zareen defeated the two-time Asian Champion Nguyen by unanimous decision.

One of only four boxers to not get a first round bye in the 50kg event despite being the reigning world champion, Zareen controlled the proceedings from the word go.

"I had not expected it (to be a one-sided bout) but my plan was to make it one because it's happening in another country and I didn't want to give any chance to her. My plan was to win the first two rounds unanimously and then relax in the third," Zareen said after the win. In the opening two rounds Zareen landed accurate punches, rattling her opponent. Such was her power that the referee was forced to give Nguyen the eight count twice in 30 seconds in the opening round.



India's Nikhat Zareen reacts after her win against Vietnam's Thi Tam Nguyen in women's 50 kg boxing preliminaries at the 19th Asian Games, in Hangzhou, China, Sunday, Sept. 24.

Nguyen tried to attack in the second round but Zareen retaliated with strong combination punches, forcing a third eight count upon the Vietnamese boxer. With her work done, Zareen conserved energy in the final three minutes, defending beautifully with the help of her nimble footwork.

With coveted Olympic quotas at stake, Zareen said she is concentrating on qualifying for the Paris

Games first. "I am focussing on qualification first. Then step by step I'll think of final and gold," Zareen said. All four semi-finalists in the light fly-weight category will earn Olympic quotas.

The 19-year-old Preeti, who made the pre-quarter-finals of the World Championships earlier this year, is now one bout away from assuring herself of a medal and an Olympic quota. Playing a strategic

bout, Preeti started the contest on a defensive mode before unleashing her attacking game.

After a sedate start, the Indian went on the offensive and landed perfect jabs and hooks to win the opening two rounds easily. After showing promise initially, Silina faded away and looked at sea as the referee gave her two standing counts in the second and third rounds before stopping the contest.

Indian rowers make waves at Asian Games with two silver and one bronze

Hangzhou, Sep 24 (PTI):

The Indian rowing team had a stellar start at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, securing two silver medals and one bronze on a perfect morning for rowing at the Fuyang Water Sports Centre.

In a spectacular display of skill and determination, Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh clinched the first medal, a silver, in the men's lightweight doubles sculls event. They clocked an impressive 6:28.18s, narrowly finishing behind China's Junjie Fan and Man Sun, who secured the gold with a time of 6:23.16s. The Uzbekistan pair of Shakhzod Nurmatov and Sobirjon Safaroliyev took the bronze with a time of 6:33.42s.

The excitement continued in the grueling men's coxed eight event, where India engaged in a fierce battle with China. Ultimately, India secured the silver medal, clocking 5:43.01s, just 2.84s behind the host nation, who finished first with a time of



India's Neeraj, Naresh Kalwaniya, Neetish Kumar, Charanjeet Singh, Jaswinder Singh, Bheem Singh, Punit Kumar and Ashish celebrate at the podium after winning silver medal in Men's Coxed Eight event.

5:40.17s. Indonesia claimed the third spot with a time of 5:45.51s.

Dhananjay Uttam Pande, who played a pivotal role as the coxswain, expressed his satisfaction with the team's performance: "It was a great race for us. It went according to the plan we had gone over with our coach and teammates yesterday. My role as

a cox is to guide the boat, give them the right instructions about what pace to maintain in the race, and which team to focus on. My job is to make all the eight members think together." Babul Yadav and Lekh Ram secured a bronze medal in the coxless pair event, further adding to India's impressive medal tally.

