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War in Gaza: 400 Israelis, 313 Palestinians killed

Tel Aviv, Oct 08 (AP)

Israeli soldiers battled Hamas fighters in the streets of southern Israel on Sunday and launched retaliation strikes that leveled buildings in Gaza, while in northern Israel a brief exchange of strikes with Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group raised fears of a broader conflict.

There was still some fighting underway more than 24 hours after an unprecedented surprise attack from Gaza, in which Hamas militants, backed by a volley of thousands of rockets, broke through Israel's security barrier and rampaged through nearby communities.

At least 600 people have reportedly been killed in Israel a staggering toll on a scale the country has not experienced in decades and more than 300 have been killed in Gaza.

The militants also took captives back into the



A Palestinian man sits in the rubble of a building after it was struck by an Israeli airstrike, in Gaza City, Sunday.

nificant military steps," without elaborating. Hamas leaders have said they are prepared for any further escalation.

A major question now was whether Israel will launch a ground assault into Gaza, a move that in the past has brought intensified casualties.

Netanyahu vowed that Hamas "will pay an unprecedented price." But, he warned, "This war will take time. It will be difficult."

Civilians paid a staggering cost for the violence on both sides. Several Israeli media outlets, citing rescue service officials, said at least 600 people were killed in Israel, including 44 soldiers, while officials in Gaza said 313 people had died in the territory.

Some 2,000 people have been wounded on each side. An Israeli official said security forces have killed 400 militants and captured dozens more.

Makhan ab sabko Rabul hai

Amul
The taste of success
Amul is sponsor of Afghanistan cricket team

IAF displays air show, unveils its new flag

Prayagraj (UP), Oct 08 (PTI):

On the occasion of the 91st anniversary of the Indian Air Force (IAF), its aircraft displayed a spectacular air show in the confluence area of Ganga and Yamuna here on Sunday.

On this occasion, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari also unveiled the new flag of the IAF.

Nand Gopal Gupta, a minister in the Uttar Pradesh government, en-

joyed the air show from the fort located on the banks of Yamuna.

About 108 aircraft of the IAF, including the ALH Dhruv helicopter of the Indian Army and P-8I aircraft of the Indian Navy, participated in the air show. For the first time in India, C-295 transport aircraft was also seen in the air show, which started at 2.30 pm. Prominent aircraft in the event included Chinook, Jaguar, Apache, Rafale, Tejas, C-17, Hawk, Tiger Moth and Pilatus.

coastal Gaza enclave, including women, children and the elderly whom they will likely try to trade for thousands of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

The high death toll, multiple captives and slow response to the onslaught pointed to a major intelligence failure and undermined the long-held perception that Israel has eyes and ears everywhere

in the small, densely populated territory it has controlled for decades.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the country was at war and would exact a heavy price from its enemies.

His Security Cabinet officially declared the country at war in an announcement on Sunday, saying the decision formally authorises "the taking of sig-

registered victory on one seat, they said. The election, which saw a triangular contest among the NC, Congress and the BJP in most of the 26 seats, is the first key poll in Kargil after the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, and the creation of the Ladakh Union territory.

It recorded a 77.61 per cent polling with 74,026 of the 95,388 voters exercising their right. The existing council headed by the NC's Feroz Ahmad Khan completed its five-year term on October 1. The new council will be in place before October 11. The NC and Congress had announced a pre-poll alliance but fielded 17 and 22 candidates, respectively. Both parties said the arrangement was restricted to areas where there was a tough contest with the BJP. The BJP, which won one seat in the last election and later took its tally to three with the joining of two PDP councillors, had fielded 17 candidates this time. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) tried its luck on four seats while 25 Independents were also in the fray.

Cong-NC alliance wins majority in Ladakh-Kargil polls

- Alliance have together won 17 seats
- Elections held for 26 seats

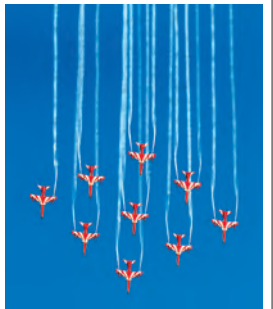
Kargil (Ladakh), Oct 08 (PTI):

The National Conference and Congress have together won 17 seats so far in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Kargil election with the counting of votes still underway, officials said on Sunday.

Of the 26 seats for which elections were held on October 4, results of 20 seats have been declared so far, they said. The administration nominates four members with voting rights to the 30-member Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Kargil.

According to the officials, the National Conference (NC) has so far won nine seats while its ally the Congress registered victory in eight. The BJP has won two seats, while an Independent candidate has

BRIEF



Indian Air Force's (IAF) 'Surya Kiran' aerobatic team performs during the 91st Air Force Day celebrations, in Prayagraj, Sunday.

Watery grave

■ **Patna:** Twenty-two people have drowned while bathing in rivers and ponds in Bihar in separate incidents, officials said on Sunday. The incidents took place in the last 24 hours when a majority of them were bathing for Jivitputrika festival, during which women fast for the well-being of their children, they said.

Cancel

■ **New Delhi:** Air India has cancelled its flights to and from Tel Aviv till October 14, and around 14 airline staff have returned from the Israeli city. Israel came under attack by Hamas militants on Saturday and since then, both sides are engaged in fighting in which scores of people have died.

Weather

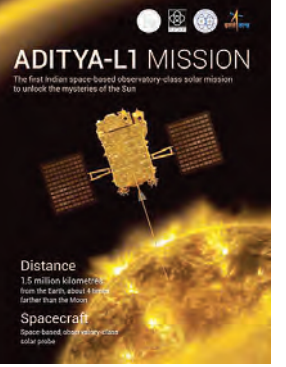
High 34 Low 23

ISRO carries out trajectory correction manoeuvre on Aditya-L1

Bengaluru, Oct 08 (PTI)

ISRO on Sunday said it has performed a trajectory correction manoeuvre (TCM) on Aditya L1 spacecraft, the country's maiden solar mission.

The Indian space agency also said the spacecraft was healthy. "The Spacecraft is healthy and on its way to Sun-Earth L1. A Trajectory Correction Manoeuvre (TCM), originally provisioned, was performed on October 6, 2023, for about 16 s," ISRO said on 'X'. It was needed to correct the trajectory evaluated after tracking the Trans-Lagrangian Point 1 Insertion (TLI) manoeuvre performed on



September 19, 2023, it added.

Aditya-L1 is the first Indian space based observatory to study the Sun from a halo orbit around first sun-earth Lagrangian point (L1), which is located roughly 1.5 million km from earth.

Optional: Pradhan on biannual class 10, 12 exams

New Delhi, Oct 08 (PTI):

Appearing for class 10 and 12 board exams twice a year will not be mandatory and the concept is being introduced as an option to reduce students' stress caused by the fear of single opportunity, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said.

In an interview to PTI, Pradhan said the issue of 'dummy schools' cannot be ignored and the time has come to have a serious discussion about it. According to the New Curriculum Framework (NCF) announced by the Ministry of



Education in August, board examinations will be held at least twice a year to ensure that students have enough time and opportunity to perform well. They will also get the option to retain the best score. Asked how the move will make board exams "low stakes" as proposed in the new National Education Policy (NEP), Pradhan said, "The students will have an

option of appearing for the exams twice a year just like engineering entrance exam JEE. They can choose the best score... but it will be completely optional, no compulsion. "The students often get stressed thinking they lost a year, their chance is gone or that they could have performed better... the stress caused by the fear of single opportunity will be reduced."

"If any student feels that he is completely prepared and is satisfied with the score in one set of exams, he can choose not to appear for the next exams. Nothing will be mandatory," he added.

Crooks hack payment gateway, siphon off Rs 16180 crore

Thane, Oct 08:

A group of persons allegedly hacked into a payment gateway service provider company's account and siphoned off funds worth over Rs 16,180 crore from different bank accounts over a period of time, the Thane police said.

The fraud was taking place since long and came to light following a complaint lodged with Srinagar police station in Maharashtra's Thane city of hacking of the payment gateway account of the company in Thane in April 2023 and Rs 25 crore

being siphoned off, an official from Naupada police station said.

When the police conducted a probe into it, a mega fraud worth over Rs 16,180 crore came to light, the official said quoting the FIR.

Following a complaint by a Thane crime branch official, the Naupada police in Thane on Friday registered the FIR against Sanjay Singh, Amol Andale @ Aman, Kedar @ Sameer Dighe, Jitendra Pandey and another unidentified person under Indian Penal Code sections 420 (cheating), 409 (criminal breach of trust),

467, 468 (forgery), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 34 (common intention) and provisions of the Information Technology Act. No arrest has been made so far, the police said.

As per the FIR, accused Jitendra Pandey earlier worked for 8 to 10 years with banks as relationship and sales manager.

The police suspect there may be many players in this mega racket, which has been going on since long, and may have pan India ramifications affecting several companies and individuals, the official said.

Congress MLA receives death threat

Mumbai, Oct 08 (PTI):

An unidentified man claiming to be gangster Goldy Brar threatened to kill former minister and Mumbai-based Congress MLA Aslam Shaikh, police said on Sunday. An FIR has been registered and a team has been set up to trace the caller, a police official said. Canada-based Brar is a wanted criminal by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and various states of the country. He is the alleged mastermind in the murder of Punjabi singer Siddhu Moosewala. A call was received by Shaikh's PA and lawyer Vikram Kapoor on Thursday when the former minister was in the office of the Mumbai civic body, the police official said.

ASIAN GAMES CLOSING CEREMONY



Artists perform during the closing ceremony of the 19th Asian Games at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Stadium, in Hangzhou, China, Sunday.

Nushratt Bharuccha reaches India from Israel after Hamas attack

Mumbai, Oct 08 (PTI):

Actor Nushratt Bharuccha landed here on Sunday afternoon after being stranded in Israel following the attack on the country by Hamas militants.

Dressed in casuals and looking haggard, the 38-year-old actor exited the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport around 2.30 pm.

Almost teary eyed, Bharuccha requested the media personnel gathered in huge numbers outside the airport to give her "some time". "Mujhe thoda waqt dijiye (Please give me some time)," she told reporters as she was being escorted to her car by securi-



ty. The actor, known for the "Pyaar Ka Punchnama" series, "Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweeti", and "Chhorii", was in Israel to attend the Haifa International Film Festival, which ran through September 28 and October 7. Earlier in the day, Bharuccha's publicist said she is "safe" and was on her way to India.

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Baba Balak Nath pond beautified; musical fountain installed

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Oct 08: A grand temple of Baba Bholenath is situated in Khursipar area where the deity appears in the form of Balak Nath. This temple complex has a grand pond also, which has been beautified with the initiative of Bhilai Nagar MLA. The beauty of this pond has been enhanced with the installation of a musical fountain.

The beautified pond was inaugurated on Saturday by Bhilai Nagar MLA Devendra Yadav and the local residents. Hundreds of people were present on this occasion. There was great enthusiasm among the people and they expressed heartfelt gratitude to Devendra Yadav for this



initiative. Residents said that the picture of Khursipar area has changed.

Today this area has all the facilities from sports ground to gardens, open gym and clean roads.

People are getting basic facilities in the ward. Pure drinking water and regular cleanliness of streets have changed the entire scenario.

The beautification of the temple pond and surround-

ing areas has increased the beauty considerably at night. Along with this, the beauty of the temple complex also increased. Mayor Neeraj Pal and thousands of people participated in the inauguration program.

Training session organised for election master trainers

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Oct 08: The second phase of training of district level master trainers was organized in the auditorium of BIT College for training the polling parties for the Assembly Elections 2023. In order to enable the Masters Trainers to have a better understanding of election related rules and the entire process of voting, after the training, a test (self-assessment) was conducted.

The role of polling parties in polling stations and voting was assessed. Objective questions related to the machines, forms, formats, and other materials were included. The sole purpose of taking this assessment was to make the master trainers proficient



for election training so that the election work can be conducted successfully.

These district level master trainers were trained by Vinay Kumar Soni, SDM and Joint Collector Dhamdha, Lavkesh Kumar Dhruv, Deputy Collector and Additional Chief

Executive Officer of the district, LK Bharti and Professor Shri Anjay Kumar Tiwari.

District Education Officer administered an oath to the master trainers to cast their votes and motivate others to vote under the SVEEP programme.

On this occasion, Dr Pushpa Purushottaman, Tanveer Akil, Navneet Ram, Shubhendu Singh, Kamlesh Sahu, Ghanshyam Shah, Vijay Dewangan, Hema Singh from the Education Department were also present.

Lalit Kala Akademi Chairman visits Bhilai

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Oct 08: A team of Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi led by Chairman Prof V Nagdas visited Bhilai the other day. The objective of this visit was to open a regional center of Lalit Kala Academy in Bhilai. During the visit, Prof Nagdas met the officials of Bhilai Steel Plant and artists from far flung areas of Chhattisgarh.

The committee included Akademi Chairman V Nagdas, Deputy Secretary Dr Rahas Mohanty, Supreme Court Legal Advisor Suman Singh, Assistant Editor Johnny ML, Assistant Editor VSR Krishna and Regional Secretary (B h u b a n e s w a r) Ramakrishna Vedala.

The committee conducted a meeting with Anirban Dasgupta, Director Incharge of Bhilai Steel



Plant, ED (Personnel) Nisha Soni and other top officials. Later, they visited a school building suitable for opening a regional centre. While interacting with media persons, Chairman V Nagdas said that the committee will send its report to BSP as soon as possible.

In the evening, artists from Durg, Bhilai, Khairagarh, Raipur, Kondagaon and many

cities of Chhattisgarh and other states displayed their art in the Civic Center Krishna Arjun Rath complex. The committee members said that they have seen such a demonstration for the first time in their life.

A wonderful display of different disciplines was done in the open space. It seemed as if the entire "Art Village" of Chhattisgarh had come at Civic Centre.

State President Rikhi Kshatriya played melodious tunes with his wonderful musical instruments.

International artist Vibhash Anita Upadhyay staged a puppet show on Pandavani, which was being played in the voice of Padma Vibhushan Teejan Bai. Team of Swayamsiddha led by Dr Sonali Chakraborty was dressed in Chhattisgarhi attire. Chhattisgarhi deli-

cacies were on display and at some places bell metal items were on display.

The modern art sculptures of artists from Khairagarh; paintings of famous painter DS Vidyarthi, works of artists like Harisena and Joseph Gilbert, art works of Abhishek Matpara, Davva Sahu's sculptures, etc attracted the visitors. Women presented Suva Dance while Vikram gave a musical presentation.

Litterateur Maneka Verma, Meena Dewangan, Gunjan, Sarika, Preeti, Stuti and Dheeraj formally welcomed the committee. Famous sculptor Mohan Baral, Jayaprakash, Harish Mandavi, Bhupat Rao Borkar, Omakant Thakur, P Jena, Prakash Kaushik, Santosh Parashar, Prashant Kshirsagar and Ankush Dewangan of Bhilai Steel Plant were present.

Doctors take pledge to donate their organs



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Oct 08: A training session related to Kayakalp Scheme was organised for all the specialist doctors in District Hospital Durg. Civil Surgeon cum Chief Hospital Superintendent Dr Arun Kumar Sahu chaired the programme.

Instructions were given to ensure that the

arrangements in all the departments are as per the standard on many subjects like cleanliness in the hospital, proper management of bio-waste, proper maintenance of the hospital, precautions to be taken to prevent infection.

District Hospital Durg is working continuously under Kayakalp Plan 2023-24. On the occasion,

an oath of organ donation was also administered to all the doctors by Dr Arun Kumar Sahu, Civil Surgeon, District Hospital, Durg. In view of the shortage of organs and tissues for transplant in our country, the doctors also pledged to inspire their family, friends and countrymen to donate their organs and tissues.

DIYA organises Youth Awareness Workshop in Kalyan College

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Oct 08: Divine workshop was organized by Divya Bharat Yuva Sangh (DIYA) Chhattisgarh, the youth wing of All World Gayatri Parivar on Saturday at Kalyan Mahavidyalaya, Sector 7. DIYA had signed an MOU with this organization in January 2022 with the objectives of inspiring the youth for creative work by giving them positive direction.

DIYA State Coordinator Dr PL Sao spoke on the topic 'Who is the Youth', Sao said that the youth are the builders of the nation, they should invest their talent and time in nation building. Youth



has progressed in every field and women are again and again proving their power from earth to space.

Speaking about the success of Chandrayaan-3, Missile Woman Tessie Thomas and Rocket Woman Ritu Karigal, Dr Sao said that the 21st cen-

tury will be the century of women. Dr. Yogendra Kumar spoke about playing the role in nation building by adopting seven movements.

He called upon the youth to consider environmental protection as their duty and stay connected to nature. Anita Sahu de-

tailed the keys to success and inspired the youth to be determined and always keep their morale high.

College Principal Dr Agarwal, Vice Principal Dr PS Sharma and Dr GK Chandrol (HoD, Botany) played a significant role in organizing the workshop. College teachers and students participated enthusiastically in the program.

Divine Workshop has been organized under the joint aegis of the Botany Department for the last eight years. In the workshop, college faculty Pankaj Kumar, Priyanka Sahu, Manmita Singh Rajput, Rakesh Kumar Sahu, Guleshwari Sahu, Lalita and others were present.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Oct 08: In view of the rising cases of dengue in Durg and Bhilai, the Public Health Department, under the TSD of SAIL-BSP and Durg Malaria Eradication Department, of Government of Chhattisgarh is jointly running an intense Dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases prevention campaign in the Township. In spite of this intense campaign the dengue cases are on rise.

On October 07, 2,463 houses in the township were surveyed and intensive spraying and fogging were carried out under this campaign at as many



as 125 houses. In view of the possibility of Mosquito Larvae breeding, stagnant water-bodies were inspected at 2,005 spots. 140 houses were found with spots having mosquito larvae, which were cleaned and sprayed with medicines along

with Temephos distribution at 1,308 houses.

Oiling, spraying of medicines in the backline, fogging with portable mist blower machines etc., along with pamphlet distribution and loud-speaker announcements were also done in Sectors-

1, 2, 4 and 6 areas to raise awareness. Similar operations were also done at specific areas in Sectors-3 and 5. Strict warnings were issued to those individuals at whose premises mosquito larvae were found.

It is noteworthy that no new cases of Dengue have been reported in the past days and none of the dengue-infected patients undergoing treatment at hospitals are reported to be serious, whereas most of the patients have been discharged after gaining full recovery.

All Bhilai residents are requested to keep a strict vigil and make collective efforts to check mosquito infestation around them.

'Thagada Bandh' opened for public amidst beautiful fireworks



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Oct 08: On the very first day of the official opening of the newly beautified "Thagada Bandh Madho Vatika" under Durg Municipal Corporation limits people gathered in large number in the evening to take at the new amazingly beautiful location. The selfie point became the center of attraction at the venue. MLA Arun Vora and Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal welcomed the invited

guests as well as common citizens. The duo expressed gratitude to all the guests and citizens.

Thanking Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel for the gift given to the people of the city, Durg Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal said that Thagada Bandh has become a center of attraction for children as well as a new center of attraction for the citizens doing morning and evening walks. Here the public will be able to enjoy boating, there is a children's park,

soft play zone, food court and garden as well as new events every week.

