



BRIEF



Youngsters on a street amid rain in Ranchi, Sunday.

Naxalites arrested

Dantewada: Five Naxalites, including a militia commander who carried a reward of Rs 1 lakh, were arrested in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh, an official said on Sunday. Ayata Korram, alias Hadma, Bheema Hemla, Deva Hemla, Deva Kowasi and Masa Madkam were involved in several incidents of Naxal violence in the district between 2017 and 2022, the official said. Korram, who carried a reward of Rs 1 lakh, was the Nilawaya Panchayat militia commander, while Bheema Hemla was its Jantana Sarkar' member.

Cong treasurer

New Delhi: The Congress on Sunday appointed its senior leader Ajay Maken as the new treasurer replacing Pawan Kumar Bansal. Maken is considered a close confidant of Rahul Gandhi and was without any post ever since he resigned as Congress general secretary in charge of Rajasthan a few months ago. "Congress president has appointed Ajay Maken as the treasurer of the All India Congress Committee, with immediate effect," party general secretary K C Venugopal said in a statement.

AFSPA extended

Guwahati: The Assam Police on Sunday said the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act or AFSPA has been extended in four districts of the state for six more months. At the Assam Police Day 2023 celebrations here, DGP Gyanendra Pratap Singh said the 'disturbed area' tag, which allows enforcement of the AFSPA, has, however, been withdrawn from four other districts. "From today, only four districts in Assam will have AFSPA. These are Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sivasagar and Charaideo," he said.

Heavy rains

Bhubaneswar: Heavy rains are likely to continue in parts of Odisha till October 5 due to a well-marked low-pressure area over West Bengal and neighbouring Jharkhand, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Sunday. In the last 24 hours, heavy rains lashed parts of Khurda, Puri, Kendrapara and Nayagarh districts, it said.

Weather
High 32 Low 25

People across country respond to PM's appeal

- Participate in hour-long cleanliness drive
- PM for blending well-being and health in cleanliness drive

New Delhi, Oct 01 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday pitched for blending fitness and well-being with cleanliness as he led a nationwide cleanliness drive in which thousands of people participated in an hour-long "shramdaan" across the country. Wielding a broom, PM

Modi took part in the drive along with fitness influencer Ankit Baiyanpuriya. Sharing a 4-minute video on his official X account, Modi posted, "Today, as the nation focuses on Swachhata, Ankit Baiyanpuriya and I did the same! Beyond just cleanliness, we blended fitness and well-being also

into the mix. It is all about that Swachh and Swasth Bharat vibe!".

People from all walks of life, from politicians to students, wielded brooms and took part in the 'Swachhata hi Seva' campaign, in response to the prime minister's appeal the cleanliness drive.

According to the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, more than 9.20 lakh sites across the country have been adopted for the mega drive.



PM Modi participates in a special cleanliness programme 'Ek Taarikh, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath' (Shramdaan) under 'Swachhata hi Seva' campaign ahead of Gandhi Jayanti, in New Delhi, Sunday.

Cocaine worth Rs 300 cr seized in J-K, 2 held

Banihal/Jammu, Oct 01 (PTI):

Police have recovered 30 kg of cocaine worth Rs 300 crore in international market from a vehicle in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, a senior police officer said on Sunday, claiming to have busted a narco-terror module.

According to the official, two Punjab residents were arrested following the recovery of one of the biggest narcotic haul this year from Banihal area along Jammu-Srinagar national highway.

Earlier, the recovered narcotics was believed to be heroin but after investigation it turned out to be cocaine.

Two brothers killed in SUV-truck collision

Korba, Oct 01:

Two brothers were killed when a trailer truck collided with their Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) in Korba district, police said on Sunday. The accident took place late Saturday night on National Highway no. 130 (Katghora-Ambikapur road) near Tanakhar village, they said. The victims were heading from their native place in neighbouring Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur district to Bilaspur to pick up their father, a police official said. The truck collided with the SUV, leaving the duo dead on the spot, he said.



The mangled remains of the ill-fated vehicle.

The deceased have been identified as Gyan Dubey and Prem Dubey, in the age group of 22 to 25 years, the official said. After the accident, the truck driver fled from the spot along with his vehicle, he said. Efforts were on to trace the truck driver, he added.

Cong calls for Bastar bandh during Modi's visit

- Against Nagarnar steel plant's 'privatisation'

Raipur, Oct 01:

On the day of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to Jagdalpur on Tuesday, the ruling Congress in Chhattisgarh has called for a Bastar shutdown alleging the Centre was planning to privatise the NMDC Nagarnar steel plant in the region.

During his visit to the Bastar district headquarters in the poll-bound state, the prime minister is



CM Bhupesh Baghel briefing media on Bastar bandh.

scheduled to address a BJP rally. Addressing a joint press conference here on Sunday, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and state Congress president Deepak Bajj accused the Central government of

trying to hand over the Nagarnar steel plant in Bastar district to private players.

The Centre's move will deeply hurt the hopes and aspirations of tribal people, Baghel claimed.

"In 2020, in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, I had urged not to privatise the upcoming steel plant and in the same year, the Chhattisgarh assembly had passed a resolution stating that the House urges the Centre not to disinvest the plant. And if it is done, the state government is ready to buy it," the chief minister said.

Four held for kidnap, murder of two Manipuri youths

- Govt to ensure maximum punishment, including death penalty

Imphal, Oct 01 (PTI):

Four people were arrested by CBI in connection with the kidnapping and killing of two Manipuri youths, and the government will ensure the maximum punishment for them, Chief Minister N Biren Singh said here on Sunday. The four, including the wife of the main accused, were taken "out-



side the state" by a special flight, Singh said. Officials of the chief minister's secretariat said two minor girls, aged 11 and 9 years, were detained in connection with the case but they were released later. The two are daughters of the

main accused. The killing of the two youths - Phijam Hemanjit, a 20-year-old man and Hijam Linthoingambi a girl of 17 years of age - had gone missing on July 6. Photos of their bodies surfaced on September 25 leading to violent protests mainly by students. "The CBI arrested four people from Henglep area of Churachandpur district for the murder of the two youths. They were outside the state by a special flight," the chief minister told a press conference.

IAF chopper with 6 on board makes precautionary landing

- None hurt

Bhopal, Oct 01 (PTI):

An Indian Air Force helicopter on a routine training mission made a safe "precautionary" landing near a dam in Bhopal district of Madhya Pradesh on Sunday, the IAF said. Earlier in the day, a police officer said the chopper of IAF's III HU unit made an "emergency" landing in a field near a lake in Dungariya village, nearly 60 km from the Bhopal district headquarters, at around 8:45 am. The pilot and five crew members on board the chopper are safe, Berasia police station inspector



Narendra Kulaste told PTI over the phone from the spot. He had said the chopper was on its way to Jhansi from Bhopal when it developed a technical fault. "One ALH MK III helicopter of IAF, on routine training mission from Bhopal to Chakeri, carried out a safe precautionary landing, near the Dungariya Dam, 50 km from Bhopal Airport. No harm or injuries reported," a Central Air Command statement said.

PM launches, inaugurates infrastructure projects worth Rs 13,500 crore

Hyderabad, Oct 01 (PTI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday laid the foundation stone for several developmental projects and inaugurated other finished structures, in total worth more than Rs 13,500 crore via videoconferencing in Mahabubnagar district in Telangana. In addition, the Indian government is establishing a Central Tribal University in Mulugu district of Telangana at a cost of Rs 900 crore, and this university will be named Samakka Sarakka Central Tribal University, the Prime Minister said after launching the projects.

2 October
Nation pays tribute to **Gandhi ji** and **Shastri ji** on their Birth Anniversary

Mahatma Gandhi ji's thoughts have inspired the entire world. Bapu's speciality was to connect with people and make them connected with him. In the same way, Lal Bahadur Shastri ji will always be remembered for his tough leadership at a very crucial time of our history.

- Narendra Modi

SURPRISING BUT TRUE

As parents squabble, Kerala HC names 3-year-old kid

Kochi, Oct 01 (PTI):

The Kerala High Court has named a three-year-old child, after the girl's estranged parents could not arrive at a consensus on what they should name her.

Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas, in an order issued last month, said the name suggested by the mother, with whom the child is presently residing, has to be given due importance, while the name of the father is also to be incorpo-

rated due to the absence of any dispute on paternity.

The matter pertained to an estranged couple fighting over their daughter's name. As the birth certificate issued to the girl had no name on it, her mother attempted to register a name. However, the Registrar of births and deaths insisted on the presence of both parents before him to register the name.

As the couple could not arrive at a consensus on the name, the mother ap-

proached the High Court.

The child was born on February 12, 2020 and the relationship between the parents turned sour.

The court, in its September 5 order, observed that while invoking its parens patriae jurisdiction, the paramount consideration was the welfare of the child and not the rights of the parents.

"While choosing a name, factors like the welfare of the child, cultural considerations, interests of par-

ents and societal norms can be reckoned by the court. The ultimate objective being the well-being of the child, the court has to adopt a name, taking into consideration the overall circumstances. Thus, this court is compelled to exercise its parens patriae jurisdiction to select a name for the child," the court said. Parens patriae is a legal principle which envisages the state or the court in a protective role over its citizens.

CBC 2220/13/0061/2324

Mass cleanliness drive conducted in urban bodies

Youth stabbed to death over petty dispute

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Oct 01: A 21-year-old youth was stabbed to death over a petty dispute during the idol immersion near Sheonath River on Saturday. Brother and father of the deceased were also injured in the incident. The accused are absconding yet. Kin have warned of aggressive agitation if the accused are not arrested soon.



Jaikaran and his sons were having tea at a roadside stall near the river. About nine youths of Bhilai were also there in the stall. Some tea from Rahul's cup accidentally fell on the leg of a youth of another group.

They started arguing and used abusive words. Soon the argument grew

violent and the Group of Bhilai attacked Rahul, his brother and father. Meanwhile, a youth took out a knife and stabbed Rahul in the abdomen. The accused escaped from the spot after committing the crime.

Rahul was rushed to District Hospital where he was declared brought dead. Later, kin of the deceased reached Pulgaon Police Station demanding immediate arrest of the accused. They have announced not to perform the last rites of the mortal remains till the accused are arrested.

The kin are also demanding proper compensation and a government job. Vishwa Hindu Parishad has also come forward in the support of bereaved family.

According to information, the deceased was Rahul Sahu (21) son of Jaikaran Sahu a resident of Green Chowk, Durg. Rahul accompanied by his brother Radhe Sahu and father Jaikaran Sahu had gone to River Shivnath for idol immersion along with other people of Green Chowk.



Durg Municipal Corporation.



Bhilai Municipal Corporation.



Risali Municipal Corporation.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Oct 01: On the occasion of Swachhata Hi Seva Abhiyan and Swachhata Shramdan Abhiyan, mass cleanliness campaign was conducted in all the wards of all the urban bodies of the district on Sunday. Along with the sanitation workers, public representatives and local citizens, officers and employees also participated in the drive.

Public places like traffic

junctions, streets, religious places and offices in the wards of urban bodies were also cleaned. Special cleanliness drives were also conducted in the villages also. During this drive, citizens took an oath to keep their cities and villages clean.

It needs to be mentioned here that on the occasion of Swachhata Shramdan Abhiyan on 01st October, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had appealed to all the citizens to spare time to

cooperate in this campaign of Shramdan and on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, they should contribute in making every street and locality of the state a Sevagram.

On October 1, 2023, at 10 am, CM had given a call for one-hour Shramdan to conduct cleanliness in all the cities of Chhattisgarh state. It could be recollected here that Chhattisgarh state has received the award of the cleanest state, due to

which the Chhattisgarh model of cleanliness is becoming popular. On October 1, public representatives and city residents paid tribute to the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi by contributing their efforts in the cleanliness campaign.

In Durg, the cleanliness drive was led by MLA Arun Vora in the presence of Mayor Dhiraj Bakliwal and Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar. SDM Mukesh

Rawte, MiC members and other elected representatives were also present. In Bhilai, the drive was led by Mayor Neeraj Pal and Commissioner Rohit Vyas.

MiC member Laxmipati Raju and other elected representatives were present. In Risali, Mayor Shashi Sinha, PCC General Secretary Jitendra Sahu, MiC members Chandrabhan Thakur, Anup De, Saneer Sahu and others were present.

BSF conducts sanitation drive in Ruabandha market



Bhilai, Oct 01: Keeping in mind the PM's vision for a clean and healthy India, approximately 270 officers / jawans of BSF led by Inspector General Satish S Khandare (IPS, Frontier Headquarters, Special Operations, Border Security Force, Chhattisgarh) conducted a "Cleanliness Drive" at Ruabandha Bazaar, Bhilai. The main objective of this program was to organize "Cleanliness Fortnight" and "Cleanliness Campaign" programs

and to spread awareness about Clean India among the common people. In this series of special campaigns, "Swachhata Abhiyan" program was organized at Frontier Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, both Sector Headquarters, Battalion Headquarters and up to COB level. On this occasion, IG Satish S Khandare said that to make the society aware about cleanliness, the Border Security Force is continuously conducting cleanliness campaigns.

BJPians conducts cleanliness campaign, pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Oct 01: During the 'Mann Ki Baat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi had appealed to all the citizens to donate 'one hour of shramdaan for cleanliness' on October 1. In compliance with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for nationwide cleanliness campaign, a day before Gandhi Jayanti, cleanliness drive was organised by the BJP Durg District Unit in the presence of Durg division election in-charge and Uttar Pradesh organization co-in-charge Sanjeev Chaurasia (MLA).

District BJP President Jitendra Verma, Mandal BJP

President Dr Sunil Sahu and other BJPians gathered at Potiya Chowk on Sunday and paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi and conducted a mass cleanliness campaign. BJP workers also collected the disposable plastic glasses and liquor bottles scattered all around the English and country liquor shops near Potiya Chowk.

Durg division election in-charge and Uttar Pradesh organization co-in-charge Sanjeev Chaurasia (MLA) said that cleanliness provides solutions to many problems and troubles of human life. It is our duty to keep the environment clean as human health is linked



to cleanliness. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made it a national movement.

The message of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has awakened a sense of responsibility among the people. District BJP President Jitendra Verma said that the slogan of Swachh Bharat was given by the Father

of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi but no one worked to implement this slogan. After 70 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought public awareness for cleanliness with the call of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in the year 2014.

Every citizen has become sensitive towards cleanliness and the tendency of people to throw garbage here and there has also reduced to a great extent. Swachh Bharat is a shared responsibility and every small effort counts.

After the cleanliness campaign, BJP leader Ajay Tiwari administered oath to all the workers and common citizens present to keep the environment around them clean and pledged to build a better India.

Santosh Soni, Dr Sunil Sahu, Madan Wadhai, Sunil Aggarwal, Vijay Tamrakar and Mahila Morcha District President Divya Kalihari also addressed the gathering. Anup Gatagat proposed the vote of thanks.

OBITUARY

Ramesh Pandey




Bhilai: Renowned social worker and retired HSLC employee Ramesh Pandey left for heavenly abode at the age of 72 years. He breathed last at Ramkrishna Care Hospital in Raipur. Funeral procession was taken out from his residence located at Mother Teresa Nagar, Camp-1 and last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Ramnagar Muktidham. He was the father of Congress leader Manoj Kumar Pandey.

Dayanand Sharma



Bhilai: Retired BSP employee Dayanand Sharma breathed last at the age of 63 years on Saturday. He was fatally injured in a road accident and was undergoing treatment at JLN Hospital. Funeral procession was taken out from his residence situated at Qr 3-A, Street - Avenue B, Sector 01 and last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Ramnagar Muktidham. He is survived by a son, two daughters and family.



● सत्य ● अहिंसा ● सर्वधर्म समभाव

नवा रायपुर सेवाग्राम

बापू के सिद्धांतों और शिल्प कला का केंद्र ले रहा आकार

125 एकड़ क्षेत्रफल में फैले इस आश्रम में राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गांधी के 'ग्राम-स्वराज' के मूल्यों और आदर्शों को सहेजने के साथ स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन और राष्ट्रीय इतिहास की स्मृतियों को जीवंत रखा जाएगा।

गांधी जी का सपना था कि समाज का निर्माण लोकहित, न्याय और मानवता पर आधारित हो। बापू के विचारों को आत्मसात कर हम 'नवा छत्तीसगढ़' का निर्माण कर रहे हैं। आज हर वर्ग के हर व्यक्ति तक हमारी योजनाओं का लाभ पहुंच रहा है। ग्राम स्वराज की दिशा में ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था मजबूत हुई है और हमारे गांव आत्मनिर्भर बने हैं।

2 अक्टूबर

गांधी जयंती

पर सभी प्रदेशवासियों का सादर नमन

भूपेश बघेल
मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़

Senior citizens are the pillars of society: CM

CM Baghel honours senior citizens with shawls and fruits basket on Int'l Day of Older Persons

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Oct 01: On the occasion of International Day of Older Persons, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel honored senior citizens at the Sardar Balbir Singh Juneja Indoor Stadium in Raipur. CM Baghel personally interacted with the elderly with empathy, and honored them. On this occasion, he also provided 825 assistive devices, including electronic wheelchairs, glasses, and hearing aids, to more than 6500 senior citizens from all districts were present at this event.

On the occasion of International Day of Older Persons, CM Baghel greeted the people and stated that human life has three main stages - childhood, youth, and old age. The old age of a person is the culmination of their lifelong knowledge and experiences, it is the accumulation of their lifelong perseverance. That is why elders are the pillars of the society. The gleam of their experiences is what guides the younger generations forward. It is mentioned in the Shastras that serving elders increases life span, knowledge, fame and strength.

Baghel stated that in the new era, traditional values are gradually eroding. Those who have worked hard and sacrificed throughout their lives are often neglected in today's society. The



state government has initiated a SIYAN Helpline number to provide assistance to senior citizens. This helpline can also be used by differently-abled individuals, widows, and transgender persons. An allocation of Rs. 1 crore has been made in the budget for the setup of this Help Line Center and toll-free number. Till now, more than 76,000 calls have been received on this helpline, out of which 1493 calls have been made by senior citizens. He stated, "We are pleased that through this helpline center, we are able to assist senior citizens"

Baghel has mentioned that the state government has increased the monthly pension amount under the Social Security Pension Scheme for the destitute, senior citizens, differently-abled individuals, widows, and abandoned women from Rs. 350 to Rs.500 per month. More than 13 lakh senior citizens in the state are benefiting from the Monthly Pension Scheme. In addition to this, the state government has also distributed 49,000 essential assistive devices to senior citizens. A separate pension scheme for state government employees has been initiated to provide support to them in their old age.

CM stated that the state government is operating the SIYAN Jatan Clinic for the healthcare of senior citizens. Special OPD and Panchakarma services are also being provided for senior citizens in the state's Ayurvedic hospitals. In the state, Sri Dhanwantari Generic Medical Stores are offering quality medicines at up to 72% lower prices. He further said that this scheme is benefiting our senior citizens as well.

Baghel has made an appeal to everyone to make an effort to understand the issues and concerns of senior citizens within their families and communities. He emphasizes that serving the elderly is more significant than any form of worship or devotion. Their blessings are indeed the most valuable reward. Senior citizens hope for the same love from us that they have given us throughout our lives.

