

### BRIEF



A potter paints earthen lamps ahead of Diwali, in Jalandhar, Wednesday.

### Scanner

**Bengaluru:** Teams of senior officials from Karnataka Forest Department on Wednesday visited various places in different parts of the state to probe if celebrities and others against whom complaints have been received are in possession of wildlife articles, officials said. The Forest Department's move comes days after contestant of Bigg Boss Kannada reality show Varthur Santosh was arrested from the set on Sunday for allegedly wearing a tiger claw pendant. He was later sent to 14 days in judicial custody.

### Groups clash

**Kolkata:** Two groups, allegedly owing allegiance to the Trinamool Congress, clashed during the immersion of Durga idols in West Bengal's Murshidabad district, a police officer said on Wednesday. The incident took place on Tuesday night when supporters of Sukanya Dutta, the councillor of ward 10 of Kandi municipality in the district, clashed with followers of Gurupada Mukherjee, ex-councillor of ward 9, and then attacked the latter's residence and ransacked it over organising a Durga Puja in the locality, he said.

### Hackathon

**New Delhi:** A national hackathon was announced on Wednesday to identify tools for the safe usage of 5G technology by police during sensitive dealings. A curtain-raiser to the exercise, named Vimarsh-2023, was conducted on Wednesday and its teaser was released on the website -- <https://vimarsh.tcoe.in> -- by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) and the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C).

### Double murder

**Koraput:** Tension prevailed at Kunduli in Odisha's Koraput district after two youths were murdered on Wednesday, police said. The deceased, who were in their mid-30s, have been identified as Gobardhan Pandka of Tema village and Raj Kumar Rudhi of Kunduli, police added.

### FIR

**Kochi:** Kerala police have lodged an FIR against YouTube, Facebook and some others in connection with a filmmaker's complaint of negative reviews being uploaded on the two social media platforms regarding his movie. Besides the two platforms, the list of accused includes the owner of a cinema promotion company and several Facebook and YouTube account holders who allegedly posted the negative reviews.

**Weather**  
High 31 Low 18

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 19,122.15  
SENSEX 64,049.06

**BULLION**  
GOLD 60,800  
SILVER 71,850

### COAL LEVY CASE

## PMLA court issues fresh notices, next hearing on Dec 6

Raipur, Oct 25:

A special court here on Wednesday ordered the issuance of fresh notices against around a dozen accused being probed in the alleged coal levy money laundering case in Chhattisgarh.

The PMLA court has also fixed December 6 as the next date of hearing in the case.

The Enforcement Directorate's lawyer Saurabh Pandey said none of the accused, except Rajesh Choudhary, who is on bail, appeared before the court on Wednesday.

Notices of some of the accused have been returned unserved while the service report of serving



Filephoto

the court summons against some others is awaited, he said. The court has ordered the issuance of fresh notices to the rest of the accused, Pandey added. Sources said the fresh notices have been issued by the court against around a dozen accused.

The federal agency has filed two charge sheets in this case till now under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

### Prime accused...

The federal agency has filed two charge sheets in this case till now under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Nine people, including the Chhattisgarh government's bureaucrat Saumya Chaurasia, prime accused Suryakant Tiwari, his uncle Laxmikant Tiwari and Chhattisgarh-cadre IAS officer Sameer Vishnoi, were arrested by the ED in the case.

Nine people, including the Chhattisgarh government's bureaucrat Saumya Chaurasia, prime accused Suryakant Tiwari, his uncle Laxmikant Tiwari and Chhattisgarh-cadre IAS officer Sameer Vishnoi, were arrested by the ED in

the case. The agency had earlier claimed that its investigation "has established that proceeds of crime worth Rs 540 crore were acquired in this extortion racket and was utilised for political expenditure, creation of benami assets and bribing officials."

ED had attached assets worth more than Rs 220 crore till now.

The investigation relates to allegations of "a massive scam in which an illegal levy of Rs 25 was being extorted for every tonne of coal transported in Chhattisgarh by a cartel involving senior bureaucrats, businessmen, politicians and middlemen", the agency had said earlier.

### Ram Temple inauguration on Jan 22

PM says 'feel very blessed'

New Delhi, Oct 25 (PTI):

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra on Wednesday invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the consecration ceremony of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, which is expected to take place on January 22. Modi said in a post on X that he is feeling blessed and it is his good fortune that he will be a witness to this historic occasion in his lifetime.

"Jai Siyaram! Today is full of emotions for me," the prime minister said, posting about the invitation to him. He posted a picture of functionaries of the trust, which is presiding over the temple's construction at the place where devotees believe Lord Ram was born, extending him an invitation.

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RECORD HOLDER

## India resumes visa services in Canada

Toronto, Oct 25 (PTI):

India on Wednesday said it will resume some visa services in Canada with effect from Thursday. In a post on X, the High Commission of India in Canada said that services for entry visa, business visa, medical visa, and conference visa will resume from October 26. The development comes days after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on

Sunday that India is looking at resuming visa services for Canadians "very soon" if it sees progress in the safety of its diplomats in Canada. The ties between India and Canada nosedived after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged on September 18 that there was a potential link between Indian agents and the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia in June.

### SOUMYA VISHWANATHAN CASE

## Court to pronounce order on sentence today

New Delhi, Oct 25 (PTI):

A Delhi court is likely to pronounce on Thursday its order on the quantum of sentence against the five accused in the killing of television journalist Soumya Vishwanathan in 2008.

Vishwanathan, who was working with a leading English news channel here, was shot dead in the wee hours of September 30 on Nelson Mandela Marg while she was returning home from work. Police had claimed that the motive behind the killing was robbery. On October 18, Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Ravindra Kumar Pandey convicted Ravi Kapoor, Amit Shukla, Baljeet Malik and Ajay Kumar for the offence of

murder and common intention under the IPC.

They were also held guilty under provisions of the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) for committing organised crime resulting in the death of the person. The offences entail the death penalty as the maximum sentence.

The court also convicted the fifth accused Ajay Sethi under section 411 (dishonestly receiving stolen property) and MCOCA provisions for conspiring to abet, aid or knowingly facilitate organised crime and for receiving the proceeds of organised crime.

"Be put up for order on sentence after compliance of guideline on October 26," the court had said.

## 'Centre earns Rs 776 cr from scrap disposal in 3 years'

New Delhi, Oct 25 (PTI):

The Centre has earned Rs 776 crore disposing of scrap in the three special cleanliness campaigns undertaken by all government offices across the country in the last three years, Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday.

A large chunk of this revenue -- Rs 176 crore -- has been earned in the last 20 days of the ongoing special cleanliness campaign 3.0, he said. Addressing a press conference here after reviewing the progress of week three of the special campaign being implemented in all government offices of India, Singh said nearly 86 lakh sq ft of office space has been made available in the three weeks. He said



Jitendra Singh

"swachhata" campaign, inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has generated awareness about the "waste to wealth" concept.

"There is also better mass understanding about the application of innovation and technology for recycling and reuse of waste materials for productive means," the minister said. Singh advocated the trinity of artificial intelligence, robotics and drones in order to seg-

regate waste intelligently and for swift disposal of resultant materials. "Now, if we can have an artificial intelligence-driven module which can segregate the solid and liquid waste, then we have the robot which would carry this and load it onto the drone and then the drone would automatically fly and carry it to the respective destination," he said. Underlining that every bit of garbage is worth its return, the minister said the Department of Science and Technology, Technology, Development Board and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) recently launched the "recycling on wheels" bus, which can generate wealth from waste at different spots due to its mobility.

## Rajasthan shocker: Man crushed to death by tractor

Jaipur, Oct 25 (PTI):

A man was run over by a tractor after a clash over a land dispute in Rajasthan's Bharatpur on Wednesday, police said.

The long-pending land dispute between Bahadur Gurjar and Atar Singh Gurjar, both residents of Adda village, was being investigated by Sadar police station, Director General of Police Umesh Mishra said.

On Wednesday morning, the two parties came face-to-face and attacked each other, Bayana Sadar SHO Jaiprakash Parmar said. During the clash, Atar's son Nirpat Gurjar fell on the ground and a person from the rival group ran a tractor over him, killing Nirpat on the spot, he said. Five people have been de-

tained in connection with the murder, the officer said. DGP Mishra has directed Superintendent of Police Mridul Kachhawa to keep a close watch on the investigation and immediate arrest of the murder accused. SHO Parmar said even before this incident, there was a fight between the two families and both the parties had filed a case against each other.

Now, a case of murder has been registered against Bahadur Gurjar and others, he said, adding that the body has been sent for post-mortem.

The BJP slammed the Congress over the murder and demanded AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to apologise for the incident on behalf of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

### CULTURAL PARADE



Artists take part in a cultural parade during the week-long International Kullu Dussehra festival, in Kullu district, Wednesday.

### MARKET BLEEDS

Market tremors wipe off investors' wealth

Rs 14.60 lakh cr

New Delhi, Oct 25 (PTI):

Equity investors became poorer by Rs 14.60 lakh crore in five days of market slump amid mounting tensions in the Middle East and higher valuations of Indian stocks. Falling for the fifth day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 522.82 points, or 0.81 per cent, to settle at 64,049.06. During the day, it dropped 659.72 points, or 1.02 per cent, to 63,912.16. In five days, the BSE benchmark has plunged 2,379.03 points, or 3.58 per cent.

## Replace 'India' with 'Bharat' in books: NCERT panel

New Delhi, Oct 25 (PTI):

"India" should be replaced with "Bharat" in the school textbooks for all classes, a high-level committee for social sciences, constituted by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to revise the school curriculum, has recommended.

According to committee chairperson C I Isaac, the panel has suggested replacing the name "India" with "Bharat" in the textbooks, introducing "classical history", instead of "ancient history", in the curriculum

### No decision yet.....

NCERT Chairman Dinesh Saklani, however, said no decision has been taken yet on the panel's recommendations. The council later said on X: "NCERT states that since the development of new syllabus and textbooks is in the process and for that purpose various Curricular Area Groups of domain experts are being notified by the NCERT. So, it is too premature to comment."

### Oppn slams BJP govt...

Leaders of several opposition parties on Wednesday opposed an NCERT panel's recommendation to replace "India" with "Bharat" in school textbooks, and alleged that the ruling BJP wanted to change history and was taking such "desperate steps" fearing its defeat at the hands of the opposition bloc INDIA. Congress general secretary K C Venugopal said the word "India" evoked as much pride as "Bharat" but the ruling dispensation wants "to indoctrinate an entire generation into hating a word we grew up feeling a lot of pride towards."

and including the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) in the syllabus for all subjects. NCERT Chairman

Dinesh Saklani, however, said no decision has been taken yet on the panel's recommendations.

### SURPRISING BUT TRUE

## Man gets govt job 28 years after application

After SC intervention

New Delhi, Oct 25 (PTI):

Twenty-eight years after a man applied for a job in the postal department, the Supreme Court has ordered his appointment noting that there was an error in holding him ineligible for the post.

Ankur Gupta had applied for the post of postal assistant in 1995. After being selected for pre-induction training, he was later excluded from the merit list on the ground that he completed intermediate education from the "vocational stream". Gupta along with other unsuccessful candi-



dates moved the Central Administrative Tribunal which ruled in their favour in 1999. The postal department challenged the tribunal's order and approached the Allahabad High Court in 2000. The high court dismissed the petition in 2017 and upheld the CAT's order. A review was filed in the high

court which was also dismissed in 2021, following which the department approached the apex court.

In the top court, a bench of justices Bela M Trivedi and Dipankar Datta said a candidate cannot claim a vested right to appointment, once he is included in the merit list, he has a limited right of being accorded a fair treatment.

"However, if the candidature is not rejected at the threshold and the candidate is allowed to participate in the selection process and ultimately his name figures in the merit list though such candidate has no indefeasible right to claim appointment, he does have a limited right of being accorded fair and non-dis-

crimatory treatment," the bench said. The apex court said the employer, if it is a State within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution, would have no authority to act in an arbitrary manner and throw the candidate out without rhyme or reason.

"The employer-State being bound by Article 14 of the Constitution, the law places an obligation, nay duty, on such an employer to provide some justification by way of reason," it said. The bench said if the department had declared Gupta as ineligible based on the appreciation of the educational qualification at the threshold, the situation would have entirely been different.

## Two coaches of Patalkot Express train catch fire

Two injured

Agra (UP), Oct 25 (PTI):

Two coaches of Patalkot Express train caught fire in Agra district in Uttar Pradesh Wednesday afternoon, leaving at least two passengers injured, officials said.

The train was heading to Seoni in Madhya Pradesh from Firozpur Cantonment in Punjab when the fire broke out in the third and fourth coaches from the engine around 3.45 pm, they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) of the Agra Police Commissionerate Sonam Kumar told PTI that two passengers were injured and sent to hospital.

"Five fire tenders and a forensic team have reached the spot," Kumar said. Agra



Coaches of the Patalkot Express after a fire broke out, near Bhandai railway station in Agra, Wednesday.

Railway Division PRO Prashasti Srivastava said the cause of the fire was not immediately known.

"A fire incident in Patalkot Express has been reported between Bhandai and Jajau in NCR (North Central Railway), Agra Division.... Two coaches have been completely burnt. Since two adjacent coaches have also been affected, a total of four coach-

es have been detached from the train.... The situation is under control," she said.

According to a railway source, Bhandai station is about 10 km from Agra station and the fire broke out when the train left Bhandai for the next station, Jajau.

According to railway officials, the train was stopped when smoke was detected and it was immediately evacuated.



# SSP inspects Police Command and Control Center

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Oct 25:** Senior Superintendent of Police (Durg) Ram Gopal Garg conducted a surprise inspection at the Police Command and Control Center, Sector 6 on Wednesday. During the surprise inspection, he took detailed information about the work being done in the control center, the forces present there and the works being executed by them.

He also took information about sending every dial 112 information received from C4 Raipur to the ERV, compliance report of the event, response time and action taken on the complaints received so far and instructed the employees to make it even better.

He also inspected the



new room of the Integrated Traffic Management System, a scheme started for incident and security arrangements and traffic management in the district. After reviewing the functioning of the cameras installed at the traffic squares and its monitoring system, he gave necessary instructions to the personnel.

Necessary instructions

were given to telephone operators and wireless set operators to follow the guidelines related to the upcoming assembly elections and to perform VIP/VVIP duty, be alert in law and order and inform senior officials immediately in case of any incident.

Till now, Senior Superintendent of Police Durg has inspected the police stations of the district



including Mohan Nagar, Supela, Chhawani, Khursipar, Old Bhilai, Kumhari, Bhilai Nagar, Utai, Jamgaon R, Ranitarai, Patan, Padmanabhpur, Pulgaon, Durg and Reserve Center Durg. During the inspections, he emphasises to follow the important guidelines regarding conducting the upcoming assembly election duty peacefully

with dedication and hard work.

In addition, Superintendent of Police (City) Abhishek Jha, Superintendent of Police (IUCAW) Mita Pawar, Control Room in-charge Meena Mahilkar, CCTNS in-charge Dr Sankalp Rai and other officers and employees of the control room were present.

# Eight candidates file nomination papers

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Oct 25:** Under the Chhattisgarh Assembly Elections-2023, eight candidates filed their nomination forms for six different constituencies of Durg District on Wednesday. Those who filed their nominations are Hemant Kosaria (Hamar Raj Party), Chhotalal Chaudhary (Independent), Bimla Thakur (Independent), Atmaram Sahu (Independent), Ramratan Sahu (Independent), Shatruhan Prasad (Independent), Rajan Khutel (Congress) and Shailendra Kumar Banjare (Shaktisena, India).