On this occasion, MLA Durg (urban) Arun Vora, Durg Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal, Chaitanya Baghel, Kshitij Chandrakar, Collector Pushpendra Meena, Durg Municipal Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar, DMC Speaker Rajesh Yadav and SP Salabh Kumar Sinha enjoyed sitting in the boat. MLA Vora and Mayor Bakliwal, in their address, while praising the

contribution of Dau Madhav Prasad Chandrakar, thanked his family for their efforts towards social concern.

People of the city reached here in large numbers to see the light and beauty of Thagada Bandh. A cultural program was also organized at Thagada Bandh which was compered by Deputy Engineer Girish Dewan. The boundary wall of the bandh has been painted in attractive colors and also decorated with attractive

paintings and its beauty is worth seeing. Along with attractive paintings, sculptures have also been made.

These sculptures are not only giving different messages to the people, they are also very beautiful in appearance. Along with the colorful and beautiful lighting at the picnic spot, colorful fireworks kept spreading colorful lights on the sky. Colorful lights and fireworks were visible even on the water filled in the dam. Care has also been

'Swachhta Aur Single Use Plastic' Nukkad Natak staged at SMS-II



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Oct 08: A Swachhta Awareness Street Play titled 'Swachhta Aur Single Use Plastic' was staged at at SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Steel Melting Shop No. 2 under the Swachh Bharat initiative by the Government of India. The street play aimed at creating focus on the issues and practices of Swachhta by accelerating a mass movement for realizing Mahatma Gandhi's vision of 'Swachh Bharat - Clean India'. The street play performers appealed everyone present, to maintain cleanliness not only in their

homes and surroundings but also at the workplace.

The Play 'Swachhta Aur Single Use Plastic' was performed by team comprising Hemant Jagam, Rajesh Verma, KK Bansode, Praveen Kalmegh and Rajesh Vaidya. Yogesh Shastri, Acting CGM (SMS-II), N Shrikanth, GM (SMS-II), and Rajiv Srivastava, GM (CS), were present on this occasion along with, Alok Kumar Mathur, Binitosh Bala, Balam Singh, Gaurav Singhal, K Rajkumar, SK Mallick, General Managers (SMS-II), and other Senior Officers and Plant Personnel.

'Candidate declared ineligible for mentioning an identity mark in the answer sheet'

● PSC clarifies position

Raipur, Oct 08: A news report has been circulated on social media, claiming that the Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission (CGPSC) has allegedly neglected to invite a qualified candidate for an interview during the selection process. The issue came to light when a candidate from the Other Backward Class (OBC) community sent a formal complaint letter to the PSC Secretary and the Controller of Examinations. In the complaint, Shivam Dewangan alleges that despite scoring an impressive 771.5 marks in the written ex-

amination for CGPSC-2022, he was not extended an invitation for an interview. Candidates with lower scores, ranging from 710 to 715, in the OBC category were reportedly called for interviews, sparking concerns about transparency and fairness in the selection process.

The Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission has issued a statement to address the circulating news, asserting that it is misleading and lacks a factual basis. The Commission clarified that in the State Service Examination 2022, candidate Shivam Dewangan was declared ineligible due to the mention of an identity mark with

Radheshyam and Rajesh Mohan in question number 17(b) on page number 20 of the question-cum-answer booklet of the first question paper. Consequently, Dewangan was excluded from the examination result process and was not included in the interview list for the State Service (Main) Examination 2022.

It's important to note that, as per paragraph 11 (page) of the advertisement issued by the Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission and paragraph 04 of the instructions in the question-cum-answer booklet, candidates were explicitly instructed not to include their name, roll number,

religious symbols, identification marks, or any non-answer-related content in their responses. The guidelines also specified that only blue and black ballpoint pens should be used, and the use of other pen types like sketch pens, highlighters, or glitter pens was strictly prohibited on the answer sheet. Violation of these rules could result in the scrutineer recommending the disqualification of the candidate.

The Commission emphasised that its decision in such matters would be considered final. Candidate Shivam Kumar Dewangan was declared ineligible for not following the specified instructions.

State govt declares public holiday for 'Govardhan Pooja' festival

Raipur, Oct 08: The state government has officially declared a public holiday for the upcoming Govardhan Pooja festival.

In accordance with the directive issued by the General Administration Department, a previously declared local holiday for Govardhan Pooja, November 13, has been declared as a public holiday in the state. However, the Bhaidooj festival, November 15, has been declared as a local holiday for the government offices and institutions situated in Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar, and Raipur city. This local holiday will not apply to banking establishments, treasuries, and sub-treasuries.

MERCURY ON THE RISE



With departure of monsoon in process, the weather has turned hot all of sudden during morning hours and people have to resort to umbrellas and cover to avoid heat.

Kicks and punches between youth, 10 arrested

● Dispute over overtaking car on National Highway

Raipur, Oct 08: An incident of fierce kicking and punching between the youth took place on National Highway in Raipur. This was the second incident in two days. It is being told that after partying in an intoxicated state, a youth was driving car at high speed. Dispute erupted after another car driver tried to overtake. There was fierce kicking and punching between the youths of both the sides.

Apart from the boys girls were also present in both the sides. The girls kept intervening during the fight. The video of the fight between the two parties on the National Highway is becoming increasingly viral on the internet media. Police have registered a case against both the parties and arrested 10 of them.

A day ago, three girls under the influence of alcohol created a ruckus in Telibandha area of Raipur. It is being told that the car of these girls first hit another car. Then they collided with another



car coming from behind. After which there was a fierce fight between them. One party has lodged a report at Telibandha police station.

According to the information, the entire incident took place between 1.30 and 2 am on the late night of October 7. A highway patrol vehicle had stopped a truck on the roadside for investigation. Then two young men and two girls arrived at high speed in a car from behind. They hit a car first when the truck applied brakes. Then another car coming from behind, Swift Dezire, also hit it and rammed into it. There were

2-3 youths in the other vehicle coming from behind. So the girls present there clashed with those youths. A young man's shirt was torn in the fight.

Shreya Singh Rajput, a resident of Raipur, lodged an FIR in Telibandha police station that her car collided due to sudden braking of the truck after which the youth of the car coming from behind abused and beat her. Shreya told the police that due to this fight, blood started coming out from her nose, mouth and back of her head. Her friend Vinayak Sethi was also beaten up by the boys.

Why were BJP women leaders silent when Raman govt governmentized liquor?

● Drugs, opium, intoxicants, ganja, illicit liquor are being sold unabated in BJP ruled states

Raipur, Oct 08: Pradesh Congress senior spokesperson Dhananjay Singh Thakur asked why were the BJP women leaders silent when previous Raman govt changed the 138-year old excise policy and governmentized liquor? During the Raman government, schools in the villages were closed and taverns were opened, he said. Ration was not available in the ration shops of the villages but Raman's government liquor shop was full of liquor boxes, he added.

Thakur alleged that BJP leaders used to act as middlemen in the liquor trade. During the Raman government, illicit liquor was sold unhindered in hotels and along the Dhabho Highway, which was under the patronage of the Raman government, he said. The then Home Minister Nanki Ram Kanwar had formed the Home Minister Squad to check illicit liquor but Raman Singh had given protection to the mafia sell-

ing illicit liquor, said Thakur.

Thakur said that the BJP leaders who were shedding crocodile tears on liquor ban should tell the people of the state that when the state government formed a committee for liquor ban, why did the BJP MLAs not join that committee? If BJP is talking honestly about liquor ban, then their government at the center is there, why doesn't it implement liquor ban and drug prohibition in the entire country? he asked.

Thakur said that the state government has formed three committees to ban liquor: Political, social and administrative committees are showing that banning liquor like demonetization in the state will cause loss of lives. More than 100 liquor shops have been closed in the state, people smuggling liquor have been arrested, he said adding that many BJP leaders were caught smuggling liquor. During the Raman government, Chhattisgarh was at second place in the country after Goa in terms of per capita alcohol consumption but today it is at 18th place. Work should be done towards prohibition through public awareness, he said.

False charges are being framed against people of Hindu community: Sao

Raipur, Oct 08: BJP state president Arun Sao targeted the state government over acquittal of 8 out of 11 accused in Biranpur case saying that unilateral action was taken against the majority Hindu community. People belonging to Hindu community were put in jail with framing of false charges against them in case of arson, he said, adding that party workers will go among the public on this issue.

BJP state president Arun Sao said in a press conference that on April 8, an innocent youth Bhuneshwar Sahu was murdered. Incidents of Love Jihad were taking place in that area, that was the background of this murder, he said. On April 10, BJP leaders were not allowed to meet family members of the victim, he said and added that state government took unilateral action in the matter. Sao has demanded action against the then SP Kalyan



Elesa, Addl. SP Pankaj Patel and investigation officer Bhanu Pratap Patel for gross negligence and dereliction of duties.

Sao alleged that the government was taking unilateral action against the majority Hindu community. Only 11 people were arrested, while 40 people were named, he said. The case of arson was blamed on Hindu community and policemen went to their houses. It has become clear from the decision of the Sessions Court that BJP's allegations were based on facts.

Arun Sao said that his party will go among the public regarding this

issue. There should be a fair investigation to get justice for Bhuneshwar Sahu, he said and added that every culprit should be punished severely. This is a very serious matter. On whose instructions this false action was taken, it will be known after an impartial investigation, he said, adding that state government tried to give it a communal angle.

BJP State President Sao charged that the state government suffering with prejudices with one community is trying to suppress and break the majority Hindu community by practicing politics of rationalism. Then be it the incident of protest by the people in case of Kabirdhaam or that of Biranpur or Khursipar or religious conversion in Narayanpur, false charges are being framed against them and this clearly indicates hatred and malice of Congress towards Hindu Samaj.

'Seeking help for your mental health is a sign of strength, not weakness'

Raipur, Oct 08: On the observance of World Mental Health Week, N.H.Goel World School which believes in the holistic development of the students and envisions creating world citizens with humane values organized an awareness program on 8th of October, Sunday in the city. The event commenced with the awareness walk around Telibandha Lake (Marine Drive) followed by many other programs like street play, songs and slogans. Badges were also distributed by the students to the general public.

The event helped students as well as the other participants to step outside the real world for a noble cause to educate, aware and advocate against the social stigma and try to bring a change in the stereotype mindset of people towards talking about mental health and seeking help for the same.



This effort made by the students encouraged people to acknowledge the need to be empathetic and supportive towards people with mental health issues. Around 160 students along with 20 teachers/adults walked around the lake with posters and banners displaying awareness on removing stigma, self-care ideas, stress management techniques, anger management techniques, mindfulness, positive thinking etc.

The theme for the year

2023, set by the World Foundation of Mental Health, is 'Mental health is a universal human right'. The three goals of Mental Health are promotion, prevention and treatment. These are the issues and solutions for the future. Awareness raising by school students help to normalize seeking help and motivate individuals to take action when they need support and reduce stigma. "It's okay to not be okay, it's okay to ask for help."

Ananya Dubey made history by winning Senior Women's title

● 21st Ch'garh State and Inter-District Table Tennis Competition

Raipur, Oct 08: Ananya Dubey made history by securing the Senior Women's category title in the 21st Chhattisgarh State and Inter-District Table Tennis Competition as four outstanding players emerged victorious in the Senior and Hops (Under-11) categories. Organized in collaboration with Bagadiya Brothers Private Limited and the Life Insurance



Corporation of India, the competition took place from October 5th to 8th at Sapre Hall, Budhapara, Raipur. The closing and prize distribution ceremony was attended by the Chief Guest Sharad Shukla, President of the Chhattisgarh Olympic Association. The pro-

gram was presided over by Anil Pusadkar, Vice President of the Chhattisgarh Table Tennis Association, and special guests included Saurabh Shukla, Treasurer of the Chhattisgarh Table Tennis Association, Vikas Kumar Gupta,

Chairman of the Durg District Table Tennis Association, and others.

In the Senior Men's category, Arindam Deb Nath from Raipur claimed the top spot by defeating Ramji Kumar with a score of 4-0. Meanwhile, in the Senior Women's category, Ananya Dubey from Bilaspur emerged victorious, beating Sushmita Som with a score of 4-2. Notably, Ananya Dubey's journey to the title saw her defeat the reigning state champion Surbhi Harsh Sahu in the semifinals, marking a historic moment in the Women's category.

In the Youth Under-11 (Hops) Boys category, Vivan Baiswar from Raipur emerged as the winner by defeating Prem Kumar from Durg with a score of 3-2. In the Youth Under-11 (Hops) Girls category, Samaya Pandey from Raipur secured the title with a commanding 3-0 victory over Ayushi Madharia from Durg.

The competition is still ongoing, with the final matches for the Youth Under-19 (Youth) and Youth Under-15 (Sub-Junior) Boys and Girls Singles categories yet to be played.

Raipur, Oct 08: Seven students of Rajkumar College, Raipur participated in All India Public School Conference (IPSC) Under 14 & Under 17 Boys Table Tennis Tournament from Sept 27-29 at the Emerald Heights International School, Indore. Two of our students, namely Siddha Dhupar, Class 7 and Shreshth Mishra, Class 9, won a gold and a silver medal, in Under 14 and Under 17 events respectively. Principal Lt. Col.



Avinash Singh, Vice Principal S.N.S. Deo and Subedar Major (Honorary

Captain) B. Karunakaran congratulated the proud winners.

'Know Sepsis, Stop Sepsis, Save Lives'

Sepsis, commonly referred to as "blood poisoning," is a potentially fatal complication that can result from any infection, including bacterial, fungal, viral, and parasitic diseases. It is a dangerous side effect of the body's reaction to infection that can result in organ damage or even death. Despite its seriousness, sepsis is still largely unknown, which results in delayed diagnoses and higher mortality rates. We must increase public awareness of this silent murderer since information is our best defense.

A Global Health Priority Sepsis is one of the leading causes of death in several regions of the world. Sepsis is a sickness

that results from an infection that spreads to several organs. Sepsis is diagnosed in one in six hospital patients, prompting the World Health Organization (WHO) to designate it as a global health priority in 2017. Every year on September 13th, World Sepsis Day is held to raise awareness of this important topic.

The Deadly Escalation: Sepsis to Septic Shock

Sepsis may develop into septic shock, an unsafe condition when blood pressure falls to dangerously low levels and frequently results in death without aggressive intensive care treatment (ICU), if it is not swiftly controlled. The key to sepsis survival depends on obtaining antimicrobial

medicines (usually known as antibiotics) early on and in seeking medical attention at the appropriate time. According to studies, every hour that antibiotic therapy is postponed leads in a shocking 6% rise in mortality. Delaying medical care can also lead to severe sepsis, which has a high fatality rate and expensive medical costs.

High-Risk Groups Even for those who recover from sepsis, the struggle continues. Survivors frequently experience extended hospital admissions as well as physical, mental, and cognitive impairment. Sepsis is more likely to strike certain populations, such as cancer patients under-

going chemotherapy and organ transplant recipients. These people must exercise extra caution when preventing infections.

Prevention: The Best Defense

When it comes to sepsis, the proverb "prevention is better than cure" is especially true. The best method to combat sepsis is to stop infections before they start. Simple precautions can make a big difference in lowering the risk, such as wearing masks in public areas, avoiding close contact with infected people, caring for wounds properly, and thoroughly washing your hands with soap.

In conclusion, sepsis is a strong foe yet it is not unbeatable. The secret to

prevention is timely and appropriate treatment. In the fight against sepsis, prompt medical care, prompt antibiotic administration, and prompt treatment are essential. Sepsis can be prevented by raising awareness of it, which will help us save lives.

On the occasion of Indian society of critical care medicine (ISCCM) foundation day for public awareness on the theme of prevent, treat and defeat sepsis.

By **Dr. Pradeep Sharma** Senior consultant and head Department of critical care medicine NH MMI Superspeciality hospital, Raipur

It is everyone's responsibility to protect the Constitution: CM

CM participated in the Bhoomi Pujan prog new Ambedkar's statue

Because the Constitution empowers us

Raipur, Oct 08:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel participated in the Bhoomi Pujan program organized by the Urban Administration Department for the installation of the new statue of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar at Ambedkar Chowk in Raipur. MLA Kuldeep Juneja, Mayor Aijaz Dhebar, Chairman of the Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission Gyanesh Sharma, and public representatives were present on the occasion.

While addressing the gathering, Chief Minister



Baghel said that on the day of Ambedkar Jayanti, it came to light that the present statue of Baba Saheb had weathered with time, hence a new statue should be installed in its place. This responsibility was given to the Municipal

gratulate all of you and give you my best wishes.

The Chief Minister said that in the present time, we can take society and the country forward by following the path shown by Baba Saheb. The Constitution he has given us is the biggest strength for all countrymen. Under this Constitution, we all have certain fundamental rights. Now, if an attempt is made to weaken the Constitution, it will be an attempt to weaken the countrymen, which will also weaken the country. Considering the Constitution is supreme, it is the responsibility of all of us to protect it because this Constitution empowers us.

Corporation; the Corporation floated a tender for it, completed the process, and the statue is now under construction. Today, the Bhoomi Pujan of the idol installation work is being conducted. On this occasion, I con-

Discussions held to make students aware on climate change

Environmental experts and students gave lectures

Raipur, Oct 08:

To make the youth aware about climate change, a science talk was organized at Pandit Ravi Shankar University. In this science talk organized on the initiative of Chhattisgarh Science and Technology Council, environmental experts and students of the state also gave lectures on this subject.

In the program, Chairman of the State Level Environment Expert Evaluation Committee, Dr. B. P. Nonhare gave detailed information on climate



change and its importance. He resolved the curiosities of the students. Mr. Sujoy Kundu of Blue Drop Environment Private Limited gave in-

formation about a better method of sewage water treatment than traditional methods. This method supports bioremediation as well as bioradiation.

A short discussion was organized after the lecture. Certificates were given to the participating students. Program coordinator SK Jadhav said that under the activities of Science Promotion Scheme, an off-line quiz program was also organized on the topic "Sustainable Development Narva, Garva, Ghurva, Bari", in which more than 100 participants took part. In the program, State Coordinator Scientist of the Coordination Cell, Akhilesh Tripathi appreciated the events that encourage students in the field of science.

CM Baghel pays tribute to Munshi Premchand

On his death anniversary

Raipur, Oct 08:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel paid tribute to the literary legend Munshi Premchand on his death anniversary, October 8. He lauded Premchand's literary contributions, which incorporated simple and common people's language. Premchand's en-

during legacy, characterised by progressive ideals and a keen portrayal of rural life's disparities, remains invaluable. His literary critiques of communalism, corruption, poverty, and colonialism resonate even today, giving a voice to the common people and serving as a timeless source of inspiration.

CM greets the Indian Air Force on Air Force Day

Raipur, Oct 08: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has greeted the courageous air warriors and their families on the occasion of Air Force Day, October 8. He lauds the Air Force's remarkable role in safeguarding the nation, rescuing civilians in chal-

lenging situations, and fostering peace and unity. He expresses the nation's enduring gratitude to these air warriors, who have showcased the exceptional prowess of the Indian Air Force and selflessly sacrificed for the homeland's security.