Minister for Social Welfare Anila Bhediya, while extending her best wishes for International Day of Older Persons, mentioned that CM Bhupesh Baghel is diligently addressing the concerns of senior citizens, the destitute, differently-abled individuals, farmers, and every section of society. Despite the

Central Government not providing funds, the state government has given advance approval for various schemes, which has ensured the smooth functioning of these initiatives.

During the program, 825 assistive devices were provided to senior citizens, including 25 electronic wheelchairs, 600 hearing aids, and 200 pairs of glasses. Children from the Divyang Mahavidyalaya in Raipur presented patriotic songs during the event. A free health camp was set up for senior citizens, where hearing and eye examinations were conducted, and glasses were distributed. Additionally, the Department of Social Welfare had set up a stall to provide information about various schemes for senior citizens. Parliamentary Secretary Rashmi Ashish Singh, Parliamentary Secretary Vikas Upadhyay, Chairman of the Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission Gyanesh Sharma, MLA Satyanarayan Sharma, District Panchayat President Domeswari Verma, and the Secretary of the Social Welfare Department Amrit Khalho, along with a large number of senior citizens were present.

Baghel commends new generation's enthusiasm

In sustaining annual tradition of 'Jhankis'; joins the grand 'Jhanki' event at Jaistambh Chowk

Wishes for happiness and prosperity from Lord Ganesha for state residents'

Raipur, Oct 01: Every year during Ganeshotsav, the capital's residents eagerly await the beautiful Lord Ganesha 'Jhankis' (tableaux). This tradition holds great significance in Raipur, with the entire city staying awake at night to see these captivating representations of Lord Ganesha in the grand 'Jhanki' event. Chief



Minister Shri Bhupesh Baghel, along with fellow Raipur citizens, immersed himself in the religious fervor, enjoyed the display of 'Jhankis,' and offered prayers to Lord Ganesha.

He extended his heartfelt congratulations to the committee members, commending them for creating

a stunning 'Jhankis'. He emphasized that this initiative would provide the new generation with valuable insights into their cultural heritage. Lauding the efforts of the committee, Shri Baghel stated that they had faithfully upheld this tradition for years, which was possibly

initiated by older generations in their respective localities. This is truly a welcoming move.

During this occasion, Chief Minister Shri Baghel took a glimpse of various forms of Lord Ganesha presented in the 'Jhankis'. The prominent Jhankis showcased representations of Lord Vishnu and the iconic 'Dahi-Handi' ceremony encapsulating the playful and adventurous spirit of Lord Krishna, among others. Present on the occasion were Parliamentary Secretary Shri Vikas Upadhyay, Raipur Mayor Shri Aijaz Dhebar, and Chairman of Mineral Development Corporation Shri Girish Dewangan, along with other dignitaries and a large number of citizens.

Residents bid a royal farewell to Ganpati

Crowd gathers to have glimpses of tableaux

Raipur, Oct 01: After ten days of Ganesh festivities, devotees bid farewell to Lord Ganesha in a royal style on Saturday. Raipur city held a night vigil to bid farewell to 'Ganpati'. Filled with enthusiasm, people stood in queues to have a look at tableaux on both sides of the road leading to Sharda Chowk, Jai Stambh Chowk and Purani Basti. A flood of devotees gathered on the streets to see the tableaux of Ganesh immersion from 8 pm onwards.

After 12 midnight there was no space left to set foot on Jaistambh Chowk. Devotees climbed onto the balconies of shops and rooftops of houses to watch the tableau. More than 40 big tableaux and more than 50 small tableaux were displayed. The first tableau came out from Sharda Chowk at 8 pm and after

that the sequence of tableaux continued throughout the night. According to an estimate, more than two lakh devotees kept viewing the tableaux on the road.

This year, there were more tableaux based on Lord Shri Ram and Hanuman. Scenes of monkeys building Ram Setu and leaving for Lanka under the leadership of 'Nal-Neel', burning of Lanka, Ram-Ravana war, coronation of Sugriva, Hanuman ripping his chest to show Lord Shri Ram and Sita, and the construction of Shri Ram temple in Ayodhya were seen in the tableaux. Apart from this, the 'Bhasma Aarti of Mahakal', the view of Mount Kailash, the group of 'Kanwariyas' going to offer water to 'Shivling', 'Ganga Maiya emerging from Shivji's matted hair', abduction of Sita, Jatayu fighting with Ravana to save Sita, abduction of Ganesh, Krishna Leela and 'Patal Bhairavi' captivated the minds of the devotees.

Police arrest 52 miscreants

Raipur, Oct 01: In order to ensure peaceful conduct of Ganesh tableau procession police conducted intensive checking and arrested 52 miscreants with the use of hi-tech technology. Miscreants had entered the tableaux with many deadly weapons. But before they can do anything police nabbed them.

According to the information, many police personnel were secretly present among the crowd. They were dressed like the organizers of the committee so that no one has any doubt about them. The police personnel deployed to accompany the tableaux were continuously monitoring the suspects.

Meanwhile, some suspicious youth were seen in a mood to create mischief by fighting and pushing. Even before that, the police present in civil dress immediately caught them and handed them over to the personnel in uniform deployed in the squares and intersections. Police station officers and police officers on duty were connected to each other through intercom and caught some miscreants present in the crowd.

A police team was monitoring everything from big squares and intersections to narrow streets with the help of drone cameras and CCTV. The ground team was informed about the suspects visible on the screen. On the basis of information suspects were immediately interrogated and arrested.

According to the information, to prevent any major incident in tableau procession, Raipur SSP Prashant Agrawal had formed 12 teams of police personnel. The teams were put on high alert to keep a close watch on the goons, miscreants and history sheeters in the tableaux.

Use of technology in local language for primary education in Ch'garh hailed

Raipur, Oct 01: Concluding ceremony of a two-day Indian Language Festival and Indian Language Technology was organized at Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi. Only language teaching stalls from the states of Chhattisgarh and

Assam have been invited in this program organized by the Ministry of Education, Government of India. Educationists and scholars of language teaching from India and abroad appreciated use of technology in local language in primary education of Chhattisgarh.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inspected the stalls of Chhattisgarh on 30th September and Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Shri Jitendra Singh inspected the stalls of Chhattisgarh on 01st October. The use of tech-


nology in language learning has been explained in the best way by Samagra Shiksha Group In the stalls of Chhattisgarh. The utility of bringing innovations to children through this technology was also clearly demonstrated and explained through lectures. Chhattisgarh's innovations are very useful in the educational environment.

Only Chhattisgarh and Assam got space for stalls in this event. On the initiative of Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, curriculum has been prepared and books published in the local language and dialect and education is being imparted through it to provide education to school children in the state. Its basic objective is to promote the local language as well as to improve children's interest in education and their level of knowledge. The work being done on local language using modern technology is now being appreciated in the country and abroad.


Meeting organized on 'Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam for all'

Raipur, Oct 01: On the auspicious occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi, a meeting was organized on the topic 'Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam for all' on September 30, 23 at Vrindavan Hall, Civil Lines, by Jamaat-e-Islami Hind. Professor Wajid Ali Khan (PHD M Phil) Aurangabad Maharashtra, was the chief guest. He threw light on the life of Mohammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam mainly from scientific and logical point of view.


Freeing a person from the slavery of individuals and dedicating him to the devotion of God, women's upliftment and social equality were described as the basic mantras to make worldly and otherworldly life successful by following and emulating Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam and Muhammad was a great blessing not only for the human race but also for the entire creation.



कुष्ठ के लिये कार्य करना मात्र चिकित्सकीय मदद ही नहीं, वरन् इंसान की घोर निराशा और शोष को खुशी और आनंद में बदलना है। यह व्यक्तिगत आकांक्षाओं, अभिलाषाओं को जागृत कराने के लिये निःस्वार्थ सेवा है।
- महात्मा गांधी




श्री पी.एस. सिंधेवर
मान, उप मुख्यमंत्री तथा स्वास्थ्य मंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़



बापू की 154 वीं जयन्ती पर कुष्ठ जागरूकता दिवस
02 अक्टूबर 2023

इन्हें नहीं बीमारी से, कुष्ठ मिटेगा जनभागीदारी से



सपना का सपना, कल्पवृक्ष भारत अपना

कुष्ठ के लक्षण- चमड़ी पर तेलिया-तामिया चमक हों • चमड़ी पर खासकर चेहरे पर, भौंहों के ऊपर, ठोड़ी पर या कानों में गठानें, सूजन या मोटापन हो • चमड़ी पर दाग, चकत्ते जिसमें सुन्नपन हो • तंत्रिकाओं में मोटापन-सूजन हो, दबाने से दर्द होता हो, हाथ पैरों में झुनझुनी-सुन्नपन हो।

कुष्ठ की जाँच व उपचार- कुष्ठ की जाँच व उपचार समस्त जिला चिकित्सालयों, सिविल अस्पतालों, सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्रों व प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्रों में निःशुल्क उपलब्ध है।

कुष्ठ की दवा- एम.डी.टी. की दवा कुष्ठ रोग का पूर्ण इलाज है। एम.डी.टी. की दवा सभी सरकारी स्वास्थ्य केंद्रों एवं अस्पतालों में निःशुल्क उपलब्ध है।

- कुष्ठ रोग अन्य रोगों के समान रोगाणुओं से होता है एवं साध्य है।
- यह अमीर-गरीब, महिला-पुरुष, छोटे-बड़े किसी को भी हो सकता है।
- कुष्ठ रोगी के साथ खान-पान, साथ रहने अथवा साथ कार्य करने से कुष्ठ नहीं फैलता है।

आइये कुष्ठ रोग की जानकारी समुदाय के हर व्यक्ति को दें ताकि हम छत्तीसगढ़ को कुष्ठ मुक्त बना सकें।

कुष्ठ से संबंधित जानकारी एवं सेवाओं के लिए नजदीकी शासकीय स्वास्थ्य संस्था से संपर्क करें।

किसी भी प्रकार की स्वास्थ्य समस्या होने पर 104 से संपर्क करें

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, छत्तीसगढ़ द्वारा जनहित में प्रसारित



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Training of senior police officers of the state concludes

● For upcoming assembly election

Raipur, Oct 01: As per the instructions of the Election Commission of India, a one-day training was organized by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer for the senior police officers of the state for the upcoming Assembly Election-2023 in Chhattisgarh.

During the training organized at Naveen Vishram Bhawan, Raipur, Director General of Police of Chhattisgarh Mr. Ashok Juneja, Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal Mr. Ariz Aftab and Chief Electoral Officer of Tamil Nadu Mr. Satyabrata Sahu gave training regarding security arrangements during the elections. Chhattisgarh's Additional Director General of Police and State Level Force Coordinator Mr.



Vivekanand Sinha, Chief Electoral Officer Mrs. Reena Babasaheb Kangale and State Police Nodal Officer Mr. O.P. Pal was also present on the occasion. Addressing the inaugural session of training of senior police officers of the state, Chief Electoral Officer Mrs. Reena Babasaheb Kangale explained the importance of the various training sessions today, their necessity and how to ensure free, fair and peaceful elections by using election related laws in the upcoming assembly elections. She underlined the role of police officers. Director General of Police, Ashok Juneja gave information about the prior preparations, necessary ac-

tions to be taken to maintain law and order in the state during the elections, and necessary arrangements for the police forces coming from other states for the elections. He extended his best wishes to the police officers for successful conduct of elections in the state. Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal Mr. Ariz Aftab, who came as a resource person from III-DEM, New Delhi, informed the officials about the preparations to be done before the announcement of elections, vulnerability mapping, criticality. He gave intensive training regarding analysis, security arrangements to be made before, on and after voting day. Chief Electoral Officer

of Tamil Nadu, Satyabrata Sahu gave detailed information about the requirement of armed forces, their deployment, deployment of local police force, model code of conduct, election expenditure monitoring and law and order during the elections. State's CAPF Nodal Officer Mr. Saket Kumar, E.E.M. Nodal Officer S.C. Dwivedi, Communication Nodal Officer Ratanlal Dangi and Joint Chief Electoral Officer Nileshekumar Mahadev Kshirsagar along with Inspector General of Police, Superintendent of Police, Additional Superintendent of Police and Deputy Superintendent of Police participated in the training.

T.S. Singhdeo flagged off new ambulance

Raipur, Oct 01: Deputy Chief Minister and Health Minister T.S. Singhdeo flagged off the new ambulance for Mahtari Express services. Before the review meeting of the Health Department held at a private hotel in Raipur, he flagged off 50 ambulances and sent them to their destination. On this occasion many senior officials of the health department were also present.

It is notable that Health Department has sent 200 new ambulances to various districts for Mahtari Express service across the state. Under this service, new ambulances are being made available in all the districts in place of the old ambulances currently running. Mahtari Express Ambulance Service provides free transportation of pregnant women from home to hospital for delivery and from hospital to home after delivery. Also, this service is available for infants up to one year of age. These services can be availed by calling toll-free number 102.

School children enthusiastically participate in 'Fun Run'

● Get attractive prizes, gift hampers and souvenirs

Central Chronicle News



Raipur, Oct 01: More than 300 school children enthusiastically took part in the 'Fun Run', organized by Rotary Club of Raipur Divas on Sunday. Enthusiasm was written large on faces of small children who gathered at Swami Vivekananda Stadium Kota in morning to participate in the event. Since everyone was already registered, their batches were made category wise. Attractive prizes were given to the winners in all categories and gift hampers and certificates were given to every participant.

Apart from this, 20 children, who had made reels, were selected on the basis of views and likes received on Instagram. The first was given a gold coin of half a gram, the second

was given a 10 gram silver coin and the third was given a 5 gram silver coin. Parents along with their children enjoyed the Fun Run event on Sunday. Rotary also organizes such events as part of its charitable works. Chairperson Shubham Bardiya, Shweta Begani and Priyanka Pagariya jointly said that event was organized with an objective of motivating school children to take part in other activities apart from studies. There were five different categories of children between 2 to 15 years for participation in the event.

Young children (eg 2-3

years) had come to the venue of event along with their parents. The main sponsor of Fun Run was Anopchand Tilokchand Jewelers (Kotwali Chowk). For the children participating in Fun Run, prizes were given to the first, second and third place winners in all categories. Attractive gift hampers and certificates were also given to all the children. Everyone enjoyed the food stall, activity stall, game stall and Zumba. Fun Run was sponsored by Anjaneya University, co-sponsored by Rajat Builders, co-powered by NHMMI.

GEMS joins voluntary cleanliness mission



Raipur, Oct 01: In lines with the appeal by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for sparing one hour(10 am to 11 am) on October 01 for voluntary cleanliness, Shri Gujrati English Medium Higher Secondary School led by their Principal Dr Shailesh Sharma also

rose to the occasion and students along with teaching faculties offered voluntary contribution to clean the school premises and surrounding areas. Also a rally was taken out to spread the message of cleanliness and to make the people aware about cleanliness and hy-

giene. All the participants took a pledge to keep the surroundings clean not only for a single day but throughout the year. Vice Principal S V Chandra Sekhar and Academic Coordinator Bhaskar Sharma were also present on the occasion.

General Secy. CBOA K Ravi Kumar accorded warm welcome

● By staff of Canara Bank on his arrival in Raipur

Raipur, Oct 01: The officers and employees of Canara Bank, Regional Office, Raipur accorded warm welcome to Ravi Kumar- General Secretary Canara Bank Officers' Association (CBOA) on his arrival here on Sunday morning and presented him a flower bouquet. On this occasion Joint General Secretary KK Tripathi, Sanjay Goyal (V-P), VK Upadhyay (Asst. General Secy), Jai Kiran Sharma (Regional Secretary) and other officers were also present and took part in the welcome.

It is notable here that



Ravi Kumar would be holding meeting with the Bank officials in Canara Bank, Regional Office at Atal Nagar, Naya Raipur on Oct 2.

K Ravi Kumar had earlier also given valuable suggestions to give new orientation to Bank's working is system by touring different states

and had highlighted upon the chances the Banking sector is witnessing. The Bank officials informed that on arrival of K Ravi Kumar in city there is lot of happiness among all the Canara Bank Staff and they look forward to tomorrow's meeting with valuable suggestions from his side.

Students of DAV Public School Bachel take out a rally



Bachel, Oct 01: Under the "Meri Mati-Mera Desh" program under the "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" series, students of DAV Public School Bachel took out a rally under which they remembered the revolutionaries who sacrificed their lives for the country. The students gave the message

of unity to the people in the rally. During the prayer meeting in the school, oath and resolution were taken to keep the unity and integrity of Indian culture intact. The school principal Dr. Chetna Sharma thanked the students and teachers for making the program a success.

NSO officers, employees donate an hour for 'Shramdaan'



Raipur, Oct 01: The Prime Minister has called upon all citizens to collectively contribute 1 hour of Shramdaan for cleanliness on October 1 at 10:00 am and to offer 'Swachhta Jali' to the Father of the Nation Bapu on the eve of his birth anniversary. For this, National Statistics Office (NSO) (Field Operations Division), Regional Office, Raipur, by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, under the guidance of Deputy Director General Roshan Lal Sahu, carried out

'shramdan' at Raipur Development Authority Complex, New Rajendra Nagar and near Kali Mata Temple. During this all officers donated labour along with the employees.

On this occasion, Assistant Engineer of Municipal Corporation Raipur Gulabchandra and Deputy Director of National Statistics Office Ashutosh Awasthi and other officers and employees including K Srivastava, OP Sahu, RN Soni, Senior Statistics Officer donated labour.

Closing event of Hindi Fortnight and prize distribution program held

● At NTPC Nava Raipur

Raipur, Oct 01: A grand closing event of Hindi Fortnight and prize distribution program was organised at NTPC Nava Raipur on September 29. In the closing ceremony, Chittaranjan Kar, former Head of Hindi Department, Pt. Ravi Shankar University was the special guest. At the outset of the program, chief guest Mr. Arindam Sinha and special guest Mr. Kar were warmly welcomed with flowers and saplings. After this the program was given further momentum with NTPC song. On this occasion, Chittaranjan Kar addressed the importance and role of Hindi in clear and simple understand-



able language and said that Hindi is the link of unity of all of us to make Hindi the language of daily work and do as much work as possible in Hindi, and also inspire others. 'Hindi Badega - Desh Badega'. Before this, annual information regarding the promotion and use of Hindi was given by the Hindi Advisor. In the end, the winners of various competitions organised during the fortnight were awarded. Senior officers and employees of NTPC were present on the occasion.

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'It requires courage to continuously publish newspaper'

Raipur, Oct 01: On the occasion of the 3rd anniversary of monthly magazine "Khabrilal News & Analysis" and 6th anniversary of the web news portal of "Khabrilal" former minister and MLA Raipur Rural Satyanarayan Sharma was present as chief guest. Anupam Verma (Director & Producer of Chhattisgarhi Film) was present as special guest. Firstly the lamp was lighted by the guests, Vijay Mishra and then the anniversary issue of the magazine was released by Satyanarayan Sharma, MLA & Anupam Verma. Editor of the magazine and news portal Sudipto Chatterjee popularly known as Journalist Khabrilal also shared the dias with the dignitaries.