The candidates who bought nomination papers are Oni Kumar Mahilang (Congress), Inder Lal Lahare (Bahujan Samaj Party), Rishi Kumar (Janata Congress Chhattisgarh), Sachchidanand Kaushik (Independent), Bhagwan Singh Raote (Hamar Raj Party), Santosh Kumar (Independent), Ajay Chandrakar (Aam Aadmi Party), R Shanmugavel Naidu (Bhrashtachar Mukti Morcha), Mahendra Kumar (Independent), Bhushan Lal Nagiya (Bahujan Samaj Party), Harendra Prasad Shah (Bharti Shakti Chetna Party), G Ashok Kumar

(Independent), Jeevanlal Banjare (Independent), Rajesh Mishra (Azad Janata Party), Azhar Ali (Independent), Azra Khan (Samajwadi Party), Sunil Kumar Banjare (Independent), Pankaj Kumar Chaturvedi (Johar Chhattisgarh Party), Lakshmi Sahu (Independent), Narayan Prasad Yadav (Independent), Kashiram Kurre (Independent), Parasamani (Azad Janata Party), Lakshmi Sahu (Independent), Dwarika Prasad Barle (Independent) and Dhalesh Sahu (Chhattisgarh Janata Congress).

# New Product TMT FE550D developed at Wire Rod Mill as per customer demand

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Oct 25:** SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has developed a new product TMT Fe-550D in the wire rod mill department in view of the customer demand in the market.

During the recent visit in September '23 to Customer premises in Mumbai, it was desired that Wire Rod Mill if possible should produce TMT Fe550D Wire rods. Given this Customer requirement, a new product of TMT-8mm, Fe -550 D was developed for the 1st time from old WRM in C-Strand at SAIL-BSP, on October 18, 2023. For this, SMS-III produced the required heat with rich chemistry of Carbon and manganese. The input bil-



lets cast with this material help the TMT bars achieve the required strength and optimum ductility with existing TMT water parameters.

The rolling parameters like furnace temperature, Laying head temperature, Water quenching parameters and number of hot turns in the ends of coils

were strictly monitored and recorded during rolling. The online sample of the first three coils were taken & sent for mechanical testing. The online results were a bit higher than the required value so few adjustments were done in quenching parameters. The developed quality was successfully rolled in C-

Strand for the next two days to produce 1477 Tons of TMT Fe-550D with the required mechanical properties. This material shall be used by the customer in the ongoing Mumbai Coastal road project. This product will also help in earning extra revenue compared to the base grade Fe500D.

This job was taken up under the leadership of MK Goyal (CGM-MWRM) and of implemented by the team Wire Rod Mill comprising of NK Khare-GM(Opr), M Hussein-GM (Mech) & Anupama Kumari - GM (E,C & S), S Panigrahi Manager-RCL and G Suresh Asst Manager RCL were actively involved from the development side in the development of this new Product.

# Law and order collapsed under Congress rule, says Pandey

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Oct 25:** BJP candidate from Bhilai Nagar, Prem Prakash Pandey conducted a meeting of BJP workers on Wednesday. He said that in the last five years, Congress has only done corruption, cheated the people and tarnished the image of Bhilai. He added that there is an atmosphere of anarchy in the entire state.

He alleged that the BJP workers who raise voice against religion conversion are being targeted in Naxalite attacks. He questioned why the BJP workers are only targeted by naxals? He alleged that there is some nexus between the government and



Naxalites. The Congress government practices appeasement politics and works to divide the society. Congress is full of corrupt people and one does corruption according to the position he holds. Referring to the coal scam, he said that two Congress



MLAs are accused in it. One of them was denied ticket while the second one is going to contest election again. Pandey asserted that the Congress gives shelter to the corrupt. Now in the election, Congress again started distributing pamphlets of its false promis-

es. Congress has failed in all its plans and deceived the people of Chhattisgarh. He said that most of the schemes brought by Modi were implemented by Congress with new names. Congress only propagates its false schemes and fools the public.

# DMC takes up cleaning of Sheonath river bank & ponds after idol immersion

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Oct 25:** Following the instructions of Durg Municipal Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar, the Health Department staff team led by Health Officer Javed Ali started cleaning the Sheonath river banks and ponds after the completion of Durga Puja festival and immersion of idols.

The Municipal Corporation started the cleaning campaign on all the ponds of the city including Sheonath River bank and removed the structures of Durga idols. Here it needs a mention that the immersion of idols continued had continued till late night.

Some idols have also been immersed in ponds. Apart from structures, flowers, cloth and plastic,



which were immersed along with the idols, are also being removed. It was told by the Municipal

Corporation that a target has been set to clean the Shiv River and all the ponds by the end of this



week. Health Officer Javed Ali said that the work of removing garbage from the Shivnath river

bank and the ponds of the city has been assigned to about a dozen sanitation workers.

# Devendra files nomination; launches Vishwas Yatra

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Oct 25:** Incumbent Bhilai Nagar MLA Devendra Yadav has filed his nomination form for contesting assembly election from Bhilai Nagar constituency. While addressing a press conference on Wednesday, Devendra Yadav said that the Congress Party, appreciating his works, selected him as the MLA candidate of Bhilai assembly constituency.

He said that since 2018, it is only because of public trust that he has successfully worked for the progress and welfare of the people. Development works have been conducted as per the expectations of the common people.

Yadav said that he has been able to reach this po-



sition only because of the tremendous support from the public in the last 5 years. People of every religion and caste live in Bhilai city and that is why this city is called Mini India.

"I fortunately got the opportunity to work among such different communities. I have full faith in Karma and this time also the public will

shower their blessings on me", he said.

Devendra said that the Congress Party has selected him as its candidate expressing confidence and trust in him. During the last five years, the problems raised by the people have been resolved. Yadav said that he will again reach out to the public through Vishwas Yatra regarding the works conducted in the last 5 years.

The yatra commenced from Hanuman Mandir Sector 9 on Wednesday evening and will cover Ward 45 and Ward 39 on Oct 26; Ward 48 and 38 on Oct 27; Ward 49 and 43 on Oct 28 and Ward 51 and 70 on Oct 29. Devendra will reach out to the people and seek their blessings and support for the next election.

# Kathavachak Devkinandan Thakur ji to deliver Bhagwat Katha in city

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Oct 25:** Spiritual leader and Bhagwat Katha orator of international repute, Devki Nandan Thakur Ji Maharaj Ji, will be delivering Bhagwat Katha from October 27 to November 02, at Jayanti Stadium ground, Civic Centre. The event being organised under the auspices of Divya Jyoti Seva Samiti will be inaugurated at Ganesh Temple premises, Sector-5 with a Kalash Yatra. The yatra will begin after offering prayers and end at the venue Jayanti Stadium. Kalash Yatra will be accompanied by musical in-

struments along with a beautiful tableau of Radha Krishna in which women will be dressed in one colour. Preparations for the Kalash Yatra have been completed and an appeal has been made by the organising committee to all the prominent members of the religious organisations and 'Matri Shakti' of the city, the general public to participate in the Kalash Yatra. It is expected that thousands of Matri Shakti will participate in the Kalash yatra.



Also, preparations and arrangements have been completed at the Katha venue including administrative, health care, drinking water, lavatory and also Prasad arrangements for 10,000 people. Hundreds of volunteers

and women will play an important role in making the Katha successful.

The committee including organizing committee president Prakash Dewangan, vice president, Surendra Kushwaha, Pawan Chaudhary, treasurer Sanjay Khandelwal, Pradeep Srivastava, Rajesh Mathwani, administrative work in-charge Madan Sen, Pritam Gandharva, Mordhwaj Verma, Rajesh Chaudhary, Rohit Nayak, Jai Dewangan, Harish Dewangan are engaged in completing last minute preparations ahead of the Katha Vachan Programme.

# Traders in Indira market pledge for cent percent voting

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Oct 25:** Voting for Durg assembly constituency is scheduled to be held during the second round of state assembly elections to be held on November 17. SVEEP campaign is being run to make people aware about the importance of voting and attain 100 per cent voting.

On the instructions of Collector and District Election Officer Pushpendra Meena and guidance of Municipal Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar, Durg Municipal Corporation campaign is being run in the city for the aforesaid cause.

Under this, on Wednesday, traders of



Indira Market near Indira Market collected at "Kuan Chowk" of the market area and took pledge of 100 per cent voting in the upcoming assembly elections irrespective of caste, religion or language.

P resolve took pledge to vote without fear and greed and become a part of this

great festival of democracy, make the name of the city proud by voting 100%. During the program, a large number of people pledged to vote, and also to inspire acquaintances, friends and neighbours too to vote.

In the program, Assistant Revenue Inspector Ishwar Verma, Indira Market

President Anil Ballewar, Bahadur Ali, Dilip Bakliwal, Dilip Maroti, Surendra Chawla, Govindra Ahuja, Ishwar Lohani, Sanjay Mohbani, Ritesh Agarwal, Amit Pandey, Ajay Gajwani, Rakesh Mehta, Rajesh Agarwal, Sanjay Aggarwal, Rajensh Modi etc. were present.



## 'If BJP calls public welfare works revdi', then we will continue to distribute it'

Raipur, Oct 25:

Congress national spokesperson Supriya Shrinete on Wednesday slammed the BJP saying the saffron party calls welfare initiatives for the poor and needy 'revdi' (culture of freebies) and stressed that her party will continue to adopt such measures. BJP has been attacking its rivals claiming that they promise freebies to win elections and likening it to free distribution of the sweet dish revdi. Addressing a press conference at the state Congress office Rajiv Bhavan in Raipur, she said how liquor prohibition, her party's promise in 2018 polls, can be implemented will be decided by the next elected government after



deliberations and consensus. "In those states where Congress is in power and elections will be held next month, particularly in Chhattisgarh we have been seeking votes and peoples' blessings based on our works and by showing our report card...When welfare work is being done for tribals, labourers, Dalits, the exploited, deprived and farmers, BJP and the PM call it revdi," she said.

Seeking to highlight the Bhpuresh Baghel government's welfare schemes and achievements, she said 40 lakh people have been brought out of poverty in the past five years. The Congress government gave 85,000 jobs and created 5 lakh employment in five years, she claimed. "BJP has no issues to raise and it has lost its excitement," she said, ex-

uding confidence over her party's victory in Chhattisgarh polls. "If they call public welfare works revdi then we will continue to distribute it," she said. Asked if the Congress failed to fulfill its promise of a liquor ban and regularisation of contractual employees, Shrinete said, "Some subjects require more deliberations, consensus and coordination and this (liquor ban) is one such issue." She said the

state has been struggling with the "nuisance as a result of (consumption of) liquor". "Our government's opinion is to stop this nuisance. What will be its further outline will be decided by the elected government," she said. On the contractual employees, Shrinete said their salary has been increased by 27 per cent but it should be hiked more as adhoc employees do not have social security. The hike in the salary is one step and if the Congress again comes to power, further steps will be taken, she said. Both require deliberations and consensus, she added. Polling to the 90-member assembly will be held in two phases on November 7 and 17.

## IMMERSION OF IDOLS



The immersion of idols of Goddess Durga by the devotees continued here on the third day in the special tank near Kharun.

## BJP drops sitting MLA to accommodate youth brigade

### Fourth list with four candidates for Chhattisgarh polls announced



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Oct 25: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday released its fourth list of candidates for the remaining four seats for the upcoming Chhattisgarh assembly elections, denying ticket to a sitting MLA.

Sitting MLA from Beltara seat in Bilaspur District Rajnish Singh has been denied a ticket, with the party going for

40-year-old Sushant Shukla, from there. Shukla, a former member of the state youth commission, is co-in-charge of the state Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, the BJP's youth wing. Above decision has been considered to be part of the exercise to give more representation to youth in the upcoming polls. The two other candi-

dates, Dhaniram Dhiwar (Kasdol seat) and Dipesh Sahu (Bemetara), are also fresh faces as well as to strike a socio-political equations in favour of the party. In the high-profile Ambikapur seat, the party has fielded Rajesh Agrawal, a member of its Surguja district executive committee against the Congress heavy-weight and Deputy Chief

Minister and incumbent MLA TS Singh Deo. Agrawal, a businessman, had joined the BJP after quitting Congress ahead of the 2018 assembly elections. With this, the main opposition party has announced its candidates for all the 90 assembly constituencies in the state, which will see voting in two phases on November 7 and 17. Votes will be counted on December 3. All four seats are of unreserved category for which the party has put up fresh faces. So far the BJP has denied the party tickets to two out of the 13 MLAs elected in the year 2018 polls.

## Congress govt brought shame to Chh'garh with corruption: Sao

### Alleges involvement of Congress government in Custom Milling levy case



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Oct 25: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State Unit President and Lok Sabha member from Bilaspur Arun Sao on Wednesday claimed that the Congress government had deliberately given extension to Indian Telecom Services (ITS) Officer Manoj Soni working on deputation to Chhattisgarh to get favour works done in its favour and added that recent Enforcement

Directorate (ED) probe has brought shame to Chhattisgarh once again. Addressing a press conference at party office here on Wednesday, the senior BJP leader Sao does not ruled out possibility of involvement of Congress government in illegal recovery of Custom Milling levy

from Rice Millers to the tune of Rs 175 crore. Sao said that pre-planned move was made by Soni under the patronage of Congress government to recover illegal levy as it had increased the levy from Rs 40 per quintal to Rs 120 per quintal against the Rice Milling of Paddy. Sao fur-

ther said that the ED would certainly reach to the patron of the entire scam in Chhattisgarh. He further said that people would not tolerate such corrupt practice and would come up with their reply soon. Replying to a question on comment made by Congress in-charge Kumari Shailaja, the BJP chief Sao again reiterated that the Congress is the most communal party which has given patronage to a particular section under the appeasement policy. Sao attacked a Congress Minister for the Kabirdham incident when created communal tension recently.

## If borders are safe, then how external forces are active: CM

### Both Vishwa Guru and Sangh chief are misleading the nation



Raipur, Oct 25:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel commenting over the word 'control' over the condition in Manipur said that the two persons viz. one is the Vishwa Guru and other is the Sangh Chief, both are misleading the nation and both should decide as to who is speaking the truth. CM Baghel said that the Vishwa Guru claims that the borders are safe and

Bhagwat says that external forces are behind the unrest in Manipur. On this CM questioned that if the borders are safe, then how the external forces are active in the nation? Baghel charged that both are misleading the nation and it is for sure that BJP should prepare itself mentally to sit in the opposi-

tion and it has to be seen, whether they (BJP) will be reduced to 13 or even less. Coming down heavily on the housing issue against BJP, CM Baghel said that Modi government is neither conducting census, nor the economic survey and then on what basis they will be allot the houses? But in the survey carried out by the State Government, the state government has even allotted the first installment to eligible beneficiaries in the state and would be provided houses to additional 47000 eligible persons as well. Now there is hardly anything left for them (BJP) to say on this.

## NIT Raipur to organize National Conclave on Industry-Institute Interaction

Raipur, Oct 25: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur's Industry Institute Collaboration Cell (IICC) is organizing a National Conclave on Industry-Institute Interaction on 1st to 2nd November 2023 in Association with Alumni Association of GEC-NIT Raipur and NIT Foundation for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Dr. N V Ramana Rao, Director, NIT Raipur will be Chief Patron of the program. This program will be organized under the guidance of Dr. Shobhalata Sinha, Head of Industry Institute Collaboration Cell. The interaction is being organized with a vision of bridging the gap between industry and academia. It also aims to solve industrial problems through academia by promoting new innovations and entrepreneurship.