Safety of workers in factories should be given top priority: Dr. Dahria



Raipur, Oct 08: Recently, a seminar on the role of management in preventing accidents and ensuring the safety of workers at workplaces was organised in the factories of Chhattisgarh. Labour Minister Dr. Shivkumar Dahria participated as the chief guest in this seminar organised by the Directorate of Industrial Health and Safety in a pri-

vate hotel in Raipur. In the seminar, Labour Minister Dr. Dahria stressed upon the people associated with the management to ensure all possible measures for the safety of the workers. He said that the safety of workers should be given top priority in the operation of factories. In the seminar, lectures were given in different sessions by subject experts working

Seminar on prevention of accidents in factories organised by Directorate of Industrial Health and Safety

in the field of security from different areas of the country. In the seminar, accidents that occurred in previous factories and measures to prevent them were also discussed. Representatives from various factories of the state also participated in the seminar. The program was presided over by Bhim Singh, Labour Commissioner cum Chief Inspector, Director in-charge of the department, Mr. K.K. Dwivedi welcomed all the guests and participants and called upon them to work for "zero accidents".

'27% increase in honorarium for various cadre positions'

Within the CSRLM (BIHAN)

Announcement made by Panchayat and Rural Development Department

Raipur, Oct 08: In consonance with Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's vision, the Panchayat and Rural Development Department has announced a significant 27 percent increase in honorarium for various cadre positions within the Chhattisgarh State Rural Livelihood Mission (BIHAN). This decision will impact Active Women, Resource Book Keepers, PRP, Bank Sakhi/Mitra, Krishi Sakhi, Pashu Sakhi, and Udyog Sakhi. The State Rural Livelihood Mission has issued directives to all Zila Panchayat CEOs and Project Directors of the District Rural Development Agency in newly formed districts, emphasising the importance of this in-

creased honorarium for these community cadres. Various cadres are working in the State Rural Livelihood Mission under the Panchayat and Rural Development Department, through which the activities of the mission are conducted. These cadres are working up to the Janpad Panchayat and Gram Panchayat levels. These cadres work to develop a sense of community in rural areas and connect rural women with livelihood activities.

Choubey lays stone for various development works

Raipur, Oct 08: Water Resources and Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Ravindra Choubey gave the gift of development works in a program organised at Gram Panchayat Kumhiguda of Bemetara district on Saturday.

Choubey performed the bhoomi puja of water purification plant, water supply and community hall of tribal (God) society to be constructed at a cost of Rs 6.50 lakh in Kumhiguda. The program was presided over by MLA Bemetara Mr. Ashish Chhabra. Sarpanch Gram Panchayat Kumhiguda Mrs. Saroj Yadav was the special guest. Ravindra Choubey said on this occasion that under Jal Jeevan



Mission, 18,805 families of 85 villages will get benefits. By installing tap connection in their house, pure water will be provided. This work will be completed within a year. He talked to the villagers and

directed the officials regarding solving their problems. A large number of villagers including executive engineers and officials of the Public Health Engineering Department were present.

Ch'garh Poultry Farming Promotion Scheme launched

In consonance with the Chief Minister's announcement

Livestock Development Department will provide a 25 to 40 percent capital investment grant for setting up poultry farming units

Raipur, Oct 08:

The Chhattisgarh Government has launched the Chhattisgarh Poultry Farming Promotion Scheme to boost poultry farming in the state. In consonance with the Chief Minister Bhupesh

Baghel's announcement made on August 15, 2023, the Livestock Development Department has sanctioned Rs. 1 crore from the contingency fund. This scheme offers entrepreneurs who venture into poultry farming a capital investment grant for five years if they establish a business unit through self-financing or bank loans.

The Livestock Development Department informed that the scheme aimed at fostering new and better employment opportunities within the state for the youth. Under this initiative, a capital invest-

ment grant ranging from 25% to 40% will be provided for the establishment of poultry farming units in both developed and developing development blocks. In category A areas, general category beneficiaries establishing broiler, native poultry, and coloured poultry units will receive 25% grants, while Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and EWS beneficiaries will receive 30% grants based on their permanent capital investment. In category B areas, general beneficiaries will receive 35% grants, and Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and EWS beneficiaries will

receive 40% grants based on their permanent capital investment.

Similarly, general category beneficiaries in A category areas will receive a 25% grant for poultry layers and parent poultry units, while Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and EWS beneficiaries will receive a 30% grant based on their permanent capital investment. In B-category areas, general beneficiaries will receive a 35% grant, while Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and EWS beneficiaries will receive a 40% grant based on their permanent capital investment.

Swarna Prashana administered to 1270 children

In the Govt Ayurveda College Swarna Prashana Awareness Drive: Pamphlets, Free Medicines distributed, health checkups, and IQ Assessments conducted for Children

Raipur, Oct 08:

Swarna Prashan was administered to 1270 children in the Government Ayurveda College Hospital on Saturday to boost immunity, protect against respiratory diseases, and improve memory. It will be administered to children below 16 years of age in the



Kaumarbhritya (Paediatrics) Department of the hospital on every Pushya Nakshatra of the month. To make people aware of this, the distribution of free medicines was carried out along with the distribution of pamphlets, and IQ assess-

ments and health tests of children were also conducted.

The Swarna Prashan was administered to the children in the presence and guidance of the Principal of Government Ayurveda College, Prof. Dr. G.R. Chaturvedi, Hospital

Superintendent, Prof. Dr. Praveen Kumar Joshi, and Kaumarbhritya (Paediatrics) Department Head, Prof. Dr. Neeraj Agarwal. Swarna Prashana Coordinator Dr. Lavkesh Chandravanshi informed that the administration of Swarna Prashan is very beneficial for children below 16 years of age.

Students pursuing graduation and post-graduation at Ayurveda College are also taking part in this campaign. On the previous Pushya Nakshatra, 831 children were administered Swarna Prashana on January 9, 1124 on February 4, 1137 on March 3, 1290 on March 29, 860 on April 27, 835 on May 24, 1012 on June 20, 1145 on July 18, 1188 on August 14 and 1140 on September 10 in the Government Ayurveda College Hospital.

* Air Force Day

IAF lethal and formidable force: Rajnath Singh

New Delhi, Oct 08 (PTI):

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan on Sunday extended their wishes to air warriors and their families on the Air Force Day, with Singh saying that the IAF today is a "lethal and formidable force, projecting its air power beyond boundaries".

Gen Chauhan in his message said this momentous occasion marks "nearly a century of unwavering dedication and unparalleled service" of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to the nation.

Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar, who was conferred with an honorary Group Captain rank in 2010, also greeted the IAF personnel on the occasion. Tendulkar posted a

video message on X, donning the Air Force blues.

"On the occasion of the 91st anniversary of the Indian Air Force, I extend my congratulations to all personnel and families of the IAF. I thank the Indian Air Force for giving me an opportunity to don the blues," he said in the video. Tendulkar, a former captain of Team India, said he wears the uniform with great pride and honour and cherish being a part of the IAF.

"I felt the same way, each time I wore the blues, when I played for India. I thank each one of you, on behalf of a grateful nation for your service. I wish all of you a happy Air Force Day. Happy landings. Jai Hind!" Tendulkar said in his short video message.

The Indian Air Force was officially established on October 8, 1932. In view

of its professional efficiency and achievements during World War II, the force was bestowed with the prefix "Royal" in March 1945. So, it became the Royal Indian Air Force (RIAF). In 1950, the IAF dropped its "Royal" prefix and amended the ensign as India became a Republic.

Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari on Sunday unveiled a new ensign of the IAF, replacing the existing one that was adopted more than seven decades back.

The IAF Chief released the new ensign at the 91st IAF Day celebrations in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj.

Defence Minister Singh extended greetings with a post on X. "Greetings and warm wishes to all Indian Air Force personnel and their families on the occa-

sion of the #91stAnniversary of this amazing force. We are proud of our #Airwarriors who play significant role in keeping India safe. The #IAF today is lethal and formidable force, projecting its air power beyond boundaries. #AFDay2023 @IAF_MCC," he wrote.

CDS Gen Chauhan said this momentous occasion marks "nearly a century of unwavering dedication and unparalleled service of the IAF to the nation".

"As we celebrate this milestone, we also pay homage to the bravehearts who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the nation. Their courage, valour and dedication continue to inspire generations of Indians," he was quoted as saying in a statement issued by the defence ministry.

ARTIST AT WORK



An artist works on a clay idol of Goddess Durga at artisan village Kumartuli ahead of Durga Puja festival, in Kolkata, Sunday.

20 pilgrims from Nepal among 21 injured

As bus hits truck

Bhubaneswar, Oct 08 (PTI):

At least 20 pilgrims from Nepal and a person from Uttar Pradesh were injured on Sunday after their bus rammed into a truck on NH-16 in Odisha's Balasore district, police said. The accident took place near Talanagar under the Soro Police Station limits when the bus with 61 passengers on board hit the stationary truck from behind on the national highway.

The passenger vehicle was going to Puri from Kolkata when the collision occurred. Balasore Sadar Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Sasanka Sekhar Beura said the tourist bus hit the chrome

ore-loaded truck, stationed near a dhaba, around 5 am, and 21 people, including 20 pilgrims from Nepal who were travelling in the bus, were injured.

All the injured people were taken to Soro Hospital, and the Nepalese pilgrims were discharged after treatment, he said.

The driver of the bus was later shifted to the district headquarters hospital, Balasore as his condition deteriorated, the SDPO said.

The tourist bus is registered in Uttar Pradesh and the driver hails from that state, the officer said.

The local police made arrangements for food and water for the passengers and took steps to send them to their destination, he said.

'Most victims were students trying to support their education'

Bengaluru, Oct 08 (PTI):

Most of the 14 persons killed in the cracker shop blaze near here were poor students who worked during the holidays to support their education.

Official sources said six of the deceased were Class XII and undergraduate students. One person has been arrested in connection with the tragedy that happened on Saturday.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said most of those who were killed in the fire tragedy in the cracker godown-cum-shop in the border town of Attibele in Bengaluru urban district were students.

According to him, the victims hailed from Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts in

neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

"Most of those who died were students who worked during the holidays to earn money for their studies. Barring the manager, none was a permanent employee," the chief minister told reporters after inspecting the spot.

He also met the bereaved family members and expressed his sorrow.

The young boys came from a very poor background who worked on holidays to fund their education and support their families, the sources said.

The chief minister said the families which lost their near and dear ones in the fire mishap will be given a compensation of Rs five lakh each.

"It's a major tragedy where 14 people have lost their lives. We will get it

investigated and initiate action against those at fault. My condolences to the bereaved family members and pray for the departed souls to rest in peace," Siddaramaiah said.

The chief minister further said that the government will bear the medical expenses of the three injured undergoing treatment in a hospital.

He said a CID inquiry has been ordered into the incident.

"Yesterday, a truckload of crackers arrived from Tamil Nadu at about 3 pm. It is still not known how the crackers caught fire. The preliminary investigation by officers revealed that adequate precautionary measures were not followed," Siddaramaiah said.

Nowhere the fire safety tools were deployed, the chief minister said adding, the carelessness of the licence holder is very much evident.

The chief minister said the licence holder, Ramaswamy Reddy, had renewed the licence on September 13 to sell crackers till October 31. He had another trade licence which would expire on January 28, 2026. Whether the godown was authorised or not has to be investigated, he added.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said a policy would be introduced to ensure that there is no such fire tragedy due to crackers in the state.

He said during Deepavali, huge quantities of crackers are stocked.

Army officer undergoing training course goes missing

Mhow, Oct 08 (PTI):

An Army officer undergoing the Young Officers course at the Infantry School at Mhow in Madhya Pradesh has gone missing, police said on Sunday. A missing person's report was registered at Mhow police station in Indore district on Saturday, officiating Mhow police station house officer Deepak Rathore told PTI. As per preliminary investigation, Lt Mohit Gupta has been missing since 6 am on Friday. All officers and personnel of other ranks are supposed to attend the Physical Training (PT) at 6 am, but he was not there, following which his instructors asked his course mates to check if he was ill, the official said. "At

around 7.30 am, his room was checked and when he was not found there, the authorities were informed about he being missing. When he was not found anywhere, a complaint was made with the police," Rathore said. "The Infantry School authorities have provided the missing officer's mobile number and permanent address to the police. His mobile number was switched off," he said. Lt Gupta's parents and other family members, residing at Srinagar locality in Etah city of Uttar Pradesh, have been informed about he being missing and his call detail record (CDR) has been sought to get information about who all were in touch with him, the official said.

RAVANA IN MAKING



Artisans prepare an effigy of the demon King Ravana for the festival of 'Dussehra', in Nagpur, Sunday.

CBI raids WB minister's house over recruitment scam

Kolkata/New Delhi, Oct 08 (PTI):

The CBI on Sunday conducted searches at 12 locations, including at the residences of senior West Bengal minister Firdad Hakim and TMC MLA Madan Mitra, in different parts of the state in connection with its probe into alleged irregularities in recruitments made by civic bodies, officials said.

Hakim, the minister of urban development and municipal affairs, is also the mayor of Kolkata. He is a senior leader of the TMC and has significant sway in the party's organisation. A team of CBI officers reached his residence in south Kolkata's Chetla area along with a large contingent of central forces in the morning, officials said. "Two CBI offi-

cers are questioning him," a senior official said.

As the searches began, Hakim's supporters gathered outside his house, and began a protest.

A CBI team also searched the residence of Mitra, a former minister and the MLA of Kamarhati in North 24 Parganas district, in Bhabanipur area, around 3 km from Hakim's residence in Chetla.

"The investigations have revealed that Mitra had a specific role in the recruitments made in Kamarhati Municipality," the official claimed. Among the other places that the CBI searched were the houses of former chairman of Kanchrapara Municipality Sudama Roy, ex-chairman of Halisahar Municipality Angshuman

Roy and Krishnanagar Municipality's former chief Ashim Ghosh, officials said.

"CBI today conducted searches around 12 places, including at Kolkata, Kanchrapara, Barrackpore, Halisahar, Dum Dum, North Dum Dum, Krishnanagar, Taki, Kamarhati, Chetla, Bhowanipore etc. at the premises of certain persons, including public servants in an ongoing investigation of a case," a spokesperson of the agency said.

Two premises each of Hakim and Mitra are being searched in the operation, officials said in New Delhi. Slamming the action, the TMC said it was a desperate attempt to divert attention from its ongoing demonstration outside the

Raj Bhavan over demands for central funds.

"This is an attempt to divert the public's attention from the ongoing protest outside Raj Bhavan led by Abhishek Banerjee. The BJP appears to be sensing a growing public discontent, and they are using every means at their disposal to change the narrative. This is a clear example of vendetta politics," senior TMC MP Sougata Roy charged.

Rejecting the allegations, BJP spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya said, "If the TMC has nothing to hide, why are they afraid of ED and CBI?"

"Whenever TMC leaders are summoned by the ED or CBI, they cry foul and accuse the agencies of being politically motivated.

Mizoram Police intensifies crackdown on drug menace

As state emerges alternative smuggling route

Aizawl, Oct 08 (PTI): Amid the ongoing strife in Manipur, neighbouring Mizoram has emerged as the new route for smuggling drugs from Myanmar, prompting the state police to step up efforts to counter the menace.

The police action has led to the recovery of drugs worth Rs 60 crore and arrest of two Myanmar nationals within a week, according to officials.

More than 180 people have been killed and several hundreds injured since ethnic violence broke out in Manipur on May 3 when a Tribal Solidarity March was organised in the hill districts to protest

against the majority Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status. As efforts are on to control the ethnic unrest in Manipur, drug cartels are looking to make Mizoram the new route for smuggling drugs from Myanmar, the officials said.

"Our relentless action against drug trafficking and smugglers is continuing and Mizoram Police is taking strict action against the transit of drugs in the state," Director General of Police Anil Shukla told PTI.

He said drug smuggling continues to be a major cause of concern for Mizoram, where assembly

elections are due to be held this year. With a view to improve general policing as a whole, and to ensure smooth and peaceful conduct of assembly elections, police are making all-out efforts to counter the drug menace. As a result, significant seizures have been made, Shukla said.

On the evening of October 4, the Special Branch team of Aizawl district intercepted a vehicle at Zemabawk East and seized 11.6 kg of crystal methamphetamine worth Rs 34 crore from the illegal possession of Ropianga (37), a resident of the Khawmawi area of Myanmar, the officials said.

CM Mann dares Oppn leaders for open debate on issues concerning Punjab

Chandigarh, Oct 08 (PTI):

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Sunday challenged the BJP, Congress and the Shiromani Akali Dal for an open debate on issues pertaining to the state on November 1, amid opposition parties' criticism over the issue of Sutlej Yamuna Link (SYL) canal.

Punjab's opposition parties have attacked the Aam Aadmi Party government following the Supreme Court directive on October 4, asking the Centre to survey the portion of land in Punjab that was allocated for construction of part of the canal and make an estimate of the extent of construction carried out there. Mann dared Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar, Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, Punjab Shiromani Akali Dal leader of opposition in

Punjab assembly, Partap Singh Bajwa, and SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal for a debate. In their replies, the opposition leaders accepted Mann's challenge but again slammed the AAP government over the SYL issue.

Mann in a post on X wrote, "It is an open invitation to (Punjab) BJP president Jakhar ji, Sukhbir Singh Badal of Akali Dal, Raja Warring, Partap Bajwa of Congress that instead of squabbling every day, come and sit in front of the people of Punjab and the media for a live debate on who carried out the loot and how was it done." He called for a live debate on all issues ranging from nepotism, toll plazas and sharing of Sutlej river's water. "Brothers-nephews, brother-in-laws, friends, toll plazas, youth, farming,

trade, shopkeepers, 'Gurbani', river water let us have a live debate on all issues," he said posted on X in Punjab.

"You may bring papers along with you but I will just speak. November 1 'Punjab Day' will be a good day (for the debate). You will get enough time for preparation. I am fully prepared as I do not need to cram things for speaking the truth," Mann added. Later in a statement, the CM said that the hands and souls of these leaders are "drenched in blood" of the state as they have betrayed Punjab and its people. People of the state can never forgive these leaders for their "sins" against Punjab, he said, asking these leaders to prepare well for the proposed debate where he will expose them for their "misdeeds."

Responding to Mann, Punjab BJP chief Jakhar said that he was ready for a debate on every issue of Punjab.

First of all, you tell us that under what pressure, or for which political interests, you knelt before the Supreme Court on the serious issue of Punjab's waters. Punjab seeks an answer, said Jakhar on X.

SAD chief Badal too said he accepted his challenge. "November 1 is still far away I am coming to your house in Chandigarh on October 10. If you have the courage, you must come out and meet. We will hold talks on every issue of the state, including waters of Punjab, that too in front of all the media," said Badal. Badal also asked the CM to bring AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal also, saying he is the "real" chief minister of

Punjab while calling Mann as "pawn."

The SAD has announced that it will 'gherao' Mann's official residence in Chandigarh on October 10 over the SYL issue. Punjab Congress chief Warring slammed Mann, accusing him of trying to divert the issue and said it would have been better had he called leaders of all political parties and farmer leaders for a meaningful discussion over the SYL issue.

Warring also posed questions to Mann, asking him the rise in the rate registration of criminal cases in the past one-and-a-half year, details pertaining to rise in drugs related cases, state debt, number of farmers' suicides, expenditure on advertisements and compensation to flood-hit people.

NSS unit in Boida leads campaign for mutual harmony and responsibility

Korba, Oct 08:

In a heartwarming initiative aimed at fostering unity, mutual harmony, and a strong sense of responsibility, the National Service Scheme (NSS) unit in Boida, under the guidance of dedicated leaders, presented an Amrit Kalash to the Hardi Bazaar Police Station. This significant gesture falls under the "Meri Mati Mera Desh" campaign, emphasizing the importance of cooperation and moral values.