Nagal, Myneni-Ramkumar enter pre-quarterfinals

Hangzhou, Sep 24 (PTI): India's top tennis player Sumit Nagal moved to the men's singles pre-quarterfinals of the Asian Games without losing a game as he expectedly thrashed Macau's hapless Ho Tin Marco Leung, here on Sunday. It was expected to be an easy second-round match for the 159th ranked Nagal, whose rival does not even have a ranking on the ATP computer. The fifth seed Nagal, who had got a first round bye, needed just 45 minutes to dispatch his opponent 6-0 6-0. He will next take on Kazakhstan's Beibit Zhukayev, who advanced after his Tajikistani rival Firuz Mukhidinov retired from the contest. Zhukayev was leading 3-0 in the match when Mukhidinov decided to concede the contest. The second seeded Indian pair of Saketh Myneni and Ramkumar Ramanathan outplayed Nepal's Abhishek Bastola and Pradip Khadka 6-2 6-3 in another easy match in their men's doubles opening round that lasted just 57 mins.

Indian women go down to Thailand 0-1

Wenzhou (China), Sep 24 (PTI): The Indian team failed to qualify for the knockout stage of the Asian Games after their 0-1 defeat to Thailand here on Sunday. Indian side fought bravely but a 52nd minute goal from Thongrong Parichat helped Thailand to emerge winner in their Group B match. India had lost their Asian Games opener to Chinese Taipei 1-2. The defeat against Thailand also ended their chances of finishing among the three second placed teams, who will enter the knockouts along with five top-ranked sides, from five groups.

Men's volleyball team goes out of medal hunt

Hangzhou, Sep 24 (PTI): Japan pushed Indian men's volleyball team out of the medal race at the Asian Games with a fluent 3-0 win in a cross-group match here on Sunday. Keihan Takahashi emerged as star performer for Japan by logging 21 points, playing a key role in his team's 25-16 25-18 25-17 victory in one hour and 11 minutes. Erin Varghese was top scorer for India with eight points. Japan will now face China in the semifinals whereas India will play against either Pakistan or Qatar in fifth-sixth place classification match on Tuesday. The Indian team had topped the Group C after winning against Cambodia and South Korea.

Vastrakar takes Indian women to final; to face SL for gold

Hangzhou, Sep 24 (PTI):

Pooja Vastrakar bowled a sharp and incisive spell to take the Indian women's cricket team to its maiden Asian Games final, crushing Bangladesh by eight wickets in a lopsided semifinal here on Sunday.

Right arm seamer Vastrakar, who replaced Anjali Sarvani in the squad just before leaving India, had career-best figures of 4/17 in four overs as Bangladesh were bowled out for 51 in 17.5 overs - their lowest ever T20 score against the neighbours.

India will face Sri Lanka in the final on Monday. Lankans defeated defending champions Pakistan, who had won the gold at Incheon Games 2014, by six wickets in the semifinals. Against Bangladesh, Vastrakar and her young new-ball partner Titas Sadhu (1/10 in 4 overs) extracted all the juice available from the deck as they bowled quick, with the bounce on offer also helping. Only skipper Nigar Sultana (12) was able to



reach double figures for Bangladesh. The chase of 52 was a cakewalk as it was achieved in only 8.2 overs. Kanika Ahuja (1 not out) and Jemimah Rodrigues (20 not out) took India home despite losing skipper Smriti Mandhana

(7) and Shafali (17) cheaply. It was also sweet revenge for the women's team, who were forced to play the second game on the trot without their regular skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who is serving a two-match suspension. Harmanpreet was suspended due to her angry public outburst and criticism of the quality of Bangladeshi umpiring while playing against them in an away series a few months back. The Indian women couldn't have made a better statement than a performance as dominant as the one on Sunday.

Brief Scores
Bangladesh: 51 in 17.5 overs (Pooja Vastrakar 4/17) lost to India 52/2 on 8.2 overs (Shafali Verma 17, Jemimah Rodrigues 20 not out).
Pakistan: 75/9 in 20 overs (Udeshika Prabhodini 3/21) lost to Sri Lanka: 77/4 in 16.4 overs (Harshitha Samarawickrama 23).

Indian women's 10m air rifle team bags silver; Ramita win individual bronze



Indian women shooters Ramita Jindal (L), Mehuli Ghosh (C) and Ashi Chouksey stand at the podium after winning silver medal in 10m air rifle during the 19th Asian Games at Fuyang Yinhu Sports Centre, in Hangzhou, China, Sunday, Sept. 24.