## Three nabbed in chain looting incident



Raipur, Oct 25: Three chain snatchers have been nabbed from the capital city and seized 1 gold chain in the loot and the Honda Activa vehicle used in the crime, totaling Rs 90000 in all. It was after hectic analysis and checking of facts by the anti-crime and Cyber Crime and Lakhengar Police, that the police came to know about the involvement of one Ankit Soni of Sunder Nagar, DD Nagar and on interrogation he tried to mislead the police and later surrendered and informed that he along with one Pradeep Mallick had done chain snatching. On interrogation Pradeep Mallick alias Rahul informed that he had stolen Honda Activa vehicle bearing No. CG 04/DP/9313 from outside

Colors Mall near Pachpedhi Naka under New Rajendra Nagar area on Oct 13. It was using the same Honda vehicle he along with Ankit Soni alias Micky had done chain snatching incidents in Lakhengar and other places. A case of crime has been filed against the two in New Rajendra Nagar thana under section 379. The accused in vehicle theft Sayyed Asif Ali alias Aashu too has been taken into arrest. Pradeep Mallick, alias Rahul is of criminal background and was involved in about half-a-dozen incident of mobile looting and thefts earlier and has got cases against him in Ganja Thana, Saraswati Nagar, Azad Chowk, Kotwali and New Rajendra nagar thanas.

## 19 nomination papers filed in the district today

Raipur, Oct 25: Under the Assembly Elections-2023 in Raipur district on Wednesday, 19 nomination papers were filed in all the seven assemblies and 36 nomination applications were taken. 06 nomination papers were filed in Raipur Rural Assembly Number-48, 04 in Raipur West Assembly Number-49, 02 in Raipur South Assembly Number-51, 03 in Arang Assembly Number-52, 04 nomination papers were filed in Abhanpur Assembly Number-53. Whereas in Dharsiwa Assembly Number-47 Raipur North Assembly Number-50, the number of people filing nomination papers is zero. Thus far, a total of 23 nominations have been filed. Today on Wednesday, a total of 36 nomination papers were taken. These include 05 for Dharsiwa Assembly Number-47, 04 for Raipur Rural Assembly Number-48, 06 for Raipur West Assembly Number-49, 09 for Raipur North Assembly Number-50, 09 for Raipur South Assembly Number-51, 01 nomination papers for Arang Assembly

Number-52 and 02 nomination papers for Abhanpur Assembly Number-53 are included. The names of the total candidates who filed nomination papers today are as follows - Sunil Naidu of Aam Aadmi Party in Raipur Rural Assembly, Sandeep Tiwari Raj of Bharatiya Sarvajan Hitaya Samaj Party, Pankaj Sharma of Indian National Congress and Raipur Nagar West Assembly, Vikram Advani of Bharatiya Sarvajan Hitaya Samaj Party, Rajesh Munat of Bharatiya Janata Party, Nandan Kumar Singh of Aam Aadmi Party, Brijmohan Agarwal of Bharatiya Janata Party in Raipur South Assembly, Independent Mrs. Fahmida Parveen, Shaileendra Kumar Banjare of Shakti Sena (Bharat Desh) of Arang Assembly, Guru Khushwant Saheb of Bharatiya Janata Party, Dhanendra Sahu of Indian National Congress in Abhanpur Assembly and Bodhan Lal Farikar of Shakti Sena (India) has filed nomination papers.

# श्रीमद् भागवत कथा

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**श्री देवकीनन्दन ठाकुर जी महाराज**

**27 अक्टूबर से 2 नवम्बर 2023**  
समय : दोपहर 01.00 बजे से भागवत कथा प्रारंभ

**कथा स्थल**  
जयंती स्टेडियम, सिविक सेन्टर, भिलाई

**आज कलशा यात्रा**  
दोपहर 12.00 बजे से गणेश मंदिर सेक्टर-5 से प्रारंभ

**प्रकाश देवांगन**  
अध्यक्ष

**राजेश नथवानी**  
संरक्षक

**प्रदीप श्रीवास्तव**  
संरक्षक

**सुरेश कुशवाहा**  
वरिष्ठ उपाध्यक्ष

**संजय नथवानी**  
संरक्षक

**आयोजक : दिव्य ज्योति सेवा समिति, भिलाई**  
14/1, उत्तर गंगोत्री, सुपेला, भिलाई, संपर्क करें : 8120700009, 9302618588, 9329510412

**प्रतिदिन समिति द्वारा भंडारा (दोपहर से)**  
नोट : पर्यावरण को देखते हुए पानी पाउच प्रतियोग है। पेयजल की व्यवस्था की गई है।



## Bhupesh confessed that farmers in state are in debt: Brijmohan

Raipur, Oct 25:

Senior leader of Bharatiya Janata Party, former Agriculture Minister and MLA Brijmohan Agarwal, while reacting to the statement of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, has said that he has finally admitted that he has drowned the farmers in debt. Congress cheated the farmers for whole 5 years. Farmers' loans from nationalized banks were not waived off. He said that false claims are made by Bhupesh that after taking loan of Rs 1 lakh crore it was distributed to the farmers. Congress has claimed that farmers are buying tractors by selling cow dung, building houses and traveling in plane. The rural economy has been



strengthened. Farmers have been made debt free! Now what happened? The claim made by Bhupesh government has busted. With Cow Dung and Gauthan scam, the conditions of farmers worsen in the state and now they themselves are declaring that the farmers are

trapped in debt. Only Bhupesh Baghel is responsible for making the farmers indebted.

Brijmohan Agarwal said that Bhupesh Baghel, who forcibly sold soil to farmers in the name of vermicompost, will be remembered by the farmers in the elections. The reality is that due to their fraud, farmers are now committing suicide by getting trapped in the debt trap.

Why did Bhupesh Baghel not waive off the loans of farmers during the Corona period? Why were farmers' loans not waived off every year? Why were farmers not given electricity connections for irrigation?

Congress, which is sometimes longing for recovery through coopera-

tive societies and sometimes for gunny bags, is remembering the farmers in the elections. Whereas BJP will take concrete measures to save the farmers from getting trapped in debt, so that the farmers do not have to become debtors.

Brijmohan said that Bhupesh Baghel is now making announcement after announcement because government did nothing for the farmers for last 5 years. Neither the rural poor were allowed to get houses nor the urban poor were allowed to get roofs. BJP's manifesto is yet to come. The hopes of villages, poor and farmers rest on BJP. All the expectations of the farmers will be fulfilled. There will be complete development of villages, poor and farmers.

## Cong to waive off agri loan of farmers if voted to power: CM

Addressing public meeting after nominations by three party candidates

Bemetara, Oct 25:

The Congress candidates from three Vidhan Sabhas of Bemetara filed their nomination forms today and during which the CM Bhupesh Baghel and other senior Congress leaders were present. After this CM Bhupesh Baghel addressing a public meeting at Basic School ground premises said that if the Congress government is formed then the agriculture loan of the farmers will be waived off. So far not a single party has paid attention towards farmers, he added.

Prior to the public meeting, Congress candidate Ashish Chhabra from Bemetara,



Ravindra Choubey from Saja and Guru Gosai Guru Rudra Kumar from Navagarh filed their nomination papers at the Collectorate office.

Congress has once again fielded Ashish

Chhabra as its candidate from Bemetara VS seat and after this Ravindra Choubey filed his nomination from Saja VS seat for the 9th time and Guru Rudra Kumar as new candidate from

Navagarh VS seat.

Further addressing the public meeting, CM Baghel said that the phrase 'Chhattisgarhia sable Badhiya' is being heard quite often and is on everyone's tongue. In the public meeting the senior party leaders of Congress Nand Kumar Sai and Pradeep Choubey and others were present.

In the end, Baghel along with the three party candidates in an open jeep took out nomination rally from historic Basic School to Signal Chowk and in one way it was party's show of strength. In this rally, thousands of Congmen and party office bearers and leaders were present.

## NTPC Inks MoA with EIL for Green Fuels & Green Fertilizer



Raipur, Oct 25:

NTPC has signed an MoA with Engineers India Limited (EIL) wherein NETRA (the R&D centre of NTPC Ltd.) can take up collaborative projects in the domain of Carbon Capture Utilization & Storage (CCUS), Green Fuel, Green Chemicals including Green Hydrogen, Green Ammonia etc, Green Fertilizers, Bio-Fuels, Decarbonization,

Waste Handling, Water, Ash etc. leading to clean energy transition.

The MoA was signed today by Shri U K Bhattacharya, Director (Projects) NTPC Ltd. and Atul Gupta, Director (Commercial), EIL in the presence of Jaikumbar Srinivasan, Director (Finance), NTPC, Rajiv Agarwal, Director (Technical), EIL and other senior officials of NTPC and EIL.

NTPC Ltd. is India's largest integrated power utility, contributing 1/4th of the power requirement of the country. With an installed capacity of more than 73 GW and a diverse portfolio of thermal, hydro, solar, and wind power plants, NTPC is dedicated to delivering reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity to the nation. The company is committed to adopting best practices, fostering innovation, and embracing clean energy technologies for a greener future. NTPC Group has a plan of 60 GW of RE capacity by the year 2032 and it is taking up several initiatives towards decarbonization such as Hydrogen blending, Carbon Capture & Fuel cell buses among others.

## Fantastic fresher fest 'Rubaroo' organized at ITM University

Raipur, Oct 25:

ITM University Raipur organized a fantastic fresher fest 'Rubaroo' at Naya Raipur campus for the new students. The event not only provided an opportunity for students to meet and greet their seniors and peers but also emphasized the importance of team building and bonding among students. Competitions on Solo, duet and group dance, singing, reels, and fashion show were organized to showcase the extraordinary talent of the students and enhance the university's extracurricular activities.

ITM University's Director General Lakshmi Murthy, Registrar Saurav Chatterjee, IQAC Director professor Dr. Yasin Sheikh and the Heads of

various departments were present in the inaugural program. Renowned Choreographer Shruti Singh and Actor & Model Shashank Sharma were invited to judge the dance and fashion show competitions, adding glamour to the occasion. Many students displayed their talents and were rewarded for their achievements.

In the evening edition of the program, ITM University organized the RumJhumti Ratri Garba event for adding vibrant colors to the festivities. The participation of students and faculty members in the Garba event, along with various competitions, made the celebration even more lively and enjoyable. The winners and runners of the cultural competitions declared by the dignitaries. The award list includes



Group dance winner Aditi and group runner up MBA STARS, Duet dance - Vandana and Shreya - winner runner up - Janhavi and Ritvik. Solo dance - winner was Sonika and runner up - Sambhav Goyal. Singing - winner - Arpit sarkar Runner up - Samyak bangani. In Reels competition Abdul Sohail was the

winner and Chandrakant was runner up. In Fashion show, Kashish Padmani and Atib were the Best couple, Best walk - Kashish Padmani, Best costume male - Aaryan and Best costume female - Bhumkia Best walk male - Jivitesh. In the festivities of Garba the Best jodi - Pulkit and Swati, Best costume male - Vaibhav,

Best costume female - Jhangvi, Best performance male - Ritik and the Best performance female Sonal Sahu. The winners of the competitions were honored by Director General Lakshmi Murthy, Joint Registrar Vikas Bhonsale, and General Manager Operations Deepthi Mishra at the end of the program. The Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Sumer Singh extended his blessings to the winners and all the participating students.

The successful organization of these events was made possible by the dedicated efforts of the Student Affairs and Cultural Committee, as well as the talents of students such as Ishit Dhurve, Udaya Raichura, Vishal Sharma, and Amrit from ITM University Raipur.

## Hundreds of people join BJP during PR capmaign

Kondagaon, Oct 25:

Political parties are eyeing urban and rural voters to win district assembly seat election with the start of early winter in the region.

Voting for both assembly seat of Kondagaon district is scheduled to be held on November 7. As the voting date is nearing the political activities have gone up and the movement of political parties is increasing. It is seen that BJP and Congress are contacting the voters of the urban and rural areas to get them to vote for their candidates.

In this way the BJP candidate from constituency number 83, Lata Usendi, contacted villagers in 7 villages of Bhagdeva, Mulmula, Ghorsoda. She appealed the voters to vote



for her party.

During this, the villagers told that hundreds of villagers of their village have joined the BJP after being impressed by BJP's policies and BJP candidates. BJP is excited by public support during the public relations. During the public relations, BJP candidate Lata

Usendi told about due to ten years of inactivity and lackoff development under the term of the current MLA Mohan Markam and said that the public has now become familiar with the MLA true image.

The public is now ready to give the answer to the misrule of the Congress in the state. The blessings

of the people are directly coming to BJP. The hollow claims of the Congress government on reaching out to the villagers are visible. People are now going to believe in false claims of Congress.

During this, she also appealed to everyone to participate in the polling festival.

## NIT Raipur to organize Annual Technical Fest from Oct 28

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Oct 25:** National Institute of Technology Raipur's Technocracy. The Technical Committee is organizing Central India's largest technical fest, AAVARTAN '23-24 from 28th to 29th October 2023. The upcoming fiesta is poised to play a pivotal role as a leading platform for unlocking the technological talents of students and fostering substantial growth among tech enthusiasts. This highly anticipated event promises diverse educational opportunities, making it a must-attend for those

seeking to expand their knowledge in the tech world. The two-day long fest will be organized under the adept guidance of Dr. Nitin Jain, Dean (Student Welfare), and Dr. Manu Vardhan, Faculty In-charge, Technocracy is responsible for this enormous undertaking.

After the resounding success of last year's fest, Technocracy is set to encompass a diverse array of technical events, encompassing electronics, robotics, and competitions based on science. Additionally, it will host gaming tournaments, coding challenges, and a variety of

creative contests.

This multifaceted event promises to be a noteworthy gathering for enthusiasts in the technological and creative realms. "Vigyan", a distinguished national-level science exhibition, is set to take center stage as the cardinal event of the fest. This event promises to provide a worthy platform for Central India's most ingenious teams, meticulously selected through rigorous preceding short-listing rounds. These brilliant minds will be tasked with addressing real-time issues with practical and innovative solutions.

Followed by this, more than 20 events all centered around technology and innovation such as "Terrain Treader", "Circuitrix 2.0", a circuit-building game, "Survival", "CodeMime Quest", "Talent Show", "Ecopolis", "Mechanical Junkyard", "Planarium" any many more will ensure that the fest's legacy is upheld.

The two-day festival is set to unite individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds across the nation, fostering a successful amalgamation of technological aspirants.

## District Election Officer took Review meeting

**Bijapur, Oct 25:** Collector and District Election Officer Rajendra Kumar Katara, while presiding over the Time-Limit meeting in the meeting room, gave instructions to discharge all the tasks and responsibilities of the Assembly Elections 2023 with complete honesty, dedication and promptness. At the same time, instructions were given to work seriously towards the election work and complete it in free & fair and transparent manner.

District and block level and field officials have got various responsibilities and while discharging their responsibilities, they have been asked to ensure that the model code of conduct is followed and action is taken against the person



concerned for violation of the code of conduct. They have been asked to increase surveillance at all the check posts in the district, to ensure proper monitoring of vehicles.

To conduct intensive investigation and register in the prescribed format and remove illegal liquor, money, gifts and other items which affect fair elections. Instructed to seize them and take disciplinary action. While taking stock of the prepara-

tions for the voting to be held on November 07, instructions were given to make proper arrangements for basic facilities, drinking water, toilets, electricity, furniture in the polling booths, shade for voters, etc. in all the polling stations.

Webcasting is to be done in 58 polling stations of the district and asked to ensure special preparations so that electricity and network are not disrupted. During this, Joint Collector Mr. Pawan Kumar Premi, Deputy District Election Officer Mr. Narayan Gavel, senior officials of the district administration, SDMs of all sections, Tehsildars, CEOs of District Panchayats and CMOs of urban bodies were present.

## Kanhaiya calls off indefinite strike



Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Oct 25:** Former Congress Legislative Assembly election candidate and Satyamev Jayate Foundation Convenor Kanhaiya Agrawal on Tuesday called off his indefinite strike after 72 hours on assurance over road repairing works in the city.

He was requested to call off the strike on health

grounds by the visiting senior Congress leader Gajraj Pagaria and others. Speaking on the occasion, he said that being people's representatives he cannot ignore his responsibility which forced him to take up the agitation for the development works in his region. He further stated that he would keep on raising his voice in the interest of people.