The program, led by Dr. Ashok Kumar Shrotri, Director of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Welfare in Delhi, Dr. Nita Bajpai, State NSS Officer, Dr. Manoj Sinha, Program Coordinator at Atal Bihari Vajpayee University in Bilaspur, and District Organizer Y.K. Tiwari, received strong support from



Principal Lakhan Lal Banjare and Program Officer Rajendra Kumar Nayak.

During the event, the Amrit Kalash symbolized unity, integrity, and service spirit. It was highlighted that this Kalash was a result of contributions from every corner of India, emphasizing the collective responsibility of protecting

the nation. Hardi Bazaar Police Station in-charge, Nitin Upadhyay, also shed light on various departmental activities, emphasizing the importance of abstinence, road safety, and moral conduct to become responsible citizens.

The event saw participation from a diverse group, including Vijay Singh, Manoj

Omprakash Singh Baish, Omprakash Dixena, Chandrasekhar, Gautam Patel, Praveen Rajvade, Kamal Kevart, Prafull Sahu, Gokaran Shyam, Kamal Sahu, Sohan Patel, Laxminarayan, Lalita Marawi, and many others, all of whom played a significant role in the success of the National Service Scheme program.

Mayor Yadav flags off drug-free India awareness campaign

■ Jagrukta Rath to travel across district spreading anti-drug message

Bilaspur, Oct 08:

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of the Government of India, in collaboration with the Chhattisgarh Government's Department of Social Welfare, has launched a comprehensive "Drug-Free India Campaign." To kickstart this initiative, Mayor Ramsharan Yadav raised awareness by flagging off the "Jagrukta Rath" (Awareness Chariot) from the district office premises today.

Ms. Shraddha Mathew, Joint Director of the Department of Social Welfare, elaborated on the



chariot's mission, which involves traveling to various development blocks, municipalities, urban local bodies, municipal corporations, and rural areas within the district. Its primary objective is to educate individuals about the perils of drug addiction and its detrimental consequences. The chariot

will also conduct extensive outreach programs and public relations campaigns, collaborating with departmental artists to illuminate the destructive impact of drug addiction on families, society, and the nation.

The chariot is adorned with an array of slogans and posters championing

drug awareness, prominently featuring the message, "Humne thana hai, nashe ko na khud karen na karne den. Nashe ko dur bhagaye, sukhi swasthya jivan banaye." ("We have pledged to eliminate the disease of addiction; neither will we indulge in drugs nor allow others to do so. Drive away addiction, create a happy and healthy life").

The event witnessed the presence of notable figures such as Ms. S. Rameshri, Examination Officer, Vijay Keshkar, Chief Artist, L.D. Bhanghe, Dadul Bareth, Rajesh Sisodia, KK Kashyap, G.R. Chandra, Manoj Sharma, Ms. Akanksha Sahu, D.L. Sahu, Gaurav Sahu, Kishun Yadav, Umesh Kaushik, along with various officers and staff members.

Shakun Shivkumar Dahria felicitates Women SHG's

Mandir-Hassaud, Oct 08:

Regional MLA and Labour Minister Dr. Shivkumar Dahria is honoring the women of self-help groups of his assembly constituency by encouraging them for their work. In this series, Rajshree Sadbhavna Committee Raipur and Block Congress Committee Arang, under the joint aegis of Chandkhuri, a women's felicitation ceremony was organized at Mandir Hassaud and Nagar Panchayat Chandkhuri, in which chief guest Shakun Shivkumar Dahria, President Rajshree Sadbhavna Committee Raipur and member State Congress Working



Committee, in-charge SC felicitated women of various Self Help Groups. On this occasion, prominent people were Dwarika Sahu, Director Apex Bank, Khilleshwar Dewangan

President District Panchayat Arang, Komal Singh Sahu President Block Congress Committee Arang, Keshari Chetan Verma, Santosh Verma and many others.

National Blindness and Low Vision Control Program organised

Kurud, Oct 08:

Under the National Blindness and Low Vision Control Program, complete eye protection program in Kurud development block has been conducted so far in 95 villages of 05 sectors under the guidance of Chief Medical and Health Officer and guidance of District Nodal Officer Blindness Dr. Rajesh Suryavanshi and Block Medical Officer Dr. Navratna. So far the eyes of 159195 people have been examined, in which eye disease related blindness 13, cataract immature 260 patients, corneal opacity 6, permanent blindness 0, low vision 09, one eye to cataract 566, Conjunctival disease 90, corneal disease 16, glaucoma 02, retina and optic nerve 17, refractive error 372, presbyopia 467, rhino 0, trachoma 0, pterygium 35, sec 05, all these 15 types of eye related diseases were identified

and treated free of cost. Eye drops and medicines are being given free of cost in all 137 villages of 07 sectors of Kurud development block. On this occasion, continuous monitoring is being done by District Assistant Nodal Officer Blindness Dr. Gurusharan Sahu, BPM Rohit Pandey, BE Dhansingh Thakur Senior Ophthalmic Assistant Officer Dr. Rajesh Soni, Dr. PN Sahu, Development Block Assistant Eye Donation Officer Dr. Lomesh Kurru, Ophthalmic Assistant Officer. Officers Dr. Praveen Tandon, Dr. Dulesh Dhruv, Dr. Chovaram Dhruv, Dr. Ramnarayan Shori, Dr. Dutendra Kanwar, Dr. Inderjit Sahu, Dr. Bhupendra Sahu, Dr. Santosh Sahu, Dr. Devendra Sahu (Hasda), Dr. Yogendra Borjha, Dr. Devendra Sahu (Bailer), Dr. Kirtan Sahu, Dr. Leekeshwar Prajapati, Dr. Chitesh Sahu (Sankara) and others.

Roads and ashes of Korba city speaks the truth: Lakhanlal

■ About the development that has taken place in Korba

Korba, Oct 08:

People are suffering from bad roads all around in Korba. Be it Korba to Kusmunda Imli Chhappar road or Korba to Balko or other rural and urban areas, the plight of the roads is visible. The general public has to face a lot of problems due to traffic jams on the roads.

BJP candidate Lakhanlal Dewangan, who came out for public relations, told the above things to the people. While walking from street-to-street in Anand Nagar, Prem Nagar of Kusmunda Bakimongra area, BJP candidate



Lakhan Dewangan sought public blessings and chraged that Congress only makes false claims and the roads in the entire Korba assembly are in a bad condition. The three-time MLA in Korba and the Congress Mayor in the last two five-year Municipal Corporations were still not able to provide good roads.

Lakhan Dewangan told the people that they will soon make pothole free roads so that people do not face any difficulty in commuting and proper traffic arrangements will be our priority. On this occasion, district officials, BJP divisional officials, working committee members and local people were present.

Youth Red Cross Society organises Voluntary Blood Donation Drive

Geedam/Dantewada, Oct 08:

Youth Red Cross Society of Government Model Residential College Jawanga organised Voluntary Blood Donation Drive as service to human and save life in collaboration with Indian Red Cross Society Dantewada branch at Education City Jawanga, Geedam. Principal of Government Model College Arun Dixit congratulated the students and blood donors by inspiring to serve the society with a spirit of service.

Blood donation drive programme was started on the initiatives of Suresh Yadav, President, Youth Red Cross Unit of the College. In this blood



donation camp, Dr. Kapil Dev Civil Surgeon, Dr. Rajesh Roy DPM, Dr. Desh Deepak Nodal Psychiatry, Ankit Singh District Organizer Red Cross Society Dantewada, Raju Khatker Pathology Lab Technician, Amujuri Biswanath Director of Green Care Society India were present as guests.

College IQAC Coordinator Sushant Thakur welcomed the guests by presenting them with a bouquet and took the program forward. During the drive, Dr. Shruti Prasara gave health tips and other information about mental health through PPT. Amujuri Biswanath, Director of

Green Care Society India himself donated blood and gave the message of serving humanity and saving someone's life. Blood group test of 100 people was done and voluntary donors donated the blood. A total of 50 units of blood were carefully collected by the health department team. Kalendri Thakur highlighted the importance of blood donation while conducting the program smoothly. National Service Scheme Program Officer Surendra Mahala expressed gratitude to the blood donors who came forward to save lives by donating blood voluntarily and the medical team of District Hospital Dantewada.

Bemetara, Oct 08:

Paddy procurement will start from 1st November in cooperative societies for selling paddy in the district. Those farmers who have not yet registered can do so by 31st October of this month. Last year, 1 lakh 53 thousand farmers had registered in cooperative societies for selling paddy. Their area was 1 lakh 85 thousand hectares. For the year 2023-24, the support price for average good quality common paddy has been fixed at Rs 2183 and for A-grade paddy at Rs 2203 per quintal for the year 2023-24. The support price for maize will be Rs 2090 per quintal. Paddy will be purchased at support price

from 01 November to 31 January 2024 and maize will be purchased from 01 November to 28 February 2024.

According to the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department of the State Government, the maximum limit for purchasing paddy from farmers in the state of Chhattisgarh in the Kharif year 2023-24 has been fixed at 20 quintals per acre including linking. Similarly, the maximum limit for maize purchase has been fixed at 10 quintals per acre including linking. This time for transparency in paddy procurement work. Food

grain procurement will be done through biometric based process. The entire amount of paddy and maize purchase will be paid into the farmers' accounts through digital mode. In the order issued, it has been said that paddy procurement will be done by Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Marketing Federation (Markfed) and Chhattisgarh State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited. According to the new gunny bag policy of the Government of India, necessary arrangements for gunny bags will have to be made for paddy procurement and rice storage. As per the policy, paddy will be purchased in new and old sacks.

Procurement of paddy will be biometric based from Nov 1

Sapling plantation done in the school premises



Korba, Oct 08:

On the occasion of National Wildlife Conservation Week, Principal Dr. Seema Bhardwaj, Hemant of Marketing Division of Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Gopalpur, in collaboration with Urban

Timashiko Club and Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Gopalpur, formed in Swami Atmanand Government Excellent English and Hindi School, Gopalpur.

In the hospitality of Sahu, fruit and shade plants like Neem, Mango, Guava, Gooseberry,

Jamun etc. were planted by the students of Eco-Club. On this occasion, the Principal of the school, Dr. Mrs. Seema Bhardwaj, told the students about the importance and utility of trees and resolved to protect the plants planted in the school premises through Eco-Club.

On this occasion, Eco-Club in-charge Vinod Kumar Sahu, co-in-charge Bhanu Pratap Anant, Vaibhav Brad, Shailesh Upadhyay, Anshu Rathore, Rajesh Shriwas, officers of Indian Oil Corporation Limited Gopalpur and students of Eco-Club were present and contributed in environmental protection by planting saplings. Provided cooperation.

Block level training of Eco Club in-charges conclude



Dongargaon, Oct 08:

Development block level one-day training of Eco Club in-charges of High School, Higher Secondary School and Pre-Secondary School was completed in the presence of District Eco Club Coordinator Khemlal Desh Lehra at Government Higher Secondary School Kumarda under Churiya

development block. In the training, detailed light was thrown on the formation, objectives, responsibility activities, funding, state level camps etc. of Eco Club by District Master Trainer Basant Kumar Yadav from the block, District Master Trainer Vivek Kumar Patel from Dongargaon and District Master Trainer Poonaram Yadav from Dongargaon Block.

Big initiative for the conservation of King Cobra in Korba

■ By Ch'garh government in the state

Korba, Oct 08:

Korba district of Chhattisgarh is the only home of the King Cobra in central India. It is the longest poisonous snake species in the world which reaches up to 18 feet. Two years ago, Chhattisgarh Forest Department had taken initiative for its conservation through a pilot project, due to which detailed information about King Cobra and its habitat was revealed for the first time in the state. King Cobras were reported from different areas of Korba, along with this, their dens and nests were detected at many places, which confirmed that King Cobra is often found in different habitats of Korba district. A tender was invited to know this special species of snake in more detail and to survey its habitat.



The objective of this tender is to make the local people aware and through them to conserve this rare reptile and to do better snakebite management in Korba district etc. A total of three institutions participated in the tender which were local institutions of the state. After technical bid, presentation and financial bid, Nova Nature Welfare Society Raipur was selected for the tender of King Cobra. This organization will study this rare reptile as well as other reptiles in the forests of Korba and its surrounding areas for the next one year and submit

a detailed report to the Forest Department. In this study, there are many questions related to King Cobra like why this creature is found only in Korba, is its number increasing or decreasing, are there any problems with its number etc. There are many such questions whose answers will be found in this study. These include how to respond to human-wildlife conflict situations while coordinating with local people, creating awareness among children, better management of snake bite victims, etc. During this project, the organization will work with the Health Department, Education Department and other government departments to prepare a better working system. This is an exemplary initiative by the Chhattisgarh State Government and Chhattisgarh Forest Department in the conservation of some of the very rare and endangered animals of the state.

Over 600 killed in Israel as forces clash with Hamas gunmen

Jerusalem, Oct 08 (PTI):

The conflict's bloodiest escalation in decades saw Hamas carry out a massive rocket barrage and ground, air and sea offensive, that reports said had killed 600 Israelis and wounded 1,000. Gaza officials said intense Israeli air strikes on the coastal enclave had brought the Palestinian death count to at least 400, with nearly 1,700 wounded.

Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah said it fired "large numbers of artillery shells and guided missiles" at Israeli positions in a contested border area. It said the assault was "in solidarity"



People stand outside a mosque destroyed in an Israeli air strike in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, Sunday.

believed to have been abducted and brought into Gaza; Hamas has boasted that the number of hostages is higher than Israel knows, as per The Times of Israel.

In a retaliatory attack, at least 313 Palestinians have been killed so far as the gun battle between Israel defense forces and Hamas intensified on Sunday, The Times of Israel reported.

The death toll has been confirmed by the Hamas-run health ministry in the Gaza Strip that said 313 Palestinians have been killed and another 1,990 have been wounded in the Gaza Strip.

Casualties feared as 12 Nepalese students missing: FM

Kathmandu, Oct 08 (PTI): Twelve Nepalese students studying in the southern part of Israel are missing after the attack by the Hamas militant group and casualties are feared among them, Foreign Minister N P Saud said on Sunday. Israel witnessed a surprise and unprecedented multifront attack by air, land and sea by the Hamas militant group, which rules the Gaza Strip, in its southern parts on Saturday morning. At least 350 Israelis, including soldiers, have been killed and more than 1,900 injured in Israel - the deadliest day for the country in at least 50 years. In the Gaza Strip, there are nearly 300 deaths and about 1,500 wounded in Israel's counterattack, media reports said on Sunday. "Contact could not be established with 12 Nepalese students and casualties are feared," Foreign Minister Saud told PTI. There were 17 Nepalese students in Kubuz Alumim in southern Israel, under the learn and earn programme. Out of 17, two managed to escape safely and three sustained injuries, according to Foreign Ministry sources. The injured Nepalese students are undergoing treatment in a hospital, the Foreign Ministry sources added.

with the attack launched by Hamas.

While addressing a briefing on Sunday, IDF spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said the priorities were to end the fighting in Israeli communities and control breaches in the fence dividing Gaza and Israel, CNN reported. As many as 1,700 people have been wounded, many seriously.

Four people were injured in rocket attacks in and around the city of Sderot on Sunday, according to Israeli emergency services, CNN reported. One of the victims, a 20-year-old man is in critical condition.

Various civilians as well as (Israel Defense Forces) IDF soldiers are

Indian nationals in Israel and Gaza safe

Jerusalem, Oct 08 (PTI): There have been no untoward incidents involving Indians living and working in Israel so far amid escalating tensions in the region, even as the Indian embassy in Tel Aviv received requests from its citizens, including tourists, stranded in the country to facilitate their safe exit. Israel witnessed a surprise and unprecedented multifront attack by air, land and sea by the Hamas militant group, which rules the Gaza Strip, in its southern parts on Saturday morning. At least 350 Israelis, including soldiers, have been killed and more than 1,900 injured in Israel - the deadliest day for the country in at least 50 years. In the Gaza Strip, there are nearly 300 deaths and about 1,500 wounded in Israel's counterattack, media reports said on Sunday. There are about 18,000 Indian nationals living and working in Israel and so far there have been no untoward incidents reported involving them, informed sources told PTI. The Indian embassy has received requests from Indian tourists stranded in the country to facilitate their exit. Most of the tourists are travelling in groups.

Hindu Parents, Dalit group celebrate veto of California's anti-caste discrimination bill

Washington, Oct 08 (PTI): An organisation representing Hindu parents in California, eminent Indian-Americans and a Dalit advocacy group on Saturday welcomed the decision of California Governor Gavin Newsom to veto the anti-caste discrimination bill, saying it was brought with the sole intention of "stereotyping the community".

The governor vetoed the bill, which was recently passed by the state assembly, and said that laws to ban caste-based discrimination already exist in the state.

"In California, we believe everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, no matter who they are, where they come from, who they love, or where they live," Newsom said in a statement issued Saturday.

"That is why California already prohibits discrimination based on sex, race, colour, religion, ancestry, national ori-

gin, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, and other characteristics, and state law specifies that these civil rights protections shall be liberally construed. Because discrimination based on caste is already prohibited under these existing categories, this bill is unnecessary," he explained.

For this reason, Newsom asserted that he "cannot sign" the bill known as SB403, which was passed by a large majority by both the House of Representatives and Senate of the California State Assembly.

"With the stroke of his pen, Governor Newsom has averted a civil rights and constitutional disaster that would have put a target on hundreds of thousands of Californians simply because of their ethnicity or their religious identity, as well as create a slippery slope of facially discriminatory laws," said Samir Kalra, managing director of Hindu American Foundation.

China calls on Israel, Palestine to immediately end hostilities

Beijing, Oct 08 (PTI):

China on Sunday called on Palestine and Israel to immediately end the hostilities, exercise restraint, and remain calm to protect civilians to avoid further deterioration of the situation.

China is deeply concerned over the current escalation of tensions and violence between Palestine and Israel, and calls on relevant parties to remain calm, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said in response to questions on the fierce conflicts between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas in the Gaza Strip resulting in massive casualties on both sides.

Hamas launched a wave of rocket attacks on

Saturday, killing over 200 people in Israel in the biggest escalation in decades. Israel has responded with a wave of air strikes on Gaza, killing more than 230 people, according to media reports. The spokesperson said the recurrence of the conflict shows once again that the protracted standstill of the peace process cannot last. The fundamental way out of the conflict lies in implementing the two-state solution and establishing an independent State of Palestine.

The international community needs to act with greater urgency, step up input into the Palestine question, facilitate the early resumption of peace talks between Palestine and Israel, and find a way

to bring about enduring peace, state-run Xinhua news agency quoted the spokesperson as saying.

China will continue to work relentlessly with the international community towards that end, the spokesperson added.

China this year has stepped up its diplomacy in the Middle East and brokered a surprise deal between arch-rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran in March to end their hostilities and restore diplomatic ties.

The Beijing-brokered detente between Iran and Saudi Arabia came after a bitter rivalry between the two influential Middle Eastern countries which had destabilised several countries in the region including Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and Bahrain.

Indian students in Canada worried about lack of job opportunities

Toronto, Oct 08 (PTI):

As India-Canada relations strained in the wake of allegations by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau against India, there is another major problem that is plaguing Indian students here - lack of job opportunities.

In 2022, a total of 226,450 Indian students arrived in Canada to pursue higher education, making India the top source country of new international students entering the North American nation last year, data suggests.