Hangzhou, Sep 24 (PTI):

The experienced trio of Mehuli Ghosh, Ramita Jindal and Ashi Chouksey's bagged the women's team silver while Ramita also clinched an individual bronze in the 10m air rifle event as Indian shooters

made an impressive start to their Asian Games campaign, here on Sunday. A combined score of 1,886.0 earned the Indian troika the second spot behind hosts China, who smashed the Asian record with a score of 1,896.6. Junior world champion

Ramita then won the individual bronze in her event, shooting 230.1 in the eight-shooter finals. China won both the gold and silver medals in the event with Huang Yuting breaking the Games record with a score of 252.7 on way to top podium finish. Han Jiayu

came in second with 251.3 points. The 19-year-old Ramita was in contention for a silver medal before she fell behind because of a rank poor 9.9 on the 13th shot. Mehuli, the other Indian to make the eight-shooter final, finished fourth with a score of 208.43.

Centurions Gill, Iyer, explosive Suryakumar fire India to 399/5

Indore, Sep 24 (PTI):

Shubman Gill continued his sensational run with a fifth ODI hundred of the year while Shreyas Iyer hit a timely ton under pressure to fire India to a record 399 for five against Australia in the second game here on Sunday.

Gill (104 off 97 balls) and Iyer (105 off 90 balls) shared a stroke-filled 200-run stand off 164 balls after Rituraj Gaikwad (8) missed out on a batting beauty. Suryakumar Yadav (72 not out off 37 balls) and skipper K L Rahul (52 off 38 balls) plundered a pedestrian looking Australian attack in the death overs to provide the final flourish for India. The last 10 overs yielded 103 runs as India racked up their highest-ever total against Australia in ODIs.

The Holkar Stadium tends to produce high-scoring games and Sunday's game proved no exception. Both Gill and Iyer, who



Shubman Gill celebrates after scoring a century.



Shreyas Iyer celebrates after scoring a century.

struggled with cramps towards the end of his innings, continued to find boundaries after resumption. They went on to complete the century, Iyer's third in ODIs, while Gill's sixth in the format.

When both the batters departed, Rahul and Kishan (31 off 18) played

some bold strokes to up the scoring rate. After that explosive Suryakumar took the centre stage. He did just that to power India to a formidable total.

His innings included four sixes in a row off Green in the 44th over. The towering pacer con-

Revise target set due to rain delay

Due to a rain delay, the target for Australia had to be revised in their pursuit of a daunting 399 runs. At the time of the interruption, Australia was at 56 for 2, with David Warner and Marnus Labuschagne at the crease, facing an uphill battle. The heavens opened up at the Holkar cricket stadium, disrupting play, and Australia was left with the challenging task of scoring 344 runs in 41 overs to secure victory. After the rain delay, a revised target was set for Australia, requiring them to chase down 317 runs in 33 overs to win the match.

ceded 103 runs in his 10 overs, so symbolic of their wretched outing with the ball on the day.

'Winning MP, Chh'garh, close in Rajasthan'

New Delhi, Sep 24 (PTI):

Exuding confidence about a good showing in the upcoming assembly polls, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said that as of now the Congress is certainly winning Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, probably winning Telangana, and there is a "very close" contest in Rajasthan which the party believes it will emerge victorious in.

Gandhi also referred to the row over BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri's derogatory remarks against BSP leader Danish Ali in Lok Sabha, alleging that the BJP indulges in such tactics to distract from the demand for a caste census.

He asserted that the opposition is adapting and working together and the BJP is "in for a surprise in 2024" general elections.

Speaking at a conclave organised by the Pratidin Media Network of Assam, Gandhi also said the idea of 'One Nation, One

Election' was aimed at distracting from real issues of the people.

"It's one of the BJP's distraction strategies," he asserted.