Folk artist Narendra Jalkshatriya presented Kathak on Shiv Tandav and Chhattisgarhi folk dance. Thereafter chief guest honoured PRO of JSP Poonam Kakkad, MD of Nandan Group Ashok Agrawal, Dr Arunanshu Parial (MD Psychiatrist) of Dhanvantari Hospital, Anupam Verma with a memento. On this occasion Kala Vibhuti Samman was presented to Narendra Jalkshatriya for his contribution in folk dance. On

this special occasion MLA Satyanarayan Sharma addressed the audience and told that in this present time publishing newspaper or magazine is not a matter of joke but for this it needs great courage and dedication to publish it continuously. He added, in this magazine many subjects/topics are included by which readers will not get bored by reading only political related news. Entire program was anchored by Vijay Mishra.

Dr Chellani to be chairperson of ISAR CG Chapter

Installation ceremony of ISAR CG Chapter held

ISAR National President Dr Nandita Palshetkar from Mumbai gave oration on "Future of ART"



as Dr. Manoj Chellani takes oath as the Chairperson of the ISAR CG Chapter.

The installation ceremony was a grand affair attended by ISAR National President Dr Nandita Palshetkar, esteemed guests, dignitaries, and prominent members of the medical community. It showcased a vibrant blend of tradition and modernity, symbolizing the commitment of the ISAR CG Chapter to

advancing the science and practice of assisted reproduction in the region.

ISAR National President Dr Nandita Palshetkar from Mumbai gave oration on "Future of ART" explaining the future of ART.

ISAR Chhattisgarh Chapter will have Chairperson Dr Manoj Chellani, Senior vice Chairperson - Dr Jyoti Jaiswal, Vice Chairperson - Dr Rekha Ratnani, General sec-

retary - Dr Pragya Suryavanshi, Joint secretary - Dr Neeraj Pahlajani, Clinical secretary - Dr Madhupriya Agrawal, Treasurer - Dr Pratibha Makhija, Joint Treasurer - Dr Veronica Yuel; Executive members Dr Ritu Jain, Dr Monika Pathak, Dr Tabassum Dalla, Dr Asha Jain, Dr Anuradha Choudhary, Dr Sandeep Rahandale: Co - Opted member Dr Prakriti Verma, Ratna Matawale Dr. Manoj Chellani, an eminent and accomplished figure in the field of assisted reproduction, has assumed the role of Chairperson with a vision to further the chapter's mission. His wealth of experience and dedication to improving reproductive healthcare in Chhattisgarh makes him an ideal leader for the ISAR CG

Chapter. In his inaugural address, Dr. Chellani expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to lead ISAR CG Chapter and shared his vision for the future. He emphasized the importance of collaboration among professionals, the adoption of innovative technologies, and continued education to raise the standard of assisted reproduction services in Chhattisgarh. The event featured insightful talks and panel discussions by experts in the field of assisted reproduction. Attendees had the chance to engage in fruitful discussions, share knowledge, and network with like-minded professionals, all aimed at fostering the growth of assisted reproduction in Chhattisgarh.

Construction work has completely stopped: BAI

● Due to mineral transportation policy

Raipur, Oct 01: Due to the implementation of the new mineral transportation policy by the state government, and due to the ongoing strike of transporters of government and non-government contractors in the state for the last 15 days, supply of sand, aggregates, mud and brick has stopped across the state as a result the construction work has completely stopped across the state including Durg-Bhilai, Rajnandgaon, Bilaspur, Ambikapur, Narayanpur, Jagdalpur, Dhamtari, Balod, Sukma, Kanker, and Bijapur. A situation of unemployment has been created in the construction and transport sectors. Operators, drivers, mechanics and workers of contractors involved in con-

struction works are facing a serious situation of unemployment. While presenting their side, the contractors are saying that how can the construction work be carried out unless they get the supply of aggregates, sand, mud, bricks etc. They are forced to stop work. In view of the upcoming elections, the department is putting pressure on the contractors to do the work quickly. Whereas the contractor is not ready to do the work at any cost due to the new mineral policy and the provision of heavy fine and jail.

Contractors said that there is no mining plan for mineral leases to match the amount of mineral consumed in government and non-government construction works in the state of Chhattisgarh. No contractor or transporter wants to work without royalty slip, but this situation is arising due to lack of approval

of mining plan in sufficient quantity. Contractors said that the department examines each running bill and final bill of the work done by them and collects royalty and DMF fund. The amount is deducted and the complete account book of the contractors is prepared. It is available only with the government department. Even after this, the contractor cannot do any kind of theft in the royalty. The contractors said that the department should get the royalty deposited from us in advance and we should be given permission to transport the minerals immediately by the head of the construction department. And at the same time, cement manufacturing companies have created a cartel and increased the cement rate by Rs 60-70 per bag without any reason, which has created even more trouble in the construction work.

Mahatma Gandhi's connection with Lucknow's iconic Firangi Mahal

Lucknow, Oct 01 (PTI):

Mahatma Gandhi had a special connection with the old Lucknow's iconic Firangi Mahal which used to be a popular centre of culture and Sufism.

According to historical documents, Mahatma Gandhi visited the Firangi Mahal thrice during the Khilafat movement that started in 1920 as a guest of Maulana Abdul Bari Firangi Mahali, an influential nationalist and Sufi leader of that time.

During his stay, Gandhi rallied support for the Khilafat movement but "the broad message was to

increase mutual brotherhood in the country", Adnan, the grandson of Abdul Bari, told PTI.

He said Gandhi had visited Firangi Mahal thrice between 1920 and 1922.

Because Mahatma Gandhi was a vegetarian, a Brahmin cook was specially called from the Chowk area of Lucknow to cook food for him. Mahatma Gandhi has also mentioned this in his autobiography.

The room where Gandhi stayed has been preserved in the museum



here. Adnan said that once Gandhi had even brought his goat with him during his visit to Firangi Mahal. On another occasion, his wife Kasturba Gandhi and some other relatives also accompanied Bapu.

Documentary evidence of these visits is still safe at the Firangi Mahal.

Adnan said that the purpose of Mahatma Gandhi's visit to Firangi Mahal was to promote amity and solidarity.

"At that time there were two types of ideologies in Firangi Mahal. There was an ideology in which some clerics were with the British and they thought that the progress of the country was possible only with the British.

"Whereas Maulana

Abdul Bari's thinking was completely different from this and he had decided to support Mahatma Gandhi in his movement. In this connection, Mahatma Gandhi used to come to Firangi Mahal and hold meetings on the strategy for freedom struggle," he said.

He said many groups in Lucknow were against Mahatma Gandhi's campaign and they had also shown black flags to Bapu when he came to Lucknow.

Freedom fighter and novelist Hayatullah Ansari has mentioned this in one of his articles 'Awadh ka Naya jann'.

TRIBUTE TO MAHATMA



Karnataka Legislative Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader and Legislative Council Chairman Basvaraj Horatti pay floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi before leaving to participate in the 66th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference at Ghana, in Bengaluru, Sunday.

Govt official, wife sentenced to two years in jail

In corruption case

Berhampur/Bhubaneswar, Oct 01 (PTI):

A government official and his wife were sentenced to two years in jail by a court in Odisha in a 14-year-old corruption case. The special vigilance court sentenced N Prakash Patra and his wife N Santoshini Patra to two years in jail after convicting them in the corruption case.

It was alleged that the couple amassed assets worth Rs 12.19 lakh when Prakash was posted as a junior clerk at the Patrapur community health center in Ganjam district about 14 years ago. He is at present posted at the Patrapur Sub-Divisional Hospital.

Special vigilance judge Arun Kumar Sahoo also imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 on each of the two. Delivering the verdict on

Saturday, the judge said that they will undergo imprisonment for another three months if they fail to pay the fine amount, according to public prosecutor Surendra Panda.

The court convicted the couple after examining 25 witnesses, and analysing his properties found in raids at his houses, office quarter and chamber; he said.

The official was caught red-handed while accepting a bribe, following which the raids were conducted, said Panda.

The wife was arrested as she allegedly abetted the offence committed by her husband, he said.

A vigilance court in Bhubaneswar sentenced Ludasini Nayak, an ex-welfare extension officer of Nuagaon block in Nayagarh district, to four years in jail in a different corruption case.

A fine of Rs 5,000 was imposed on her and in

case she fails to pay it, she will undergo imprisonment for another two months.

The court also sentenced Nayak to three years in jail in a separate corruption case, besides imposing a fine of Rs 5,000.

Both the sentences will run concurrently, the court said. A retired village-level worker (VLW) of Angul district, Sarbeswar Pani, was sentenced to three years in jail in another such case.

The special vigilance court in Angul also imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 on him, and if fails to pay it, he will undergo imprisonment for another two months.

The state Vigilance Department said it will take steps for the dismissal of Prakash and Ludasini from service, and stop the pension of the VLW who has retired.

'Extremely confident about 2024 LS elections'



K Annamalai

Coimbatore (TN), Oct 01: The AIADMK walking out of the National Democratic Alliance is not a setback for the BJP's prospects in next year's Lok Sabha polls, the saffron party's state chief K Annamalai said on Sunday, adding that he was "extremely confident about 2024".

Addressing reporters here ahead of his visit to New Delhi, Annamalai said he was aware of the public pulse thanks to his extended interactions with people during his 'En Mann, En Makkal' padayatra, which he said has received a phenomenal response.

'Agitation to continue till dues of Bengal's people are realised'

Kolkata, Oct 01 (PTI):

Senior Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee on Sunday asserted that agitation demanding the "rightful dues" of the people of West Bengal will continue till funds are released by the central government.

Speaking to reporters at the NSCBI Airport here before flying to New Delhi to join a protest by 100-day job card holders under MGNREGA to demand payment of monetary dues for work done, he claimed that deprivation of the state's people by the Centre under the present BJP dispensation has surpassed all previous instances.

"The agitation will continue till the rightful dues of the people of Bengal are released by the Centre," he said. The TMC general secretary said that though the state government had sent verified lists of beneficiaries in December 2022, the

Centre is yet to make payments. "If anyone is found guilty of corruption in a 100-day work or housing scheme, let action be taken against them, but why is money to the beneficiaries stopped?" he asked.

The BJP has been asserting that the payments were stopped due to "irregularities". Banerjee also demanded the arrest of Union Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Giriraj Singh following the deaths of three children in Bankura district recently, claiming that their family did not get financial assistance under the government housing scheme.

Banerjee claimed that Giriraj Singh has expressed his inability to meet the TMC representa-



Abhishek Banerjee

tives as he would not be in Delhi, he is scheduled to meet BJP MPs from Bengal.

"This again establishes the step-motherly attitude of BJP towards Bengal," said the TMC leader, considered number two in the party.

Banerjee said that the Union minister had not met a team of TMC MPs earlier. "It is established that the BJP is forcibly stopping payment of dues of the people of Bengal," the Diamond Harbour MP said.

"Refusal to allot a special train, cancellation of flight, denial of permission for holding the protest meeting in Delhi, all indicate their attempt to stop the voice of the state's people," he said.

Full-service carrier Vistara has cancelled one

of its flights from Kolkata to Delhi scheduled for Sunday, saying it needed to operate additional flights for passengers stranded in Kolkata and Port Blair.

The TMC plans to hold a sit-in by its MPs and state ministers at Rajghat on October 2, and a rally of MGNREGA job card holders the next day.

The TMC MP said that he would want the state administration to take note of the deaths of three children at Bishnupur in Bankura district after a mud wall collapsed on them on Saturday and take necessary action.

"It is Narendra Modi and Giriraj Singh and the BJP leaders here who are responsible for the death of these children," he said.

Banerjee claimed that the BJP leaders in Bengal wrote to the central government to stop payment of monetary dues to the people on account of the 100-day work and housing scheme.

NMDC organized a mega cleanliness drive

Celebrating 'Swachhata Hi Sewa'

Hyderabad, Oct 01:

Largest Iron Ore Producer of the Country, NMDC organized a Mega Cleanliness Drive at its Head Office, Projects and Regional Offices across the country today on 1st October 2023. The initiative was carried out under the "Swachhata Hi Sewa, Special Campaign 3.0", being observed by NMDC from Sept 15 to Oct 2, 2023.

As a run-up to Gandhi Jayanti, the Prime Minister appealed for 1 hour of Shramdaan for Swachhata on 1st Oct by all citizens collectively to

offer Swachhantjali to Bapu on the eve of his Jayanti. Paying a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on the eve of his birth anniversary through Swachhantjali, the National miner runs a massive cleanliness drive and PrabhathPheri at its all major Projects- Kirandul, Bacheli, Donimalai and Panna where each project took responsibility of cleaning one village respectively through Jan bhagidari.

NMDC employees showcased their commitment to cleanliness during the remarkable Cleanliness Drive at NMDC Head Office today. Employees from various Projects and regional offices also took



part in the cleanliness activities and contributed to the cause as responsible citizens.

In support of the Prime Minister's vision of a garbage-free India, NMDC held a painting competition for students under Swachhata Hi Sewa Campaign at its Head Office, Hyderabad. The

competition aimed to enhance public awareness by engaging young talent. With their originality and innovation, the participants demonstrated their talent and passion to the cause through their artwork.

On the occasion, Satyendar Rai, ED (P&A) said, "NMDC is proud to be

an active participant of the Swachh Bharat Mission and organizes massive cleanliness and plantation drives at its Head office and Projects periodically. As a responsible miner, we must take charge of cleanliness at our respective places and embrace eco-friendly practices to ensure a green and sustainable future."

Emphasising on the need of cleanliness for a cleaner and greener nation, NMDC organized different cleaning activities at the workplace, awareness programs at offices and schools, and cleanliness initiatives in public spaces such as townships, marketplaces, bus stops, and other public places.

Staff participated in 'Shramdaan' in BoM Zonal office

Raipur, Oct 01:

Observing the Swachhata Hi Sewa Fortnight, Bank of Maharashtra Raipur Zonal Office organised a cleanliness drive in Sector-30, Devendra Nagar area. Under the leadership of Zonal Manager Mr. Prasanta Kumar Raju, the staff participated in the Shramdaan for Swachhata campaign by cleaning up the office complex and nearby area. DZM Mr. Dipak Chakraborty and all other Zonal Office staff participated in this drive.



BoB celebrates 'Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta Ek Saath'

As a part of the 'Swachhata Hi Sewa Campaign'

Conducts cleanliness drives in 345 centres across India

Mumbai, Oct 01:

Bank of Baroda (Bank), one of India's leading public sector banks, today observed "Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta Ek Saath" as a part of the Swachhata Hi Sewa campaign at 345 centres across the country. This mega cleanliness drive was organised under the aegis of the Swachhata Pakhwada initiative (a fortnight for Clean India), which is being observed from Sept 15 - Oct 2, 2023 and will conclude with the Swachhata Diwas 2023 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The theme of the Swachhata Hi Sewa campaign is "Garbage Free



India".

On the occasion, the Bank undertook a cleanliness drive in Bandra-Kurla Complex in Mumbai, led by Debadatta Chand, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Bank of Baroda along with Ajay K. Khurana, Executive Director, Bank of Baroda and a large number of employees and the general public. In addition, the Bank also organised several cleanliness and sanitation activities across 345 centres in 69 Lead Districts spanning urban and rural India to enhance the cleanliness of

their neighbourhoods in alignment with the Swachhata Hi Sewa campaign.

Shri Debadatta Chand, MD&CEO, Bank of Baroda said, "As a socially responsible corporate entity, the Bank is continuously committed to sustainable growth in harmony with mother nature and is taking several steps towards a cleaner and greener tomorrow. As we remember Mahatma Gandhi on his Birth Anniversary, the "Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta Ek Saath" drive saw Barodians in large numbers

volunteering to contribute to the cause and achieve the mission of bringing prosperity through cleanliness."

Shri Chand added, "Bank of Baroda also recently launched its "BARODA EARTH - Banking for a Greener Planet" programme, a Green initiative by the Bankin its endeavour to protect, preserve and conserve our environment."

Swachhata Pakhwada is an initiative by the Government of India with the objective of bringing focus on the practices of Swachhata. The year 2023 being the 9th year of the Swachh Bharat Mission, the emphasis is on a higher order of cleanliness through shramdaan (volunteering) and janbhagidari (public participation). The cleanliness drive calls upon citizens from all walks of life to join in cleaning of public places like market spaces, railway tracks, water bodies, tourist locations, and religious places, among others.

POONAWALLA HOUSING FINANCE		POONAWALLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED		APPENDIX IV	
(Apna Ghar, Apni Pehchan)		(FORMERLY, MAGMA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED)		(See rule 8(1))	
Registered Office: 602, 6th Floor, Zero One IT Park, Sr. No. 79/1, Ghorpadi, Mundhwa Road, Pune - 411036		Registered Office: 602, 6th Floor, Zero One IT Park, Sr. No. 79/1, Ghorpadi, Mundhwa Road, Pune - 411036		POSSESSION NOTICE	
				(For Immovable Property)	
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Poonawalla Housing Finance Limited (Formerly known as Magma Housing Finance Limited) of the above Corporate/ Register office under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred as the "said Act") and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a demand notice below dated calling upon the below Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules 2002 on the dates mentioned herein below.					
The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Poonawalla Housing Finance Limited (Formerly known as Magma Housing Finance Limited) the amount and interest thereon.					
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. Details of Property taken in possession are herein below.					
Sr. No.	Name of Borrowers	Description of Property	Possession taken Date	Date of statutory Demand Notice	Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)
1.	SHYAM GOVIND SHUKLA, SIMA SHUKLA,	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Situated At Mauja - Jamul, Rajiv Nagar Ward No.14, Rajiv Nagar Inner Portion, Pt. Deendayaji Upadhyay Nagar, P.H.No. 18, R.N.M. Durg-01, Tehsil & Dist. Durg (C.G.), Property Under The Boundaries Of Nagar Palika Parishad, Bearing Old Kharsa No. 114/4, New Kharsa No. (After Mutation) 114/28, Plot No. 09, Admeasuring 0.014 Hectare 1500 Sq. Ft. = 139.40 Sq. Mtr. (Hereinafter Referred To As Question Property). Boundaries (As Per Registered Sale Deed)- North-Plot No. 10, South- Others Land; East-Land Of Rajput; West- Road	27/09/2023	08/02/2023	Loan No. HF/0022/H/20/100036 Rs.2302431.89/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lacs Two Thousand Four Hundred Thirty One and Eighty Nine Paises Only) payable as on 08/02/2023 along with interest @ 13.5 p.a. till the realization.
2.	LALITA MAHANT, KOLICHINA VENKATA RATNAM,	All The Piece And Parcel Of Mauza-Dunda, Mesers Damodar Park, Aviva Green, Flat No-423, Block D, Fourth Floor, Part Of Kno-31771 318/1, 317/3, 318/3 Phno-51/118, Rnm-Raipur Tehsil And District Raipur, Pin Code-492001 East-Common Space Than Flat 420 West-Open To Sky, North-Flat D424, South-Flat D 422.	27/09/2023	10/07/2023	Loan No. HF/0022/H/20/100101 Rs.1195345.75/- (Rupees Eleven Lacs Ninety Five Thousand Three Hundred Forty Five and Seventy Five Paises Only) payable as on 10/07/2023 along with interest @ 9.55 p.a. till the realization.
3.	PRADEEP JAIN, MONIKA BOTRA,	All The Piece And Parcel Of Diverted Land And House Constructed Thereon Bearing Kharsa No. 973/10 Total Area 0.010 Hectare/ 0.02 1/2 Acres/ 101.3 Sq.Mtr. Situated At Brahman Mohallah Purani Basti Korba, Ward No. 03, P.H.No. 09, R.N.M. Korba Within The Limits Of Municipal Corporation Korba, Tah. & Dist. Korba (C.G.) Boundaries Of The Plot As Per Sale Deed Are As Follows:-North-Land Of Ram Singh Thakur, South-Gali, House Of Aji Memon & Ors. East-Land Of Ram Singh Thakur, West House Of Tajji, Papamiya.	28/09/2023	10/07/2023	Loan No. HL/0102/H/15/100040 Rs.1186282.64/- (Rupees Eleven Lacs Eighty Six Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Two and Sixty Four Paises Only) payable as on 10/07/2023 along with interest @ 15.80 p.a. till the realization.
Place: Chattisgarh Date: 02.10.2023					
Sd/- Authorised Officer Poonawalla Housing Finance Limited (Formerly known as Magma Housing Finance Limited)					

MP Jyotsna flags off 'Beti Bachhao, Bati Padhao' awareness drive van

Korba, Oct 01:

Member of Parliament Jyotsna Charan Das Mahant, representing the Korba Lok Sabha constituency, has officially flagged off an awareness campaign van under the "Beti Bachhao, Bati Padhao" initiative, dedicated to addressing the child sex ratio imbalance and transforming societal perceptions about girls. The campaign was inaugurated at the district office, with the green flag proudly raised.