According to the global education search platform Erudera, the total number of international students in all education levels in Canada is 807,750, including higher education. Of this, 551,405 received a study permit in Canada last year.

Erudera data said that India has the most study permit holders in 2022 in Canada, with 226,450 students. "I am not thinking about the India-Canada rift so much. I am more worried and concerned about

my future. There is a huge dearth of jobs here, and I don't know whether I will be able to secure work once I complete my studies," Harwinder (name changed on request to protect his privacy), told PTI here.

Several Indian students around the Greater Toronto area echoed a similar sentiment.

Mayank (who did not wish to disclose his last name) is pursuing a course in health services at an institute in the Greater Toronto area. He said while he and his friends have not experienced any difficulties in the aftermath of the diplomatic standoff between Delhi and Ottawa, what is giving him sleepless nights is the thought of not finding work once he finishes his studies in Toronto. "I know of several Indian students with medical degrees here who have been unable to find decent-paying jobs and are driving cabs and working in stores, and restaurants to pay bills. It is a very challenging situation for us," he said.

Avinash Gupta elected president of diaspora organisation FIA for 2024

New York, Oct 08 (PTI):

Avinash Gupta, a leading Indian-American physician, has been named president of the diaspora organisation Federation of Indian Associations of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut for the year 2024.

The Federation of Indian Association (FIA) is one of the oldest and largest non-profit grass-root umbrella organisa-

tions. Gupta is the Chief of Cardiology and President of Medical Staff, Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus and Member, Ocean County Board of Health. Gupta, who was previously Executive Vice President of FIA, has been elected President of the diaspora organisation for the year 2024.

At its Annual General Meeting, FIA announced its executive team for the

Year 2024, including Executive Vice President Saurin Parikh, Vice President Smita Miki Patel, 2nd Vice President Deepak Goel, General Secretary Priti Patel, Joint Secretary Mahesh Dubal, Treasurer Sanjeev Singh and Joint Treasurer Hareesh Shah, a press release said.

FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya expressed gratitude to the executive team for the year 2023 for their hard work.

Shooting at Pennsylvania community centre kills 1, injures 5

White Township (US), Oct 08 (AP):

One person was killed and five were wounded in a shooting during a private party at a Pennsylvania community centre early Sunday, police said.

Police and emergency services responded at 12:35 am to a reported shooting at the Chevy Chase Community Centre in White

Township, the Pennsylvania State Police said in a statement. Police said six people were shot and one was pronounced dead at the scene in White Township, which is located about 57 miles (91.7 km) northeast of Pittsburgh in Indiana County. Surviving victims were transported to Indiana Regional Medical Centre in Indiana and UPMC Presbyterian

Hospital in Pittsburgh with at least two of the victims believed to be in serious condition, police said. State police said they did not have any suspects in custody early Sunday.

The police statement did not provide details about a possible motive, whether there was more than one suspect or if they were attending the party.

FAITHFUL INCENSE RITUAL



Women burn incense during the Lord of Miracles procession to mark the feast day of the nation's patron Saint in Lima, Peru.

Huge demand for Indian chicken, dairy, basmati rice, wheat products in Middle East: UAE

Dubai, Oct 08 (PTI):

Seeking Indian government support for imports, the UAE food industry said that huge demand is there in the Middle East countries for chicken, dairy, basmati rice, frozen marine goods and wheat products from New Delhi.

The UAE industry has sought the support of the Indian government in smooth certification processes, more coordination with Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), and harmonisation of standards.

They also said that high quality packaging of

Indian products would help boost New Delhi players to increase exports of food and food products in countries like Bahrain, Kuwait, the Sultanate of Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, who was in the UAE, last week held detailed discussions with these importers and discussed ways to increase exports from India.

"There is huge scope for India to export frozen products in these countries," Global Food Industries LLC Head of Sales UAE (Frozen and

Beverages) Nissar Thalangara said.

A representative of Oman-based Khimji Ramdas Group said that there is a demand for Indian basmati rice and reduction of minimum export price (MEP) on this rice will help India boost exports.

The government is considering reducing MEP to USD 850 per tonne from USD 1,200 per tonne at present.

Another importer from GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) countries raised the issue of halal certification.

India has a well-established halal meat certification system.

2 Indian trainee pilots among 3 people killed in small plane crash in Canada

Toronto, Oct 08 (PTI):

Two trainee pilots from India are among three persons killed when a small plane crashed in Canada's British Columbia province, according to media reports.

Abhay Gadru and Yash Ramugade, both 25, from Mumbai, were in the small twin-engine light aircraft - a piper PA-34 Seneca - which crashed on Friday near the local airport in Chilliwack city, about 100 km east of Vancouver.

The plane crashed behind a motel near the airport, killing the pilot and everyone on board, Sgt. Pete Healey from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police was quoted as saying by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). Gadru moved to



Canada three years ago to complete pilot training and was expected to graduate in November, his cousin Sdradha Trisal was quoted as saying by the Vancouver Sun newspaper on Saturday.

"He was such a pure soul. I can't believe he's gone and I'm just left with memories now," Trisal said.

A total of three people were killed in the plane crash. The report said that Gadru's sibling Chirag,

who also lives in the British Columbia province, is trying to send back his brother's remains to their parents in India.

Meanwhile, CTV News Vancouver, a Canadian news portal, said that the second person among the three killed was Yash Ramugade, who also hailed from Mumbai.

While details about Gadru were given, there was not much information about Ramugade in the Canadian media reports.

Precision missile strike on cafe hosting soldier's wake decimates Ukrainian village

Hroza, Oct 07 (AP):

The cafe had been closed throughout the war but reopened especially for a dead soldier's wake, and almost every household in the village sent someone to mourn the native son.

When the gathering to honour Andrii Kozyr was struck by a precision missile that Ukrainian officials said was fired by Russia, almost every household in Hroza in eastern Ukraine lost someone.

The cafe was obliterated. Entire families perished in an instant. In all, 52 people died out of a population of 300. Many villagers now suspect that a local may have tipped off Russian forces.

On Friday, a day after the strike, an earth mover extended the graveyard to make room for them all. Among the dead were a couple who left behind four children, a community leader and three generations of the soldier's family, including his wife, mother and

son, who also fought for Ukraine and had requested leave to attend the funeral held shortly before wake.

It could be months before DNA identifies most of the remains. For now, the names are scrawled on cardboard or white plastic squares, and string marks the boundaries of the fresh graves.

Only six people in the cafe survived, and the town is trying to fathom why and how the wake was targeted.

Like much of the region east of the regional capital of Kharkiv, Hroza was under Russian occupation for six months, until September 2022, when Ukrainian troops liberated the area.

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद बागबाहरा, जिला-महासमुन्द (छ.ग.)
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क्र./939/न.पा./लो.नि.वि./2023-24 बागबाहरा, दिनांक 05/10/2023

//ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना//

नगर पालिका परिषद बागबाहरा में राज्य प्रवर्तित मद् के तहत विभिन्न निर्माण/विकास कार्य हेतु एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली में सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत उम्मीदवारों से ऑनलाइन निविदा प्रपत्र "अ" में छ.ग. लोक निर्माण विभाग में प्रचालित CG PWD BUILDING, ROAD AND BRIDGE SOR 01.01.2015 & CG ELECTRICAL SOR 01.06.2020 से प्रतिस्पर्धित दर पर आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र.	सिद्धांत संख्या	कार्य विवरण	अनु. (रु. लाख में)	अंशक	उत्प्रेषण की श्रेणी	निविदा दस्तावेज प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि	अंशक विलीन होने की अंतिम तिथि
1	149287	वार्ड क्र. 06 में सांस्कृतिक भवन निर्माण कार्य।	24.51	18400/-	सक्षम श्रेणी	27.10.2023 17:30 PM तक	31.10.2023 को दोपहर 15:00 PM तक
2	149296	वार्ड क्र. 12 में नैतुलुखा में मुक्तिदायक निर्माण कार्य।	30.00	22500/-	सक्षम श्रेणी		

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा को सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> And <https://cgwad.gov.in> से दिनांक 06/10/2023 को 3.00 बजे से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी
 नगर पालिका परिषद बागबाहरा



CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 49 No. 08

Afghanistan's Resilience In the Face of Natural Tragedy

The earthquake in Afghanistan, a nation already grappling with numerous challenges, has once again tested the resilience of its people. This seismic event, with a magnitude of 6.3, followed by powerful aftershocks, struck western Afghanistan and brought with it a wave of devastation. The death toll currently stands at a tragic 2,000 lives lost, marking one of the deadliest earthquakes in the country in the past two decades. Afghanistan, a land known for its historical significance, rich culture, and indomitable spirit, has faced numerous adversities in recent years. The earthquake in Herat, a province bordering Iran, has added another layer of complexity to an already intricate situation. The initial reports were heart-wrenching. Villages lay in ruins, civilians were trapped beneath debris, and hundreds of homes were destroyed. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that 465 houses were completely obliterated, with an additional 135 sustaining damage. The toll on human lives and the physical infrastructure is daunting, to say the least. The response from both local authorities and international organizations has been swift. Humanitarian agencies and the World Health Organisation (WHO) have deployed resources to provide aid, evacuate casualties, and tend to the injured. The dedication of these relief teams, often working in challenging conditions, exemplifies the power of international solidarity and the unwavering commitment to saving lives. As search and rescue efforts continue, it's vital to recognize the courage and determination of the Afghan people. In the face of adversity, they have come together to support one another, offering shelter to the homeless, helping transport the injured to hospitals, and sharing food with survivors. This spirit of unity shines brightly amid the darkness of tragedy. Afghanistan's geopolitical landscape has been undergoing significant shifts, but the earthquake transcends politics. It is a stark reminder of our shared vulnerability as human beings in the face of natural disasters. In such moments, the international community must come together, setting aside differences to extend a helping hand to those in need. The Taliban, who now govern the country, have called for urgent assistance to earthquake-hit areas. They have urged local organizations to provide medical care, shelter, and food to survivors while employing all available resources to rescue those trapped under debris. This appeal reflects a recognition of the importance of collective action during such crises. While the earthquake's immediate impact is undeniable, it also underscores the urgency of preparedness and disaster resilience. Afghanistan, situated in a seismically active region, should prioritize building infrastructure that can withstand such natural disasters. By investing in resilient structures and comprehensive disaster management strategies, future tragedies may be mitigated. This earthquake follows a devastating tremor in eastern Afghanistan in June 2022, which claimed the lives of at least 1,000 people and left 1,500 injured. It serves as a somber reminder of the nation's vulnerability to seismic activity and the need for continuous efforts to safeguard its citizens. In times of adversity, we often witness the best of humanity. Communities come together, aid is delivered swiftly, and the indomitable spirit of resilience shines through. As Afghanistan faces yet another challenge, it is our hope that the international community will continue to stand by its side, providing the support and solidarity needed to rebuild lives and communities.

Asian Games Triumph

A Stepping Stone to Global Sporting Glory

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee

The relentless pursuit of excellence by its athletes, India has achieved an extraordinary milestone at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. With a staggering total of 107 medals, comprising 28 gold, 38 silver, and 41 bronze, India has etched its name in the annals of sporting history. This momentous achievement marks a turning point in India's sporting journey, and it is incumbent upon us to applaud the relentless dedication of our athletes and the relentless support of our government. The journey to this remarkable achievement was arduous, requiring unwavering commitment, passion, and an indomitable spirit from our athletes. They faced fierce competition on the grandest stage of Asian sports, and their ability to shine amidst such pressure is nothing short of awe-inspiring. We extend our heartfelt congratulations and a resounding salute to every member of the Indian contingent who participated in the games, for they have displayed not only their athletic prowess but also their unyielding resolve to bring glory to our nation. This Asian Games marks a pivotal moment for Indian sports, as we have crossed the monumental milestone of a century of medals for the first time in our history. It is a testament to the unwavering efforts and resilience of our athletes who have dedicated themselves to their respective disciplines. It is a historic accomplishment that deserves widespread recognition, and it speaks volumes about the progress we have made in the realm of sports over the past decade. However, as we revel in this achievement, it is imperative to acknowledge that we are still in the fourth position in Asia, trailing behind sports powerhouses like China, Japan, and South Korea. While our progress is undeniable, we must also realize that there is a long and challenging road ahead of us if we are to ascend to the summit of Asian sports. The road to becoming an Asian sports powerhouse is lined with formidable challenges, and we must rise to the occasion with even greater determination. The credit for creating an environment conducive to the growth of sports in India must be attributed to the government of India and the Sports Authority of India (SAI). Their relentless efforts in nurturing talent, providing world-class facilities, and extending financial support to our athletes have played a pivotal role in our recent success. We must commend their dedication and continue to encourage their initiatives, for they have sown the seeds of future champions. As we bask in the glory of our achievements, we must not lose sight of our ultimate goal—the Paris Olympics. The Asian Games serve as a crucial stepping stone on our journey to Olympic glory, and we must approach them as a preparation ground for the ultimate test of sporting excellence. It is essential to recognize that certain sports, like cricket, squash, and kabaddi, are not featured in the Olympics, and therefore, our focus must be on those disciplines that will help us secure our place on the global sporting map. One of the most heartening aspects of our performance at the 19th Asian Games is the significant role played by track and field athletes and shooters, who clinched 29 and 22 medals, respectively. Athletics witnessed a rich haul of six gold, 14 silver, and nine bronze medals—a testament to the talent and dedication of our athletes in these disciplines. Their achievements exemplify the potential that exists in our nation. On the flip side, the performance of our wrestlers left much to be desired, with only five bronze medals to their name. This disappointing outcome can be attributed, in part, to the influence of politics in sports. We must strive for a more transparent and merit-based selection process to ensure that our best talents represent our nation. Similarly, badminton, which held promise, experienced a setback due to the underwhelming performance of P.V. Sindhu and the absence of Lakshya Sen in the singles event. Nevertheless, the historic gold medal win by Satwiksairaj and Chirag in badminton doubles has made the nation swell with pride. Reflecting on our performance vis-à-vis smaller countries like Japan and South Korea, it is crucial to analyze the reasons behind their superior performance. While economic factors may play a role, it is not the sole determinant of success. In India, except for a select few sports like cricket, the financial rewards and lifelong job security that come with sporting success are limited. This presents a significant challenge in attracting and retaining talent in sports. The onus now falls on the government to reverse this trend and create an ecosystem where athletes can focus on their craft without financial worries. Investment in sports at the grassroots level, scholarships, and employment opportunities for athletes are vital steps towards ensuring that India continues its ascent in the world of sports. 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, have been a watershed moment for Indian sports. We have achieved a historic milestone by surpassing 100 medals, a feat that fills our hearts with immense pride. This accomplishment is a testament to the dedication of our athletes and the support of the government.

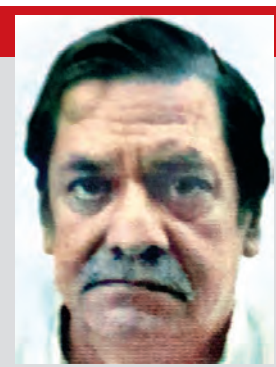
Central Chronicle invites articles, write-ups, and comments on a wide range of issues for our editorial page. Submissions should be between 800-900 words in length. In addition, we welcome letters to the editor for this page. While letters may be edited for clarity, we aim to preserve the integrity of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

AIR FORCE DAY CELEBRATIONS



Air Force personnel during the 91st Air Force Day celebrations, at Bamrauli headquarters of Central Air Command, in Prayagraj, Sunday, Oct. 8.

Tuberculosis: India's Ongoing Battle Against a Silent Epidemic

**YASH PAL RALHAN**

Tuberculosis, a centuries-old scourge, continues to cast a long shadow over India. This silent epidemic, responsible for countless lives lost, is a formidable adversary that demands unwavering attention and action. While the Ayushman Bharat initiative has made significant strides in healthcare, the prevalence of tuberculosis remains a major concern. In a country where 28 percent of the world's tuberculosis cases are concentrated, the fight against this disease requires a multifaceted approach. **The Challenge of Treatment Adherence** One of the most pressing issues in tuberculosis management is the challenge of ensuring treatment adherence. It is an unfortunate reality that many patients do not complete their prescribed courses of medication, choosing to abandon treatment prematurely. This lack of adherence is a significant obstacle in the battle against tuberculosis. To achieve success, we must ensure a consistent supply of essential drugs, allowing patients to complete their treatment effectively. A critical aspect of this challenge is the need to tackle drug resistance, which is on the rise. Drug-resistant forms of tuberculosis, such as multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR TB) and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR TB), are making the disease deadlier and more challenging to treat. **Understanding Drug Resistance** A deeper understanding of drug resistance is essential to combat tuberculosis effectively. It is worth noting that approximately a quarter of tuberculosis patients in India exhibit resistance to one or more tuberculosis drugs. Furthermore, drug resistance patterns

can vary significantly from patient to patient. This complexity underscores the need for tailored treatment approaches and further research into the factors driving drug resistance. Climate variations across different regions of the country can also impact the effectiveness of tuberculosis drugs. These variations hinder the uniformity of treatment protocols, highlighting the need for region-specific strategies. **The Role of Mismanagement in Drug Resistance** Mismanagement of tuberculosis treatment regimens can contribute to the emergence of drug resistance. Incorrect durations or dosages of antibiotics can render bacteria resistant to drugs, turning an already challenging disease into a potentially deadly one. Addressing this issue requires not only better treatment practices but also robust monitoring and education efforts. **The Call for Drug Availability** The shortage of essential tuberculosis drugs in India has been a cause for concern. While the Union health ministry has repeatedly assured the public that there is no shortage of these drugs, credible media reports have cast doubt on these claims. It is imperative that the government takes these concerns seriously and ensures the availability of tuberculosis drugs in all healthcare facilities. Contingency plans should be in place to prevent any casualties due to drug shortages. The World Health Organization (WHO) has been closely monitoring the situation, with officials visiting India to assess the availability of drugs firsthand. This is not the first time India has faced a shortage of TB drugs. In September 2021, the country experi-

enced a scarcity of the MDR TB drug delamanid. Such challenges underscore the need for a proactive approach to address drug shortages promptly. **The Broader Challenge** While addressing the potential shortage of TB drugs is crucial, it is only one part of the broader challenge. MDR TB patients, who are already grappling with a formidable health challenge, should not have to face the added stress of uncertain drug availability. India has set an ambitious target for TB elimination, aiming to achieve it five years ahead of the WHO's 2030 deadline. However, numerous obstacles must be overcome to reach this goal. **A Commitment to Patients** To fulfill its commitment to eliminating tuberculosis, the government must prioritize not only drug availability but also assure patients, their families, and healthcare providers that the supply of essential drugs will be uninterrupted. The uncertainty surrounding the availability of TB drugs in India is a matter of grave concern. Interruptions in TB treatment regimens can exacerbate the risks associated with the disease. **Lessons from the Pandemic** India's response to the COVID-19 pandemic offers valuable lessons for the fight against tuberculosis. During the pandemic, when America demanded chloroquine in bulk, India swiftly delivered. Additionally, India supplied COVID-19 vaccinations to 167 countries, demonstrating a commitment to global health. These experiences underscore the importance of a proactive approach to public health challenges. Just as India responded decisively to global needs during the pandemic, it must also focus on eradicating tuberculosis within its borders. **Support for Vulnerable Patients** In addition to drug treatment, tuberculosis patients, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, may require incentives to help them complete their therapy. Extra food entitlements, transport vouchers, cash support, and other measures can play a vital role in ensuring patients complete their treatment, especially for those with multi-drug-resistant or extensively drug-resistant TB. While randomized clinical trials may not have shown improved bacteriological outcomes with nutritional supple-

mentation, these studies often excluded those most likely to benefit. Factors like change in lean muscle mass, quality of life, the ability to return to work, and the impact on families must be considered. Food provision is not only a biological but also a behavioral intervention, and it can address issues of treatment adherence and overall treatment outcomes. **Investing in Research and Development** Effective tuberculosis control in India requires locally generated tools, solutions, and strategies. This encompasses diagnostics, treatment protocols, vaccines, awareness campaigns, and community engagement efforts. It is crucial to invest more in research and development, bridging the gap between the public and private sectors to translate academic findings into practical solutions. Research on tuberculosis should span not only the realms of basic science and clinical trials but also include operational and implementation research. This multidisciplinary approach is vital to reduce the burden of TB in the community and confront this age-old infectious disease in the 21st century effectively. **The Role of Cleanliness** Maintaining cleanliness is a fundamental aspect of tuberculosis control. The current government's commitment to cleanliness initiatives will undoubtedly have a positive impact on our efforts to eradicate TB. Clean and hygienic living conditions are essential to prevent the transmission of the disease. **Conclusion** The battle against tuberculosis in India is far from over, but it is a battle we must win. As we strive to achieve ambitious targets for TB elimination, we must prioritize drug availability, treatment adherence, and support for vulnerable patients. Our response to the tuberculosis epidemic should draw from the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic, emphasizing a proactive approach to public health challenges. India's commitment to global health is commendable, but it must also extend to addressing domestic health crises, including tuberculosis. By investing in research and development, tailoring treatment approaches to local conditions, and ensuring a consistent supply of essential drugs, we can confront this age-old infectious disease and build a healthier, stronger India for all.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Respect International Law

Mature democracies should prioritize international law and ethical principles in their interactions. Non-interference in domestic affairs is vital for harmonious relations. Indian nationals in Canada must avoid actions against India's interests. Canada's allowance of its soil for Khalistan related activities raises concerns, as Western countries, including Canada, provide significant financial support. In Punjab, there has been minimal public involvement or support for such movements over three decades. Upholding international law is essential to fostering a positive relationship between these friendly nations.