## Central Bank of India organised drawing/ painting and Walkathon

● Under Vigilance Awareness Week from Oct 31 till Nov 6

**Raipur, Oct 25:** As preparedness to celebrating Vigilance Awareness week from Oct 31- Nov 6, the Central Bank of India has organized drawing/painting and videography competition amongst children of staff members. A Walkathon was also organized from Marine Drive, Telibandha to Bank's Telibandha branch at Shayam Nagar. Hundreds of participants including Bank staff and their wards participated in the Walkathon.

Tarsem Singh Zira, Zonal Head, Bhopal flagged off the Walkathon along with Shailesh Verma, Regional Manager,



The staff was holding placards with messages on vigilance awareness. After culmination of the Walkathon Mr. Zira, Zonal Head and Verma addressed the staff. They appreciated the participation of the staff members and their wards, who had come in large numbers, towards the noble cause. Zira stressed the need to eliminate corruption only with common-sense. Verma called upon the staff to continue their good work of clean and transparent working.

D.K. Agarwal, Chief Manager, Vigilance coordinated the programme with active support from Rahul Kumar, Sr. Manager, G.P.Mishra, Manager, Khilesh, Asstt. Manager and Branch Head Telibandha, Harsha Gupta.

The winners in various competitions were honoured with prizes and later snacks were provided to all the participants of Walkathon, informs Vimal Nair, Sr. Manager PR-Central Bank of India, Raipur in a press release.







## Youth from Chatoud, Navagaon joins Congress fold

Kurud, Oct 25:

The youths of Gram Chatoud and Navagaon influenced by the policies and public welfare works of the Congress government in the state, joined Congress fold in the presence of Mandi President Neelam Chandrakar, BCC President Ashish Sharma, Booth President Dinesh Kumar Sahu, Treasurer Umashankar Sahu, Gen. Secy. Pappu Rajput, Tukesh Sahu, Booth Office bearer Khilleshwar Sahu, Ugeshwar Yadav, Fanendra K Sahu, Dhanendra Sahu. The youth from Gram Chatoud who joined Congress included Vedprakash Sahu, Meghraj Vishwakarma, Khillesh Sahu, Khemraj Dhruv, Pushpakumar



Sahu, Bhavesh Kumar Sahu, Somendra Dhruv, Nageshwar Sahu, Chandlal Sahu, Omprakash Sahu, R a m p r a s a d

Vishwakarma, Sahdev Sahu, Fageshwar Sahu, Thanendra Sahu, Rakesh Yadav, Umesh Sahu, Suresh Sahu, Virendra Sahu, Gyaneshwar Sahu,

Hemchand Bunt.

The youth from Navagaon who joined party fold included Krishna Sahu. On this occasion Mandi President Neelam Chandrakar, BCC President Kurud Ashish Sharma extended greetings to all and said that Congress is the party which gives due respect to all religions, caste and sections of the society and a party giving importance to overall development of all, promote love and harmony and brotherhood among all. It is due to hard working party workers of Congress that party at present is in strong position and the people of the state from all sections are happy over the public welfare schemes of the Baghel's government in the state.

## KCG police perform prayers of arms and weapons

■ On occasion of 'Vijaydashmi'

Khairagarh, Oct 24:

On occasion of 'Vijaydashmi festival', the arms & weapons were offered prayers with full rituals in the presence of SP Anikita Sharma and Addl. SP Neha Pandey at Shastragarh in Rakshi Kendra Amlipara in Police Lines of KCG here on Tuesday. In this 'Shastra Puja', SDOF Khairagarh Lalchand Mohale, OP Jaibandha in-Charge Trainee DSP Pratibha Lahare, reserved inspector K Dev Raju, Khairagarh TI Rajesh Devdas, TI Chuikhadan Jitendra Banjare, Thekladih TI Alok Sahu, all the officers and employees of the reserved Centre Police office took part in this 'shastra puja'. During this all the police officers and employees took a pledge not to use the weapons on any innocent person and always extend all possible safety to a helpless



person found in trouble and take necessary legal action to put a check on anti-social elements; to make the district crime-free. During this KCG Jawans were found filled with all the energy and enthusiasm. Addressing the jawans, SP Anikita Sharma motivated them and it is by performing

'Shanti Havan', blessings were sought for peace and law & order system in the district and happiness of all the residents of the district. She also extended greetings to all the officers and employees and residents of the District on occasion of Vijaydashmi.

## Left parties announced to jointly contest elections

■ In Korba and Katghora

Korba, Oct 25:

Left parties, Marxist Communist Party and Communist Party of India have announced to campaign together in Korba and Katghora assembly constituencies of Korba district. CPI has made Sunil Singh as its candidate from Korba and CPI(M) has made Jawahar Singh Kanwar as its candidate from Katghora. CPI(M) District Secretary Prashant Jha and CPI District Secretary Pawan Verma said the above in a joint statement issued here today. Issuing a joint statement, they said that both the candidates are joint candidates of CPI(M) and CPI and workers of left parties will work to ensure their victory. He said that after the creation of Chhattisgarh, there have been governments of both the



Congress and BJP parties in the state, but due to their pro-corporate policies, the policies of disinvestment and privatization have been carried forward, due to which the plight of the general public, especially the unorganized labourers, has increased. This is the reason that today the number of irregular workers like contract labourers, contract workers, daily wage earners etc. is more than the regular laborers in the state, who do not have any security of employment. The then Congress-BJP governments had a hand in privatizing a famous public industry like Balco. Both the Left leaders have said that due to indiscriminate industrialization in the district, the poor are facing

displacement on a large scale, but both the parties are not concerned with their rehabilitation. Due to this, public sectors like SECL are also refusing to fulfill their social responsibilities and refusing to return their land to the displaced people and give lease of rehabilitation land. Tribal Forest Rights Act and PESA Act have not been implemented. He said that the political and policy alternative to Congress-BJP in Korba and Katghora assembly constituencies is only Marxist Communist Party and Communist Party of India, which along with Kisan Sabha, CITU and AITUC fought honestly to solve the problems of the common people. Is. Due to these struggles today the general public is in a mood for change. The joint campaign of CPI(M) and CPI will not only help the Left emerge as a political force but will also open doors for the Left to enter the state in the Assembly.

## Winners of 'Garba', 'Dandiya' felicitated

■ In Kurud and Bhakara  
■ Young children gave wonderful performances in the cultural prog  
■ Thousands took part in the 'Raas-Garba' held in Bhakara and Kurud

Kurud, Oct 25:

It was for all the nine days of 'Navratri' that it was through 'Raas-Garba Dandiya' dance that 'shakti ki aradhana' was done at Indoor Stadium Kurud and Rameela Maidan Bhakara and by Ramjanki Garba Pariwar Samiti and it is dancing on the 'Gujarati' songs and Bhajans that due respect was paid to the Goddess through 'Garba'. At all these places, the participants of 'Raas-Garba Mahotsav' through attrac-



tive and beautiful cultural programmes left the audience spellbound. The concluding and prize distribution function was held at Indoor Stadium, Kurud and in the presence of guests- Jyoti Chandrakar, Bharti Panchayan, Jagriti Sahu, Dhaneshwar Nirmalkar and others. In the same way at Ramjanaki Garba Mahotsav, Neha Chandrakar, Namita Chandrakar, Bharti Chandrakar, Mamta Chandrakar, Rajani Chandrakar, Surekha Neelkamal Chandrakar, Yogita Roopeshwari, Bharti Sahu, Mamta Sahu, Deepmala Chandrakar, Fuleshwari Baghel, Om Kumar Kanwar were present. The chief guest at the Rameela Maidan Bhakara was Pratibha Ajay Chandrakar, Jyoti Chandrakar, Sindhu Bais, Pushpa Ramgopal Dewangan, Poornima Ramswaroop Sahu. The

guest on every day of Navratri, presented prizes to the winners in every category of men, women and children category and presented attractive prizes to 10 participants of every day. During this the participants also presented colourful cultural programme and kept the audience enthralled and presented Saraswati Vandana along with classical dance 'Kathak'. The girls presented very colourful dance. On the last day, the partici-

pants danced in 'Kedia attire', colourful 'Gujarati' clothes in the 'Dandiya', 'Doudiya', 'Teen-Tali', 'morpetch' and other such 'Garba' steps and offered prayers to the 'Aradhya Devi-Maa Chand'. On this occasion making a novel promotion, the Samiti had constructed attractive 'Selfie-Zone' and 'Reel Zone' inside the Pandal and captured the nine days of memorable events in the camera. It is notable here that 'Garba Mahotsav' is being organised for last many years and this year also, trainer from Gujarat Sunny Gill and his team trained around 1000 participants on 'Garba' and 'Dandiya' steps and styles. In the Pandal, on behalf of the district administration Dharmtari, a message on 'Vote sarvopari' for the forthcoming elections and for cent percent voting by the voters was delivered and pledge was administered to all those present.

## SP inspects camps in naxal infested areas

■ Issues instructions to para-military force for elections  
■ Inspects Camp Budhanbhat and Gota and Thana Bakarkatta

Khairagarh, Oct 24:

Additional SP Neha Pandey in view of forthcoming VS polls 2023, conducted inspection in the naxal infested area at Camp Budhanbhat, Gota and Thana Bakarkatta Thana and took stock of necessary resources in view of security issues and gave necessary instructions to Thana and Camp in-charges. During this inspection she inspected the police check-posts on the inter-state



borders and directed not to allow any transportation of illegal materials from inter-state borders and ensure thorough checking. Apart from this she also inspected the thanas and met the Thana Staff, ITBP, BSF, CAF and other jawans in the security work and took stock of the basic amenities provided to them. She asked all to spruce up the security and make it full se-

cured. During inspection of Thana Chuikhadan, Bakarkatta, and Police Camp Budhanbhat and Ghotia Camp, she took stock of cleanliness and maintenance on all the four sides of thana bhavans and thana premises and gave necessary instructions. She took information about sufficient lighting system during night security from ITBF, BSF, CAF jawans posted at the Morcha points on

all four sides of the thanas and held discussions with the ITBP, BSF, CAF senior officers on the geographical, economical, sociological perspective. She also inspected all the registers maintained in all the thanas during her visit and gave instructions to keep all the records upto-date. The force present in the thana was asked to continue patrolling and help the person in need and perform their duty in clean uniform and behave cordially with the victimised person visiting the thana. She also inspected the sensitive polling centres and met the general public and motivated them to cast their votes without any fear and jawans were given training for the election related works.

## Bastar Dussehra chariot brought to Kumhadakot forest

Jagdalpur, Oct 25:

Like every year, the double-storey eight-wheeled chariot of Bastar Dussehra was stolen on October 24 this year too at around 11 pm after the Raini Rath Parikrama Puja ritual. The princely tradition of stealing the eight-wheeled chariot after midnight and bringing it to the Kumhadakot forest located near the city was followed. After bringing the Kumhadakot forest, Rural Navakhani Puja Vidhan was performed here today with the members of the royal family. This program will continue throughout the day. After this, the umbrella of Maa Danteshwari will be installed outside the Kumhadakot forest under the Raini Puja ritual. The chariot will return late at night to the lion gate of Danteshwari temple. It is noteworthy that about 500 villagers of Madiya tribe from 33



villages of Bastanar-Kodenar area participated in the tradition of stealing and returning the eight-wheeled chariot at midnight. The ritual of stealing the chariot in Bastar Dasha was started centuries ago by the villagers of Madiya tribe of Kodenar region of Bastanar. Since then it has become a princely tradition of Bastar Dussehra. During the princely period, chariots were stolen by the villagers to show their faith and trust in the Bastar Maharaja. After this, the

Bastar Maharaja was called to his appointed place and after the puja rituals, the king along with the Bastar Maharaja was involved in bringing Maa Danteshwari's chhatra back to the palace after carrying it in a chariot. During Bastar Dasha, the chariot is taken out of the scope of Parikrama due to it being taken to the Kumhadakot forest. The princely tradition of returning the Bastar Dasha Rath from Kumhadakot is called Raini Puja Vidhan outside. The process of return of Bastar

Dussehra Rath from Kumhadakot starts late at night after the dinner of the villagers of Madiya tribe of Bastanar-Kodenar. This process will be completed late night on 25th October. On the same route by which the chariot is taken to Kumhadakot, the chariot is parked in front of the royal palace Singhdwar and the umbrella of Maa Danteshwari is installed in the temple. Also, the chariot movement is completed in Bastar Dussehra. After this, Bastar Dussehra will start its last phase with Kachhan Jatra, Kutub Jatra along with the farewell of the gods and goddesses invited from Bastar division and neighboring states. Meanwhile, after the organization of Muria Darbar, Mawali Mata's doli and Mata's umbrella, which reached here from Dantewada, will be bid farewell on 31st October. With this, Bastar Dussehra will be completed.

## Biggest market of traditional tools and Bastar crafts in Bastar Dussehra

Jagdalpur, Oct 25:

Lakhs of villagers from 7 districts of entire Bastar division participate in Bastar Dussehra. During this period, every year the biggest market of traditional tools and artistic Bastar crafts made by local blacksmiths of Bastar division is held in Guru Nanak Chowk. In the biggest tool market, country-made plowshares, paddy cutting sickles, spades, small and big axes, spears, knives, sticks, axes and many other weapons useful for farmers are



brought for sale. Apart from this, a large number of iron craft sculptures, artistic sculptures, wooden sculptures as well as other artistic materials are available in the artistic Bastar craft. Everyone

waits for this biggest market of traditional tools and artistic Bastar crafts held during Bastar Dussehra. In which, apart from the villagers, others also do shopping in large quantities.

## Satish appointed President SSDJS

Dongargaon, Oct 25:

On completion of term of Shri Sakal Digamber Jain Samaj (SSDJS) working committee, a meeting was organised and new office bearers were appointed through mutual consent. In the new working committee, Satish Jain (Lalli) has been appointed as the President; Parboddh Jain as V-P; Pramod Jain as Secretary and Rahul Jaini (Rahi) as Treasurer. The board of patrons comprised of JK Jain, Deshraj

Jain, Khoobchand Jain, Hajari Lal Jain, Arun Kumar Jain. The working committee members are- Rajkumar Jain, Vimal Kumar Jain, Dhanya Kumar Jain, Choudhary Sanjay Jain, Rajesh Jain, Dharmendra Jain, Sunil Jain, Dilip Jain, Rakesh Jain Pintu, Rakesh Jain, Nilesh Jain, Vijay Jain, Saurabh Jain, Prafulla Jain, Anuj Jain, Roshan Jain, Seth Gaurav Jain, Mahila Mandal President and Secretaries were included in it.

## Collector, SP conduct surprise inspection

■ Of remote area under Bhairamgarh block

Bijapur, Oct 24:

Collector and District Returning Officer Rajendra Kumar Katara and SP Anjanayesh Vashnaye conducted inspection of remote area of Bhairamgarh Block viz. Farsegarh, Rani Bodali and other villages and took stock of the security arrangements for the VS polls 2023 and gave necessary instructions to those present. During this they took information about the arrival and safety of the polling teams; helipad,



basic facilities in the polling centres viz. electricity, water, toilets and others. They also held talks with the officers of the

Police and Revenue department on the security related subjects and gave necessary suggestions and guidance.



## India dismisses Pak's Kashmir remark at UNSC

United Nations, Oct 25 (PTI):

India has said it will treat a reference by Pakistan to Kashmir during a Security Council meeting on the Israel-Gaza situation with the contempt it deserves and will not dignify it with a response.

The remarks by India's Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN, Ambassador R Ravindra, came on Tuesday after Pakistan's UN envoy Munir Akram made reference to Kashmir at the Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East.

"Before I end, there was a remark of habitual nature by one delegation

referring to Union Territories that are integral and inalienable parts of my country," Ravindra said.

"I would treat these remarks with contempt they deserve and not dignify them with a response in the interest of time," Ravindra said.