The "Beti Bachhao, Bati Padhao" program is committed to narrowing the gender gap in child sex ratios across both rural and urban areas within the district. Its core objectives include safeguarding and educating girls while nurturing their holistic development. As part of this endeavor, mobile awareness vans will traverse the dis-



trict's urban and rural landscapes, disseminating messages associated with the "Beti Bachhao, Bati Padhao" campaign and educating the populace on pertinent laws and regulations aimed at eradicating gender bias.

It is important to highlight that the Government of India's "Beti Bachhao, Bati Padhao" scheme is designed to foster positive transformations in child

sex ratios and societal attitudes toward girls. To this end, the Member of Parliament flagged off five awareness vans today, which will embark on a tour of all the district's regions, imparting knowledge and awareness to rural communities.

In attendance at the event were MLA Katghora Purushottam Kanwar, MLA Pali Tanakhar Mohit Ram Keraketta,

District Panchayat President Shivkala Kanwar, Food Commission member Harish Parsai, Collector Saurabh Kumar, Deputy Collector Pradeep Sahu, Rashmi Singh, Usha Tiwari, and District Program Officer for Women and Child Development Preeti Khokhar, along with other prominent public figures and officials.

Padma questions Congress's silence

■ Over increasing crimes against Ch'garh's daughters

Fingeshwar, Oct 01:

In a heartfelt statement, Padma Yadu, the President of the BJP's Women's Wing in Fingeshwar Mandal, has raised concerns and queries directed at Congress leaders regarding their apparent silence on incidents of sexual assault in Chhattisgarh. Yadu questioned why prominent leaders like Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Vadra seem to draw attention to unfortunate incidents involving young girls in Madhya Pradesh while staying mum about similar cases within Chhattisgarh.

Yadu's questioning of Congress leaders' indifference to the plight of Chhattisgarh's victimized daughters has garnered attention. She expressed her dismay that, despite Kharge's vocal criticism of the BJP government in



Madhya Pradesh for a similar incident, he appeared unaware of the suffering endured by innocent girls in Chhattisgarh. Furthermore, Yadu criticized Congress leaders for their apparent lack of concern for girls, sisters, and elderly women in the state.

A distressing incident involving the sexual assault of a five-year-old girl in Dharsiva near the capital city has raised alarms, and the silence of Congress leaders in response has invited criticism. Similar to the incident in Pota, Sukma, where a young girl endured a horrific assault,

Congress leaders have remained reticent about yet another incident of sexual assault involving a group of girls in Arang during the celebration of Raksha Bandhan.

District General Secretary Santoshi Srivastava pointed out that when Rahul Gandhi accused the BJP government in Madhya Pradesh of wrongdoing, Kharge swiftly echoed those sentiments. It appears that Kharge's primary and daily task is to sing the praises of the Gandhi family and to repeat what the Gandhi family authorizes. Srivastava emphasized

that if Congress MPs Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka were indeed youth leaders, they should lend their ears to the cries of Chhattisgarh's innocent girls, ranging from young children to elderly mothers. It's perplexing that their compassionate eyes do not seem to reflect the reality of the Bhupesh Sarkar government, and the cries of daughters seemingly go unheard in their actions.

Yadu suggested that the reason behind this silence might be Bhupesh Baghel's substantial contributions to the Congress Party, turning him into an ATM for the party. This could explain why senior Congress leaders appear to have a blind spot when it comes to addressing the daily occurrences of crimes against mothers, sisters, and daughters in Chhattisgarh. Bhupesh Baghel's influence seems to have muted senior Congress leaders, preventing them from acknowledging the anti-women incidents taking place during his administration.

UTIITSL contributes to cleanliness campaign



Raipur, Oct 01:

UTI Infrastructure Technology And Services Limited (UTIITSL), Raipur Branch staff and their family members and children conducted a cleanliness campaign in the street around Raipur Railway Station and Expressway of the city under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi. At 10:00 am, the entire office staff and divisional manager started the program with enthusiasm. Divisional Manager Bikash Chatterjee said that UTIITSL has been organizing such events from time to time under this type of social activities. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has been started from this series.

Young innovators shine in 'Jugaad from Scrap' contest

■ Creative brilliance takes center stage at MGSS

Arang, Oct 01:

The Mahatma Gandhi Higher Secondary School (MGSS) in Reeva witnessed a remarkable showcase of young talent as it hosted the "Jugaad from Scrap" competition at the school level. The event was graced by the presence of Principal R.P. Chandrakar and C.A.C. Yuvaraj Sahu, adding prestige to the occasion. Enthusiastic participants from primary and pre-primary schools displayed their ingenuity in full force.

Judging the competition were esteemed teachers B.L. Sahu, R.K. Verma, and Kavita Sonwani, who played an



instrumental role in assessing the exceptional creations. In the primary section, Siddhi Sahu secured the top spot, followed closely by Dolly in second place and Isha Sahu securing a well-deserved third place. Meanwhile, in the second-

ary section, the inventive Badal Group clinched the first position, with Dilip Group securing second place, and the innovative Bharati Group securing a commendable third position. This competition wasn't just about the students; it also provided a

platform for teachers to exhibit their creative flair. Suman Chaturvedi demonstrated her prowess by securing the first position, while Hemant Chandrakar, a dedicated teacher at Sandi, claimed a well-earned second position.

One-day workshop organized for inclusive education



Kasdol, Oct 01:

A one-day workshop was organized for creating an environment under development block level inclusive education for the disabled boys and girls, parents and teachers of development block Kasdol, under the chief hospitality of Regional MLA Shakuntala Sahu and under the chairmanship of District President Siddhant Mishra.

Apart from Savita Chambhare, guardian Rammohan Verma Puleni, Kholbahara Matia, Ram Prakash Patel Gwalindih, disabled boys and girls and

teachers were present. During this, good information was given on the need for physical exercise, trained teachers of inclusive education of development block by the experts and chief guest present. In the training, cluster coordinator Yogendra Narayan Jaiswal, Purushottam Dhruv, Rameshwar Verma, conference, Dhaniram Ratge, head reader Yogendra Sriwas, Hemin Sriwas, Lilavati Sahu, Ajay Verma, Virend Kaushik, Rajnarayan Jaiswal, and a large number of children, parents and teachers were present.

Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha inaugurates the First Aid Clinic

■ In Dantewada District Court premises via video conferencing

Raipur, Oct 01:

The Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court Ramesh Sinha, inaugurated a First Aid Clinic in Dantewada's District Court premises via video conferencing on Friday. Portfolio Judge of Dantewada district, NK Vyas, attended the inaugural ceremony. This clinic will offer life-saving medicines free of cost, benefit-



ing judges, employees, parties, visitors from remote areas, and advocates in Dantewada. The local com-

munity has welcomed this development in the District Court premises, recognising its potential to

provide essential medical assistance in emergencies.

Lakshmi Dhruv, a Class IV employee of Chhattisgarh High Court in Bilaspur, will retire on September 30. Chief Justice Mr. Ramesh Sinha honoured him for his retirement with a shawl, shripal, and a memento. Chief Justice Mr. Sinha extended his best wishes for a healthy and prosperous future to Lakshmi Dhruv. Registrar General Arvind Kumar Verma, Additional Registrar cum PPS M.V.L.N. Subrahmaniam and Protocol Officer RS Negi attended the ceremony.

Lakhma performs Bhoomi Pujan for 30 bedded hospital

Konta/Sukma, Oct 01:

Excise Minister Kawasi Lakhma, during his stay in Sukma district, performed the bhoomi puja in village Jagargunda, Tehsil office and paddy procurement center (PPC) in Kistaram. Minister Kawasi Lakhma performed the Bhoomi Pujan of the paddy procurement center in Kistaram. After this foundation stone ceremony for 30 bedded hospital and Tehsil office was performed in Jagargunda.

While addressing, he said that the state government is running many public welfare schemes for the development of every individual. He said that due to the efforts of the



government and administration, development has taken place in the interior areas and further efforts are continuing. He said that providing roads, education and better health is our priority and continuous efforts are being made to fulfill it and said that only roads open the way for development, today the

road has reached Almagunda which has changed the picture there.

Meeting program with villager

During his stay, Minister Kawasi Lakhma interacted with the villagers under the face-to-face program in Kistaram. By setting up a Janchaupal, he met the

villagers and inquired about their well-being and listened to their problems. He instructed the officials to resolve the matter immediately. During this time, the villagers looked very happy to find Minister Kawasi Lakhma among them. Let us tell you that recently on September 24, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel gifted the district to the people of the district by inaugurating and laying the foundation stone of 137 development works worth more than Rs 273 crore. On this occasion, District Panchayat Vice President Boddu Raja, other public representatives, officers and employees and a large number of villagers were present.

Unified Khairagarh gears up for closure of Off-Campus Center in Raipur

■ Residents and leaders rally for education rights

Khairagarh, Oct 01:

The vibrant city of Khairagarh is witnessing fervent preparations as its residents and leaders gear up for a staged protest aimed at the closure of the Off-Campus Center currently in operation in Raipur. An all-party conclave convened at the Circuit House in the city, where the central topic of discussion revolved around the imminent closure of this contentious Off-Campus Center.

During this pivotal meeting, Bhagwat Sharan Singh elucidated that the Secretary of the Department of Higher Education had issued a directive to halt the diploma admission process at the Off-Campus Center until further notice. However, the people of Khairagarh have resolutely demanded the comprehensive shutdown of this entire educational institution. In a show of unwavering unanimity, the assembly arrived at a resounding consensus: if the government fails to make a decision to close the center before the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct, a



potential boycott of the forthcoming legislative elections is on the table.

Pundit Mihir Jha, in a bid to foster non-partisanship, underlined that this issue transcends political divides. It is a matter that strikes at the very core of Khairagarh's identity and pride, requiring unity from

all residents to ensure the Off-Campus Center's closure. Om Prakash Jha emphasized Khairagarh's paramount importance to the community, urging everyone to unite for the city's welfare and progress. He stressed the need for a collective effort to advance their cause. Rajeev

Chandrakar pointed out that the directive seemingly signals a deliberate effort to dismantle the university.

Rudra Bhushan Singh highlighted the historical significance of the university's founding, a legacy bestowed upon the city by India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and Pandit Ravishankar Shukla. Amidst the unity and determination, Raja Veerendra Bahadur Singh and Rani Padmavati's lifelong dedication to the Congress party stands in stark contrast to the unfortunate state of the university under Congress governance. Ajay Jain unequivocally stated that the Off-Campus Center lacks local support and should be closed without further delay. Suyash Singh called for a unified and intensified effort in their collective pursuit of this objective.

Anurag Shanti Ture highlighted the lack of clarity in the directive, pointing out that while the center has not been officially closed, admissions have been suspended. He urged everyone to voice their protest at their respective levels.

Gulab Chopra emphasized the deep-rooted heritage of the Music University in Khairagarh, emphasizing that their col-

lective plea to the Vice-Chancellor is for the immediate closure of the center.

Bhikhramchand Ajedu underscored the significance of education and the need to disseminate information to members of the Congress party, emphasizing the united front in their fight for Khairagarh's educational rights.

At the meeting's conclusion, leaders including Narendra Bodhra, Manoj Gupta, Mangal Sarathi, and others respectively reiterated the demand for the Off-Campus Center's closure. Furthermore, it was decided to conduct a staged protest starting Saturday, aimed at

mobilizing public support. A sit-in is also scheduled at the Ambedkar Chowk during this period, with the possibility of roadblocks and a citywide shutdown should the need arise. The participants underscored that should the Off-Campus Center remain operational under the Model Code of Conduct's enforcement, a boycott of the impending legislative elections remains a potent consideration. The meeting bore witness to the presence of numerous prominent dignitaries, all united in their unwavering commitment to securing Khairagarh's educational rights.

Two teachers from Bengal and Andhra shortlisted for Global Teacher Prize 2023

London, Oct 01 (PTI):

Deep Narayan Nayak, a primary school teacher from West Bengal, and Hari Krishna Patacharu, an English teacher from Andhra Pradesh, have made it to the top 50 shortlist for the 2023 Global Teacher Prize unveiled here recently.

The shortlist for the USD 1-million annual prize, organised by Varkey Foundation in collaboration with UNESCO and in strategic partnership with UAE-based global philanthropic organisation Dubai Cares, was selected from over 7,000 nominations and ap-

plications from 130 countries around the world. The prize is open to working teachers who teach children who are in compulsory schooling or are between the ages of five and eighteen.

Nayak, a teacher at Tilka Manjhi Adivasi Free Primary School at Jamuria in Asansol, was selected for his innovative teaching methods that have transformed the lives of underprivileged children facing educational and social challenges. "Amidst the pandemic, he turned mud walls into blackboards and roads into classrooms, bridging the digi-

tal divide for marginalised students. His focus on educating parents, eradicating superstitions, and addressing learning disabilities has empowered both children and communities," the Global Teacher Prize said in a statement.

Nayak's initiatives extend beyond education, tackling issues like malnutrition, child exploitation, and environmental sustainability and his Raster Master project offers a global roadmap for inclusive education, addressing pressing post-COVID challenges. Patacharu, a teacher at ZPHS Ilavaram at

Bhattiprolu Mandal in Guntur District, was chosen for his work as an English teacher and embarked on a mission to overcome language barriers and enrich his students' lives. "Through innovative cross-cultural sessions and a global network of educators, he transformed his classroom, empowering students to express themselves confidently in English. His efforts extended beyond language, providing educational opportunities and bridging gaps through international connections," the Global Teacher Prize said.

JAYSHANKAR WITH INDIAN DIASPORA



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Ambassador of India to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu during a group photo with the Indian diaspora and others, in Washington.

Armenia grapples with multiple challenges after the fall of Nagorno-Karabakh

Yerevan, Oct 01 (AP):

Tens of thousands of now-homeless people have streamed into Armenia from the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh, controlled by its emboldened adversary, Azerbaijan.

Swarms of protesters are filling the streets of Yerevan, demanding the prime minister's ouster. Relations with Russia, an old ally and protector, have frayed amid mutual accusations. Armenia now finds itself facing multiple challenges after being suddenly thrust into one of the worst political crises in its decades of independence following the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union.

Developments unfolded with surprising speed after Azerbaijan waged a lightning military campaign in Nagorno-Karabakh, a majority ethnic Armenian region that has run its affairs for three decades without international recognition.

Starved of supplies by an Azerbaijani blockade and outnumbered by a military bolstered by Turkey, the separatist forces capitulated in 24 hours and their political leaders said they would dissolve their government by the end of the year. That triggered a mass exodus by ethnic Armenians who feared living under Azerbaijani rule. People hastily packed their belongings and trudged in a gruelling and slow journey over the single mountain road into impoverished Armenia, which is struggling to accommodate them.

Officials said Saturday that 100,480 people had arrived from Nagorno-Karabakh, or nearly all of the region's former population of around 120,000.

Enraged and exasperated over the loss of their homeland, they will likely support almost daily protests against Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, who has been blamed by the opposition for failing to defend Nagorno-Karabakh.

Like Chandrayaan, US-India relationship will go to the moon and even beyond: EAM Jaishankar

Washington, Oct 01 (PTI): The India-US relationship is at an all-time high and the Modi government is going to take it to a different level, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said, stressing that like the Chandrayaan, bilateral ties will go to the moon and even beyond.

Jaishankar's remarks came as he addressed several hundred Indian-Americans gathered at the India House from various parts of the US to attend the 'Celebrating Colours of Friendship' event organised by the Embassy of India here on Saturday.

"There is one clear message today that our relationship is at an all-time high. But as they say in America, you ain't seen anything yet. So, we are going to take this relationship to a different level, to a different place," he said at the largest-ever gathering of Indian-Americans at the India House.

Jaishankar said that the success of the G20 could not have happened without the support of the US.

"As the host, when things go



well, the host always gets the credit. It's reasonable. But, the G20 could not have come together if all the members of the G20 did not work for its success," he said.

"I think particularly, I must say, because I'm in this country today, the contribution, the support and the understanding that we got from the United States to make a successful G20, I think that is something I would certainly like to recognise in public in Washington DC," Jaishankar said amidst loud applause from Indian-Americans.

"So, it may have been our success in a literal way, but I think it was the G20 (nations)

success. To me, it was also a success of the India-US partnership please keep giving this partnership the support it needs, the support it deserves and the support it expects. And I can promise you that this relationship, like the Chandrayaan, will go to the moon, maybe even beyond," he said.

Jaishankar said that the human bond between the two countries makes the bilateral relationship unique.

"Countries do business with each other. Countries do politics with each other. They have military ties, they do exercises, and they have cultural exchanges. But when two countries have that deep human bonding, that's a completely different ballgame. That is today the defining characteristic of our relationship," he said.

He said the contribution of the diaspora in building the bilateral relationship is something fantastic.

"There are no words that can capture it. It is on that foundation that today we are

looking ahead for...a new hope on the horizon...So, I think when we look at the horizon, we really see fantastic possibilities out there, and it's the community which is going to deliver on that," Jaishankar said.

The minister said the India of today is different from what it was earlier.

"I want to share with you that this is truly a different India for which I speak. It is an India, which as you heard from others, is capable of the Chandrayaan-3 mission," he said.

"It is an India which was able to pull off the most spectacular G20 and prove those who said that we will not be able to get 20 nations, I don't want to say quarrelling nations but 20 countries with different positions, to come to the table together," he said.

This is an India, which showed during Covid that it could not only look after its own people but could extend its hand to more than a hundred countries across the world, he said.

India allows Nepal to sell electricity in the real time market

Kathmandu, Oct 01 (PTI):

India has allowed Nepal to sell electricity generated through two hydropower projects in its real-time energy market starting Saturday midnight, according to the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA).

It is for the first time that India granted project-wise approval ensuring that Nepal could sell hydroelectricity in India's Real-Time Market (RTM).

The Central Electricity Authority of India has allowed the trading of 44 MW of electricity generated from the 19.4 MW Lower Modi and 24.25 MW Kabeli B-1 hydropower projects in the real-time market in the first phase, according to Suresh Bahadur Bhattarai, the spokesperson at the NEA.