MK Nair, Raipur

Demand Accountability

The distressing visuals from Sikkim are alarming, but we often forget such tragedies quickly. We were once disturbed by Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand's devastation, yet these memories fade. As we now focus on Sikkim and criticize the government's neglect of the Lhonak lake report, let's not let these concerns wane. We must demand accountability from policymakers, urging them to prioritize human lives over monetary gains.

Shivkumar Mishra, Raipur

Empower Girls

In light of three recent rape incidents, addressing the safety of girls is crucial. Providing self-defence training in disciplines like karate, judo, and taekwondo is imperative. Encouraging girls to move in groups, carry pepper spray for self-protection, and avoid interactions with strangers is essential. While allowing girls and women to carry pistols and guns, akin to the U.S. practice, may be a last resort, it bears the risk of misuse by anti-social elements, posing dangers to individuals and society. Empowering girls with self-defence skills remains a paramount priority.

Kailash Bharadwaj, New Delhi

Empower Youth

In India, failure carries an exceptionally heavy stigma, leading to tragic consequences like student suicides due to exam failures and farmers facing loan repayment challenges. It's vital to recognize that failure shouldn't signify the end of the road. This essential life lesson should be integrated into our educational curriculum to equip young individuals with the resilience needed to face inevitable setbacks. Regrettably, the persistence of suicides indicates that previous prevention efforts have fallen short of achieving the desired outcomes.

Rakesh Gupta, Korba

Heroes of Hangzhou: India's Spectacular Triumph at 2023 Asian Games

"India shining." A phrase that once belonged to the realm of political slogans during the 2004 Lok Sabha elections has now found a new resonance in the world of sports. In the year 2023, it is the most apt term to describe Team India's awe-inspiring performance at the Asian Games held in Hangzhou. India's sporting achievements have transformed into a radiant star, illuminating the world stage. With an astounding total of 107 medals, including 28 gold medals, Team India secured the fourth position in the overall medal tally, standing proudly behind China, Japan, and South Korea. This remarkable feat represents a monumental leap from their 70 medal haul in the previous edition of the games. The 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games marked a magical chapter in Indian sports, fulfilling a dream shared by 1.43 billion Indians. This triumph is a testament to the dedication and excellence displayed by India's sporting heroes, from Smriti Mandhana to Neeraj Chopra, from Arshdeep Singh to Jyothi Surekha Vennam.

Historic Achievement In the history of the Asian Games, the 2023 Hangzhou edition stands as India's best performance ever. While India secured the second position in the medal table during the inaugural Asian Games in Delhi, and the third position in Jakarta in 1962, the 2023 Hangzhou Games surpassed all expectations. India became the fourth nation in the Asian Games' history to amass 100 medals, joining the ranks of sporting powerhouses in Asia. **A Multitude of Heroes** The roster of heroes and heroines for Team India at Hangzhou is extensive and diverse. From the Indian men's hockey team clinching their fourth Asian Games gold to the resounding success of the men's and women's cricket teams, from the Equestrian Dressage Team's triumph to the remarkable performance of tennis warrior R Bopanna and his partner Bhosale, the achievements are numerous. Not to be forgotten are the Indian men's Squash team who outshone their Pakistani counterparts in the final, the Indian men's and women's Kabaddi teams, and the Indian Mixed doubles team in Squash. Furthermore, Satwiksairaj and Chirag etched their names in history by securing India's first

ever Badminton Asiad gold. The list of victories is extensive and truly remarkable. **Athletic Excellence** India's athletic prowess also shone brightly at Hangzhou. Avinash Sable (gold in Men's 3000m Steeplechase), Tajinderpal Toor (Men's shotput), Parul Chaudhary (women's 5000m), Annu Rani (Women's Javelin), the legendary Neeraj Chopra, and Team India (men's 4x400m relay) are among the standout performers. Their dedication and hard work have brought glory to the nation and inspired generations of athletes. **Archers and Shooters on Fire** The archers and shooters of Team India displayed exceptional skill and precision at the 2023 Asian Games. Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Ojas Pravin Deotale were instrumental in winning three gold medals, while Aishwary Prapat Singh Tomar secured two golds in compound archery. The Men's 10m Air Rifle Team event witnessed Rudranksh Patil, Aiswary Tomar, and Divyansh smashing three world records. Additionally, the Women's 25M pistol team, Sift Kaur Samra clinched gold in Women's 50m Rifle 3p and the Indian Men's Team secured victory in the 10m



Air Pistol event. Indian shooter Palak and the Team also struck gold in the Men's Trap team event of shooting. The achievements of these athletes exemplify India's rising dominance in shooting sports.

Triumphs and Setbacks Amidst the euphoria of victory, there were also moments of disappointment. The Indian women's hockey team's shocking 0-4 defeat against China in the Women's semifinal was a painful set-

A Rising Sporting Nation India's sporting journey in recent years has been nothing short of remarkable. At the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, India won seven medals, including Neeraj Chopra's historic gold in Javelin. India secured the 48th position in the overall medal tally. Moreover, at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games, India earned 61 medals, including 22 golds, and achieved the fourth position. Now, in the 2023 Asian Games, India has once again secured the fourth position. This consistent excellence on the international stage is a testament to India's emergence as a formidable sporting nation. **The Road to Paris 2024** As we bask in the glory of the 2023 Asian Games, the 2024 Paris Olympics loom on the horizon, just nine months away. Team India should focus its energies on the upcoming Olympics with the goal of improving its medal tally from seven to fourteen and increasing gold medals from one to four or five. Such an accomplishment would secure India's place in the top 20 of the overall medal tally—a daunting but achievable aspiration. The journey ahead is challenging, and it is one that India's athletes and sports enthusiasts are ready to undertake. **Conclusion** In conclusion, the heroes and heroines of Team India have scripted an unforgettable chapter in the annals of Indian sports history with their outstanding performances at the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou. Their dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to excellence have not only brought honor to the nation but have also ignited the dreams of aspiring athletes across the country. As we celebrate India's triumph at Hangzhou, let us also recognize that these athletes are the pride of our nation, the true heroes of Hangzhou. Their achievements are a testament to the power of determination and the limitless potential of Indian sports.

BRIEF

DS Group

Mumbai: The Dharmal Satyapal (DS) Group, a multi-business and FMCG corporation, is planning to add three new properties with a capex of Rs 500 crore in next 3 years, a top company executive has said. "Currently, we have six hotels with around 930 keys operating under global hospitality brands including Radisson, IHG and Marriott. We are planning to add another three hotels to our portfolio with a capex of Rs 500 crore in the next three years," DS Group vice chairman Rajiv Kumar told PTI over phone.

FMCG

New Delhi: The FMCG industry expects a subdued low to mid-single-digit volume growth in the July-September quarter as weak macroeconomic conditions amid rising food prices and below-normal rainfall in some regions are impeding the recovery in rural demand. Companies such as Marico, Dabur and Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL) in their quarterly updates said that though there was an improvement in consumption in the second quarter, the recovery has been gradual.

Accor

Vagator (Goa): French hospitality major Accor plans to open 30 new properties in India in the next three to five years to tap the huge potential here, according to its Senior Vice President Operations, India and South Asia, Puneet Dhawan. The hotel chain, which has nine brands in India out of 40 from its global portfolio, will also consider introducing more brands in the country to cater to different segments of customers here.

Coal imports decline

New Delhi: India's coal imports declined 12.08 per cent to 18.26 million tonnes (MT) in August this year over the corresponding month of the previous fiscal. The country's import of fossil fuel stood at 20.77 MT in August last year. Overall coal imports during April to August also declined by 10.3 per cent to 103.93 MT, over 115.93 MT in the year-ago period, according to data compiled by mjunction services ltd. mjunction services ltd is a leading B2B e-commerce firm.

IIFCL

New Delhi: India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) has sanctioned loans worth Rs 8,800 crore for airports and civil aviation infrastructure development in the country, its Managing Director PR Jaishankar has said. The government has an ambitious target to develop the civil aviation sector in the country, and to realise the dream, huge investment is required, he noted. "So far, the IIFCL has sanctioned loans of about Rs 8,800 crore with the disbursement of around Rs 4,000 crore for the development of airport projects," he told PTI.

GST authority issues Rs 922 cr show cause notices to RGIC



New Delhi, Oct 08 (PTI):

Reliance General Insurance Company (RGIC), a subsidiary of Reliance Capital Ltd, has received multiple show cause notices from the Directorate General of GST Intelligence, amounting to Rs 922.58 crore.

According to sources, the company has received four notices from the DGGI demanding GST of Rs 478.84 crore, Rs 359.70 crore, Rs 78.66 crore, and Rs 5.38 crore respectively, on the revenue generated from the services like re-

insurance and co-insurance. According to a tax expert, the RGIC auditors will have to provide for this amount in its quarterly results ending September 30, as a contingent liability.

RGIC is the crown jewel of Reliance Capital which is undergoing a debt resolution process through NCLT. RGIC constitutes almost 70 per cent of the total value of Reliance Capital. RGIC received a show cause notice from the DGGI on September 28, amounting to Rs 478.84 crore in the matter of ap-

plicability of GST on re-insurance commission booked on the re-insurance services ceded to various Indian and Foreign Reinsurance companies, the sources said. The GST Authority's contention is that re-insurance commission forms part of the revenue recorded by the company in its books of accounts and thus it needs to pay GST on the same.

Similarly, another show cause notice, amounting to Rs 359.70 crore, was received by the company on September 28, in the matter of applicability of GST on the co-insurance premium received as a follower in the co-insurance transactions, they said.

The company's contention is that the lead insurer has already discharged its GST liability on the entire premium, therefore, there is no need for the company to pay GST on the realisation of Follower Premium.

ICICI Bank launches 'Festive Bonanza'

Mumbai, Oct 08:

ICICI Bank today announced the launch of 'Festive Bonanza', with exciting offers, discounts and cashbacks of upto Rs. 26,000 for its customers at the onset of the festive season. The customers can avail of these benefits by purchasing various items from their favourite brands by using ICICI Bank's credit/debit cards, internet banking, UPI via Rupay credit cards and Cardless EMI. These offers are also available to the customers in the form of no-cost EMIs using the Bank's credit/debit cards.

The Bank has curated the offers to cater to the various needs of the customers during the festive season, in various cate-

gories such as electronics, mobiles, fashion, jewellery, furniture, travel, dining and more and with a host of leading brands including iPhone, MakeMyTrip, Tata Neu, OnePlus, HP, Microsoft, Croma, Reliance Digital, LG, Sony, Samsung, Tanishq, Taj, Zomato and Swiggy. The Bank has partnered with Flipkart for The Big Billion Days Sale (from October 8 to October 15), Mynt for Big Fashion Festival (from October 6 to October 19) and Amazon for its Great Indian Festival sale (around last week of October). The Bank will also introduce special and attractive offers for its customers on retail loan products like home loan, auto loan and two wheeler loan shortly.

NMDC shines at the D&B PSU Awards 2023

Hyderabad, Oct 08:

Leading public sector company, NMDC wins the Navratna Award and the Mining Minerals Award at the D&B PSU Summit 2023 in Delhi on Friday. Company's CMD (Addl. Charge) Amitava Mukherjee with Director (Production) Dilip Kumar Mohanty accepted the awards on behalf of NMDC.

Ajith B Chavan, Additional CEO, GeM SPV presented the honour to NMDC and congratulated the mining major on its significant contribution in building physical and financial growth year after year. Speaking on the occasion, Amitava Mukherjee said, "This one is for the team that mines a better future for

READERS CIRCLE OF MENTAL WELLNESS WEEK



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman being presented a memento by IIT BHU Director Pramod Kumar Jain during the inauguration of the 'Readers Circle of Mental Wellness Week', in Varanasi, Sunday, Oct. 8.

Citroen launches C3 Aircross SUV

New Delhi, Oct 08:

The French automobile manufacturer, Citroen, has announced the prices for all the variants of the C3 Aircross SUV. The vehicle is available in three variants -- You, Plus, and Max.

The company has started accepting pre-bookings for a token amount of Rs 25,000, with customer deliveries set to commence on October 15. French carmaker Citroen's latest offering, the new C3 Aircross SUV, is now available. This mid-size SUV is over 90% localised and designed in India to cater to the varied needs of Indian consumers.

Perfectly blending with one of the brand's values 'Comfort' the SUV offers Citroen Advanced Comfort suspension with Flying Carpet

effect. Powered by Citroen's globally acclaimed 1.2L GEN III Turbo PureTech 110 Engine, the car offers unmatched driving performance, delivering a maximum power of 110ps at 5500 rpm and a maximum torque of 190Nm at 1750 rpm.

Roland Bouchara, CEO & Managing Director, Stellantis India, said, "We are delighted to launch the highly anticipated new C3 Aircross SUV, designed, developed and made in India for the discerning consumer. This mid-size SUV is built featuring key elements of Citroen's DNA comfort and innovation." All current variants of the C3 Aircross SUV are equipped with Advanced Tech suite that includes Auto Stop/Start, Electronic Stability Program, Hill Hold Assist, and Tyre Pressure Monitoring System.

Joyalukkas to open 40 new showrooms in India, abroad

In next 2 yrs with investment of Rs 2,400 cr

New Delhi, Oct 08 (PTI):

Leading jewellery firm Joyalukkas India Pvt Ltd plans to invest about Rs 2,400 crore in the next two financial years to open 30 new showrooms in India and ten outlets abroad, according to Chairman and Managing Director Joy Alukkas. The company is also preparing for an IPO (initial public offering) for further expansion of its business, he said.

Currently, Joyalukkas has 100 showrooms in India and 60 outlets in ten countries. "We have plans to expand our operations both in India and abroad. We are targeting to open 30 new showrooms in India,



while ten outside India in the next two financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26," Joy Alukkas told PTI in an interview. Alukkas said the company will invest on an average about Rs 60 crore on each showroom. "The total investment for opening 40 showrooms will be Rs 2,400 crore," he

said. Around 30 showrooms will be opened mostly in north India, while ten of them in other countries including Canada and Australia.

The investments will be made from internal accruals and bank loans. The showrooms will be entire-

ly owned by the company, he added.

Sharing about the IPO plans, Joy Alukkas said the company tried twice to go public in 2011 and 2022. The company could not bring an IPO in 2011 as the market was not favourable, while in 2022 there was a delay in the regulatory approval and the company's valuation by then had improved.

"We are internally preparing for an IPO. In the last three decades, the company has been operating like a family business. We are now trying to bring more transparency in the system as part of the IPO preparation process," he said.

Mobile phone exports from India almost double to \$5.5 bn till August

New Delhi, Oct 08 (PTI):

Mobile phone exports from India almost doubled to USD 5.5 billion, about Rs 45,700 crore, till August this financial year, according to industry body ICEA's estimates.

ICEA said, mobile phone exports from India between April-August 2023 was around USD 3 billion, about Rs 24,850 crore. A source, who did not wish to be named, said, with Apple exported mobile phones worth more than Rs 23,000 crore, thereby accounting for a little over half of the total export. An email query sent to Apple did not elicit any reply. Commenting on the overall mobile phone export, ICEA Chairman Pankaj Mohindroo told PTI that mobile phone exports from



India continue to buck the overall trend of muted global trade by registering a massive growth of more than 80 per cent. "India continues to strive hard to be a preferred location for GVCs. It is work in progress but the trend is positive," Mohindroo said. According to ICEA estimates, mobile phone exports from India have doubled to surpass Rs 90,000 crore, about USD 11.12 billion, in the financial year

(FY) 2022-23, from Rs 45,000 crore in FY22. The government expects mobile phone players to export devices worth Rs 1 lakh crore this year. The government has set the target of achieving USD 300 billion worth of electronics manufacturing by 2025-26, with USD 120 billion expected to come from exports. Mobile phones are anticipated to contribute more than USD 50 billion worth of exports by 2025-26.

NCLT directs Swan Energy to make upfront payment for Reliance Naval

New Delhi, Oct 08 (PTI):

The Ahmedabad bench of NCLT has asked Swan Energy, the firm that had won the bid to buy Reliance Naval and Engineering Ltd in an insolvency proceeding, to make the upfront payment it had proposed in the resolution plan, sources said.

Swan Energy is yet to make the upfront payment of around Rs 250 crore as proposed in the resolution plan, even as the second extended deadline ended on September 14.

The company has once again approached the NCLT seeking an unprecedented third extension of two months. Sources said, the Ahmedabad bench of NCLT heard Swan Energy's plea on October 5, and directed the compa-

ny to make the payment as proposed in the resolution plan, before it could consider its application for a third extension.

The next hearing in this matter is scheduled on November 22.

Swan Energy couldn't be immediately reached for comments.

As per the resolution plan approved by the NCLT Ahmedabad, Swan Energy was to make an upfront payment of Rs 293 crore to the lenders of RNEL by March 23, 2023, but on Swan's plea this deadline was extended to July 23, 2023.

As the company failed to arrange funds for making the upfront payment within the extended deadline, then it again approached the NCLT Ahmedabad to seek a second extension.

JSP plans to make Angul facility India's largest single-location steel plant: MD Bimlendra Jha



New Delhi, Oct 08 (PTI):

Jindal Steel and Power (JSP) is planning to make its Angul unit India's largest single-location steel manufacturing facility, its Managing Director Bimlendra Jha has said.