Earlier, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told the Security Council meeting that all acts of terrorism are unlawful and unjustifiable, whether they are carried out by Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Pakistan-based terrorist outfit, or by Hamas, targeting people in Mumbai or Kibbutz Beerli.

"We must affirm the right of any nation to de-

fend itself and to prevent such horror from repeating itself. No member of this Council, no nation in this entire body could or would tolerate the slaughter of its people," Blinken said.

"As this Council and the UN General Assembly have repeatedly affirmed, all acts of terrorism are unlawful and unjustifiable. They're unlawful and unjustifiable, whether they target people in Nairobi or Bali Istanbul or Mumbai, in New York or Kibbutz Be'eri," Blinken told the UN Security Council.

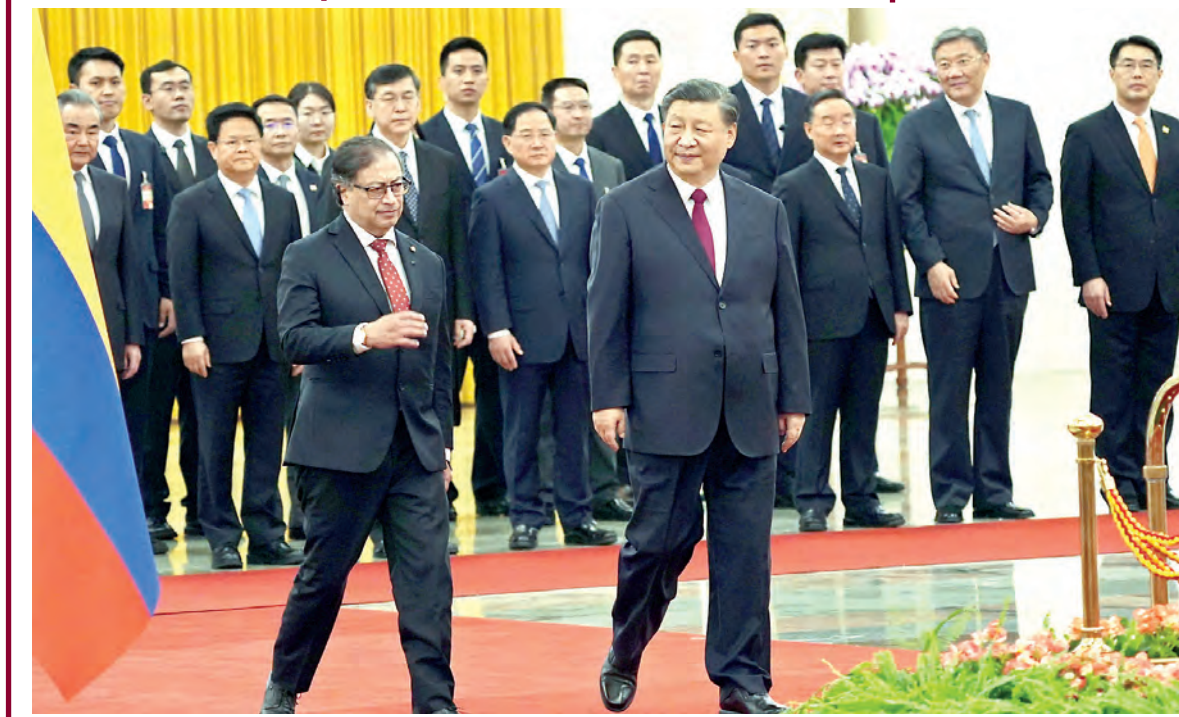
"They are unlawful and unjustifiable whether they're carried out by

ISIS, by Boko Haram, by Al Shabaab, by Lashkar-e-Taiba or by Hamas. They are unlawful and unjustifiable whether victims are targeted for their faith, their ethnicity, their nationality or any other reason," Blinken said.

He stressed that the Security Council has a responsibility to denounce member states that arm, fund and train Hamas or "any other terrorist group that carries out such horrific acts."

Blinken's remarks appeared to make a reference to the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks carried out by Pakistan-based terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba.

## DIPLOMATIC WELCOME



Colombian President Gustavo Petro, left, inspects an honour guard with Chinese President Xi Jinping during a welcoming ceremony at the Great Hall of the People Wednesday, Oct. 25 in Beijing, China.

## The Israelis can make their own decisions: Biden

Washington, Oct 25 (PTI): Amidst reports of an imminent ground invasion of Gaza by Israel, President Joe Biden has said that Israel can make its own decisions, as the US firmly backs its ally while urging caution.

The latest conflict was triggered by unprecedented attacks against Israel by Hamas militants on October 7, killing more than 1,400 people. Israel has launched a massive counter-offensive against the Islamic militant group that has ruled Gaza since 2007.

Biden made the comment on Tuesday in response to a question while posing for a picture with the visiting Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

"Are you urging Israel to



delay its ground invasion?" Biden was asked, to which he replied, "The Israelis can make their own decisions."

Last week, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant laid out the Jewish nation's plan to change the "security regime" in Gaza—implying Hamas' removal—and said the plan was designed in three stages.

Gallant said that the Israeli Defence Forces

(IDF) was in the plan's first stage when it was carrying out aerial strikes. It will be followed by ground incursion and finally, the change of security regime in Gaza, he said.

More than 5,000 Palestinians have been killed so far, including over 2,000 children and 1,100 women, as well as journalists, medical workers and first responders, with more than 16,000 injured, according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza.

John Kirby, Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the National Security Council in the White House, told reporters that the US will continue to ensure that Israel has the tools and capabilities it needs to defend itself.

## Ireland aims to strengthen economic and cultural ties with India

Dublin, Oct 25 (PTI): The Irish government wants to further deepen its strong economic and cultural relationship with India as part of its renewed Asia Pacific strategy launched this week, Deputy Prime Minister Micheal Martin has said.

Ireland's Asia Pacific Strategy had a target of EUROS 100 billion in trade with the region by 2025, which has been exceeded two years ahead of time.

"We have a strong economic relationship but also a strong cultural relationship (with India)," Martin told reporters in Dublin on Tuesday.

"We want to deepen that and we're launching our Asia Pacific strategy to support our continued ambitions to expand across Asia Pacific, which will fuel economic growth into the future across the

world," Martin, also Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence, said.

The Tanaiste, as the Deputy Prime Minister is known in Ireland, swapped roles with the country's Indian-origin Prime Minister (Taoiseach), Leo Varadkar, as part of their coalition arrangement at the end of last year.

In his role as Minister for Foreign Affairs, he is focussed on deploying the country's Global Ireland strategy and renewed the country's commitment to the Asia Pacific region within that strand this week.

India is a key aspect of the renewed Asia Pacific strategy, building on a new Consulate General in Mumbai as part of efforts to expand Ireland's footprint in the region.

## Imran Khan dares Nawaz Sharif for a contest

Lahore, Oct 25 (PTI): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party chairman Imran Khan has thrown a challenge to Nawaz Sharif, saying he will contest against the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supremo in "whatever constituency" he chooses in the upcoming polls. Khan's challenge came as a video posted from his X handle.

The former prime minister has been in Adiala Jail at Rawalpindi in the cipher case since early August and the video was recorded before his arrest.

"Nawaz Sharif was waiting to return to Pakistan once I am sent to jail and the PTI is eliminated. All the corruption cases against Nawaz and company have already been closed," Khan said in the video, posted after



Sharif returned to Pakistan after a four-year self-imposed exile in London. Nawaz returned to Pakistan on October 21.

"Nawaz wanted this level playing field before going into polls. I will contest in any constituency Nawaz chooses. And I assure him that I will not even run a campaign in that constituency. I will tell you the feelings of Pakistani people. This country has changed as its people will never vote for

such people. Social media has changed people. Gone are the days when those who had the patronage of the (military) establishment got elected," Khan said further.

His party said in its post on X that chairman Khan had already intimated the nation about the 'London Plan' on numerous occasions and added: "With absconder Nawaz Sharif's return, the plan appears to be unfolding as anticipated.

## CAPTIVES REMEMBERED TOGETHER



An installation of blindfolded giant teddy bears adorned with photos of Israelis held captive in Gaza, is seen in a central square in Tel Aviv, Israel, Wednesday, Oct. 25. The installation is meant to draw attention to over 200 people who were abducted by Hamas militants during a bloody and unprecedented Oct. 7 cross-border attack.

## Israeli airstrikes surge in Gaza, destroying homes and killing dozens at a time

Rafah (Gaza Strip), Oct 25 (AP): Israel escalated airstrikes across the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, crushing families in the rubble of residential buildings, as health officials said hundreds of Palestinians were killed in the past day and medical facilities were shut down because of bomb damage and lack of power. The massive air bombardment continued through the night as Israeli jets hit sites across Gaza, the Hamas-run Interior Ministry said.

The soaring death toll from the bombardment is unprecedented in the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It augurs an even greater loss of life in Gaza once Israeli forces backed by tanks and artillery launch an expect-



A Palestinian stands outside the building destroyed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip in Rafah, Wednesday, Oct 25.

ed ground offensive aimed at crushing Hamas militants. Gaza's 2.3 million people have been running out of food, water and medicine since Israel sealed off the territory following the

devastating Oct 7 attack by Hamas on towns in southern Israel. The Gaza Health Ministry, which is run by Hamas, said Israeli airstrikes killed at least 704 people over the past day,

mostly women and children. The Associated Press could not independently verify the death tolls cited by Hamas, which says it tallies figures from hospital directors.

In Washington, White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters that the U.S. also could not verify that one-day death toll.

"The Ministry of Health is run by Hamas, and I think that all needs to be factored into anything that they put out publicly," Israel said Tuesday it had launched 400 airstrikes over the past day, killing Hamas commanders, hitting militants as they prepared to fire rockets into Israel and striking command centers and a Hamas tunnel shaft.

## China slams US as disruptor of peace

Bangkok, Oct 25 (AP):

China said the United States is the "biggest disruptor of regional peace and stability" in the world in a scathing response Wednesday to a Pentagon report on China's growing military buildup.

The annual report that is required by Congress is one way the Pentagon measures the military capabilities of China, which the US government sees as its key threat in the Asia-Pacific region and America's primary long-term security challenge.

The statement China's Ministry of Defence issued in response called the Pentagon report's findings false and used it in turn to hit back at the US' recent actions in helping Israel and Ukraine, as

well as its buildup of military installations worldwide.

"The US has sent depleted uranium munitions and cluster bombs to Ukraine, sent its carrier battle groups to the Mediterranean and weapons and munitions to Israel, is this the so-called gospel' the 'human rights defender is bringing to the area?" said Wu Qian, the spokesperson for China's defence ministry.

The Pentagon report builds on a warning last year that China was expanding its nuclear force rapidly, in line with a general buildup of its military. The earlier warning said Beijing was on track to nearly quadruple the number of warheads it has to 1,500 by 2035.

## India expresses concern over civilian casualties in Israel-Palestine conflict

United Nations, Oct 25 (PTI): India has voiced deep concern over the deteriorating security situation and large-scale loss of civilian life in the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict, urging the parties to work towards creating conditions necessary for peace and restarting direct negotiations through de-escalation and ending violence.

The remarks by India's Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN, Ambassador R Ravindra, came on Tuesday at the Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East.

"India is deeply concerned at the deteriorating security situation and large-scale loss of civilian lives in the ongoing conflict. The mounting humanitarian crisis is equal-



Palestinians pray by the bodies of people killed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip in front of the morgue in Deir Al-Balah.

ly alarming," Ravindra said. He said the escalation of hostilities in the region has only exacerbated the dire humanitarian situation and has once again underscored the fragile nature of the ceasefire.

"Civilian casualties in the ongoing conflict are a

matter of serious and continuing concern. All parties must protect civilians, especially women and children. The unfolding humanitarian crisis needs to be addressed," Ravindra said. India urged the parties to work towards creating conditions necessary

for peace and for restarting direct negotiations including through de-escalation and eschewing violence.

"Current escalation has once again underscored the need for immediate resumption of credible, direct negotiations between Israel and Palestine. Every effort must be made to create conducive conditions for the resumption of these talks," he said.

Ravindra said India has always supported a negotiated two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine issue, leading to the establishment of a sovereign, independent and viable state of Palestine, living within secure and recognised borders, side by side in peace with Israel, taking into account the legitimate security concerns of Israel.

## California governor receives warm welcome in China

Bangkok, Oct 25 (AP): Senior Chinese officials greeted California Gov. Gavin Newsom with smiles and warm words on Wednesday in a display of friendliness that stands in sharp contrast to the dialogue between the United States and China in recent years.

The governor is on a weeklong tour of China where he will push for climate cooperation. Newsom's trip as governor, once considered routine, is drawing attention as it comes after years of heightening tensions between the U.S. and China.

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Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Sale of BF Granulated Slag under MOU from NSL, Nagarnar

NSL proposes to sell BF Granulated Slag to End Users by entering into MOU for long term sales.

The interested End Users may send their request to enter MOU with us for minimum quantity of 8000 MT (2 rake load) per month of BF Granulated Slag on their letter head with Ex Works Nagarnar Price per Ton with quantity which they are interested to take under MOU in sealed Envelope to Executive Director (Commercial), NMDC LTD, Khanji Bhavan, 5th Floor, Commercial Department, Masab Tank, Hyderabad 500028. For more details kindly visit <https://nmdcsteel.nmdc.co.in/>. The last date of receipt of application at HO Hyderabad is 04.11.2023.





# CENTRAL Chronicle

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## Uncertain Horizons

### Nawaz Sharif's Return

Nawaz Sharif's return to Pakistan after four years of self-imposed exile marks a significant juncture in the country's tumultuous political landscape. The former Prime Minister and leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has re-entered the arena with a determined stride, setting the stage for a high-stakes political showdown. His return, while shrouded in legal complexities and political intrigue, offers a glimpse into the evolving dynamics of Pakistan's power corridors. Nawaz Sharif's departure for London in 2019, ostensibly for medical treatment, coincided with his 14-year prison sentence on corruption charges. His conviction, however, did not deter him from pursuing a political comeback. Now, back on Pakistani soil, Nawaz Sharif appears resolute in his quest for a fourth term as Prime Minister. The fact that he returns with his conviction still in force underscores the audacity of his political ambition. What makes Nawaz Sharif's return all the more intriguing is the evolving nature of his relationship with Pakistan's influential military establishment. In the past, his interactions with the military have been marked by friction and accusations of interference. The 2018 general elections saw Nawaz Sharif openly accusing the military of backing his main rival, Imran Khan. Fast forward to today, and Imran Khan finds himself in jail on corruption charges following a falling out with the military. The apparent thaw in Nawaz Sharif's relations with the military is evident in his confident return, suggesting that a new chapter in this complex relationship may be unfolding. As Pakistan heads into the general election in January, the political landscape is rife with uncertainty. Both Nawaz Sharif and Imran Khan currently face legal hurdles that prevent them from contesting the election. Shehbaz Sharif, Nawaz's younger brother, held the position of Prime Minister until earlier this year, offering the PML-N a semblance of continuity. Nawaz Sharif's return injects fresh energy into the party's electoral prospects, but it remains a formidable challenge to dent Imran Khan's popularity and support base. Pakistan is grappling with a confluence of pressing issues, including security concerns, economic challenges, and political instability. Nawaz Sharif's return carries the weight of these multifaceted crises. Rebuilding Pakistan's economy is a paramount concern, and Nawaz Sharif has sought to steer the national discourse towards a more conciliatory stance on India. He argues that no nation can progress while locked in perpetual hostilities with its neighbors. However, Nawaz Sharif's overtures towards India are met with understandable skepticism in New Delhi. The longstanding issue of cross-border terrorism remains a glaring obstacle to meaningful engagement. Nawaz Sharif and his political backers have yet to demonstrate a credible track record in curbing extremist elements and addressing this critical concern. As Nawaz Sharif reenters the political arena, Pakistan stands at a crossroads. The coming months will be pivotal in determining the nation's political trajectory. The legal appeals of both Nawaz Sharif and Imran Khan will shape the electoral landscape, but the broader context of Pakistan's challenges cannot be overlooked.