Bhattarai said approval had been received for the sale of electricity from two projects in both the day-ahead and the real-time markets.

"Earlier, we had to wait for a day for the import

and export of electricity," said Bhattarai.

"Now we can trade by bidding just one hour and fifteen minutes before the sale.

Now we can buy or sell power in case of a sudden shutdown or an increase in electricity generation," said Bhattarai.

"We can expect that other projects, which have got approval for the day-ahead market, will also be able to sell power in RTM in the day ahead," he said.

"We expect that the Indian authorities would grant permission to sell power from new projects in both day-ahead and real-time markets at the earliest," Bhattarai added. However, the projects that have received approval for selling power in the day-ahead market need to get renewed every year. Nepal is currently selling 13,000 MW of electricity to India on a daily basis.

India has been allowing Nepal to sell its power in its day-ahead market since November 2021.

'Pro-China' leader Muizzu wins Maldivian presidential polls

Male (Maldives), Oct 1 (AP):

Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) candidate Mohamed Muizzu, won the Maldivian presidential elections on Saturday, Al Jazeera reported citing local media.

This was the second round of polling after no candidate emerged clear winner in the first round.

Muizzu had emerged as the frontrunner in the first round with around 46 per cent votes, followed by Ibrahim Solih's 39 per cent. Al Jazeera reported citing several local media platforms that Muizzu has won with more than 53 per cent of the vote, after the tallying of results of all 586 ballot boxes.

After the thumping win, the Maldives president-



elect delivered a brief statement at his party's headquarters, thanking all those who voted for him and calling on the government to release former President Abdulla Yameen, who is serving an 11-year jail sentence on a corruption conviction.

"Today is a very happy day. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the Maldivian people. This outcome today is a huge encouragement for us in our pursuit to build a bet-

ter future for our country, and to ensure the sovereignty of our nation," Al Jazeera quoted him as saying. "Yameen, the leader of the PPM, must be released," Muizzu said.

"The President has the power to transfer [Yameen] home imprisonment. And doing so, I believe, is the best action that can be taken in our nation's interests," he added.

Notably, Muizzu and his party are considered 'pro-China' because of the huge Chinese loans taken by the country under the previous PPM government. After the results, Maldives President Ibrahim Solih conceded defeat in Saturday's runoff vote and congratulated Muizzu.

US Congress passes stopgap bill to avert government shutdown

Washington, Oct 01:

The US Congress passed a stopgap funding bill late on Saturday with overwhelming Democratic support after Republican Speaker Kevin McCarthy backed down from an earlier demand by his party's hardliners for a partisan bill. The Democratic-majority Senate voted 88-9 to pass the measure to avoid the federal government's fourth partial shutdown in a decade, sending it to President Joe Biden to sign into law before the 12:01 a.m. ET (0401 GMT) deadline. McCarthy abandoned party hardliners' insistence that any bill passes the chamber with only Republican votes, a change that could cause one of his far-right members to try to oust him from his leadership role.

The House voted 335-91 to fund the government through Nov. 17, with more Democrats than Republicans supporting it.

That move marked a profound shift from earlier in the week, when a shutdown looked all but inevitable. A shutdown would mean that most of the government's 4 million employees would not get paid - whether they were working or not - and also would shutter a range of federal services, from National Parks to financial regulators.

Federal agencies had already drawn up detailed plans that spell out what services would continue, such as airport screening and border patrols, and what must shut down, including scientific research and nutrition aid to 7 million poor mothers.

UK museum to sign pact for Shivaji's Tiger Claws' journey to India

London, Oct 01 (PTI):

The Victoria and Albert (V and A) Museum is all set to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Maharashtra government next week, which will see 17th century Tiger Claws' weapon believed to have belonged to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj make a journey back to India for an exhibition. During a protracted military engagement in 1659, the legendary Maratha leader held metal claws, or wagh nakh, concealed in his hand and is said to have disembowelled his opponent Afzal Khan the commander of the opposing Bijapur army. It is believed, though unverified, that the set of claws then came into the possession of James Grant Duff,

an officer of the East India Company who was appointed Resident or political agent of the Satara state in 1818 and gifted to the V and A by a descendant.

"The V and A looks forward to welcoming senior leadership from the Maharashtra government, to sign a memorandum of understanding," a V and A spokesperson said.

"The story of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's triumph over Afzal Khan is legendary, so we are delighted that the Tiger Claws' will return to India as part of the 350th anniversary events where they can be enjoyed as part of the celebrations. We hope that their display might also enable new research into their history and look forward to working in partnership with col-

leagues in the months ahead as we develop plans for their display," the spokesperson said.

The MoU, expected to be signed on Tuesday, coincides with Maharashtra's 350th anniversary celebrations of the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji. It is then expected to be dispatched to India later this year for an agreed period.

According to the V and A, the weapon is accompanied by a fitted case made after Grant Duff returned to Scotland. The inscription on the case reads: "The 'Wagnuck' of Sivajee With Which He Killed the Moghul General. This Relic was given to Mr. James Grant-Duff of Eden When he was Resident at Satara By the Prime Minister of the Peshwa of the Marathas".

MARITIME BILATERAL EXERCISE



Military officials of India and Singapore during the 30th edition of Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX), in Singapore.

Pakistan Army chief vows to eliminate the menace of terrorism

Islamabad, Oct 01 (PTI):

Pakistan's Army chief General Syed Asim Munir has vowed to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country through "unabated" military operations against militants following Friday's twin suicide attacks that have killed 65 people.

A total of 60 people were killed and more than 60 others were injured in a grisly suicide blast on Friday in Balochistan that targeted a procession to celebrate Prophet Muhammad's birthday near the Madina Masjid in Mastung, an official said.

In the second bomb attack that took place in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Hangu, targeting a police station's mosque, five people were killed, and 12 others were injured as the



mosque's roof collapsed in the explosion's impact, it said.

The Chief of Army Staff visited Quetta on Saturday where he was briefed on recent terrorist attacks, the Army's media wing said in a statement on Saturday night.

Munir said that the heretics who have nothing to do with Islam were carrying out such attacks with the "backing of state

sponsors of terrorism". "These terrorists and their facilitators, having no link with religion and ideology, are proxies of the enemies of Pakistan and its people," he said, without giving more details.

The Army chief added: "These forces of evil will continue to face the full might of the state and security forces backed by a resilient nation."

"Our operation against terrorists would continue unabated and the Armed Forces, Intelligence and Law Enforcement Agencies shall not rest till the menace of terrorism is rooted out from the country."

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack in Balochistan so far however, the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), responsi-

ble for some of the bloodiest attacks in Pakistan, denied its involvement.

Meanwhile, a think-tank report showed that Pakistan's security forces have experienced their highest casualties in eight years, with at least 386 personnel losing their lives in the first nine months of 2023.

The Center for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) report also said a troubling 57 per cent surge in violence nationwide, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

In the CRSS Security Report for the third quarter of 2023, it is highlighted that among the 1,087 violence-related fatalities recorded this year, security forces accounted for 36 per cent of the casualties, marking an eight-year high.



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Afghanistan Embassy Closure

Tale of Unfulfilled Diplomacy

The Afghanistan embassy in India has suspended its operations from October 1. This move, as stated in the embassy's announcement, is a result of several factors, including an inability to effectively serve the interests of Afghanistan, dwindling resources, and a shortage of staff. The embassy has expressed its frustration at the lack of support from the Indian government, which has hindered its ability to carry out its diplomatic duties. This development is a stark reminder of the challenges that have plagued Afghanistan since the Taliban's takeover two years ago. India, while not recognizing the Taliban government, had allowed the embassy to continue functioning under the ambassador and mission staff appointed during former president Ashraf Ghani's tenure. However, the past year has seen internal strife within the embassy, particularly concerning the appointment of a charge d'affaires by the Taliban. This power struggle exposed fault lines within the mission but was publicly downplayed by the embassy. The closure of the embassy now raises questions about the nature of India's diplomatic engagement with Afghanistan. While India has consistently advocated for a truly inclusive government in Kabul and emphasized that Afghan soil should not be used for terrorism against any nation, the embassy's closure underscores the complexities of maintaining diplomatic ties with a country under Taliban rule. The embassy's statement acknowledges its shortcomings in meeting the expectations and requirements necessary to serve Afghanistan's best interests. It cites a lack of timely and sufficient support from the Indian government, which has impeded routine diplomatic duties. While the Indian government has not yet responded to these allegations, the situation calls for a thorough examination of the dynamics between the two nations. India's stance on the Afghan issue has been rooted in a commitment to peace, stability, and the well-being of the Afghan people. It has consistently provided humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and has been a proponent of dialogue and reconciliation. As Afghanistan grapples with a fragile political landscape and ongoing security challenges, it is imperative for India to reassess its diplomatic approach. While the closure of the embassy is a setback, it should serve as an opportunity for India to reevaluate its engagement with Afghanistan and explore alternative avenues to support the Afghan people. The international community must also play a role in facilitating a peaceful and stable Afghanistan. Diplomatic efforts, backed by regional and global cooperation, are essential to address the complex issues facing the country. In these uncertain times, it is crucial to remember that diplomacy is often tested in the face of adversity. India's commitment to Afghanistan and its people remains unwavering, and it is incumbent upon all stakeholders to work towards a future where Afghanistan can find lasting peace and prosperity. The closure of the Afghanistan embassy is a poignant reminder of the challenges that diplomacy can encounter, but it should also serve as a call to action for renewed efforts towards a brighter future for Afghanistan.

Abide With The Mahatma's Ideals

Kajal Chatterjee

"I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any" — famously stressed by Mahatma Gandhi.

Since the Mahatma was an epitome of confidence and possessed an international mindset, he didn't treat the hymns of the Scottish gem "Abide with me" as a threat enough to get blown off his feet. Rather he allowed the window of his mind to let in the breeze of all possible cultures of the globe and this is the reason why that enlightened humanitarian had succeeded in appreciating the melody and philosophy embedded in every line of the evergreen Henry Francis Lyte classic. Yes, one and only closed orthodox parochial minds can find an all-time great song as a "threat" or "alien" just because it has originated in another land! Since Indian society is presently being dominated by forces of intolerance and orthodoxy, it is hardly surprising that "Abide with me" will be looked down upon. After all, emphasis needs to be placed on "own heritage" and "Indian music" by discarding all traces of anything "colonial/foreign". I wonder, do these sets of "nationalists" possess more love and respect for India than even Mahatma Gandhi. By sacrificing all norms of material comforts, luxury, professional career; this bare-bodied person had selflessly devoted his whole life for the mission of Indian independence from the grasp of colonial power. Yet he was liberal and broad-minded enough to make a clear distinction between crude British imperialism and the rich British culture harboring no hatred for the latter. Also Gandhi was a devout Hindu (but with no antipathy towards people of other faiths unlike the Hindutva brigade). So Gandhi didn't find any problem in embracing the British/Scottish/Christian hymn "Abide with me". In contrast, what are the contributions of the "nationalists" of today towards the welfare of India apart from fragmenting this nation of all through the petty walls of religion, caste, language, economy, politics and what not. And these elements are offering sermons of taking "pride" in "own heritage" by throwing out the "alien". Will we have to learn the essence of India and the world from these closed minds who believe in the muscle-flexing of beating our own trumpet and treating others as "inferior". And what is the exact definition of "own heritage" or "Indian music/culture". Qawwali can certainly not pass the "litmus test" of Indian-ness thanks to Persian Arabic Turkish influences. Rabindrasangeet/Nazrul geeti --- absolutely "NO NO" as lyrics/music of many compositions of the two literary giants of Bengal are greatly inspired by Western/Arabic renditions. Surely Christmas Carols would not do for obvious reasons though innumerable Indians of Christianity vintage are not an iota lesser Indian than flag bearers of rabid Hindutva. Songs of bands like the iconic Shillong Chamber Choir or that of Bengali legendary singer Kabir Sumon would surely not get termed as "Indian music" again due to the songs which often get rendered in English or bear influences of West including Bob Dylan. Sitar to Sarod to Hindustani classical music bear the influence of Persia and many regions of Islamic world. So it is highly curious what exactly forms "Indian music" in the ears of our "nationalist" folks. Are products churned out from Bollywood then represent our "own heritage"! But surely that domain is also not entirely free of Middle East/Western influences. On the date of birth of Mahatma Gandhi; we can draw inspiration from the large heartedness of the Apostle of Peace and embrace all the good which rest of the world offer to us with open arms as propagated by Rabindranath Tagore also. After all a country's moral and intellectual prosperity is directly dependent upon its readiness to mingle with others coupled with interexchange of thoughts and culture; in contrast a closed nation of bankrupt "superiority" complex with a tendency of belittling others is bound to experience a bad moral fall. On this 2nd day of October, let's appreciate the melody of "Abide with me" in our private ambience and get enchanted by the deep philosophy embedded in it with prayer to God to remain with us through life and death. If we can remain faithful to the song's aesthetic spiritual and human appeal and possess an all-embracing mindset as of Gandhi; surely the merchants of hatred will make a hasty retreat with their theory of exclusivity consigned to dustbins of history.

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.

EID MILAD-UN-NABI



Muslim devotees take part in a procession celebrating Eid Milad-Un-Nabi, in old city of Hyderabad, Sunday, Oct. 1.

Over 40% Indian graduates under 25 years remain unemployed

Connection between growth and good jobs remains weak



PROF. SUNIL GOYAL



Amid the speedy economic growth of India, the unemployment rate among graduates under 25 years of age touched a huge 42 percent post-Covid, compared to higher secondary (21.4 percent), secondary (18.1 percent), middle (15 percent) and others. "Post-Covid the unemployment rate is lower than it was pre-Covid, for all education levels. But it remains above 15% for graduates and more worryingly it touches a huge 42% for graduates under 25 years," the report -- STATE OF WORKING INDIA 2023: Social Identities and Labour Market Outcomes -- released by Azim Premji University. The report mentioned that for 1990s year-on-year non-farm GDP growth and non-farm employment growth were uncorrelated with each other. However, the conception of job creation changed between 2004 and 2019 as it was interrupted by the pandemic which caused larger growth in distress employment. The unemployment rate falls from over 40 percent for educated youth under 25 years of age to less than 5 percent for graduates who are 35 years and above, indicating that eventually graduates do find jobs. However, the key questions are, what is the nature of jobs they find and do this match their skills and aspirations? On the issue of female employment, the report states that it rose since 2019 due to a distress-led in-

crease in self-employment. Before Covid, 50% of women were self-employed, but post Covid this rose to 60%. "Even two years after the 2020 lockdown, self-employment earnings were only 85% of what they were in the April-June 2019 quarter. Looking at a similar point of view, gender norms continue to be significant for women's employment. The study said that compared to households with no mother-in-law present, married women living in households where the mother-in-law is present but not employed are 20% (rural) to 30% (urban) less likely to be employed. While, if the mother-in-law is employed herself, daughters-in-law are 50% (rural) to 70% (urban) more likely to be employed. Caste-based segregation :On this issue, the report stated that Scheduled Caste workers declined rapidly over time in waste-related work and leather-related work, though it has not been eliminated as of 2021-22." In the leather industry, the representation index declined sharply to 1.4 in 2021. In waste management and sewerage, over-representation of SCs decreased to 1.6 times in 2011 before increasing slightly again," the report said. Also, the report mentioned that lower-caste entrepreneurs are still rare. The report found that even in the smallest firm sizes, SC and ST owners are under-represented

compared to their share in the overall workforce. However, SC and ST owners are barely represented among firms employing more than 20 workers.

India's demonetization of high-value currency notes in November 2016, and GST introduction in 2017, had a lasting impact on the economy, especially its informal sector. This is believed to contribute to the high unemployment rate. Both demonetization and the COVID-19 pandemic led to significant reverse migration from urban to rural areas. It resulted in increased reliance on agriculture. According to this PLFS data, there has been a consistent improvement in the employment situation from 2017 to 2021. Both labour-force participation and work-force participation have increased during this period. If we contrast the data with the previous five-year survey on employment and unemployment conducted in 2011-12, the situation in 2021-22 appears markedly improved. But Indian unemployment rates are higher than they were in 2011-12. The gap was particularly pronounced in 2017-18 but has since narrowed. Unemployment rates are higher in all categories. In the case of rural males, unemployment has doubled since 2011-12.

Neither of these explanations is supported by the available data. The number of people identifying as "self-employed" is higher now than in the past. Economists recognize three categories of self-employed workers: own-account workers, employers, and workers in household enterprises. Own-account workers and employers can be considered proxies for informal sector enterprises. In 2011-12, 52.2% of workers described themselves as self-employed. By 2021-22, this figure had increased to 55.8%. Considering the increase in the population between 2011-12 and 2021-22, the data suggests a significant rise in the number of informal businesses. The Periodic Labour Force

Survey provides information on the average monthly earnings of self-employed workers. These figures indicate an increase between 2017 and 2022. This suggests that the severe adverse impact of demonetization and GST on employment is unlikely to be the primary cause of the rise in India's unemployment rate. The argument of reverse migration also does not hold up under scrutiny. In 2021, a special exercise within the PLFS assessed the impact on migration. The results indicated that the migration rate in 2020-21 was nearly the same as that in the National Sample Survey's 64th round in 2007-08. Additionally, the proportion of workers in "usual status" describing themselves as primarily engaged in agriculture had decreased between 2011-12 and 2021-22.

So, what are the possible reasons behind higher unemployment rates in India? Higher educational level among youth-- Youth unemployment has increased significantly from 2011-12 to 2021-22, nearly doubling during this period. As educational attainment improves, more educated individuals are less inclined to accept unskilled jobs. Expansion of social security measures-- The government has increased the distribution of food under the National Food Security Act. This reduces the pressure on individuals to immediately seek employment. It allows them more time to "search for work," which contributes to the increase in the unemployment rate. Additionally, direct cash transfers to farmer households and certain vulnerable population groups have also served as support mechanisms. Therefore, the rise in unemployment can be attributed to structural changes in the economy.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Europe's Geoeconomic Evolution

Over the past few years, Europe's geoeconomics has undergone a significant transformation. The region, once known for its liberal economy, conservative monetary system, fiscal austerity, and commitment to free trade, is now navigating a new path in the face of global challenges. The rise of Chinese mercantilism, exacerbated by the trade wars initiated by former US President Donald Trump, has pushed Europe to reevaluate its economic strategies. The COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine have further accelerated this transformation. The European Union, in particular, has shifted from being a bureaucratic secretariat implementing policies to becoming a major player in macroeconomics and geoeconomics. This shift has made the EU more united and better prepared to compete geopolitically. Ursula Von der Leyen, the President of the EU, has played a pivotal role in this transformation. Her leadership has answered Henry Kissinger's famous question: "Who do I call when I want to call Europe?" This change stems from effective crisis management and a commitment to European solidarity during the pandemic. Facing competition from both China and the US, Europe has invested in advanced technology, clean energy, big data, and artificial intelligence. These investments align with the EU's industrial policy, allowing it to adapt to the evolving global economy. Europe's geoeconomic evolution reflects its ability to respond proactively to a changing world, positioning itself as a key player on the global stage.