Currently, the capacity of the Odisha plant is being ramped up to 11.6 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) from the existing 5.6 MTPA, Jha told PTI in an interaction.

"We are more than doubling the capacity in Angul by next year...we have ambitions to further double it up to 24 MTPA, making it India's largest single-location steel plant," the managing director said without shar-

ing any timeline for the plan. The steel plant in Raigarh will also undergo an expansion of up to 9.6 MTPA from the current 3.6 MTPA, the company said in a statement.

On the expansion of the Angul plant, Jha said the company aims to complete the trial production by the end of 2023 and commercial production by next year.

On the outlook for the sector, Jha said India is on a growth trajectory. The government's thrust on infrastructure projects has led to the creation of domestic steel demand.

The demand growth rate is currently in the range of 7-8 per cent, he added.

Sun Pharma, Aurobindo recall drugs from US market

New Delhi, Oct 08 (PTI):

Leading drug makers Sun Pharmaceutical Industries and Aurobindo Pharma are recalling products from the US market due to manufacturing issues, according to the US Food & Drug Administration. As per the latest Enforcement Report issued by the American health regulator, a US-based subsidiary of Mumbai-based Sun Pharma is recalling 69,707 cartons of Cequa (cyclosporine ophthalmic solution) from the US market.

The medication is used for the treatment of dry eyes. New Jersey-based Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Inc is recalling the product for being

"Subpotent", USFDA stated. The company initiated the nationwide (US) Class III recall on September 7 this year.

As per the USFDA, a Class III recall is initiated in a "situation in which use of, or exposure to, a violative product is not likely to cause adverse health consequences".

The US health regulator stated that Aurobindo Pharma is recalling 9,890 bottles of Rasagiline Tablets, a medication indicated for the treatment of Parkinson's disease, from the US. New Jersey-based Aurobindo Pharma USA Inc, a unit of the Hyderabad-based drug major, is recalling the affected lot due to "Failed dissolution specifications", the USFDA noted.

Workshop on 'Tally Accounting Course'

At Chouksey College of Science and Commerce

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Oct 08: On 7th October 2023 workshop on Tally Accounting Course was organized by Chouksey college of science and commerce. The main objective of this workshop is to bring light to various aspects associated with this topic and to make bridge between academic knowledge and professional implementation and to equip fresh graduate for professional accounting career.

The program was inaugurated by the chief Paton of the program Dr. Ashish Jaiswal (Managing Director, Chouksey Group of College) he told that



this type of workshop is very beneficial for student, as well as teachers to explore their academic knowledge and to build up their career and he wish them well for their future

Dr. Mantosh Kumar

(Principal, Chouksey College of Science & Commerce) Said that this type of workshop should keep happening with an aim to empower students with the knowledge of ERP accounting

module.

(Registrar) of Chouksey college of science and commerce also appreciated the whole workshop Mr Ram Rajput (Head , Nicetec Bilaspur) Mr Rakesh Rajak (Placement Executive Head, Nicetec Bilaspur) were invited keynote speaker of the program. they shared various conceptual knowledge about tally

the whole program was conducted and coordinated by computer department of Chouksey college of science and commerce under the supervision of Mr Sumit Sinha(HOD, Computer Dept.) Chouksey College of Science and Commerce.)

SECR introduces experimental train stoppage

At Udalkachhar and Nagpur halt road station

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Oct 08: South East Central Railway's Bilaspur Division is providing experimental stoppage for two pairs of express trains at Udalkachhar and Nagpur Road Halt stations, which include train numbers 18241/18242 Durg-Ambikapur-Durg Express and train numbers 18755/18756 Shahdol-Ambikapur-Shahdol Express. This stoppage will greatly benefit the passengers, and people are expressing their happiness. Railway Minister, Government of India, and



Member of Parliament, Renuka Singh, have been thanked and appreciated for this initiative.

According to Bilaspur Railway Division, the experimental stops for train number 18241/18242 Durg-Ambikapur-Durg Express will be available from October 08 at Udalkachhar and Nagpur Road stations. Train number 18241 Durg-Ambikapur Express will arrive at Udalkachhar station at 4:03 AM and depart at 4:05 AM, while it will arrive at Nagpur Road station at 4:16 AM and depart at 4:18 AM. Similarly, train number 18242 Ambikapur-Durg Express will arrive at Nagpur Road station at 12:11 AM and depart at 12:13 AM, and at Udalkachhar station, it will arrive at 12:24 AM and depart at 12:26 AM.

Furthermore, starting from October 8, experimental stops for train numbers 18755/18756 Shahdol-Ambikapur-Shahdol Express will arrive at Udalkachhar station at 4:51 PM and depart at 4:53 PM, while it will arrive at Nagpur Road station at 5:04 PM and depart at 5:06 PM. Train number 18756 Ambikapur-Shahdol Express will arrive at Nagpur Road station at 10:31 PM and depart at 10:33 PM, and at Udalkachhar station, it will arrive at 10:44 PM and depart at 10:46 PM.

Bhoomipujan ceremony ushers development initiatives

In Jarvaidih village

Central Chronicle News

Anwari, Oct 08: An auspicious Bhoomipujan ceremony was held to initiate the construction of a shed and fertilizer warehouse, valued at Rs 17.38 lakhs, and the construction of a concrete road, with a budget of Rs 9.51 lakhs, in Jarvaidih village. These projects were sanctioned based on the demands voiced during a meeting with the Chief Minister in Semra B village.

The ceremony was graced by prominent figures, including Neelam Chandrakar, President of the Agricultural Produce Market Committee Kurud, who attended as the Chief



Guest. Other dignitaries present included Mukesh Kosare, President of the Block Congress Committee Bhakhara; Leena Kosare, a member of the Kurud Market Committee; Bisauha Sahu, a member of the Kurud Market Committee; Mukesh Sahu, President of the Sahu Community; Motilal Singh, former

District Council Member; Smrita Akhilesh, Branch Manager Bhakhara; and Hukum Chand Sinha, Committee Manager in Semra B.

Chief Guest Neelam Chandrakar emphasized that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the Chhattisgarh government is dedicated



to the comprehensive development of all sections of society. The construction of the shed and fertilizer storage warehouse in Semra B will resolve any issues related to fertilizer storage for local farmers. Additionally, the construction of a concrete road in the main route of Jarvaidih will provide essential facilities to the residents of Jarvaidih.

District Panchayat President Tarani Chandrakar presided over the ceremony, which was attended by numerous prominent members, as well as a large number of rural residents, symbolizing the collective commitment to the region's development and progress.

Ch'garhi Olympics revives traditional sports: Mahilang

Government's commitment to sports highlighted at Kabaddi event

Central Chronicle News

Mahasamund, Oct 08: Congress leader and Municipal Council President Mrs. Rashi Tripathi Mahilang received a warm welcome from the organizing committee during her participation in the state-level Kabaddi competition held in memory of martyr Veer Narayan in Gudrudih village. Mahilang praised the Bhupesh Baghel government for its unwavering support for traditional sports and highlighted the success of the Chhattisgarhi Olympics.

Under Bhupesh Baghel's leadership, the Chhattisgarh government has actively promoted sports, providing people of all ages with opportunities to engage in traditional sports such as kho-kho, gilli-danda, and pitthu through the Chhattisgarhi Olympics initiative.



Mahilang recognized that these traditional sports were fading into obscurity but expressed her appreciation for the government's efforts to revive them and offer people the chance to participate once again. She extended her congratulations to the victorious Kabaddi players and stressed the importance of playing sports with a true sporting spirit. She also emphasized that in sports, there are lessons to be learned from both wins and losses, with defeats serving as valuable stepping stones towards future victories. The program was also addressed by other dignitaries, including Janpad Member Ramakant Dhruv, Councilor Nihilkant Sahu, and a large number of rural residents and athletes present at the event.

MLA Ajay Chandrakar spearheads Kurud town progress

Inauguration and Foundation Stones for numerous projects cement a bright future

Central Chronicle News

Kurud, Oct 08: Kurud town is experiencing a wave of positive transformation, thanks to the unwavering commitment of MLA Ajay Chandrakar. With abundant support from both state and central government resources, development work is forging ahead, bringing prosperity to the community.

Today, a momentous occasion unfolded as the town celebrated the inauguration and foundation stone-laying ceremonies for numerous projects across various wards. The enthusiasm and active involvement of the town's residents have been instrumental in driving these initiatives.

These remarkable projects, financed through MLA funds, were official-



ly unveiled during a heartfelt ceremony organized by the municipal council. Distinguished dignitaries and community leaders graced the event, including Krishna Kumar Bais, Nandu Chandrakar, Rajkumar Chandrakar, Malkaram Sahu, Krishnakant Sahu, and Mulchand

Sinha, along with dedicated BJP officials and party members.

The event was further enriched by the presence of the Chief Medical Officer, dedicated engineers, municipal council employees, and diligent development contractors, all playing crucial roles in propelling Kurud's development projects forward.

MLA Ajay Chandrakar expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the attendees, esteemed citizens, and the entire Kurud municipal council family for their unwavering support, underscoring their indispensable role as partners in the town's journey towards prosperity.

Illegal encroachments cleared from Arsitola

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Oct 08: A commendable effort by the administration has revitalized Arsitola in Gram Panchayat Kokpur, as illegal encroachments were removed using a bulldozer. The encroachments, which had plagued the government land for years, have been cleared, and the area now stands as a symbol of reclaiming community spaces.

The government land, identified as Khasra number 278, measuring 2.873 hectares and situated at the Gram Arsitola bus stand, had been unlawfully occupied, with permanent structures erected by encroachers.

Despite multiple notices from the Gram Panchayat urging the encroachers to vacate the area, the encroachments persisted. The final notice set for removal by October 7 at 10 AM went unheeded.



In a swift response, the administration, assisted by a JCB, demolished all the encroached buildings on Saturday, October 7. Businesses such as mobile shops, cycle stores, general stores, clothing shops, hotels, and paan kiosks that had operated for years on this government land have now been cleared.

However, there is a debate among the general public regarding the distribution of Patta by MLA Daaleswar Sahu to encroachers in Dongargaon

city, whereas in the rural area of Arsitola, people who had been running small businesses by encroaching on this land for years were forcefully evacuated with the help of the local administration.

What official says

In Gram Panchayat Kokpur, action was taken under the Panchayat Adhiniyam (Panchayat Act) by the Gram Panchayat, and the operation to remove encroachments was carried out by the Revenue Department. Encroachers already had their own invested land, and therefore, encroaching on government land separately was considered unlawful.

- P.L. Nag, Tehsildar Dongargaon

Visheshar Patel's potential candidacy brings joy to Pandariya

Central Chronicle News

Pandariya, Oct 08: Pandariya's political landscape is abuzz with enthusiasm as senior RSS leader and former Chhattisgarh Gauseva Commission President, Visheshar Patel, finds his name on the BJP's list of potential candidates for the Pandariya Assembly constituency.

The inclusion of experienced figures like Patel in the BJP's candidate pool has presented a formidable challenge to the opposition. Known for his down-to-earth demeanor and deep community ties, Patel's influence extends beyond politics into the social fabric of the region. He hails from the village of Rohara, near the block headquarters, and has been actively involved in social service alongside his teaching career, which commenced in 1984.

During his teaching tenure, Patel served in various schools across Pandariya, including



Visheshar Patel

Kodwa, Godon, Pandatarai, Laduwa, and Kumhi. In 2013, he retired from government service to dedicate himself to social work. Patel has consistently contributed to the RSS across different roles, including at the Mandal, Khand, district, and departmental cooperatives levels.

Having taught in Sangh education classes for 14 years, Patel also held the position of former president of Gauseva Aayog Chhattisgarh and has frequently taken on the responsibilities of class caretaker. Currently, he

diligently serves as the state coordinator for the BJP's education cell. His efforts have been instrumental in raising public awareness about the Modi government's new education policy.

In addition to his political contributions, Patel has been running a school in the Baizalpur region of Bastar at a nominal fee for the past 12 years. He has also operated a school in Lohara village for two decades.

Visheshar Patel, designated as the campaign in-charge for the upcoming assembly elections, is now a potential BJP candidate for the Pandariya constituency. Over the past year, he has maintained an active public presence, fostering strong connections with the local populace. His inclusion on the list of potential BJP candidates has ignited a wave of enthusiasm among the region's residents. Patel's deep-rooted rapport with all segments of society is poised to attract widespread support.

Central Chronicle News

Pithora, Oct 08: Pithora Municipality witnessed a historic moment as a groundbreaking ceremony for various urban development projects, worth an impressive Rs 30 Crores 22 Lakhs, was held. Distinguished members of society, including the Municipal Council President, Vice-President, and councillors, graced the occasion with their presence.

The event commenced with Chief Guest Raja Devendra Bahadur Singh, President of the Forest Development Corporation and MLA of Basna, presiding over the Municipal Council. President Aatmaram Yadav, Special Guest Dilpreet Khanoja, Deputy Chairman of the Municipal Council, and Councillors Kartik Ram



Thakur, Padmavati Patel, Reena Sahu, Lokesh Dhruv, Premrajan Rautia, and Kashi Ram Sharma addressed the enthusiastic audience. The program featured the vibrant Chhattisgarh Mahatari Puja and patriotic songs. CMO Mahendra Gupta extended a warm welcome to all the esteemed guests, and Raja Devendra Bahadur Singh Basna, President of the Forest Development Corporation

and MLA, expressed confidence that the groundbreaking ceremony for multi-crore development projects in Pithora Municipality would mark a significant milestone. Singh lauded the fulfillment of prominent demands like the 'Gaurav Path' during Aatmaram Yadav's tenure as the President of the municipal council. He also expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel

and State Minister for Urban Administration Shiv Dahariya for their dedicated efforts in preserving Chhattisgarh's rich traditional sports, festivals, and religious celebrations. President Aatmaram Yadav commended the Bhupesh government's initiatives and announced future plans, including the purchase of paddy at Rs. 2,800 per quintal and increased rates for

Tendupatta standard sacks.

Yadav also pledged a monthly stipend of Rs. 2,500 for educated unemployed youth and a yearly grant of Rs. 7,000 for landless farmers, benefiting 390 laborers. He highlighted government schemes and thanked the people of Pithora for their unwavering support in ongoing development endeavors, emphasizing Pithora's remarkable progress.

Before the ceremony, Kulwant Khanoja, former Deputy President of the Municipal Council, and Ajay Nand addressed the gathering. The chief guest, Raja Devendra Bahadur Singh, received a warm welcome with fireworks and garlands from various social groups at multiple locations, reflecting the community's excitement and enthusiasm.

Kohli and Rahul lead India to victory in World Cup opener

Chennai, Oct 08 (PTI): In a thrilling World Cup opener held in Chennai on Sunday, India secured a resounding six-wicket victory over Australia, adding two valuable points to their campaign. The dynamic duo of Virat Kohli and KL Rahul emerged as the architects of this impressive triumph, contributing scores of 87 and 97, respectively. Despite a shaky start that saw top-order batsmen Rohit Sharma, Ishan Kishan, and Shreyas Iyer dismissed for ducks, India's fortunes took a dramatic turn. Kohli and Rahul forged a formidable partnership, steering the team comfortably to victory with 8.4 overs to spare. Rahul's breathtaking six to celebrate his near-century was a fitting conclusion to the match. Prior to India's chase, Ravindra Jadeja proved to be the nemesis of Australian batsmen on a challenging Chepauk pitch, finishing with figures of 3 for 28 in his 10 overs. His familiarity

with the pitch, stemming from his association with Chennai Super Kings, played a pivotal role. Ravichandran Ashwin (2/34 in 10 overs) and Kuldeep Yadav (2/42 in 10 overs) also made significant contributions. The Indian spin trio bowled an astonishing 101 dot balls, effectively strangling the Australian run flow. David Warner and Steve Smith managed to add 69 runs for Australia, but their cautious approach, coupled with their discomfort against the Indian spinners and inability to execute the sweep shot, hindered their progress. Kuldeep Yadav's crucial wicket of Warner further tilted the balance in India's favor. Australia, once positioned at 110 for 2, found themselves struggling at 119 for 5 as the Indian bowlers maintained relentless pressure. India's remarkable victory in this high-stakes encounter marks a promising start to their World Cup campaign.



Dutch face stern test after New Zealand's high-flying start

Hyderabad, Oct 08 (PTI): Having already played their opening encounters in the ongoing Cricket World Cup, it is time for New Zealand and the Netherlands to venture deep into the tournament, as they face each other here on Monday. The Kiwis played the competition opener on Thursday against defending champions England, pummeling the 2019 champions by nine wickets and once again showing the intent to go deep into the tournament. Although England posted a decent 282 for the loss of nine wickets, the New Zealanders chased down the target in 36.2 overs, thanks to Devon Conway (152 not out) and Rachin Ravindra (123 not out) playing blazing innings. New Zealand achieved the win without their regular skipper Kane Williamson, who is yet to regain match fitness having nursed an ACL injury he suffered during the IPL earlier this year. Tom Latham, who led the side against the Three Lions, will continue wearing the captain's band on Monday as well after Kiwi head coach Gary Stead indicated Williamson is still not fully match-fit to feature against the Dutch. "Kane's also been



New Zealand's Devon Conway during a practice session on the eve of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 match against Netherlands.

Match starts: 2:00 pm. will finalise the team once we have got through that training. At this stage with Kane, we are looking like the third game is when he will start the tournament," he added. While veteran pacer Tim Southee's inclusion in the team also looks unlikely, as he is recovering from a broken and dislocated thumb, fellow speedster Lockie Ferguson should be available provided he clears the fitness test on Sunday. As for the Dutch, they were in a tough encounter against Pakistan on Friday, which the latter won by 81 runs. However, the Dutch did have their moments in the match, especially early on in the contest as they managed to get rid of three Pakistani batters in powerplay. Also, with the bat, opener Vikramjit Singh (52) and Bas de Leede (67) gave a strong fight-back but still fell short. While the Dutch bowling seems sorted, it is their batting that needs more consistency, especially in the middle order. Skipper Scott Edwards is yet to touch the 30-run mark in the last four ODIs. The two sides have met on four occasions in the format so far, with New Zealand winning all the matches.

Ayush Shetty ends World Junior Championships campaign with bronze

New Delhi, Oct 08 (PTI): Ayush Shetty's stellar run at the BWF World Junior Championships in Spokane, USA came to an end on Sunday as he finished his campaign with a bronze medal. Ayush became the 10th Indian to win a medal at the BWF World Junior Championships and the eighth men's singles shuttler to do so. India have won 11 medals in the competition with Saina Nehwal contributing a silver and gold in 2006 and 2008 respectively. In a closely contested match, Ayush faced the tournament fourth seed, Alwi Farhan of Indonesia. The first game saw Ayush and his opponent

locked in a tight battle, with the score tied at 16-16. It was at this pivotal moment that his opponent gained the upper hand, secured quick points and Ayush ultimately succumbed, losing the game with a score of 18-21. With the momentum in his favour, Alwi took an early lead of 40 in the second game. Ayush displayed resilience, and managed to tie the scores at 13-13. However, he couldn't maintain his rhythm, and conceded a flurry of points to his opponent, ultimately resulting in a 15-21 loss. India's Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian had won the silver medal in the men's singles in the last edition of World Junior Championships in Spain.