## China's Strategic Assertiveness

### A Global Concern

The United States Defense Department's latest annual report has sounded a clarion call regarding China's increasingly assertive actions in the Asia-Pacific region, raising concerns about the potential implications for global stability. While China's rapid ascent from widespread poverty to becoming the world's second-largest economy and a technological leader is commendable, it is the strategic maneuvers and military posturing that have caught the attention of the international community. One of the most disconcerting developments outlined in the report is the surge in "coercive and risky" air intercepts by the Chinese military against US aircraft over the past two years. This trend signifies a departure from the relatively stable interactions of the previous decade and raises the specter of mid-air collisions and escalated tensions in a region critical to global security. China's assertiveness extends beyond aerial encounters. The construction of military infrastructure in the disputed South China Sea has drawn international scrutiny, as it challenges established maritime norms and territorial boundaries. The ramifications of such actions extend far beyond the Asia-Pacific region and have the potential to disrupt the delicate balance of power worldwide. One particularly concerning aspect highlighted in the report is China's strategic nuclear arsenal. With an estimated 500 nuclear warheads as of May this year, China appears to be rapidly expanding its nuclear capabilities. This marked increase in nuclear warheads is a cause for alarm, as it undermines global efforts to reduce nuclear proliferation and raises questions about China's long-term strategic intentions. It is essential to understand that China's military modernization efforts have transformed its armed forces from a large but outdated entity into a modern and capable military. While it may still lag behind the United States in terms of overall military hardware and operational experience, China has made significant strides in key areas of military technology and doctrine. The United States' concerns about China's military assertiveness are not unfounded. The Asia-Pacific region is of paramount importance to global stability, and any escalation of tensions there could have far-reaching consequences. The risk of accidents or miscalculations during military encounters is a genuine threat that should not be underestimated. The international community, including Western allies and partners, must carefully monitor and respond to China's actions in the region. A coordinated approach that emphasizes diplomacy, conflict resolution, and adherence to international norms is essential to prevent any unintended escalation. The global community should also engage in a constructive dialogue with China to address concerns and seek common ground. Open channels of communication are crucial to averting potential crises and promoting regional stability.

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## DURGA VISARJAN



Devotees immerse an idol of goddess Durga during 'Visarjan' in the Hooghly river, in Nadia, Wednesday, Oct. 25.

## Legendary Spinner Bishan Singh Bedi's Iconic Career Comes to an End

**DR. VASISHT.M.C**

On Monday, October 23, 2023, the cricketing world bid farewell to one of its true legends, Bishan Singh Bedi, as the curtain fell on the final spell of the "Sardar of Spin." Bedi, an iconic figure in international and Indian cricket, left an indelible mark on the sport, not only elevating Indian spin bowling to unprecedented heights but also captivating generations of cricket enthusiasts. Bedi's illustrious international career spanned a remarkable thirteen years, commencing in 1966 and culminating in 1979. Throughout this period, he graced the test arena, representing India in 67 tests and scalping an impressive total of 266 wickets. In domestic cricket, he donned the colors of Delhi in the Ranji Trophy and North Zone in the Duleep Trophy. While Bedi's contributions to Indian cricket are undeniable, his record as a captain in the test format may not boast an impressive win-loss ratio. Over the course of his captaincy, which spanned 22 test matches, India emerged victorious in six encounters but suffered defeat in eleven others.

One of the most celebrated moments in Bishan Singh Bedi's captaincy was India's historic test series win against West Indies in the 1976-77 series. The journey to this triumph began with a challenging start as India lost the first test, followed by a narrow escape for West Indies in the second. However, it was the third test at Port of Spain that etched Bedi's captaincy into cricketing history. In this decisive match, West Indies, led by the legendary Clive Lloyd, set a formidable target of 404 runs for India to chase in the fourth innings. Lloyd had placed his hopes on the spinners to secure a victory. Against all odds, India not only accepted the challenge but also successfully achieved the target. This remarkable triumph still holds its place as one of India's greatest victories in the annals of test cricket. Under Bedi's leadership, India not only conquered the West Indies but also made history by registering its first-ever test victory in Australia in 1977, cementing Bedi's legacy as a captain who led his team to remarkable achievements.

### A Cricketing Maestro's Journey in the World of Spin

Bishan Singh Bedi showcased his exceptional bowling prowess most prominently against the Australian cricket team, often referred to as the Kangaroos. His standout performance in a single innings came in Calcutta in 1969, where he achieved remarkable figures of 7 wickets for 98 runs. Notably, his best bowling performance in a test match also came against the formidable Australians, where he claimed an impressive 10 wickets for 194 runs in Perth (1977) throughout his career. Bedi delivered several dream spells that left cricket enthusiasts in awe. In the 1969-70 series against Australia, he secured an impressive tally of 21 wickets, dismissing renowned batsmen like Bill Lawry, Keith Stackpole, Ian Chappell, Doug Walters, and Ian Redpath. Unfortunately, despite Bedi's heroics, India succumbed to a series loss with a scoreline of 1-3.

Bedi's magic with the ball continued in the 1972-73 series against England, where he took 25 wickets, accounting for notable batsmen like Dennis Amiss, Keith Fletcher, and Tony Lewis. His spell-binding performances extended to the 1976-77 series against the West Indies, where he claimed 18 wickets, including the likes of Viv Richards, Clive Lloyd, and Kallicharan. In the same year, Bedi exhibited his artistry with the ball once again, this time against New Zealand, securing 22 wickets and dismissing accomplished players such as Glen Turner, Mark Burgess, Geoff Howarth, Warren Lees, and Richard Hadlee. His prowess even shone against Tony Greig-led MCC in 1977, where he took 25 wickets, including notable names like Tony Greig, Mike Brearley, and Alan Knott.

Bedi's exceptional bowling continued to make waves, even in Australia, where he secured 31 prestigious wickets, dismissing players of the caliber of John Dyson, Peter Tooney, Kim Hughes, and Steve Rixon. These remarkable performances solidified Bedi's reputation as one of the finest spin bowlers in the history of cricket. Bravery defined Bedi's life, both on and off the cricket field. He never hesitated to criticize

and question anything he felt was wrong. He often found himself embroiled in controversial issues, with one of the notable instances occurring during the 1976-77 series against the West Indies. With the series level at 1-1, both teams faced off at Sabina Park in Jamaica for the fourth and final test. West Indies' legendary captain, Clive Lloyd, had devised a new strategy, instructing his fast bowlers, including Michael Holding, Wayne Daniel and Holder to target the Indian batsmen instead of the stumps. In an effort to protect the bowlers from injuries, Bedi declared the Indian innings closed at 306-6 despite conceding a lead of 85 runs in the first innings. He repeated this declaration in the second innings, ending it at 97-5. West Indies went on to win the test and the series. Bedi's declaration was a protest against what he saw as foul play by the Windies' captain. The 1976 Kingston test remains one of the most notorious victories for West Indies under Clive Lloyd's captaincy.

In 1976-1977, during the height of India's internal emergency, Tony Greig's Marlene Cricket Club toured India for a five-test series. India suffered heavy losses in the first three tests. John Lever, who took 19 wickets in those matches, wreaked havoc on the Indian batting lineup. Bedi accused Lever of using Vaseline oil to tamper with the ball.

The political landscape in India was also undergoing significant changes in 1977. The ruling Congress government was ousted from power, and the first opposition ministry in modern India's history, led by Prime Minister Morarji Desai, was formed. In this new Janata ministry, A.B. Vajpayee held the portfolio of foreign affairs. Efforts were made to reestablish India's relations with its neighboring countries, Pakistan and China. As part of this policy, an Indian cricket team led by B.S. Bedi toured Pakistan for a three-test series. However, the series turned disastrous for both India and Bedi, as India lost the series 0-2.

In the third and final test at Karachi, Pakistan needed 164 runs to win in 25 overs. They achieved the target in 24.5 overs. During the India-Pakistan series of 1978-79, in the third and final one-day match, Pakistan scored 205 runs in the al-

lotted 40 overs. India was cruising at 183-2 in 37.4 overs, requiring 23 runs from 14 balls to win. At this critical moment, Pakistan's fast bowler Sarfaraz Nawaz bowled four consecutive bouncers to Indian batsman Anshuman Gaekwad. Even the tall Gaekwad couldn't reach the deliveries. Surprisingly, the umpires, Javed Akhtar and Khizer Hayat, did not call these deliveries wides. Protesting against this umpiring decision, Bedi called back the Indian batsmen, Gaekwad and Viswanath. Consequently, India conceded the match, and Pakistan won the series 2-1. Bedi's actions in this match sparked widespread debates and controversies and became a focal point of diplomatic discussions. Several books have been written about Bedi, with notable titles including Suresh Menon's "Bishan: Portrait of a Cricketer," "The Spin of Sardar" (a collection of essays published on the occasion of his 75th birthday), Anindya Dutta's "Wizards: The Story of Indian Spin Bowling," and Aditya Bhushan's and Sachin Bajaj's "Fortune Turners." Bedi, in addition to his prowess as a bowler, was a useful batsman, although he didn't fully explore his batting talent. His lone half-century came against New Zealand in Kanpur in 1976, where he impressed by smashing three consecutive sixes off Peter Petrick to reach his maiden fifty.

Bedi, alongside his contemporaries, the legendary spin quartet of B.S. Chandrasekhar, E.A.S. Prasanna, and S. Venkatraghavan, played a pivotal role in transforming India into a spiritual hub of spin bowling. Bedi represented the rich lineage of Indian spin bowling, tracing back to the legendary Balwankar Ballo (1876-1955), the greatest Indian spin bowler of the colonial period, and continuing through other great spinners like Subash Gupte, Babu Nadkarni, and Vinoo Mankad. Bedi also holds the record for one of the most economical figures in the history of One Day International (ODI) cricket, with his remarkable performance of 12 overs, eight maidens, six runs, and one wicket against East Africa in the 1975 World Cup, which still stands as a record. As the Sardar of Spin takes his final bow, his brilliance will forever shine brightly in the cricketing constellation, immortalized among the galaxy of cricketing legends. The cricketing world will cherish the legacy of Bishan Singh Bedi, not only for his artistry with the ball but also for the fearless spirit with which he approached the game and life itself. His contributions to Indian cricket remain invaluable, and his influence will continue to inspire generations of cricketers and cricket enthusiasts for years to come.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### INDIA Bloc Discord

Amidst growing tensions following Uttar Pradesh Congress President Ajay Roy's statement, the conflict between Congress and the Samajwadi Party escalates. SP President Akhilesh Yadav openly targets Rahul Gandhi. As integral members of the INDIA bloc, disputes should be resolved privately. Leaders of both parties and the INDIA bloc must address this issue promptly to safeguard opposition interests, preventing BJP from gaining an upper hand in upcoming assembly and Lok Sabha elections.

Muhammad Hassan, Mumbai

### Milestone Achievement

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) achieved a critical milestone by successfully testing the crew escape system for the Gaganyaan mission. Overcoming technical challenges, this test flight marks a historic step toward sending Indian astronauts to space by 2024. ISRO's success underscores India's growing prowess in space exploration.

Jahangir Shaikh, Mumbai

### Electoral Bonds: Supreme Scrutiny

The Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court will finally hear the issue of electoral bonds on October 31 after nearly six years. This finance mechanism, passed as a Money Bill in 2017, aimed to bring transparency to election financing but raised concerns. Under this law, anyone can purchase bonds from the State Bank of India (SBI) and donate them to political parties anonymously. While the government knows the donor's identity, voters and opposition parties remain in the dark. Recent RTI disclosures revealed that the BJP acquired 90% of these bonds, often in large denominations. Will the Supreme Court address these concerns?

N Ashraf, Mumbai

### Health and Food

A few years ago, medical facilities were less, yet people remained healthy because their food was good and of quality. But today, with the increasing trend of foods in the market apart from that, modern convenience foods or fast food, i.e. packaged foods, taste has become our priority rather than quality. Clean and safe food is the first step towards better health. There is no doubt that food quality is a measure of the health of a community. But even today malnutrition remains a major problem. It is said here that "as the food, so the mind." If the habit of eating well has been maintained since childhood, the need for a doctor will be reduced. Today we need good and nutritious food.

N Mateeni, Mumbai

## Elderly people create significant setback to Europe



Satish Singh

In any country, with the increase in the number of elderly people i.e., people above 65 years of age, there is a decrease in savings, decline in labour force, deterioration in investment returns and decrease in investment rate. In this context, the population of elderly people in Europe has increased so much that the people there are facing many problems today, among which economic and social problems are the most important. Due to this, changes and decline are also being seen in cultural activities. According to this report, other countries of the world will have to face the same challenges that Europe is facing today due to the in-

crease in the number of elderly people in the year 2064.

This figure shows that Europe is in danger in many contexts. The latest report of the World Health Organization (WHO) says that in Europe next year i.e., 2024, the number of elderly people above 65 years of age will be more than that of teenagers under 15 years of age. In 2022, one-fifth or 21.1 percent of the total EU population was aged 65 years or older. The average age of the population of Europe was 44.4 years on January 1, 2022. Today, half of the population of Europe was 44.4 years or older. According to this WHO report, to deal with the current negative situation, the people of Europe will have to change their lifestyle and habits. For long life, they will need to take nutritious diet and pay special attention to health. Due to longer life expectancy, on one hand the elderly population in Europe is increasing and on the other hand the birth rate of children is decreasing drastically. Due to lack of young workers, there is a reduction in basic facilities.

To improve the situation, WHO says that in Europe and countries where the elderly population is high, the elderly will have to participate in sports and cultural activities for more time every day. They will have to do at least 150 minutes of exercise every week, only then they will be able to remain healthy and participate in economic, social, and cultural activities.

WHO also says that being physically active can reduce the chances of death by 35 percent?

With the increase in the number of elderly people, changes are becoming visible at the economic, social, and cultural level in European countries. For example, due to decline in youth population, the physical capacity of the workforce has decreased, due to which production capacity is declining, economic activities are slowing down, and more expenditure is being incurred on health items, due to which the economy is weakening.

However, it is not only in Europe that the elderly population is increasing. Japan is also troubled by the increasing elderly population. According to the recent report of WHO, the number of elderly people aged 100 or more in Japan has increased to more than 92 thousand. USA is also troubled by long life expectancy, low birth rate, increased health care costs etc. Public health care expenditure in USA is increasing rapidly. There has also been a huge reduction in the number of workers. USA's dependence on other countries for workers has increased. Industries have also been negatively impacted. Cases of loneliness and depression are being seen among children, teenagers, and youth.

In the year 1980, China adopted the one child policy to control the population. Due to this, the number of young popula-

tions in China has decreased significantly and the number of elderly people has increased meaningfully. According to the United Nations Population Division, China's labour population will be reduced to only 548 million in the next century. According to an estimate, by the year 2030, there will be a huge gap in terms of age difference in China's population. Obviously, the decline in the labour force will have a negative impact on the country's infrastructure, which is a vehicle for development. Shortage of labour force will adversely affect roads, electricity, health, education, industry, manufacturing etc. However, India is untouched by this problem. In India, the elderly population of 5.5 percent in 2011 will increase to 15.2 percent by the year 2050, whereas in the year 2050, the elderly population will be 32.6 percent in China and 23.2 percent in USA. According to the World Bank, by the year 2050, India's population will be 173 crores, out of which 27 crore population may be elderly.

In India, by the year 2050, the elderly population will constitute one-fifth of the total population in four southern states like Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. Maharashtra, West Bengal, and Odisha will also have a large population of elderly people. The number of youth population in the states like Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Assam, Bihar, Haryana etc. will be high in the year

2050, due to which the migration of youth from these states to the southern states will continue. Due to such changes, the pressure on the infrastructure of the southern states may also increase and changes may be seen in the social and cultural level there. Demographic change is pointing towards a major crisis, which needs timely action. Because of this, children in Europe, USA, Japan, and China are becoming targets of despair and depression. Due to psychological reasons, they are not being brought up properly. Lack of self-confidence is being seen in children. Children are seen trying to avoid competition.