Arka Goswami

Gandhi's Relevance

On the day of Mahatma Gandhi's 154th birth anniversary, let us recall highly relevant in the present hour of crisis, Imran Pratappgarhi's Urdu couplet - "Who told you that I am swept up in the storm, I stand by Gandhi in the time of Godse" ("Ye kisne kahaa aapse aandhi ke saath hun, main Godse ke daur me Gandhi ke saath hun"). Mahatma Gandhi must not be reduced only to mere Swachhata. We need Gandhi more for our inner Swachhata in order to clean from within all ugly strains of untouchability and religious hatred that have been lurking in the dark corner of our minds. We need to clean casteists and racist apartheid from within to realise why it is necessary to stand by Gandhi in the time of Godse.

Sujit De, Kolkata

Protecting Religious Places

Amidst the prolonged ethnic violence in Manipur, which has claimed over 181 lives and damaged or destroyed 386 religious sites, a Supreme Court-appointed committee urges immediate identification and safeguarding of all religious buildings in the state. The Manipur government must prioritize the protection of its residents, displaced individuals, and ravaged properties while working towards a resolution for the ongoing unrest.

Mohammad Taurik, West Champaran

Gandhiji: The Journalist Who Shaped History



Er. Prabhat Kishore

Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi was a great journalist & media crusader, not only because he was great in so many ways and his greatness was total, but because he had a great journalist's gift of expression and communication. Journalism is not scholarship; it is a literature or history written in a hurry. In part, it is action too. A journalist must have the capacity to understand, to reach, and to communicate; and for half a century Gandhi was the greatest one-man medium of mass communication. Gandhiji was the most fearless of journalists. His life was an epic struggle for freedom and equality, though national freedom came in the last year of his life. He had been carelessly expressing his freedom before it came, fighting so many restrictions imposed by the British regime from time to time. He also fought for the freedom of the press. Although this might seem

natural, he was the most independent journalist possible, independent of the government business and party in the usual external and internal pressures of the press.

Gandhiji not only edited his papers but wrote for them incessantly. They were small papers, inevitably weekly papers. But they were the greatest weekly papers that have ever been published. Gandhiji's advent into journalism, as in many other things, was accidental. In 1904, he was asked to take over a printing press that was at work in Durban (South Africa) under the direction of Shree Madanjeet Vyavharik, a Mumbai ex-school teacher and Gandhi's political co-worker. Gandhi had contributed a large portion of its cost.

Indian Opinion was published weekly in Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, and English and was printed at this press with Mansukhlal Hiralal Nagar as its editor. All the editions except one had large circulations compared to other weeklies. It was through Indian Opinion that Gandhi arrived at the word 'Satyagraha'. In the struggle of 1913, the paper was Gandhi's standard. In 1914, it was the year of his farewell to South Africa, and his association with the paper ended.

Young India was established in a more spacious atmosphere and gained far greater popularity. Like Indian Opinion, it was also ready for Gandhi to take over. He was keen on conducting a paper in Gujarati as well, and he was offered Navjeevan, a monthly, which was converted into a weekly. Under his full

control, Navjeevan appeared on October 7, 1919, and a day later Young India appeared; both from Ahmedabad. Gandhi was the editor of both the papers, and Mahadev Desai was their publisher. Both journals were priced at one Anna each, and the circulation of each at one stage rose to the neighborhood of forty thousand. All Indian newspapers reproduced Gandhi's articles. Interestingly, he did not accept any advertisements.

Before taking up Navjeevan and Young India, Gandhi had edited for a short time an unregistered weekly, Satyagrah, priced at one paise, in April 1919 to protest against the discriminatory and biased policies of the British Government. This newspaper was the weapon of civil disobedience. Actually, the idea was to publish in every center a handwritten newspaper without registering it, occupying not more than one side of half a full page.

On February 11, 1933, the first issue of the weekly Harijan, priced at one Anna, appeared from Pune. It was published for and by the Servants of the untouchable society (Harijan Sevak Sangh) and contained a poem by Tagore, 'The Cleaner'. Ten thousand copies were published. Harijan was not a name of Gandhi's choice. Some untouchable correspondents had suggested it. He also published "Harijan Bandhu" in Gujarati and "Harijan Sewak" in Hindi. All three papers focused on India's and the world's social as well as economic problems.

Fight against Censorship

The "Bharat Chhodo" movement meant a change. It was the "Karo Movement", and Gandhi did not want any newspaper to be published after the severest possible restrictions on the publication of news of the "Bharat Chhodo" movement. At the historic AICC session of August 1942, Gandhi said that he had asked fellow journalists to realize their responsibilities. He wanted them not to become partners with the government in censorship and pre-censorship. When he, along with Sardar Patel and other leaders, was arrested, all old issues of "Harijan" and "Navjeevan" were hampered. After a lapse of three and a half years, "Harijan" was revived in February 1946. Gandhi was again immersed in Harijan welfare work. It had to rename the weekly and wanted to call it "Bhanga". After Gandhi's death on January 30, 1948, an attempt was made to carry on with "Harijan" in his memory. There were heated debates and arguments on this issue, but controversy arose among his followers, and finally, the historic "Harijan" was shut down forever.

Various other Publications

In the 'Gandhi era' of journalism, many newspapers were published to give voice to the freedom movement. 'Swarajya' (1920), 'Karmaveer' (1920), 'Desh' (1920), 'Aj' (1920), 'Arjun' (1923) were some famous newspapers published at that time. In 1920, Ramrikh Pal Sahgal started publishing journals (on economic subjects) named 'Chand' and

'Gyan Mandal' from Prayag, and 'Swarth' from Kashi, Varanasi. Monthly journals like 'Sudha', 'Madhuri', 'Hans', and 'Vishal Bharat', and daily journals like 'Hindustan', 'NavBharat Times', 'Veer Arjun' (all from Indraprastha, Delhi), and 'Aj' were well known to all. Many daily journals had their weekly editions. Research papers like 'Rajasthan Bharatiya', 'Maru Bharati', 'Hindusthani', 'Nagari Pracharini Patrika', etc. were published in this era. Gandhiji was a natural writer in Gujarati, but he had a place as a writer in the English language too. He had the power of Rajas and Avatars.

Three objects of journalism were propagated by Gandhi in Hind Swaraj (1921). The first object is to understand the popular feelings & thoughts of the people and to express it; the second is to arouse national, historical, and spiritual feelings among the people; and the third object is to write down the faults fearlessly. Gandhi's newspapers suggest that his purpose of journalism was to serve society in all respects and inspire the masses for a greater cause. He talked to the people in their own language and succeeded in communicating the messages concerned. Gandhi's practice of journalism set high ethical and moral standards by practicing mass-oriented and value-based journalism, which will always be a benchmark for the print media world.

(The author is a technocrat & academician.)

BRIEF

Hyundai

New Delhi: Hyundai Motor India on Sunday said its total wholesales increased 13 per cent year-on-year to 71,641 units in September, its highest ever in a month. The country's second largest carmaker had dispatched 63,201 units to dealers in September last year. Domestic sales last month rose to 54,241 units, up 9 per cent from 49,700 units in September 2022, Hyundai Motor India said in a statement. Exports were higher at 17,400 units last month from 13,501 units in September 2022, an increase of 29 per cent. "While the industry grew by 2 per cent last month, our domestic dispatches were up 9 per cent."

BYJU'S

New Delhi: Edtech major BYJU'S has set the target to become profitable by March 2024 on account of consolidation and restructuring of the organisation and settlement on USD 1.2 billion loan, sources aware of the development said. The company has undertaken exercise to reduce workforce by about 3,000-3,500 this month by ending duplication in roles across the organisation.

Maruti Suzuki

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Sunday said its total wholesales increased 3 per cent year-on-year to 1,81,343 units in September; its best ever in a month. The country's largest carmaker had dispatched 1,76,306 units to dealers in the same month last year. Total domestic passenger vehicle sales rose to 1,50,812 units last month, up 2 per cent from 1,48,380 units in September 2022, MSI said in a statement.

SJVNL

Shimla: SJVNL, a joint venture of the Centre and Himachal Pradesh government, aims to become a 50,000 MW capacity company by 2040 and add installed capacity of 10,000 MW during next three years, a senior company official said here on Saturday. Addressing a press conference, SJVNL Chairman and Managing Director Nand Lal Sharma said the company has made rapid strides in the past 35 years and not only made foray into wind and solar energy; but also got projects in other states and foreign countries, including Nepal and Bhutan.

Toyota

New Delhi: Toyota Kirloskar Motor on Sunday said its total wholesales increased 53 per cent year-on-year to 23,590 units in September, its highest ever in a month. The automaker had dispatched 15,378 units to dealers in the same month last year. Total sales achieved include 22,168 domestic units and export of 1,422 units, Toyota Kirloskar Motor said in a statement. Toyota Kirloskar Motor Vice President of Sales and Strategic Marketing Atul Sood said the sales performance underlines the growing acceptance of the company's diverse product portfolio.

Tata Motors total sales in domestic market rise 2 pc to 80,633 units in Sep

New Delhi, Oct 01 (PTI):

Tata Motors Ltd on Sunday reported a 2 per cent rise in its total domestic vehicle sales at 82,023 units in September, as against 80,633 units in the same month last year.

Passenger vehicle sales in the domestic market, including electric vehicles, were down 6 per cent at 44,809 units last month, as compared to 47,654 units in September 2022, Tata Motors said in a regulatory filing.

Electric vehicle sales, including in international markets, were at 6,050 units as compared to 3,864 units in the year-ago month, a growth of 57 per cent. "Passenger vehicle sales remained strong in Q2 FY24 driven by new launches and pre-festive offtakes. Tata Motors post-



ed quarterly sales of 1,38,939 cars and SUVs in Q2 FY24, about 2.7 per cent below our highest ever quarter, Q2 FY23," Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles

Ltd and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd Managing Director Shailesh Chandra said. He further said, "Our EV business continues its strong

momentum and has posted growth of about 55 per cent year-on-year." In Q2 FY24, the company extended the innovative twin-cylinder CNG offering to

Tiago, Tigor and Punch, which have been received well by the market, Chandra added.

The company said its total commercial vehicles sales were higher by 12 per cent at 39,064 units in September 2023, as compared to 34,890 units in September 2022.

Tata Motors Executive Director Girish Wagh said the company's commercial vehicles domestic sales stood at 99,178 in Q2FY24, 6 per cent higher than Q2FY23. "Medium and heavy commercial vehicles segment saw a strong growth of 24 per cent over Q2 of FY23, fuelled by continued government infrastructure push, robust replacement demand, and growth in core sectors, along with sustained growth from the e-commerce sector," he added.

FPIs turn net sellers after 6 months of investment

New Delhi, Oct 01 (PTI):

After sustained buying in the last six months, FPIs have turned net sellers and pulled out of over Rs 14,767 crore from Indian equities in September, primarily due to dollar appreciation, the steady rise in the US bond yields, and a spike in crude oil prices.

Going forward, the outlook for FPI flows in India is uncertain, as it will depend on the performance of the Indian economy, the RBI's October monetary policy, and the outcome of the September quarter earnings, Mayank Mehra, smallcase, manager and principal partner at Craving Alpha, said.

According to data with the depositories, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)

have sold shares to the tune of Rs 14,767 crore in September.

The latest outflow came after FPI investment in equities had hit a four-month low of Rs 12,262 crore in August. Before the outflow, FPIs were incessantly buying Indian equities in the last six months from March to August and brought in Rs 1.74 lakh crore during the period.

V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said the latest selling has been in response to steady dollar appreciation, which took the dollar index close to 107, and the steady rise in the US bond yields which took the US 10-year bond yield to around 4.7 per cent. Also, the spike in Brent crude to USD 97 weighed on FPI selling.

GST mop-up rises 10% to over Rs 1.62 lakh cr in Sep

■ Crosses Rs 1.60 lakh cr mark 4th time in FY24

New Delhi, Oct 01 (PTI):

Helped by improved compliance, GST collections increased by 10 per cent to over Rs 1.62 lakh crore in September, crossing the Rs 1.6 lakh crore mark for the fourth time during current financial year.

Gross GST revenue collected last month was Rs 1,62,712 crore. Of this, Central GST was Rs 29,818 crore, State GST was Rs 37,657 crore, Integrated GST was Rs 83,623 crore (including Rs 41,145 crore collected on import of goods) and cess was Rs



11,613 crore (including Rs 881 crore collected on import of goods).

The revenue in September 2023 was 10 per cent higher than the GST revenue of Rs 1.47 lakh crore in the same month last year; the finance ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

"During the month, the revenues from domestic transactions (including import of services) are 14 per cent higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year. It is for

the fourth time that gross GST collection has crossed Rs 1.60 lakh crore mark in FY 2023-24," it said.

Gross GST collection in the first half (April-September) of FY24 stood at Rs 9,92,508 crore, an increase of 11 per cent from the year-ago period.

Average monthly gross collection in April-September FY24 was Rs 1.65 lakh crore, 11 per cent higher than the year-ago period, it said.

As the normal period of limitation for FY17-18 ended on September 30, some of this increased collection could be linked to businesses having settled issues with payment of taxes for the said period, KPMG Indirect Tax Head Abhishek Jain said.

Gas price for Reliance cut by 18% to \$10

New Delhi, Oct 01 (PTI):

The price of natural gas produced from difficult areas like deepsea KG-D6 block of Reliance Industries on Sunday was cut by a steep 18 per cent, in line with softening of benchmark international gas prices, an official notification said. However, the price of gas that is largely used for making CNG for fueling automobiles or piping to households kitchens for cooking purposes will remain unchanged due to a price cap that is set at 30 per cent less than market rates such as that paid to Reliance.

JLR plans to roll out 8 battery electric vehicles in India by 2030

New Delhi, Oct 01 (PTI):

Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) aims to launch eight battery electric vehicles (BEVs) in India by 2030, according to a senior company executive.

The company currently sells one electric model -- Jaguar I-Pace -- in the country. In an interaction with PTI, JLR Chief Commercial Officer Lennard Hoornik said the automaker will commence taking orders for the Range Rover BEV for the Indian market next year with deliveries expected to begin in 2025. "We are

'India emerging market for cocoa, should become inter-govt body ICCO member'

Abidjan, Oct 01 (PTI):

India, an emerging market for consumption of cocoa, should become a member of the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO) in a bid to take part in the policy dialogue, ICCO Executive Director Michel Arrion said.

Currently, India annually produces only 27,000 tonnes of cocoa, used largely in the manufacturing of chocolates, and imports about 1 lakh tonnes worth of cocoa-based products like butter.

Speaking to PTI, the ICCO Executive Director said, "Production of cocoa in India is very low. But any country producing one tonne of cocoa is eligible to become our member."

India imports a lot and is one of the emerging markets for consumption of cocoa in Asia. It should become a member of the

ICCO, he said, adding both producing and consuming countries are eligible to be members of the ICCO.

ICCO, an inter-governmental organisation of consumers and producers of cocoa, is based in Abidjan, the economic capital of Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa.

Listing out the advantages of becoming a member, Arrion said it provides an opportunity to discuss with big players and participate in policy making.

The additional benefit the members get is -- statistical information, economic analysis, free participation in events and technical assistance in formulation of policies, he said.

Arrion said, cocoa consumption has become saturated in the traditional markets of Europe and North America and producing countries are looking at the emerging market of Asia in a big way.

Azad Engineering Limited files DRHP with SEBI

Mumbai, Oct 01:

Azad Engineering Limited has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus ("DRHP") with market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"). The Company's initial public offering comprises a fresh issue of up to ₹2400 million and an offer for sale of equity shares of face value of ₹2 each aggregating up to ₹2500 million.

The offer for sale comprises of Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹1700 million by Rakesh Chopdar, Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹2,800 million by Piralam Structured Credit Opportunities Fund and Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹500 million by DMI Finance Private Limited.

The company proposes to utilize the Net Proceeds from the offer towards Funding capital expenditure of the company,

repayment/pre-payment, in full or part, of certain borrowings availed by the Company, and general corporate purposes. Axis Capital Limited, ICICI Securities Limited, SBI Capital Markets Limited and Anand Rathi Advisors Limited are the Book Running Lead Managers to the issue.

Azad Engineering is one of the key manufacturers of their qualified product lines supplying to global original equipment manufacturers ("OEMs") in the aerospace and defence, energy, and oil and gas industries, manufacturing highly engineered, complex and mission and life-critical components. The company manufactures complex and highly engineered precision forged and machined components that are mission and life-critical and hence, some of their products have a "zero parts per million" defects requirement.

itel launches 'P55 Power 5G'

New Delhi, Oct 01:

itel, a leading smartphone brand in India, has been democratizing technology by delivering high-quality smartphones under INR 10K. itel takes another giant leap in launching India's most affordable and powerful 5G Smartphone under 10K, making it an accessible technology for the consumers of Bharat. itel P55 Power 5G Smartphone is one of its kind in the industry unlike any other brands to be present in this segment. It is equipped with highly aspirational MediaTek dimensity 6080 chipset ensuring uninterrupted and outstanding



performance. Meeting the storage demands of our customers, this smartphone boasts an impressive 6GB RAM, complemented by an additional 6GB of memory fusion, and a generous 128GB

ROM. You'll be delighted to know that it will be exclusively available on Amazon at the enticing price of just INR 8,999 with bank offers and it's all set to be available for purchase starting from October 4th, 2023.

ATF price hiked 5 pc, commercial LPG by Rs 209



New Delhi, Oct 01 (PTI):

Jet fuel or ATF price on Sunday was hiked by 5 per cent -- the fourth straight monthly increase since July, and commercial cooking gas (LPG) rates were raised by a steep Rs 209 per 19-kg cylinder, in line with the firming up seen in international benchmarks. However, the price of domestic LPG - the one used in household kitchens for cooking purposes - remained unchanged at Rs 903 per 14.2-kg cylinder. Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was increased by Rs 5,779.84 per kilolitre, or 5.1

per cent, in the national capital to Rs 118,199.17 per kl from Rs 112,419.33, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. The increase comes on back of the steepest-ever 14.1 per cent increase (Rs 13,911.07 per kl) effected on September 1, and a 8.5 per cent or Rs 7,728.38 per kl increase on August 1.

The fourth straight increase in prices of jet fuel, which makes up for 40 per cent of an airline's operating cost, will increase the burden on already financially strained airlines.

On July 1, ATF price had gone up by 1.65 per cent or Rs 1,476.79 per kl. In four increases, ATF prices have gone up by a record Rs 29,391.08 per kl.

Alongside, oil firms raised the price of commercial LPG - the one used in establishments such as hotels and restaurants - by Rs 209.

FASHION SHOW



Models pose as they attend a presentation of French fashion brand Paul & Joe in Paris.

India 'big hub' for blue collar economy: Fountain CEO Sean Behr

New Delhi, Oct 01 (PTI):

Fountain, a provider of hiring automation software for frontline workforces, considers India as one of the "big hubs" in this space, a top company official said.

The company is present in the US, Western Europe - UK, France, Germany as well as in South Africa, India, New Zealand and a few other countries. "The big hubs are India, UK and France," Founder and CEO of the company Sean Behr told PTI.