Sri Lanka fined for slow over-rate

New Delhi, Oct 08 (PTI): Sri Lanka have been fined 10 per cent of their match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate against South Africa in their ICC World Cup opener here. Match referee Javagal Srinath imposed the sanction after Dasun Shanaka's side was ruled to be two overs short of the target during Saturday's match after time allowances were taken into consideration. In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined five per cent of their match fees for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time. Shanaka pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing.

Dhiraj Reddy, Riya U-16 top seeds in Fenesta Open

New Delhi, Oct 08 (PTI): Telangana's V Dhiraj Reddy and Delhi girl Riya Sachdeva were awarded top seeding in the Under-16 section of the 28th Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship 2023 to be held at the DLTA Complex from October 9 to 14. The tournament is set to witness more than 180 young talents battling it out for the U-16 and U-14 titles across different categories, a media statement said. In the U-16 category, 56 boys and 40 girls will play for the singles titles, while the doubles matches will see the participa-

tion of 32 players in the boys and girls categories, respectively. Riya had won the girls U-18 doubles title with Maharashtra's Asmi Adkar in the Fenesta Open recently. The U-14 singles will see participation of 40 girls and 56 boys. The U-14 doubles category will see 32 players vying for top honours in the boys and girls divisions respectively. The finals of the doubles category will take place on Friday, while the singles final will be played on Saturday. The tournament also offers a kit allowance for the junior categories.

Aussie batter hits fastest ever ton in a one-day match

Adelaide, Oct 08 (AP): South Australia's Jake Fraser-McGurk has scored the fastest century in List A cricket, reaching the milestone in just 29 deliveries in a domestic one-day match against Tasmania on Sunday. Fraser-McGurk reached his hundred in the eighth over of the run chase at Karen Rolton Oval, bettering the record of 31 deliveries by South Africa's AB de Villiers against the West Indies in 2015. The 21-year-old blasted a half-century off 18 deliveries, an Australian one-day domestic record, and he needed just 11 more balls to bring up his ton, including taking 32 runs off one over.

South Korea beat Japan to take gold at Asian Games

Hangzhou, Oct 08 (AP): South Korea's men defeated Japan 2-1 to take soccer gold at the Asian Games and also collected the much bigger prize of military exemption. All male gold-medal winners at the Games are, by South Korean law, granted exemptions from the 18 to 21 months of military that all able-bodied men must start by the time they turn 28. Instead, Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Lee Kang-in along with 21 other players in the roster will only be required to do 544 hours of community service. It is the third successive triumph in the tournament for South Korea after winning gold in 2014 and 2018, when English Premier

League star Son Heung-min and Bayern Munich defender Kim Min-jae were triumphant. The 2018 final saw victory against Japan and revenge looked possible as Kotaro Uchino put the Blues ahead within 90 seconds, shooting high into the net from close range. Just before the half-hour, Stuttgart midfielder and tournament top scorer Jeong Woo-yeong netted his eighth goal with a powerful header to level the scoreline. Ten minutes after the restart, a low shot from Cho Young-wook put South Korea ahead. The remaining 35 minutes were comfortable for the victor as it recorded a seventh win out of seven in the tournament, scoring 27 goals and conceding just three.

Colorful closing ceremony marks end of memorable Asian Games



Hangzhou, Oct 08 (PTI):

The curtains were brought down on a memorable Asian Games with the celebration of the athletes' stupendous feats and China's cultural heritage at a colourful and technologically mesmerising closing ceremony here on Sunday. A festive atmosphere descended on the 80,000 capacity 'Big Lotus' Stadium in the 75-minute show of light, sound and laser with the athletes of the 45 participating countries bidding farewell after more than two weeks of intense sporting competition. The closing ceremony was a celebration of sports and culture, and it sought to realise a harmonic convergence of 'Culture and Sports'. Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) acting chief Randhir Singh declared the 19th edition of the Asian Games closed in the presence of Chinese pre-



Flag-bearer PR Sreejesh leads the Indian contingent during the closing ceremony.

mier Li Qiang and other dignitaries. "I declare the 19th Hangzhou Asian Games closed and as per the tradition call upon the youth of Asia to assemble in three years time in Aichi-Nagoya (Japan) to celebrate the 20th Asian Games there in accordance with the ideals of the Olympic Council of Asia.

"May the youth of Asia ever celebrate the Asian Games in the spirit of brotherhood and for the good of humanity," Singh said. "Over the past 16 days, we have shared many unforgettable moments in this magnificent city. And it is time to say 'Shay Shay, Hangzhou' for a wonderful and

memorable Asian Games," said the veteran administrator. "Asia and the world loves Hangzhou! You have been the perfect host and the OCA will never forget this. I would like to thank the Chinese Government, the Chinese Olympic Committee, the people of Hangzhou and HAGOC for what you have done and en-

sured that the Hangzhou Asian Games were an unprecedented success." The biggest Asian Games ever was brought to an end with China dominating the medals table once again, the 201 gold (along with 111 silver and 71 bronze) beating the 199 they collected at 2010 Guangzhou Games. Japan (52 gold, 67 silver, 69 bronze) and South Korea (42

gold, 59 silver, 89 bronze) were second and third with India finishing at fourth with a record haul of 107 medals (28 gold, 38 silver, 41 bronze). Thirteen world records, 26 Asian records and 97 Games records were broken during the Games, according to OCA acting director general Vinod Kumar Tiwari. The stadium

saw less attendance than the opening ceremony on September 23 but the crowd joined the athletes and volunteers. The flag bearers of all the countries came out first before the other athletes and officials joined. Men's hockey team goalkeeper PR Sreejesh was the Indian flag bearer. There were around 100 Indian athletes and officials in the parade, as many of them had already left for home after the end of their respective events. The organisers said 12,407 athletes from 45 nations competed in 40 sports at the Hangzhou Games, which were delayed by a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In a sombre ceremony, the torch and flag of the first Asian Games in New Delhi in 1951 as well as the OCA flag was handed to the governor of Japan's Nagoya-Aichi, the 2026 edition host city.

Earthquakes kill over 2,000 in Afghanistan

Islamabad, Oct 08 (AP)

Powerful earthquakes killed at least 2,000 people in western Afghanistan, a Taliban government spokesman said Sunday. It's one of the deadliest earthquakes to strike the country in two decades.

The figures couldn't be independently verified.

The magnitude-6.3 earthquake was followed by strong aftershocks on Saturday, a spokesperson for the country's national disaster management authority said.

The United States Geological Survey said the quake's epicentre was about 40 kilometres (25 miles) northwest of Herat city.

It was followed by three very strong aftershocks, measuring magnitude 6.3, 5.9 and 5.5, as well as lesser shocks.

On Sunday, people attempted to dig out the dead and injured with their hands in Herat, clamber-



An Afghan boy hold his cat, as he sits in a courtyard of his destroyed home after an earthquake in Zenda Jan district in Herat province, of western Afghanistan, Sunday.

ing over rocks and debris.

Survivors and victims were trapped under buildings that had crumbled to the ground, their faces grey with dust.

One video, shared online, shows people freeing a baby girl from a collapsed building after being buried up to her neck in debris.

A hand is seen cradling the baby's torso as rescuers ease the child out of

the ground. Rescuers said it was the baby's mother. It is not clear if the mother survived.

Abdul Wahid Rayan, a spokesman at the Ministry of Information and Culture, said Sunday the death toll is higher than originally reported.

Villages have been destroyed, and hundreds of civilians are buried under the debris, he said while calling for urgent

help. "Besides the 2,060 dead, 1,240 people are injured and 1,320 houses are completely destroyed," said Rayan.

At least a dozen teams have been scrambled to help with rescue efforts, including from the military and nonprofit organisations like the Red Crescent.

The United Nations migration agency has deployed four ambulances with doctors and psychosocial support counsellors to the regional hospital.

At least three mobile health teams are on their way to the Zenda Jan district, which is one of the worst affected areas.

Doctors Without Borders set up five medical tents at Herat Regional Hospital to accommodate up to 80 patients. Authorities have treated more than 300 patients, according to the agency.

'Capability development key to maritime security of Andamans'

Port Blair, Oct 08 (PTI)



Air Marshal Balakrishnan

Mere patrolling is not enough to ensure the maritime security of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and capability development across the spectrum is required to combat "invisible enemies" in the region, a senior air force officer said.

The future of maritime security in the archipelago will depend on the way India enhances its capability in this region, said Air Marshal Saju Balakrishnan, Commander-in-Chief, Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN).

"Andaman Nicobar has now become a strategic outpost as far as India's security is concerned. We here clearly understand the important role that it plays in the overall strategic scenario. Every day,

many international ships pass through this region, and our government is very much aware that we need to enhance our capability," he told PTI at his command office here.

"Towards this end, we have assurance from the government of India that funds are no limitation. It is only a matter of building up the capability; so we are looking at capabili-

ty development across the entire spectrum - right from military infrastructure and domestic accommodation to the infrastructure required for future inductions," he said.

Talking more about maritime security, Balakrishnan said unlike the eastern and northern borders where the adversaries are known, the Indian Ocean (this region) has "invisible enemies".

Balakrishnan, who is serving as the 17th CINCAN, was awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2021 and Vayu Sena Medal in 2012 for distinguished service.

"When I talk about invisible enemies, I mean that in the conventional domain, we are aware of the adversaries. Even when we talk about the eastern and northern borders, we know that these

are the adversaries and the activities undertaken by them are clearly known to you. The visibility is 100 percent.

"But in the sub-conventional domain, there are a number of players who are active... In this domain, the threat extends across the spectrum and that is the grey area which we have to prepare for," he said.

Nearly 30 per cent of India's exclusive economic zone falls in this vast region, Balakrishnan said.

"To secure the region, it has to be a combination of space-based surveillance, aircraft patrolling and ship-based patrolling, along with intelligence feedback from a number of agencies. These combinations are the only way to ensure safety and security of this beautiful archipelago," he added.

'Education body CBE being remodelled, older version really broad'

New Delhi, Oct 08 (PTI)

The Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), the high-powered committee that advises the government on policy decisions about education, is being remodelled as its older version is really broad, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan told PTI in an interview.

Pradhan said at a time when a paradigm shift is being undertaken by implementing the new education policy, CABE also needs to be remodelled as demands of today's education system are different.

The board's members include the Union education minister, the minister of state for education, the education ministers of various states, and the heads of bodies like the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the National



Dharmendra Pradhan

Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), among others.

The last meeting of the CABE was held in September, 2019, and Pradhan has not chaired any meeting of the advisory board.

Asked about the reason why there has been no meeting of the board for three years, Pradhan said, "CABE is being reconstituted."

"...its older version is very broad. The demands of today's education system are different. We are

introducing the concept of Balvatikas for the first time, but their is no child specialist in CABE, research and development has undergone a paradigm shift, industry connect is being talked about... keeping all these in mind, CABE needs to be remodelled," Pradhan said.

According to education ministry records, the general practice of the board has been to hold a meeting every year. While there have previously been years with no meetings, this is the first time in a decade that the committee has not met for a three-year period with no plans for a meeting in the near future.

The 2019 meeting also took place after a delay of over a year and a half. The main agenda of this meeting was the discussion on the draft of the National Education Policy (NEP).

'Call for fossil fuel phase-out on global stocktake agenda'

UN REPORT

New Delhi, Oct 08 (PTI)

Calls to phase out unabated fossil fuels, reform subsidies on it and triple global renewable energy capacity may find their way into the outcome of the first-ever global stocktake, a periodic assessment of collective efforts to achieve the Paris Agreement goals.

Initiated in Glasgow in 2021, the first-ever global stocktake will conclude at the annual climate talks (COP28) in Dubai in December.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) recently released a report summarising submissions made by countries and non-party stakeholders regarding the political response to the global stocktake.

"They will inform negotiations but there's no guarantee any particular

element will make it into the final text. With that said, fossil fuel phase-out is prominently featured in this long list of possible decision elements," Natalie Jones, a policy advisor at climate policy think tank International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), said.

According to the UNFCCC report, possible elements of the global stocktake outcome could include a call to parties on "phase-out of fossil fuels, support global commitment to accelerate the phase-out of unabated fossil fuels, and efforts to phase out inefficient fuel subsidies by 2025, supported by enabling environments and upscaling investments in renewable energy".

The International Energy Agency (IEA) said in September that global demand for oil, natural gas and coal is likely to peak by 2030. The IEA termed it an encouraging development but "not nearly

enough" to limit the rise in global average temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Countries promised to phase out "inefficient" fossil fuel subsidies at COP26 in Glasgow in 2021 and COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh in 2022, but they hit record highs in 2022.

A report that came ahead of the G20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi in September said countries in the bloc allocated a staggering USD 1.4 trillion of public funds to support fossil fuels in 2022, aiming to counter the impact of their soaring prices due to the Ukraine war and strengthen energy reserves. Earth's global surface temperature has risen by around 1.15 degrees Celsius. The CO2 spewed mostly by the developed countries into the atmosphere since the start of the industrial revolution is closely tied to it.

In the business-as-usual scenario, the world is heading for a temperature

rise of around 3 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.

Climate science says the world must halve emissions by 2030 from the 2009 levels to limit global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius as compared to the pre-industrial levels to avoid extreme, destructive and likely irreversible effects of climate change.

According to global agencies, the last four months (June, July, August and September) were the hottest on record, with 2023 on track to be the warmest year ever.

Developing countries argue that wealthier nations should take greater responsibility for emission reductions, given their massive historical emissions and provide the necessary means of implementation, including finance and technology, to assist developing and vulnerable nations in transitioning to clean energy and adapting to climate

change.

The global stocktake outcome may also include a call for a "global phase-out of unabated coal power generation by 2040 in a just manner" and tripling the capacity deployment of renewable and clean energy by 2030.

Doubling the rate of energy efficiency improvements from 2.2 per cent to over 4 per cent annually across sectors by 2030 is also among the possible elements listed in the UN report for discussion at COP28. The final discussions could also include a call for supporting the doubling of low-carbon hydrogen production across sectors by 2030 and recognising the role of natural gas as an efficient transitional fuel. The UNFCCC report highlights the possible element that the global North cannot be asking to end financing for fossil fuels in the global South "without taking corresponding actions" in their own countries.

HC dismisses man's plea for NOC from estranged wife

For having child through surrogacy

New Delhi, Oct 08 (PTI)

The Delhi High Court has dismissed a man's plea seeking a no objection certificate from his estranged wife for having a child through surrogacy.

The man, 54, stated that because of his advancing age and the fact that the conclusion of the divorce proceedings would take a long time, he had no option but to have a child through surrogacy to "carry his DNA line forward".

He also assailed a family court order refusing to direct the estranged wife to issue the no objection certificate for a surrogate mother.

A bench headed by Justice Suresh Kumar Kait observed that it was difficult to comprehend the husband's intention to have a child through surrogacy during the subsistence of the marriage as it may lead to unwarranted complications not only for the couple but also for the child.

It stated that The Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, provides for a comprehensive procedure to be followed in case a person intends to have a child through surrogacy and in the present case, the woman rightly rejected the husband's plea.

It noted that under the law, the child is to be handed over to the "intending couple" by the woman and the Act de-

fines a couple as "legally married Indian man and woman above the age of 21 years and 18 years respectively".

"We find no merit in the appeal, whereby the appellant has sought a child through surrogacy without following the procedures as enacted in the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, which is hereby dismissed," the bench, also comprising Justice Neena Bansal Krishna, said in a recent order.

"The divorce petition has been filed only in 2022 and his claim that he is now 54 years old and the divorce petition may take long, does not appeal to reason. He may seek expeditious disposal of his divorce petition," the court ruled.

India's Territorial Army inducts Mandarin language experts

New Delhi, Oct 08 (PTI)

The Territorial Army has inducted a batch of Mandarin language experts and posted them in forward areas, a step that seeks to enhance linguistic capabilities of the Indian side during border talks with the Chinese army.

Besides, the Territorial Army (TA) is also engaged in "advanced stages" of discussion and has "identified criteria" for hiring some cyber security experts, sources said.

The TA, which has served the nation in times of war and peace, will mark its 75th Raising Day on Monday.

The batch of five Mandarin language experts will play a role as interpreters between Indian and Chinese sides during Border Personnel Meetings, a defence source said.

"These experts will aid the Indian Army in understanding exactly what is being told from the other (Chinese Army's) side. This will in turn help in understanding a scenario better from India's perspective," the source added.

But, they can also be deployed in jobs other than aiding the Indian Army in BFM, another source said.

The move comes nearly three years after the eastern Ladakh border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries that erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the

Pangong Lake areas.

The Indian and Chinese troops are locked in an over three-year confrontation in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh even as the two sides completed disengagement from several areas following extensive diplomatic and military talks.

The two sides hold Border Personnel Meetings at five points — Daulat Beg Oldie in northern Ladakh, Kibithu in Arunachal Pradesh, Chusul in Ladakh, Bum-La near Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh and Nathu-La in Sikkim. Usually, both sides resolve various operational issues at the BFM.

Speaking about the formation of the TA, the defence source said, "The TA was raised on October 9, 1949, and now we have just entered into our 75th year of existence, and have served the nation in times of war, and in humanitarian and environment protection works through its eventful journey over these decades."

It was raised on the concept of being a 'citizen soldier's army'. Besides augmenting the organisational requirements, the TA also provides an opportunity to able-bodied volunteer citizens of India, especially those who are overage for enrollment in the regular army, to serve the nation in uniform.

Keeping pace with changing times, the TA units are also evolving and undertaking various steps to transform to "remain current and responsive to the emerging environment," the sources said.

One such step is the recruitment of five "Chinese (Mandarin) language experts this year," the source said. "The process to hire these experts in the first phase began in January and the process was completed a few months ago (around August).

The process was rigorous and entailed both a written and oral examination of various candidates who have expertise in Mandarin language," the source added.

And, the "best in the country" in this field of language have been hired. The average age of these hired experts is 30 years.

Of the 60 current TA units, 43 are Infantry

TA units and integrated with the Indian Army and have been used in war and now in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism roles in Jammu & Kashmir and the Northeast, the sources said.

In addition to secu-

rity-related duties, TA units are actively involved in "perception management" towards winning the hearts and minds of the local populace, including in the Jammu and Kashmir region, they said.

SC to hear on Oct 9 Satyendar Jain's bail plea

In money-laundering case

New Delhi, Oct 08 (PTI)

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a bail plea of former Delhi minister Satyendar Kumar Jain in a money laundering case lodged against him.

A bench of Justice A S Bopanna and Justice Bela M Trivedi will continue hearing the petition of Satyendar Jain and co-accused Anshu Jain.

On September 25, the top court, while extending the interim bail of Jain till

October 9, asked him to not make the pendency of the proceedings before the apex court a ruse to delay the trial in the case.

The Enforcement Directorate has claimed that the AAP leader was seeking repeated adjournments in the trial court on the ground that his bail plea was pending before the apex court. The probe agency has alleged that Jain has taken as many as 16 dates from the trial court. The Supreme Court had on May 26 granted interim bail to Jain for six weeks for spinal surgery, saying a citizen has a right to receive treatment

of his choice in a private hospital at his own expense. On September 12, it extended till September 25 the interim bail of Jain in the case.

The ED had arrested the AAP leader on May 30 last year on the charge of money laundering through four companies allegedly linked to him. It had arrested Jain based on a CBI FIR registered against him in 2017 under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

He was granted regular bail by the trial court on September 6, 2019, in the case registered by the CBI.

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