Overall, its impact is not visible from the economic, social, and cultural perspective, its far-reaching impact cannot be ruled out, because as the age of people increases, an increase in savings is seen, but Health expenditure surges with increasing age. Decrease in savings has a negative impact on the domestic products of the states. Apart from this, due to low youth population, the infrastructure of the country collapses and the path of development of the country starts getting blocked. Therefore, European countries, Japan, China, and USA need to make and implement new policies in the changed environment. At the same time, the people here will also have to change their lifestyle and habits, only then the edge of this demographic crisis can be blunted.



**BRIEF**

**Mobile Congress**



**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 7th edition of the country's biggest telecom industry event, 'India Mobile Congress 2023', the Department of Telecom said in a post on social media platform X on Wednesday. The three-day event has been jointly organised by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI). "Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi set to inaugurate India Mobile Congress 2023 on 27th October, 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi," DoT wrote on X.

## NITI Aayog initiates study to develop action plan

**To bridge India's trade deficit with China**

New Delhi, Oct 25:

Government think tank NITI Aayog has initiated a study to develop a comprehensive action plan to bridge India's trade deficit with China over time and align trading strategies with emerging geopolitical situation and potential risks to safeguard supply chains.

The Aayog has invited bids from consultants to lead the two studies in areas of reducing trade gap with China and boosting local manufacturing. The move also comes against the backdrop of simmering tensions between India and China

since the Galwan clash in June 2020. "The centrality of China to India's supply chain in certain industries raises dependency and vulnerability of the Indian supply chains and production networks particularly during crisis situations such as the COVID-19 and geopolitical conflicts.

"The study would aim to develop a comprehensive action plan to bridge the trade deficit over time and align trading strategies with emerging geopolitical situation and potential risks to safeguard supply chains," the Aayog said in a notice posted on its website. The terms of reference of study includes analysing the trends in India-China trade (at product category level) over the recent years to discern patterns of trade depend-

ency and underlying reasons for the same. The study will analyse the supply chains of India-China trade and also comparable supply chains of India's trade with other Asian countries to derisk India's trade.

It will also examine product categories where India has comparative advantage and a sizeable market in China to scale up exports to China. According to the Aayog, the study should recommend key policies to boost domestic production and productivity in sectors comparable to the global economy not only to reduce the trade deficit with China, but also to capitalise on global supply chain shifts. "(The study should) analyse the type and quantum of foreign

investment which may bridge the technology gap and utilise the abundant domestic manpower for competitive products. Provide recommendations to resolve the same," NITI Aayog said.

The study will also have to examine tariff, non-tariff barriers, regulatory ecosystem and market access concerns for Indian exports to China. Besides, it will have to recommend measures to enable India to diversify supply chains to India, while pointing out what are the sectors to focus, incentives to offer and reforms required to achieve the objective of attracting global supply chains to India. India's merchandise trade with the world reached more than USD 1 trillion in 2021-22.

## Jio can deploy 5G cell every 10 seconds: Akash Ambani

**Deployed 85 pc 5G network in India**

New Delhi, Oct 25:

Telecom major Reliance Jio has deployed 85 per cent 5G network in India and has the capability to deploy one 5G cell in every 10 seconds, the company's Chairman Akash Ambani said.

According to a statement released by broadband speed and quality measurement firm Ookla, the Reliance Jio chairman said that the company has covered the entire country with a 5G network ahead of the promised time frame of December 2023. "I am particularly proud of our speed of the committed True 5G roll-out. Today, we have covered the entire country with a robust



True 5G network ahead of our promised time frame of December 2023. 85 per cent of the entire 5G deployment in India is made by Jio. We continue to deploy one 5G cell every 10 seconds," Ambani said. According to the Department of Telecom, over 3.38 lakh base stations for 5G have been deployed across the country. "Over the past seven years, we've set several global benchmarks, pro-

pellling India into digital prominence. Today, our ambitions are even higher, and our faith in India's digital future is as strong as ever. We remain fully committed to achieving the full potential of a digital India, and to help India become a leader on the global stage," Ambani said.

Ookla on Tuesday said that Jio has emerged as the number one network in India, winning all nine Speedtest awards presented by Ookla for mobile networks in the market, including all awards for 5G networks. "Jio has emerged as the #1 Network in India, winning all nine awards for Mobile Networks in the market, including all awards for 5G networks. This is a first for any service provider anywhere in the world," Ookla said.

## RBI asks private banks to have at least 2 whole-time directors

Mumbai, Oct 25:

The Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday asked private banks and wholly-owned subsidiaries of foreign banks to ensure at least two Whole Time Directors (WTDs), including the MD & CEO, on their boards to facilitate succession planning. Given the growing complexity of the banking sector, it becomes imperative to establish an effective senior management team to navigate the ongoing and emerging challenges, the RBI said in a circular. "Establishment of such a team may also facilitate succession planning, especially in the background of the regulatory stipulations in respect of tenure and upper age limit for Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) positions," it said. The

RBI asked banks to ensure the presence of at least two WTDs, including the MD & CEO, on their boards, to address issues and challenges. The number of WTDs should be decided by the board of the bank by taking into account factors such as the size of operations, business complexity, and other relevant aspects.

"In compliance to these instructions, banks that currently do not meet the minimum requirement...are advised to submit their proposals for the appointment of WTD(s)... within a period of four months," the circular said. It further said banks, which do not already have the enabling provisions regarding appointment of WTDs in their Articles of Association, may first seek necessary approvals from the RBI, expeditiously.

## Online gaming cos gets GST notices worth Rs 1 lakh crore

New Delhi, Oct 25:

GST authorities have issued show cause notices worth Rs 1 lakh crore to online gaming companies for tax evasion so far, a senior official said on Wednesday. The official, however, said there is no data yet of foreign gaming companies registering in India since October 1. The government has amended the GST law, making it mandatory for overseas online gaming companies to register in India from October 1.

In August, the GST Council clarified that 28 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) would be levied on the full value of bets placed on online gaming platforms. Since then, a host of gaming companies have received either an intimation notice or a show cause notice for short payment of GST.

"Online gaming companies served notices worth about Rs 1 lakh crore by GST authorities so far," the official said. While gaming company Dream11 is reported to have received a show cause notice for evasion of Rs 40,000 crore, casino operators and gaming platform providers, like Delta Corp, have received notices from GST authorities in two instalments totalling Rs 23,000 crore for short-payment of taxes.

Online gaming companies have been approaching the High Courts against such GST demands, contesting the claims of revenue authorities. The online gaming companies claim they were paying taxes at the rate of 18 per cent as the games played on the platform were 'games of skill'.

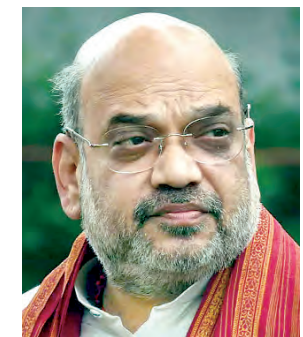
Delta Corp had approached the Bombay

High Court challenging the GST demands. The High Court of Bombay at Goa considered the writ petitions filed by the company and its subsidiaries on October 23, 2023. Delta Corp said in a regulatory filing on October 24. "Basis a statement made on behalf of the concerned tax authorities, the...High Court has directed such authorities not to pass any final orders on the captioned show cause notices without the prior permission of the...High Court," Delta Corp said. Separately, a show cause notice was sent to GamesKraft in September last year for alleged GST evasion of Rs 21,000 crore. While the Karnataka High Court has ruled in favour of the company, the central government in July filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court.

## Shah to launch logo, website of seed cooperative body BBSSL today

New Delhi, Oct 25:

Cooperation Minister Amit Shah will launch a logo, website and brochure of newly established Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Ltd (BBSSL) in the national capital on Thursday. The minister will also distribute membership certificates to BBSSL members at the 'National Symposium on Production of Improved and Traditional Seeds through Cooperative Sector', an official statement said. At the symposium, the objectives of BBSSL, importance of seed production through Primary Agriculture Cooperative Credit Societies (PACS) and role of seeds in productivity and nutrition of crops, along with role of cooperative societies in upliftment of small and marginal farmers, will be discussed, it said. BBSSL will act as



an umbrella organisation for advanced and traditional seed research and production along with processing and marketing through the cooperative sector. It will provide assistance to cooperatives across the country in demand-based seed production, development of infrastructure for storage, processing and packaging of seeds, logistics support, quality enhancement and standardisation, requisite certification and marketing of the seeds produced.

**FII Edition**



**New Delhi:** Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday participated in the seventh edition of Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. "Deliberated on new pathways for investment with the goal to create a positive global impact and navigate new frontiers of growth and prosperity," Goyal said in a post on X. The minister is in Riyadh for a two-day visit.

**Full capacity**

**New Delhi:** The government has asked imported coal-based power plants to operate at full capacity until June 30, 2024, amid a surge in electricity demand and inadequate domestic coal supplies, according to a notification. The power ministry had earlier extended its directive to imported coal-based (ISB) plants to operate at full capacity until October 31, 2023. The government in March this year issued the first directive under Section 11 of the Electricity Act to ISB plants.

### DIVIDEND CHEQUE



**Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Defence Secretary Gridhar Aramam receives final dividend cheque of Rs 224.27 crore for Financial Year 2022-23 from Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Electronics Limited Bhanu Prakash Srivastava, in New Delhi, Wednesday, Oct. 25.**

## Multiple green technologies in cars to help meet carbon neutrality targets in India: Toyota

Tokyo, Oct 25:

There is a need to support a multi-pathway approach in terms of green technologies in cars in a country as big and diverse as India to achieve carbon neutrality goals, a senior Toyota executive said on Tuesday. Multiple technology solutions at different price points are required to cater to different sets of customers in order to cut carbon footprint, he noted. In an interaction here, senior Toyota executives emphasised on the need to treat all technologies fairly to achieve carbon reduction goals. Toyota Daihatsu Engineering and Manufacturing Co-Executive Vice President Pras Ganesh said India is



large enough to utilise multiple solutions, including hybrid and battery electric technologies. He was replying to a query regarding Toyota's product road map strategy in the country where the government favours battery electric vehicles (BEVs) over hybrid cars in terms of taxation.

## Rupee falls 2 paise to 83.18 against US dollar

Mumbai, Oct 25:

The rupee paired its early gains and settled 2 paise lower at 83.18 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, tracking negative cues from domestic equity markets and a stronger American currency overseas. Softening crude oil prices and some buying by foreign equity investors, however, supported the Indian currency, forex dealers said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened stronger by 8 paise at 83.08 and traded between the peak of 83.08 and the lowest level of 83.19 against the greenback. It finally settled at 83.18 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a loss of 2 paise from its previous close.

## Shakti Pumps unveils Revolutionary EV Motor Technology

Pithampur, Oct 25:



Shakti Pumps (India) Limited (herein referred to as "Shakti Pumps"), India's leading manufacturer of energy-efficient pumps and motors has received a patent for inventing a "Stack Assembly For Permanent Magnet Rotor". The Patent Office, Government of India, has awarded Shakti Pumps this patent, fully adhering to the provisions set forth in the Patents Act of 1970. This patent is set to maintain its validity for duration of 20 years, commencing having submitted 25 Patent applications, spanning both domestic and international jurisdictions. Shakti Pumps has re-

cently been granted a patent for their groundbreaking innovation in the field of Electric Vehicle (EV) motor technology. This innovation is a significant advancement that promises to revolutionize the performance and efficiency of electric vehicles. Let's delve into the key as-

pects of this technology and its potential implications. Mr. Dinesh Patidar, Chairman of Shakti Pumps, commented on this pivotal development, stating, "Our groundbreaking EV motor technology has the potential to improve efficiency and extend the range of electric vehicles. By reducing losses, improving power factor, and maintaining lower operating temperatures, this innovation amplifies load capacity and torque, rendering electric vehicles more practical and sustainable, even in challenging conditions like steep terrain and heavy loads. It represents a significant step towards reducing our reliance on fossil fuels."

## Sensex, Nifty tumble nearly 1 pc; extend falling streak to 5th day

Mumbai, Oct 25:

Benchmark Sensex and Nifty plunged nearly 1 per cent on Wednesday due to heavy selling in financial and IT shares as the ongoing tensions in the Middle East unnerved investors. Falling for the fifth day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 522.82 points or 0.81 per cent to settle at 64,049.06 with 24 of its components ending in the red. The index plunged by 2,379 points in the five sessions.

The Nifty declined by 159.60 points or 0.83 per cent to 19,122.15. In the five sessions, the index lost around 690 points. Among



the Sensex firms, Infosys fell the most by 2.76 per cent. Bharti Airtel, NTPC, Tata Motors, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Tech Mahindra, Titan and Axis Bank were among the major laggards. Tata Steel, State Bank of India, Mahindra & Mahindra, Maruti and Nestle were the gainers.

## IOC starts producing 'reference' petrol, diesel for testing automobiles

New Delhi, Oct 25:

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has begun producing specialised 'reference' petrol and diesel, which are used for testing automobiles, for the first time in India, sources said. These fuels, which have higher specifications, are critical for calibrating and testing by automobile manufacturers and testing agencies like the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) and the Automotive Research Association of India. For decades, India relied on imports to meet the demand for these specialised fuels. But now, IOC has indigenously de-

veloped products that will replace imports, ensuring a reliable supply at a much lower cost for vehicle manufacturers and testing agencies, sources said. Fuel retailers like IOC sell petrol and diesel of primarily two kinds - regular and premium, through their fuel station network. The biggest difference between the normal and premium fuel lies in the octane number. The regular fuel boasts an octane number of 87, but premium fuel has an octane number of 91 or even more. The octane number is nothing but a unit to measure the ignition quality of petrol. However, for vehicle testing purposes, the fuel

has to be of a higher grade than regular or premium petrol and diesel. The host of specifications - from Cetane number to flash point, viscosity, sulphur and water content, hydrogen purity and acid number - are listed under government regulations, such fuels are referred to as 'reference' petrol/diesel. These reference fuels are used for emission testing of vehicles equipped with spark ignition engines. Sources said since the volume requirements for such fuels were traditionally not very high, refineries did not produce them. All the requirements of 'reference' for vehicle testing were imported.



## Vibrant Ramleela festival lights up Bakli village

### Dussehra celebration concluded in grand style

Central Chronicle News

**Rajim, Oct 25:** In a display of tradition and devotion, Bakli village shone brightly as it celebrated the revered Dussehra festival with a spectacular Ramleela performance. The villagers came together to witness the timeless tale of good triumphing over evil, igniting the spirit of unity and festivity.

The enchanting evening unfolded in Bakli as the Ramleela program graced the village with its presence. Before the performance, the dedicated artists paid their respects to Lord Ganesh and conducted a heartfelt worship service in honour of Mata, the Mother Goddess.

Guests and villagers alike joined in the pious rituals, offering prayers and performing archana to Lord Rama, Lakshmana, Mata Sita, Hanuman Ji,



Jamwant, and the monkey army

The rural region reverberated with enthusiasm as the village prepared for the grand Dussehra celebration. Tuesday evening saw the completion of all prepa-



rations in anticipation of Vijaydashami, the festival symbolizing the victory of truth over falsehood. The traditional Ramleela program, a cherished tradition in Bakli, graced the stage, captivating the villagers

until the late hours.

The pinnacle of the celebration arrived with a breathtaking fireworks display that illuminated the Dussehra ground. In a dramatic reenactment, one side represented the formi-

dable army of Ravana, while the other embodied the forces of Lord Rama. A fierce and captivating battle unfolded, culminating in the symbolic burning of a towering 15-foot effigy of Ravana.