"Fountain focuses exclusively on the blue collar and gray collar workforce. A vast majority of people ... don't ... do PowerPoint or Excel, they do things on the frontlines of our economy," Behr said, adding that hiring and retaining workers in the blue and grey collar economy has never been more difficult. India is the "most

natural place" to invest, and to expand as there is a huge opportunity and growth rate in the blue/gray collar market, Behr noted. "China has some similar dynamics, but obviously there's geopolitical challenges, while in India you have a bigger population and a very good place for technology to invest in this market," he said. Behr pointed out that India has more people in the workforce with a payment-enabled smartphone as compared to the 330 million total population of the United States. "With 8 million manual informal processes, there is absolutely no way to scale to 25 million workers and still be using manual processes. You need to bring technology that will standardize the process for these workers and it benefits both the worker and actually more importantly the company."

Scrap-to-innovation and quiz competition held

National Invention Campaign 2023 promotes creativity and innovation among students

Central Chronicle News

Balrampur, Oct 01: In a remarkable display of ingenuity and creativity, young students from Balrampur participated in the National Invention Campaign 2023, held as part of the Block-level comprehensive education campaign.

The event, which featured a scrap-to-innovation competition and a quiz competition, was organized under the guidance of Development Block Coordinator Anil Tiwari and received significant support from school coordinators.

The event, hosted at the Government Girls' Higher Secondary School in Balrampur, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students hailing from various schools.

They showcased innova-



tive models crafted from scrap materials, demonstrating their exceptional skills and creativity. The competition recognized and awarded prizes to the top-performing students from different schools, celebrating their outstanding efforts.

Speaking at the program, Development Block Coordinator Anil Tiwari commended the government's commendable ini-

tiative, emphasizing the importance of nurturing and enhancing the talents of young children.

Tiwari expressed his optimism that these budding innovators might one day become prominent scientists, contributing to the nation's progress. He stressed that today's children are the future of the country, and it is our collective responsibility to groom them for a brighter

tomorrow. He also lauded the exemplary performance of all the students.

The event included addresses by other teachers and a comprehensive explanation of the scrap-to-innovation program. The first place in the scrap-to-innovation program was secured by Amit Kumar Yadav, a Class 5 student from Prathmik Shala Daldoha.

Kumari Tulsi, a Class 3

student from Prathmik Shala Nawadih, claimed the second place, while the third place was awarded to Manish Kumar, a Class 7 student from Madhyamik Shala Krishna Nagar. The chief guest and other dignitaries praised these young talents and extended their best wishes for their future endeavors.

The event witnessed the presence of various dignitaries, including Development Education Officer Jayshankar Singh, Principal of Kanya Higher Secondary School Sunil Ekka, President of the School Management Committee Sanjeev Gupta, along with teachers and students representing various schools. The National Invention Campaign 2023 proved to be a testament to the creativity and innovation flourishing in Balrampur's young minds.

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Oct 01: The month of September 2023 marked a significant moment as 16 dedicated railway personnel bid adieu to their illustrious careers, including an Assistant Security Commissioner, from various departments of the South East Central Railway, Bilaspur Division. In a touching farewell ceremony held at the Mandal Railway Auditorium, these retiring employees were honoured for their years of dedicated service.

The retirement ceremony was a momentous occasion, where Assistant Personnel Officer Snehashish Ghosh presented essential documents pertaining to pension settlements, service commendation certificates, and service medals. The event wit-



nessed the presence of relatives of the retirees, Welfare Inspectors, and dedicated personnel from the Personnel Branch.

Among the 16 retiring railway personnel representing the Division, there were three from the Operations Department, six from the Engineering Department, two from the Mechanical Department, one each from Commercial Department, Signal and Telecommunication

Department, Electrical Department, Accounts Department and Security Department.

The retiring members of the railway families received heartfelt congratulations for their exceptional contributions and dedication to the railway service. Their retirement marks the end of a chapter filled with hard work, commitment, and valuable service to the South East Central Railway, Bilaspur Division.

Farmer leader Yogesh Tiwari to join BJP

Mega Rally in Raipur on October 7

Central Chronicle News

Bemetara, Oct 01: Renowned local farmer leader, Yogesh Tiwari, has made the significant decision to join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). A grand event was initially scheduled for October 1 in Raipur, the state capital, to mark his entry into the BJP, with the presence of top BJP leaders. However, due to the busy schedules of central leaders, the event has been rescheduled to October 7. The rally aims to gather over 20,000 people from the legislative constituency area.

Yogesh Tiwari praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP for earn-



Yogesh Tiwari

ing global respect for India. He highlighted the BJP's commitment to delivering on their promises to the people of India with integrity. Tiwari pointed to various welfare schemes initiated by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, benefiting the underprivileged, laborers, and women.

These schemes include Ayushman Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Mudra Loan Scheme, free grains for needy families, and various farmer support programs like the PM-Kisan scheme.

Tiwari stressed that these government initiatives have positively impacted the lives of people in both urban and rural areas. Impressed by the policies and strategies of the Bharatiya Janata Party, he has chosen to align himself with the party.

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur/Raipur, Oct 01: Under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, a comprehensive cleanliness drive was launched by the Ministry of Railways on October 1, 2023 at 10 am. In this campaign, railway officials, employees and volunteers donated one hour of labor as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. Around 20,000 programs were organized in Indian Railways across the country in this huge cleanliness drive.

In this regard, this campaign was conducted at 168 places in the South East Central Railway on October 01 at 10 am, including 39 places in Bilaspur Railway Division, 38 places in Raipur Railway Division and 91 places in Nagpur Railway Division.

In Bilaspur station, a



comprehensive cleaning campaign was conducted under the leadership of the Additional General Manager, in which more than 500 officials, employees and volunteers from various NGOs donated their labor for cleaning and sanitation.

This campaign was held at South East Central Railway Electric Loco Shed, Bilaspur, Control Office, Bilaspur, Raipur Station, WRS Colony Raipur, Durg Coaching

Depot, Itwari Station, Crew Lobby and Running Room - Bilaspur, Raigarh, Brajrajnagar, Korba, Shahdol, Bijuri, Pendra Road, Kharsia, This comprehensive cleanliness drive was carried out in Surajpur and Gondia etc. along with other places. More than 70000 railway employees and volunteers participated in the comprehensive cleanliness drive conducted today at various locations of the South East Central

Railway. Swachhta Pakhwada is being celebrated by Indian Railways from 15.09.23 to 02.10.23 to ensure its role in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and its successful implementation. The theme of Swachhta Hi Seva Abhiyan 2023 is 'Waste Free India'. During Swachhta Pakhwada, daily activities like clean communication, clean train, clean station, clean premises, clean food, clean toilet etc. are being done.

This year, special attention is being given to cleaning of tracks at stations and elimination of plastic waste in railway premises. In this connection, cleanliness fortnight was organized in all the three railway divisions including the headquarters of South East Central Railway.

Railways is an eco-friendly mode of transport and has always been a pioneer in promoting a clean and green environment. It has taken several initiatives to provide a clean environment in and around railway stations and trains, such as biotrails in bins for clean tracks, segregation of biodegradable/non-biodegradable waste, solid waste management, single-use plastics use etc. is discouraged.

Bilaspur Division concludes Rajbhasha Pakhwada

- With 'Saras Kavya Sandhya'
- Railway employees and city poets come together to mark the successful conclusion

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Oct 01: The South East Central Railway, Bilaspur Division, celebrated the successful conclusion of the Rajbhasha Pakhwada (Hindi Fortnight) from September 14th to 29th with a grand closing ceremony. The event witnessed the presence of the Divisional Railway Manager, esteemed poets, and dedicated railway employees.

The closing ceremony featured glimpses of the



various programs organized by the Department of Official Language during the Hindi Fortnight. To mark this special occasion, a Saras Kavya Sandhya (Poetry Evening) was held, where local poets and railway employees infused lyrical charm with their poetic compositions.

The Deputy Chief Official Language Officer expressed his delight in listening to the city's renowned poets and railway employees who showcased their poetic talents during Rajbhasha Pakhwada. He congratu-

lated the officers and employees who emerged victorious in the competitions held during the fortnight. He also commended the active participation of those who may not have won prizes but contributed enthusiastically.

The Divisional Railway Manager, as the chief guest, praised the winners of various competitions conducted throughout Rajbhasha Pakhwada. He emphasized the privilege of hearing the city's eminent poets and railway employees, acknowledging their

significant contributions to the poetic atmosphere. He extended his gratitude to all the poets for their diverse expressions.

The Divisional Railway Manager, in a touching moment, presented the poem 'Meri Bitiya Padha Karo', leaving everyone deeply moved. The poetry session featured accomplished local poets and railway employee poets, enchanting the audience with their artistic verses.

The ceremony concluded with the release of the 8th edition of the e-magazine "Bilaspur Mandal Darpan" by the Official Language Department. The winning officers and employees were honored with mementos, highlighting their commitment to promoting Hindi and cultural richness within the railway community.

Portion of roof collapses at Bagdwar middle school

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Oct 01: A potentially disastrous incident was narrowly avoided at Bagdwar Middle School in the Churiya block. It has been reported that a section of the school's roof suddenly collapsed, with the incident occurring during the night of September 29, just as the sweeper arrived to open the school on September 30, Saturday. Fortunately, no serious injuries were reported, thanks to quick action by school authorities.

The collapsed section of the roof covered the hall and an area near the gate. An examination of the site revealed that the roof had given way suddenly, despite no apparent visible cracks or weaknesses in the walls or structure. The



age and rusted condition of the roof beams may have contributed to the collapse.

Currently, the school serves 66 students with a staff of five members. The affected area was being used for the sixth and sev-

enth-grade classrooms, as well as for serving mid-day meals to the children.

Following the incident, the school administration had requested additional classrooms from the education department to ensure student safety, but the

request had not been fulfilled by the time of the incident.

In the aftermath, students have been temporarily relocated to other available spaces on the school premises, with classes continuing as usual.

Allegations of unfair fee collection practices at DAV school

Central Chronicle News

Dalli-Rajhara, Oct 01: In a significant development, a tripartite meeting was convened at the SDM office in Rajhara, chaired by SDM Dalli-Rajhara, Suresh Kumar Sahu. The meeting addressed concerns raised by parents of DAV School students, who alleged unfair fee collection practices by the school management. Member of Parliament Mushtaq Ahmad, representing the Rajhara Mines Group and serving as the district minister for the Indian Labour Union, led the discussion.

The meeting included officials from the Personnel Department, BSP management representatives Jayasingh Baghel, Jaut Kumar, and Ritesh Mishra, DAV School's Principal Alka Sharma, along with

Mushtaq Ahmad. Notable attendees also included M.P. Singh, the Central President of the Indian Labour Union, and Rameshwar Sahu, the District President of the Indian Labour Union.

During the meeting, SDM Suresh Kumar Sahu facilitated a dialogue between DAV School management and BSP management, giving them the opportunity to address the complaints made by MP Mushtaq Ahmad and concerned parents. Both parties clarified that they had issued notices to four teachers, seeking reasons for non-payment of fees, and pledged to take appropriate action based on the teachers' responses.

In response, Mushtaq Ahmad requested access to the notice containing the reasons for the actions



against the teachers and insisted that such issues not recur. He emphasized the importance of documenting these commitments in writing and urged apologies to be extended to the four teachers involved.

Furthermore, concerns were raised about transparency in fee collection for non-BSP students at DAV School, as it allegedly did not adhere to govern-

ment and CBSE norms. Mushtaq Ahmad highlighted that tuition fees should be collected for only 10 months, while DAV School was collecting fees for 12 months, in violation of regulations. He called on the school management to provide detailed information about the fees collected from non-BSP students in both the current and previous academic sessions.

Transparency in the utilization of funds collected through the People's Fund was also emphasized.

Mushtaq Ahmad pointed out that BSP management had a contract with DAV School for its operation in Rajhara. This contract granted BSP management significant authority over DAV School, including an annual grant, staff accommodations, medical facilities, and the responsibility of maintaining the school building to CBSE standards. However, BSP management's neglect of these responsibilities had led to the deteriorating condition of the school building. Despite an increasing number of non-BSP students in recent years, BSP management continued to allocate funds to DAV School at the same rate as before, which was considered unfair.

Chhattisgarh's innovative Rainwater Harvesting Park takes shape in Arang

Central Chronicle News

Arang, Oct 01: Chhattisgarh is witnessing the creation of its inaugural rainwater harvesting park on Kalai Road in the vibrant city of Arang, with an estimated budget of approximately 18 crore rupees. Hori Singh Thakur, the Chief Municipal Officer, has unveiled the exciting news, emphasizing that this expansive 11-acre rainwater harvesting park is poised to transform Arang into a burgeoning tourist destination.

Arang, nestled within the Chandkhuri region of the Arang constituency, boasts the unique Kaushalya Mata Temple, a national treasure. Encompassed within the tourism circuit that includes Chandkhuri, Arang, Sirpur, and Barnavapara, historic Arang

holds immense potential as a thriving tourist hub.

The development plan for the



colossal Jhalamala Lake in Arang includes picturesque pathways designed to enchant

tourists. Additionally, the Rainwater Harvesting Park (Adventure Sports and Water Harvesting) promises to play a pivotal role in the advancement of the Arang region.

A collaborative effort between the municipal administration and the Ministry of Water Resources and Development has yielded a meticulously phased development plan for the Rainwater Harvesting Park. The first phase, spanning approximately four acres, will encompass rainwater harvesting systems, a mesmerizing musical fountain, a cutting-edge 5D theater, and engaging recreational facilities for both children and adults. The second phase is poised to introduce invigorating water sports activities, a captivating floating restaurant, and a vibrant fishery.



India win gold in men's trap team event, women claim silver

Hangzhou, Oct 01 (PTI):

The Indian triumvirate of Prithviraj Tondaiman, Kynan Chenai, and Zoravar Singh Sandhu won the gold medal in men's trap shooting at the Asian Games here on Sunday.

Just before that, the trio of Manisha Keer, Preeti Rajak and Rajeshwari Kumari claimed the silver medal in the women's trap team event, adding to the Indian shooting contingent's best-ever show at the Games.

The Indian men combined to shoot 361 in the qualifications and finish ahead of silver medallists Khaled Almdhaf, Talal Alrashidi and Abdulrahman Alfaihan (359) and host nation China's Yuhao Guo, Ying



From left, silver medalists India's Rajeshwari Kumari, Manisha Keer and Preeti Rajak celebrate on the podium during the awards ceremony for the Shooting Trap Team Women competitions Silver.



From left, India's Prithviraj Tondaiman, Zoravar Singh Sandhu and Kynan Darius Chenai celebrate on the podium during the awards ceremony for the Shooting Trap Team Men competitions Gold.

Qi and Yuhao Wang (354), who settled for the bronze.

Shooting last, Alrashidi tried his his best and scored 24 points but that was not enough to surpass the Indian total.

Meanwhile, the Indian

women's team totalled 337 to take home the silver medal behind China's Qingnian Li, Cuicui Wu and Xinqiu Zhang, who combined to shoot a world and games record score of 357 to finish on top of the

podium. Kazakhstan's Mariya Dmitriyenko, Aizhan Dosmagambetova and Anastasiya Prilepina (336) bagged the bronze medal.

In addition, Manisha also advanced to the finals

as well. She was tied on 114 with three others but advanced via a shoot-off.

Kynan Chenai (122) and Zoravar Singh Sandhu (120) have also qualified for the individual final in men's competition.

Toor defends shot put gold



India's Tajinderpal Singh Toor celebrates after winning the men's shot put final event.

Hangzhou, Oct 01 (PTI):

Shot-putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor defended his title with an amazing final throw to beat back the challenge from his Saudi Arabian rival here on Sunday.

Toor, the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games gold medal-

list, came up with a mighty throw of 20.36 metres on his sixth and last attempt to overhaul his Saudi rival Mohamed Daouda Tolo's distance of 20.18 metres.

Toor, however, could not break his own Asian Games record of 20.75m set in 2018 Jakarta. But the

28-year-old's final throw was way too good for his Saudi rival to overhaul in his final attempt.

In the 1500m for women, India's Harmilan Bains won a silver while Ajay Kumar Saroj and Jinson Johnson won silver and bronze respectively in the men's 1500m.

Badminton at Asian Games

India sign off with first-ever team silver after losing to China in final

Hangzhou, Oct 01:

Injured HS Prannoy's absence hurt India as they went down fighting 2-3 against badminton powerhouse China to sign off with their first-ever silver medal in the men's team championships at the Asian Games here on Sunday. After world No. 7 Prannoy was ruled out due to a back injury, Lakshya Sen produced a gutsy show in the first singles and doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty then bossed over their opponents to put India 2-0 ahead. So, it was once again left to Srikanth to carry the team on his shoulders. The former world No. 1, who had produced a gritty show against South Korea in the semifinals, couldn't go the distance this time despite a healthy lead and multi-



ple game points as China fought back to make it 1-2. The defending champions then won the remaining two matches to maintain their hegemony in the Asian Games. With Prannoy missing the summit clash due to a

back injury, Sen was handed the responsibility of leading the Indian charge. Sen recovered from a mid-game slump to erase a five-point deficit in the decider and put India ahead with a 22-20 14-21 21-18 win over world No. 6

Shi Yuqi in an 83-minute opening slugfest. World No. 3 men's doubles pair of Satwik and Chirag then went on a smashing spree to outclass world No 2. Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang 21-15 21-18 in 55 minutes to extend the lead to 2-0. Srikanth, however, squandered an 18-14 lead and multiple game points in the first game to go down 22-24 9-21 against All England champion Li Shifeng in the third singles to expose India's weakest link -- the second doubles and third singles matches. Scratch pair of Dhruv Kapila and Sai Pratheek Krishna Prasad then lost 6-21 15-21 to world No. 8 Liu Yu Chen and Ou Xuan Yi, while Prannoy's replacement Mithun Manjunath, ranked 53, went down 12-21 4-21 against world No. 20 Weng Hong Yang in the third singles as India finished second best.

Sable becomes first Indian man to win Asian Games 3000m steeplechase gold

Hangzhou, Oct 01 (PTI):

A record-breaking Avinash Sable on Sunday became the first Indian man to win a gold medal in 3000m steeplechase at the Asian Games here.

The 29-year-old national record holder thus earned India its first gold medal in athletics at the ongoing Games, completing the race in 8:19.50 seconds.

Sable rewrote the previous Asian Games record of 8:22.79 held in the name of Iran's Hossein Keyhani set at the 2018 Jakarta Games.

Sudha Singh had won a gold in women's 3000m steeplechase in the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou. Earlier, the toast of the nation in the last edition,



Avinash Mukund Sable celebrates after winning the men's 3000-meter steeplechase final event.

Indian heptathlete Swapna Barman's one "last shot" at glory at the Asian Games turned into a nightmare as she struggled with injuries to virtually go out of medal reckoning after the javelin

throw event. The defending champion, who boasts of a personal best of 52.55m in javelin throw, managed a throw of just 45.13 in the penultimate event of the gruelling two-day competi-

tion. Javelin throw was one of the two events Swapna had won in 2018 en route to becoming the first Indian heptathlete to win an Asian Games gold.

Overall, Swapna was ranked fourth with 4840 points, 11 points behind her nearest rival Jingyi Liu of China ahead of the 800m race, which is the last segment of the seven-event competition.

The other Indian in the fray, Nandini Agasara notched a personal best of 39.88m in javelin throw that took her overall ranking to fifth place.

Earlier in the day, Swapna Barman leapt 5.71m in the long jump, while Nandini Agasara had a season-best 5.94m jump.