The main issues in India are concentration of wealth, huge inequality in wealth, massive unemployment, huge unfairness towards the lower caste, OBCs, and tribal communities, and price rise, he said.

"Now, the BJP can't contest those. So let's have Mr. Bidhuri make a statement. Let's get together and sort of have elections together. Let's change the name of India'. This is all distraction. We know it, we understand it. And we're not going to let them do it," he said.

He asserted that his party not winning any of the states in the upcoming state polls is out of the question.

Assembly polls are scheduled to take place in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh,



Rahul Gandhi

Telangana and Mizoram.

Asked about the party's chances, Gandhi said, "I would say, right now, we are probably winning Telangana, we are certainly winning Madhya Pradesh, we are certainly winning Chhattisgarh. Rajasthan, we are very close, and we think we will be able to win. That is what it is looking like, and by the way, that is also what the BJP internally is saying."

The Congress learnt a very important lesson in Karnataka that the BJP wins elections by distracting and not allowing us to construct our narrative

and so we fought the polls constructing our party's narrative.

"What you are seeing today, this gentlemen Mr. Bidhuri and then suddenly Mr. Nishikant Dubey, all this is the BJP trying to distract from the idea of the caste census. They know that the caste census is a fundamental thing that the people of India want and they don't want to have that discussion," the former Congress chief said.

"Every time we bring a point on the table, they use this type of stuff to distract us and we have learnt now how to deal with it," he said.

"What we did in Karnataka is we gave a clear vision for the state, 'this is the social security programme that we are going to set up for you' and then we control the narrative. "If you look at the Telangana polls, we are controlling the narrative, the BJP is not even in the narrative, it is gone. The

BJP has been decimated and it is over in Telangana," Gandhi said.

He claimed that the Congress is controlling the narrative in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in the run up to the polls there.

"If you speak to people in Rajasthan on what is the issue in terms of anti-incumbency, they will tell you they like the government," he said.

"We are adapting in a situation where the BJP controls the media. Don't think the opposition is not capable of adapting, we are adapting, we are working together, we are 60 per cent of India's population. BJP is in for a surprise in 2024 (Lok Sabha polls)," he said.

Gandhi also said that the women's reservation bill can be implemented "tomorrow morning" and all that is required to be done is to state that 33 per cent of the seats will be reserved in the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas.

VANDE BHARAT TRAINS



Nine New Vande Bharat trains which were flagged off on Sunday.

Churchill's OWO to reopen as Hinduja Group's new luxury hotel

On Sept 26

Mumbai, Sep 24:

The Hinduja Group, a 109-year-old multinational conglomerate with a multi-billion dollar turnover that collaborated with world-renowned Raffles Hotels & Resorts to restore The Old War Office (OWO) of Britain's World War II era prime minister Winston Churchill will be inaugurated on September 26th as a brand-new luxury hotel in the heart of London.

"When we came to Whitehall, the team were blown away by the size and beauty of this majestic building," said Sanjay Hinduja, who has overseen the project.

"No expense has been spared in bringing it back to its former glory and paying homage to its heritage, whilst breathing new life into it. Along with Raffles



London at The OWO, we hope to create a legacy that is both timeless and unsurpassed," he said. The Hinduja family had acquired the landmark building on Whitehall, opposite Downing Street, over eight years ago and tied up with Raffles Hotels to transform the building into an extravagant hub complete with luxury residences, restaurants and spas.

The Old War Office, originally completed in 1906 and designed by British architect William Young, was formerly the site of the original Palace of Whitehall. The building has since witnessed world-shaping events while influential political and military leaders like Winston Churchill and David Lloyd George held office in the UK. Its grand architecture has also made

the building a backdrop for James Bond films and, more recently, 'The Crown' Netflix series. "Everyone at Accor feels honoured and privileged to be part of this historic project that has surpassed all expectations - truly a legend in the making and possibly the most awe-inspiring hotel in the planet," said Sébastien Bazin, Accor Chairman & CEO. "Together with the Hinduja family, we proudly invite locals and travellers alike to experience this extraordinary hotel as well as the authenticity and graciousness of Raffles, one of our most prestigious brands in one of the world's greatest cities," he said.

As part of the renovation with the help of hundreds of artisans, the historic interior elements have been restored, including delicate hand-laid mosaic floors, oak panelling, glittering chandeliers, and a magnificent marble staircase.

As part of the renovation with the help of hundreds of artisans, the historic interior elements have been restored, including delicate hand-laid mosaic floors, oak panelling, glittering chandeliers, and a magnificent marble staircase.

'India-Middle East-Europe corridor will become basis of world trade for centuries'

New Delhi, Sep 24 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Sunday that the India-Middle East-Europe corridor will become a basis of world trade for the coming hundreds of years and history will remember that it was envisioned in India.

In his monthly Mann ki Baat broadcast, Modi recalled the "Silk route", an ancient trade corridor used by India when it was a prosperous and great trading power, and said the country made the suggestion of the India-Middle East-Europe economic corridor at the recent G20 Summit.

"This corridor is going to become the basis of world trade for hundreds of years to come, and history will always remember that this corridor was initiated on Indian soil," he



BJP president JP Nadda and other BJP members listen to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his 'Man Ki Baat' programme, in New Delhi, Sunday.

said. The successful summit after the success of India's Chandrayaan-3 mission doubled every citizen's happiness, he said while noting that the two accomplishments have figured most in the messages he has received from people.

India's leadership was acknowledged by the world as it succeeded in making the African Union a member of the G20, he said.

Bharat Mandapam, the venue which hosted the G20 Summit, has become a "celebrity", the prime min-

ister said, noting that people have been clicking selfies with the state-of-the-art conference hall.

With Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary falling on October 2, he said no one can forget the sight of world leaders paying homage at his memorial during the G20 Summit, a recognition as to how his ideas remain relevant globally.

Modi expressed happiness at many cleanliness programmes being planned to mark his birth anniversary, with the Union government departments launching 'Swachhta hi sewa' programme.

Noting that a big cleanliness programme will be organised at 10 am on October 1, he urged people to join the exercise in their neighbourhood or any public place.

'Affordable, accessible healthcare road map for healthy India'

Kathua/Jammu, Sept 24 (PTI):

Asserting that India has taken a lead in the production of vaccines for the prevention of malignancies like Cervavac, Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Sunday said affordable and accessible healthcare is the road map for a "healthy India".

He said India has moved from a sectoral and segmented approach to health service delivery to a comprehensive need-based healthcare service and is now seen as a role model in crisis management and preventive healthcare.

The minister of state in the Prime Minister's office was speaking at the launch of Jammu and Kashmir's

first ever state-of-the-art cancer care facility affiliated to Tata Memorial Centre (TMC), Mumbai in the new block of Government Medical College Kathua.

"India has taken a lead in the production of vaccines for the prevention of malignancies like cervavac the country's first quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine to fight cervical cancer. The Biotechnology sector is growing by leaps and bounds as India is set to achieve USD 150 billion Bio-economy by 2025, which stood at over USD 100 billion in 2022," he said.

"Affordable and accessible healthcare is the road map for Healthy India' under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which is



Jitendra Singh

evident from the fact that more than 260 new medical colleges have been established in the country with a 79 per cent increase in MBBS seats and 93 per cent in PG seats in nine years besides approving of 22 AIIMS," he said.

Singh thanked Modi for bringing Preventive Health Care' into focus in the coun-

try for the first time which is the reason that in just a span of two years, India could produce two DNA vaccines and one nasal vaccine.

Referring to the launch of the cancer care facility in Kathua, the minister said he felt pained to receive calls every day from different parts of the region from desperate family members pleading to arrange admission of cancer patients at Tata Memorial Mumbai or arrange accommodation for the attendants.