Nikhat signs off with bronze, Parveen seals Olympic berth



Hangzhou, Oct 01 (PTI):

Two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen's long winning streak came to an end as she signed off with a bronze medal while Parveen Hooda grabbed a Paris Olympic quota at the Asian Games here on Sunday. Competing in the women's 50kg category, Zareen lost a fiercely contested 50kg semifinal battle 2-3 to two-time world championships medallist Raksat Chuthamat of Thailand. Parveen, who won the bronze

medal in the 63kg at the 2022 World Boxing Championships, moved past Uzbekistan's Sitora Turdibekova by unanimous verdict to move the 57kg semifinal and confirm India a medal. The in-form Zareen, who has dropped down from her preferred 52kg weight class as it doesn't feature in the Paris Olympic, hasn't lost a bout since October's National Championships in 2021. She had even out-punched Chuthamat at the world championships earlier this year.

India dominant in mixed doubles squash

Mangaonkar wins round of 32 match

Hangzhou, Oct 01 (PTI):

A day after the Indian men's squash team pipped Pakistan to clinch the gold medal, the mixed doubles teams won their respective pool matches while Mahesh Mangaonkar won his round of 32 match here at the Asian Games on Sunday.

In Pool A, the pair of Dipika Pallikal and Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu defeated the South Korean duo of Jaemin Yoo and Hwayeong Eum 2-0, recording an 11-2, 11-5 win in 22 minutes.

Later in the day, Dipika and Sandhu needed a mere 11 minutes to thwart the challenge from the

Pakistani pair of Mehwish Ali and Noor Zaman, blanking them 11-4, 11-1 to romp home to a 2-0 win. On the other hand, the pair of Anahat Singh and Abhay Singh crushed the pair of David William Pelino and Yvonne Alyssa Dalida from the Philippines 2-0 in their first assignment of the day. Anahat and Abhay won 11-7, 11-5 in their Pool D contest lasting 15 minutes. In their next match, Anahat and Abhay thrashed Pakistan's Sadia Gul and Farhan Zaman 11-3, 11-2 to record a comfortable 2-0 win in only 16 minutes. India will take on Thailand in Pool D on October 2 in mixed doubles while in Pool A, the country's next contest will be against Japan on October 3.

India, South Korea play out 1-1 draw in women's hockey

Hangzhou, Oct 01 (PTI):

The Indian women's hockey team was held to a 1-1 draw by South Korea but the Savita Punia-led unbeaten side still continued to lead its pool in the Asian Games here on Sunday.

Navneet Kaur (44th min) scored the equaliser for the higher-ranked India after Cho Hyejin (12th) had put South Korea ahead at the Gongshu Canal Sports Park Stadium.

Thanks to the draw, the Indian team, currently ranked sixth in the world, held onto the top spot in Pool A by goal difference over 12-ranked Korea.

The top two teams from each pool will qualify for the semi-finals. India crushed Singapore

13-0 in the opener before notching a 6-0 win over Malaysia.

Both teams looked to score from the word go but the Koreans had the first opportunity of the match when Cho Hyejin shot at the goal. However, Deep Grace Ekka effected a fine save to keep India from going behind.

The Koreans, though, took the lead minutes later as Cho Hyejin scored off a penalty stroke after she was fouled by Udita inside the circle. The first quarter ended with Korea 1-0 ahead with the Indians lacking the finishing skills upfront. Desperate to find the equaliser, India earned a few penalty corners but none of them resulted in a goal as the first half ended with South Korea leading by a goal.

Aditi Ashok signs off with silver in women's golf

Hangzhou, Oct 01 (PTI):

Aditi Ashok's fortunes tumbled on the final day as she carded a horrendous five-over 77 to sign off with a silver for India's first medal in women's golf at the Asian Games here on Sunday.

Coming into the final day with a commanding seven-stroke lead, Aditi saw the advantage evaporate as she stumbled upon four bogeys and a double bogey against a lone birdie to slip to the second position.

In the forefront for the gold medal after three days, Aditi's slump also saw the team slip from first to fourth and end without a medal.

India's other two players, Pranavi Urs (75) and Avani Prashanth (76), also



had a rough day in the final round. Pranavi finished 13th and Avani was T-18. In the men's section, Anirban Lahiri (65-67-74-68) was T-12 while SSP Chawrasia (67-72-68-75) dropped to T-28. Khalin Joshi (70-69-69-73) was T-27 and Shubhankar Sharma (68-69-76-73) was 32nd.

India: A solid team but middle-order confusion persists

New Delhi, Oct 01 (PTI):

An emphatic performance in the Asia Cup followed by a dominant show with the willow against Australia placed the Indian team in good headspace going into the World Cup but problems remain when it comes to zeroing in on the ideal playing XI. India begin their campaign against Australia on October 8 in Chennai.

Here's the SWOT analysis. **STRENGTH:**

Let there be no doubt in anyone's mind that this batting line-up is the best India have had since the historic batch of 2011.

A line-up comprising Rohit

Sharma, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer and Hardik Pandya is as formidable as it gets. And there will be Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav in the dug-out in case there is requirement to replace anyone. India haven't had such a galaxy of stars in one line-up for the longest time. And with most batters hitting the straps at the right time, the fans could be in for a run-feast on flat batting decks, which are expected to be on offer: Gill's ODI form, with more than 1200 plus runs in past one year, has been the biggest plus and he didn't let the team feel the absence of a player of Shikhar Dhawan's calibre. Even more heartening is KL Rahul's full fitness, and the hundred against Pakistan in Asia Cup, which has been the biggest gain ahead of World Cup.



WEAKNESSES

The spin bowling department might be looking good on paper but there is no way to judge how the two veterans Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja will perform on the tracks that will be heavily loaded in favour of batters. Axar Patel's injury might have given India a chance to get a right-arm finger

spinner in but dropping Yuzvendra Chahal, after carrying him in 50-over cricket for a better part of last one year, and selecting three left-arm spinners does speak a lot about the lack of options.

Going by form, Kuldeep Yadav is expected to feature in every playing XI unless he suddenly loses his touch or

there is an injury.

Ashwin's presence on Indian tracks might cheer many but truth remains that on good decks, he has had a tendency of struggling. Yet, for some teams like Australia, Ashwin plays with the minds of batters and that's his advantage.

In case of Jadeja, he is still a good bowler on helpful tracks but on flat decks, he could go for plenty. Also, both Jadeja and Ashwin are competent Test batters, but the former lost a bit of mojo when it comes to batting in ODIs, if one looks at his current strike-rate. Ashwin also isn't a consistent power-hitter.

OPPORTUNITIES

Home advantage is a reality even if it's an ICC event where the global body's curators are always doing a recce of various venues and conditions.

In these conditions, Rohit Sharma will have the perfect setting and best chance of winning the World Cup.

There will be heavy dew in some of the venues and if it comes down to chasing totals, there is no country like India which would make every other team have sleepless nights.

At the end of the day, the Indian team has chase master Virat Kohli in its ranks who is breathing down Sachin Tendulkar's neck with 47 ODI hundreds, and needs three more to get past India's greatest ever batter.

THREAT

At times, too many options aren't a good thing to have and that could be a problem for the team going into the tournament.

While the bowling attack would certainly be tweaked a

bit looking at surfaces, Shreyas Iyer getting the likely nod above Ishan Kishan isn't the most easiest of decisions.

Kishan has performed whatever role has been assigned to him by the team management but now it seems that he might have to sit out as KL Rahul is set to keep wickets and bat at No.5.

Dropping Kishan also means that the only viable left-handed option in the top five is done away with and there would be no variation in the top-order in terms of making opposition bowlers think about changing the line of attack for every second delivery.

Hopefully, India can get the top-order combination right unlike last time when, despite a semi-final appearance, the No.4 batting slot was a complete mess.

Ghost faculty in majority of medical colleges: NMC

● **Fall short of 50% attendance requirement**

New Delhi, Oct 01 (PTI)

A majority of the medical colleges assessed in 2022-23 were found to have ghost faculty and senior residents, and none of the institutes met the requirement of 50 per cent attendance, the National Medical Commission has said.

The NMC said it found that none of them visit the emergency department regularly "because there is no one in the emergency medicine department to interact with them other than the casualty medical officer".

"The posting in the emergency medicine department is supposed to be a break period for the students," the Under-Graduate Medical

Board (UGMEB) of the NMC said.

The NMC said this in a reply to the Associations of Emergency Physicians of India (AEPI) over their grievance regarding the exclusion of emergency medicine speciality as a requirement for setting up new medical colleges.

In a recently notified regulation, the NMC excluded the requirement of an emergency department for setting up new medical colleges. Earlier, in its June 23 draft, emergency medicine department was among the 14 departments that new medical colleges approved for undergraduate admissions must have.

In its reply to the AEPI dated September 22, the UGMEB said the real picture on emergency medicine departments is different from what it looks like on paper. "While checking the Aadhaar Enabled

Biometric Attendance of these colleges, we were shocked to note that there was 100 per cent failure in all colleges with respect to the faculty and senior resident doctors employed to fulfil the requirements as per the MSR (Minimum Standard Requirement) 2020. Majority of the colleges had ghost faculty and SRS (senior residents) or had not employed the required faculty at all," the commission said in the reply. The attendance was evaluated randomly at any time of the year during the working days at a stretch for about two months, the board said.

"After warning the colleges for deficiencies and after giving them adequate time to fulfil deficiencies, none of the colleges met with the requirement of even 50 per cent attendance. Zero attendance was still common. This only establishes that al-

though on paper the data is 134 colleges with emergency medicine departments, the facts are far from the depicted picture," the reply stated.

The UGMEB relies more on artificial intelligence for assessing the functionality of a medical college and affiliated hospital through the Digital Mission Mode Project (DMMP) installed in NMC, it said.

It said the attendance is assessed through Aadhaar Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS), classroom teaching, and hospital functioning through this mode.

The number of medical colleges with functional academic emergency departments increased from 45 to 134 a three-fold increase along with an increase in MD emergency medicine seats from 120 to 462, the reply stated.

TOURISTS AT TAJ MAHAL



Tourists crowd the Taj Mahal during the long weekend owing to Gandhi Jayanti, in Agra, Sunday.

Guv Bais, CM Shinde, Fadnavis take part in cleanliness drive



● **In Girgaon Chowpatty**

Mumbai, Oct 01 (PTI)

Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday joined citizens in a cleanliness campaign at Girgaon Chowpatty in Mumbai as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for "one hour of shramdaan (voluntary labour) for swachhata" on October 1 as a "Swachhanjali" (tribute through cleanliness) to Mahatma Gandhi.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis also took part in the drive at Girgaon Chowpatty.

Responding to a query from the media, Fadnavis

said the Maharashtra government has already issued an order to reserve 3 per cent of District Planning Development Committee funds for fort restoration, repair, maintenance and cleanliness throughout the year.

On the 105th episode of 'Mann ki Baat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi had appealed for an hour of voluntary labour for cleanliness on October 1 as part of his call of 'Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta Ek Saath' on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti.

The mega cleanliness drive wants citizens from all walks of life to join in actual cleaning activities at public places like markets, railway tracks, water bodies, tourist sites, places of worship, among others.

'Veerashaiva Lingayats got raw deal in K'taka'

● **Yediyurappa welcomes statement**

Bengaluru, Oct 1 (PTI):

Veteran Congress leader and MLA Shamanur Shivashankarappa's statement that the Veerashaiva Lingayat community is getting a raw deal under his party's government in Karnataka seems to have created a stir within the ruling party and gained support from BJP's B S Yediyurappa.

Sensing an opportunity to target the Congress government, opposition BJP has accused it of neglecting the numerically large community.

Senior BJP leader and former chief minister Yediyurappa, who also hails from the community, on Sunday welcomed Shivashankarappa's statement and called on the Veerashaiva Lingayats to be united.

The 92-year-old Shivashankarappa, who heads the All India Veerashaiva Mahasabha, a body that represents the dominant community, made his grouse public during the weekend, which Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has refuted. "Many (officers from



Shamanur Shivashankarappa

the community) have not been given (good posts)...our community and its officers are facing trouble," Shivashankarappa had said.

Responding to a question on whether there should be a Lingayat CM, he said, "Earlier Lingappa (Nijalingappa) and Veerendra Patil were there (as CMs). During their tenure, we ran the administration, they had kept us good. Now our people have become helpless."

Further stating that the community need not settle for the post of a Deputy Chief Minister post, he responded to a question saying, "Who wants a DCM post...if possible become CM or else leave it."

Shivashankarappa's statement, despite the fact that his son S S Mallikarjun is part of the government as a minister,

has caused embarrassment to the ruling Congress party.

The Veerashaiva Lingayats are said to constitute about 17 per cent of the state's population, and many in the state Congress are worried that such a statement by Shivashankarappa, a senior leader of the community in the state, may impact the party.

During the 2023 assembly polls, Congress had managed to cause a dent in BJP's Veerashaiva Lingayat support base, with a campaign alleging that the saffron party had neglected the dominant community. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, rejecting Shivashankarappa's claim on Saturday, had pointed out that there are seven Lingayat ministers in his Cabinet.

"...how can there be injustice? There is no chance for any injustice. No religion or caste will face injustice under Congress," he said.

Reacting to Shivashankarappa's statement, Yediyurappa today said, "Shamanur Shivashankarappa is national president of Veerashaiva community body. The feelings that he

has expressed — I'm in complete agreement with it."

Shivashankarappa's concern is shared not only by himself, but all the leaders of the community, he added. "So, I welcome his statement. In such a situation I call upon the Veerashaiva Lingayat community to awaken, and to unite."

Responding to a question on Yediyurappa's support for Shivashankarappa's statement, CM Siddaramaiah today said, "Our's is a secular government, there will be no injustice to anyone." Pointing out to government schemes, he said they are not specific to any community or religion. "We don't practise caste or community politics. We see everyone equally."

Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress chief D K Shivakumar said that Shivashankarappa might be under pressure, being the president of the community body, and that he should discuss with the Chief Minister and sort out things.

He said that Shivashankarappa too is aware how many minister positions his community has got and the respect it enjoys.

Skill Development Corporation Scam SC to hear Naidu's plea on Oct 3

New Delhi, Oct 01 (PTI):

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Tuesday a plea of TDP leader N Chandrababu Naidu challenging the Andhra Pradesh High Court order dismissing his petition for quashing the FIR against him in connection with an alleged scam in the Skill Development Corporation.

A bench of justices Aniruddha Bose and Bela M Trivedi will take up the plea for hearing on October 3.

On September 27, the top court had said it would not restrain the trial court from dealing with a plea seeking police custody of Naidu as it announced that a new bench will hear his petition for quashing the FIR in the alleged Rs 371 crore scam in the state.

The plea by Naidu, who was arrested in the case on September 9, had come up before two benches in the top court but without any effective hearing.

Initially, it came up before the designated bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bhatti, but the lat-

ter recused himself from hearing the matter on Wednesday.

Senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, appearing for the TDP leader, then rushed to the bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud for an urgent hearing on Naidu's plea in view of the holidays during the week.

The CJ Chandrachud-led bench said that a new bench will hear Naidu's plea.

The top court, which closed on September 28, will resume functioning on October 3.

Naidu, 73, was arrested for allegedly misappropriating funds from the Skill Development Corporation when he was the chief minister in 2015, causing a purported loss of Rs 371 crore to the state exchequer.

'Manipur needs a just power-sharing arrangement'

Kolkata, Oct 01 (PTI)

Describing the situation in Manipur as "tragic", Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's grand-nephew Prof Sugata Bose called for working out a "just power-sharing arrangement" in the northeastern state in order to bring all three communities — Meiteis, Kukis and Nagas — on the same page.

Bose, who was earlier a Lok Sabha MP, pointed out in an interview to PTI that members of all the three communities had joined Netaji's INA in 1944 and fought shoulder to shoulder in the battlefields of Bishnupur and Ukhrul districts in an advance into India. He said there was a need "to work out a just power-sharing arrangement in Manipur (which would engage all three communities and address their grievances)." "We need to draw upon the best legacy of the past armed struggle against the British to bring the three communities together again," added Bose, who holds the Harvard



Prof Sugata Bose

University's Gardiner chair in history.

The Meiteis account for 53 per cent of the state's population and live mostly in the Imphal valley. Tribals Nagas and Kukis constitute another 40 per cent of the population and reside in the hill districts surrounding Imphal.

"The situation in Manipur is truly tragic for short-term political gains, one community has been played against the other. That kind of political game must stop," Netaji's grand-nephew said.

For the last five months, Meitei and Kuki communities have rioted against each other, resulting in the deaths of more than 175

people. Thousands have been rendered homeless and forced to live in makeshift refugee camps.

Initial grievances and accusations include bulldozing of villages, which had sprung up on forest lands, and an Imphal High Court order asking the state government to send a recommendation to the Centre on demands for scheduled tribe status for Meiteis, which the tribal communities resented. These were compounded by rival accusations of ethnic cleansing and involvement in the drug trade by both communities. "Manipur, along with the rest of the northeast, should be given a voice in decision making at the Centre," Bose said.

He recounted that a large number of Manipuri youth from Kuki, Meitei and Naga communities joined the INA in its march towards Imphal. Of these volunteer soldiers, 15 Manipuri young men and two women joined other INA troops in the retreat to Rangoon, suffering hardships as they fought a gal-

lant rear guard action against seasoned British troops. "These freedom fighters from Manipur included M Koireng Singh, the first chief minister of Manipur after Independence," Bose pointed out. INA's advance nearly 80 years ago had been three-pronged the Gandhi brigade led by Col Inayat Jan Kiyani moved into the hills of Palal and Tengnoupal, east of Imphal; Col Shah Nawaz Khan led the Subhas Brigade into Ukhrul, while Col Shaikat Malik led the Bahadur group into Moirang in Bishnupur district, just 40 km from Imphal town. Colonel Shakuat Malik raised the tricolor at Moirang in Bishnupur district on April 14, 1944 with help from Koering Singh and Naqi Ahmed Chaudhary, a Manipuri Muslim. There is also a version that Netaji Subhas Bose visited an INA camp near Churachandpur, a largely Kuki-dominated town in July 1944, to visit his front-line troops and interacted with villagers there.

'BSP to maintain 'complete distance' from NDA and INDIA bloc'

Lucknow, Oct 01 (PTI)

BSP chief Mayawati on Sunday reiterated her stand to maintain "complete distance" from the ruling NDA and the opposition INDIA bloc for next year's Lok Sabha elections and said that the party has to move forward by working on its own strengths.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, the UP unit of the BSP said, "BSP chief and former UP chief minister Mayawati held a discussion with senior and responsible people of the party regarding the preparedness of the party for upcoming Lok Sabha polls, the preparedness of the party in Uttar Pradesh and in Uttarakhand, and to increase the party's mandate." "During the discussion, she once again made it clear that Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has to work by strengthening itself, while maintaining complete distance from the ruling NDA and the opposition INDIA bloc," the statement said.

Mayawati urged party members to be alert to fake news, and said that anti-BSP elements are



Mayawati

BJP government's "new election strategy" but said that people are still facing issues such as inflation, extreme poverty, unemployment, decrease in income, bad condition of roads, law and order, and poor health and educational facilities.

still engaged in propaganda and political conspiracy. "So, precaution has to be taken at every level, so that our election preparedness is not affected," she said. In the meeting, Mayawati took note of

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