Singh said he then decided to start the facility at Kathua and moved the papers to the Department of Atomic Energy which is the controlling authority of

Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai. "With increasing lifespan, changing lifestyles and environmental factors, the prevalence of cancer is assuming epidemic proportions and cancers of all nature and all organs are happening everywhere. A Tata satellite cancer care facility in Kathua will therefore prove to be a great boon for the region," he said.

Under the leadership of Modi, he said, satellite hospitals and the facility of Tata Memorial Centre have been started in different parts of the country and in Guwahati, even Onco DM and MCh super speciality courses have been started, which could be contemplated for Kathua as well.

'Percentage of Indians appearing in TOEFL for secondary education abroad rising'

New Delhi, Sep 24 (PTI):

The percentage of Indians appearing in TOEFL to pursue secondary education and certifications abroad has seen a gradual increase over the years while those taking the test for immigration purpose has declined, according to Educational Testing Service (ETS).

The Princeton-based ETS, which conducts the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and Graduate Record Examination (GRE), said the trend reflects the shifting aspirations of the younger demographic. According to data

exclusively accessed by PTI, the percentage of Indian test takers for licensure, certification or to attend secondary school abroad, has gone up from 5.83 per cent of the total aspirants in 2021 to 7.77 per cent in 2022. During the same period, the percentage of Indian test takers appearing in TOEFL for employment or immigration has declined from 8.19 per cent to 7.22 per cent.

Top officials at ETS have confirmed that the trend is being observed since 2018.

The data showed that the percentage of Indians appearing in TOEFL to attend a graduate or postgraduate business pro-

gramme/a graduate or postgraduate programme, other than a business programme, has increased from 70.84 per cent in 2021 to 71.87 per cent in 2022.

"From our data, we observed a growing trend of secondary education students opting for the TOEFL test. This trend is testimony to the shifting aspirations of the younger demographic, especially in their pursuit of international education," Sachin Jain, the Country Manager of ETS India and South Asia, told PTI. There was a 53 per cent growth in Indian TOEFL test takers in 2021 compared to the previous year.

WAIT FOR VISITOR



A man offering camel ride waits for visitors at the Sangam, during a cloudy day, in Prayagraj, Sunday.

Meghalaya coffee producer to help in conservation of Western Hoolock Gibbon

Shillong, Sep 24 (PTI):

Two tribal communities involved in the conservation of the endangered Western Hoolock Gibbon in Meghalaya have got a shot in the arm with a local coffee and chocolate producer announcing to support their cause.

The Western Hoolock Gibbon is called Huro by the Garo community while people in eastern Khasi-Jaintia Hills call it Huleng.

Dasumarlin Majaw, the proprietor of Smoky Falls Coffee, told PTI that their firm will help in the conservation of the endangered ape found in the forests of the state.

"We are officially

launching the conservation initiative at the World Coffee Conference and Expo, a world-class event for coffee and coffee producers, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. We are excited to be working on something new," she said.

The collaboration for the conservation project was initiated by Sauramanga Foundation founder Nagakarthish, whose concept of combining Meghalaya's finest coffee/cocoa and conservation efforts of the endangered ape will stand to benefit both parties, she said. Majaw said she could not relate to it at first until she paid a visit to the Huro Foundation project in

Garo Hills last month that felt strongly for the apes.

The Huros are found in several forests of Garo Hills and there are a few of them at the Sonja Wildlife Rescue Centre, where they were brought after rescuing them from people who had held the apes as captive pets.

The Garo Hills Autonomous District Council also had formally identified a village wildlife reserve in Selbalgre village, about 20 km from Tura in West Garo Hills district, which is considered as a habitat for the Huros.

Around 300 km east of Selbalgre, communities in Hima Malai Sohmat (Malai Sohmat chief-

tainship) in East Khasi Hills district are also working on the conservation of the Hulengs (local name for Hoolock Gibbons).

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