As the epic tale unfolded, Ravana's brother, Vibhishana, revealed the secret of Ravana's invincibility—a nectar reservoir concealed in his navel. Only by striking an arrow into this vital spot could Ravana meet his ultimate defeat. With resolve and precision, Lord Rama aimed and fired the fateful arrow, and as Ravana lay defeated, he confessed to his ultimate demise.

Ramleela celebration not only showcased its rich cultural heritage but also brought together the community in a profound display of faith, unity, and the eternal victory of good over evil.

Central Chronicle News

**Seorinarayan, Oct 25:** On the auspicious occasion of Vijaydashami (Dussehra), Rajeshri Mahant Ram Sundar Das, the Congress candidate from the South Vidhan Sabha constituency in Raipur and Dudhadhari Math and Shivreenarayan Math Peethadhishwar, actively took part in a series of sacred events, including the traditional Gaddi Mahostsav, reaffirming his commitment to spirituality amid the political campaign.

The day commenced with Mahant's presence at Shri Jaitusav Math at 9:00 am, where he actively participated in the Shastra Poojan program. Afterward, he visited the Kali Temple, concluding the Shastra Poojan ceremony at Shri Dudhadhari Math. Subsequently, he



joined the Janvara program in Tikrapara before making his way to Shivreenarayan.

At Shivreenarayan, Mahant Ram Sundar Das partook in the centuries-old Gaddi Mahostsav, an event steeped in tradition, where he extended his blessings to devotees and offered prayers for the

well-being of the entire world in the divine presence of Lord Shivreenarayan. This significant festival is celebrated twice a year, during the Ashwin month on Vijaydashami and in the Magh Shukla Paksha on the thirteenth day.

Notably, Mahant Ji's unwavering dedication to spiritual pursuits remained evident even as he pursued his political aspirations. People eagerly queued up to seek his blessings and receive darshan at Shivreenarayan, finding solace and enrichment in his presence.

Mahant Ram Sundar Das is scheduled to file his nomination on October 26. On this momentous occasion, a multitude of supporters, including saints and devotees from across the state, are expected to converge in a show of solidarity and faith.

## Devotees bid farewell to Mother Goddess with teary eyes

Central Chronicle News

**Kharora, Oct 25:** In a poignant conclusion to the nine-day Navratri celebrations, devotees in Kharora town immersed themselves in an emotional farewell to Mother Durga. With teary eyes and heartfelt goodbyes, they bid adieu to the deity who had been the center of their devotion.

The festive spirit of Navratri had gripped rural areas, including Kharora town, as devotees dedicated nine consecutive days to worshipping Mother Durga. The Durga Utsav Committee in Kharora had installed idols of Mother Durga for the occasion.

As part of the immersion ceremony, the idols were gently placed in the river, accompanied by soul-stir-



ring devotional songs sung by the Seva Samitis. Meanwhile, while the youth and young children held saang in their tongues.

Before the immersion, an emotional farewell to Mother Goddess took place at the Sheetal Temple in the village, leaving many devotees with teary eyes. The idols of Mother Goddess were then carried through the town's main square, accompanied by heartfelt

songs performed by the Seva Samiti members.

The farewell processions were nothing short of grand displays of devotion, with devotees dancing and singing to songs dedicated to Goddesses like "Sharad Mor Shakti Maa Kankali Mor Mata" and "Kon Nagar se Nikale Devi Kalika."

The procession continued to the Bardhwa Talab in the village of Keshla, where, after performing

puja, the idols of Mother Durga were immersed. Devotees became completely absorbed in the devotion and fervour of the songs, marking the procession with immense pomp.

The immersion of the Mother Durga idols in the river was accompanied by the soulful devotional songs, enveloping the entire village in an aura of devotion. Tears welled up in the eyes of devotees as they bid their heartfelt farewells to Mother Goddess, their devotion on full display.

A large crowd of devotees lined the main roads of the town to participate in this emotional send-off. After the event's conclusion, prasad was distributed among the people, fostering a sense of community and togetherness.

## Devotees reverently observe Navaratri traditions

### Arang's vibrant devotional culture shines bright

Central Chronicle News

**Arang, Oct 25:** The air in Arang was filled with fervour and devotion as the auspicious Ashwin month, Shukla Paksha Navaratri Maha Navami unfolded. On this sacred day, households across Arang resounded with the cherished traditions of Kanya Bhojan and the symbolic immersion of "Jyot Janwara."

Devotees joyously celebrated, swaying to the melodious tunes of age-old songs dedicated to the divine feminine power, accompanied by the performance of time-honoured rituals such as "Havan."

At the magnificent Mahamaya Temple, dedicated to the Adi Shakti, the sacred tradition of Kanya



Bhojan graced Dashami, the tenth day of Navratri. This holy day also witnessed the harmonious gathering of various localities for vibrant community feasts, known as

"Bhandaras." Additionally, the Navadurga Samiti at the Durga Temple of Mahamaya Para conducted an extravagant feast, further enriching the celebration.

Arang's cultural heritage shines prominently through its captivating tradition of rhythmic dance accompanied by the enchanting melodies of Nangade and Dholak, resonating Ghungroo bells, and soulful renditions of traditional songs, known as "Baana."

These spirited dances often feature devotees adorned in elaborate costumes, portraying revered goddesses such as Mata Kali, Kankali, and Sheru.

Guided by Vedic chants and the harmonious voices of revered Acharyas (spiritual leaders), devotees wholeheartedly express their devotion to the goddesses. Arang stands as a bastion of this ancient tradition, solidifying its reputation as a prominent religious and cultural hub.

## Corruption in road repair works worth 80 lakh



Central Chronicle News

**Dalli-Rajahara, Oct 25:** Corruption in road repair works worth 80 lakh has come to light, and the tender issued by the Public Works Department in the heart of the city, Bus Stand Favwara Chowk, is the place where in the name of repair asphalt and whitewashing is being done.

As per information, the de-

partment has shirked its responsibility by laying thin layer of asphalt in the pit at Bus Stand Favwara Chowk on the main road to make it pothole free for the time being. Let it be known that due to the plan to make the roads pothole free, there is a rush to make the main roads and the roads connecting the cities and villages pothole free. To avoid the wrath of the government, the work of blackening the

potholes on the roads is going on, and this work is also part of the question, over standards and quality of work being done. Anger is growing among city traders towards the Public Works Department, traders as in the name of maintenance, the department is supporting corruption. Also as there is movement of heavy vehicles on this road 24 hours a day, the roads will be impoverished the traders opined.

### What official says

"The quality of the road will be discussed after talking to Sub Engineer Chandrashekhar Patel of PWD department. Quality will be brought in the work."

- Ritu Khare SDO PWD Balod

## Fingeshwar culminates Navratri festival with grand celebration

Central Chronicle News

**Fingeshwar, Oct 25:** The joyous nine-day Navratri festival reached its crescendo with havan ceremonies and the symbolic immersion of the sacred Jyot Janwara in the temple precincts.

Sharad Navratri's eighth day, observed on Sunday, saw devotees thronging the temples dedicated to Goddess Durga, engaging in special adornments and heartfelt worship of Mata Durga during Ashtami (the eighth day).

Devotees congregated at the temples from the crack of dawn, partaking in Aarti and puja rituals. Throughout the day, they offered coconuts and the sixteen adornments to the idol of Mata Durga, fervently seeking blessings for happi-



ness and prosperity.

On Navratri's eighth day, devotees converged at the revered Ghatarani Devi Temple in the Fingeshwar region to celebrate Maha Ashtami. The beautifully adorned idol of Mata Ghatarani graced this special occasion, with a solemn havan puja ceremony taking place in the temple courtyard. The ceremony

witnessed active participation from members of the temple committee and villagers from the surrounding areas. As Navratri drew to a close on a Monday, the temple committee organized the traditional "Nau Kanya Bhoj" (feast for nine girls) within the temple premises. Subsequently, the sacred Jyot Janwara was immersed at an auspicious

### Full-Day Bhandara Celebrations during Navratri

President of the Ghatarani Devi Temple Committee, Tarun Singh Dhruv, highlighted that the temple committee annually organizes a full-day Bhandara throughout the Navratri festival. Notably, the Bhandara employs eco-friendly leaf plates, shunning the use of paper plates or any materials that could harm the environment.

moment, signifying the conclusion of the Navratri festivities.

Devotees, during the immersion, sang soulful devotional hymns dedicated to the goddess, bidding a fond farewell to Mata Durga. Finally, the Jyot's immersion occurred in a specially prepared pit at Ghatarani, followed by the distribution of Prasad. The entire region

### Enhanced accessibility from Ghatarani to Jatmai

Members of the temple committee enthusiastically shared that they have undertaken extensive road improvements, enhancing connectivity from Ghatarani to Jatmai. The temple committee generously financed the road's reconstruction, ensuring pilgrims encounter no inconvenience or hazards when traveling from Ghatarani to Jatmai. It is noteworthy that the route from Ghatarani to Jatmai was previously treacherous, particularly during inclement weather, leading to several accidents. The road's reconstruction promises a significantly safer and smoother pilgrimage experience, especially during adverse conditions.

resonated with an overwhelming sense of devotion during these sacred ceremonies.

## Idols of Goddess Durga immersed with moist eyes



### '101 Jyot Jawara' also immersed

Central Chronicle News

**Anwari, Oct 25:** After the Havan puja on Navami, the idols of Janwara and Mata Durga were immersed on Vijaydashami, following which a huge crowd of devotees gathered at Bandha Pond for the immersion and devo-

tees bid farewell to Mother Adi Shakti with tearful eyes, here in the region.

The emotional devotees bid farewell to the Mother Goddess and prayed for her happiness, prosperity and good health and on the way to Bandha Pond of Bhaibod, the devotees of the Goddess and the entire village stood in the square and intersection and kept cheering after seeing the Janvara and the statues.



During this period, the committee members carried out queue-lined immersion of the idols and idols of Maa Durga in-

stalled in the pandals of various squares and intersections.

On one side, devotees were swinging with flutes, singing Jaseet and singing songs of Mata, while on the other side, devotees were dancing with Bana. As per the tradition of immersing in the ghat of the pond, the idols and idols were immersed one by one. On this occasion, Panda of Durga Pandalo Surujbhan Tarak, Jageshwar, Toran Sahu, Gangaram Tarak, Dashru Yadav, Nursing Yadav, Bideshi Ram, Rohit Sahu, Aswani, Himanchal, Omprakash, Lakshminarayan Yadav, Tejram Sahu, and all the villagers were present.

## Painting competition in memory of martyrs held



Central Chronicle News

**Gaurela Pendra Marwahi, Oct 25:** GPM Police is organizing various programs in memory of the martyrs from 21/10/2023 to 31/10/2023. In this sequence, a painting exhibition will be organized on



23/10/2023 paying tribute to the immortal martyrs and the event was organized in the office of the Superintendent of Police. On this occasion, the program was started by Anshu Singh Baghel, daughter-in-law of Martyr Shivnarayan Singh

Baghel, and GPM Superintendent of Police Yogesh Kumar Patel.

In the further part of the program, the painting exhibition made by various schools and participants of the district was viewed by the guests. 52 contestants partici-

pated in the painting competition and students from class 3rd to 12th participated in the painting competition. On 26/10/23, essay writing and debate competition on the topic Role of Police in Nation Building has been organized in Police Control Room.



# Maxwell and Warner's tons propel Australia to huge win

New Delhi, Oct 25 (PTI):

In a jaw-dropping display of batting prowess, Glenn Maxwell and David Warner unleashed a barrage of boundaries and sixes, propelling Australia to a formidable total of 399 for 8 and bundled Netherlands out for 90 to post a 309 runs victory here on Wednesday.

Australia's win was the biggest in the World Cup in terms of margin of runs and second biggest in the ODI history. Maxwell (106 off 44 balls) blew away the Dutch attack to score his century off just 40 balls, while Warner struck 104 off 93 balls to power Australia to 399 for eight after opting to bat. In the process, Maxwell bettered the earlier record of South Africa's Aiden Markram, who had smashed 106 off 49 balls against Sri Lanka at the same ground here on October 7.

Maxwell hit nine fours and eight sixes during his whirlwind knock. Steve Smith also made a fine 71 off 68 balls, while Marnus Labuschagne scored 62 off



47 balls. Logan van Beek (4/74) and Bas de Leede (2/115) shared six wickets between them.

Despite a brief wobble where Australia lost three wickets in 19 balls, slipping from 244 for 2 to 287 for 5, Glenn Maxwell's exception-

**Brief Scores**

**Australia:** 399 for 8 in 50 overs (Glenn Maxwell 106, David Warner 104; Logan van Beek 4/74).

**Netherlands:** 90 all out in 21 overs (Vikramjit Singh 25; Adam Zampa 2/8).



al performance revitalized their innings. He forged a scintillating 103-run partnership off just 43 balls with Pat Cummins, narrowly missing the 400-run milestone for Australia.

Chasing the huge total, Netherlands looked never

in the hunt as they were dismissed for a paltry 90 in 21 overs. Vikramjit Singh (25) top-scored for the Dutch. For Australia, Adam Zampa (4/8) picked up four wickets, while Mitchell Marsh (2/19) scalped two.

# Srikanth, Lakshya bow out of French Open Badminton



Rennes, Oct 25 (PTI):

India's ace shuttlers Kidambi Srikanth and Lakshya Sen bowed out of the French Open Super 750 tournament after losing their respective men's singles matches here on Wednesday.

The first to take to the court at the Glaz Arena was Srikanth, who was shown the door by Toma Junior Popov of France. Srikanth lost the round of 32 match 17-21 15-21 in 44 minutes. It was an easy

victory for the world number 25 French player as he punished the 22nd ranked Srikanth for his error-prone showing. Heading into this match, Srikanth had a 3-1 advantage over his opponent in head-to-head.

Soon after, it was Lakshya's turn to suffer as he went down 15-21 18-21 to Arnaud Merkle, who is also from France and had lost to the Indian in their last meeting way back in 2016 when they were competing in juniors.

However, this was their first meeting on the BWF World Tour.

Lakshya lost his match in 55 minutes after appearing to stage a comeback of sorts in the second game when he led the Frenchman for a good part. It turned out to be a forgettable day for the Indian squad as both their established stars went down in straight games. The two badminton stars were coming here after suffering early exits in last week's Denmark Open.

# Gill narrows gap with Babar by six points

**In the race for No 1 ODI batter**

Dubai, Oct 25 (PTI):

Young Indian opener Shubman Gill closed the gap with Pakistan skipper Babar Azam to just six points as the No 1 ODI batter in the ICC rankings that was released on Wednesday.

The 24-year-old, who became the fastest batter to reach 2000 ODI runs in their World Cup match against New Zealand on Sunday, has improved to 823 ratings points.

Babar on the other hand has dropped to a total of 829 rating point despite having amassed 157 runs from five innings so far at the World Cup, with his most recent effort a fighting 74 in a losing side against Afghanistan in Chennai. Having missed



India's first two World Cup because of dengue, Gill has 95 runs from just three matches which includes a standout innings of 53 in their seven-wicket win over Bangladesh in Pune.

Star batter Virat Kohli, who is the second leading run-getter in the World Cup with 354 runs after five matches, has improved three spots to be on joint fifth spot with Aussie left-handed opener David Warner (up two spots).

# England need all-round improvement against Sri Lanka

Bengaluru, Oct 25 (PTI):

As England's tumultuous World Cup campaign continues to be marred by batting and bowling inconsistencies, they find themselves in a crucial showdown against Sri Lanka, with both teams desperately seeking redemption. The defending champions have amassed a mere two points from four matches, a tally identical to that of their Sri Lankan counterparts. They currently languish in ninth place on the tournament table.

For England, this encounter represents a chance, and perhaps their final one, to steer their campaign away from treacherous waters. A victory here may not propel them significantly up the rankings, but it could provide the much-needed motivation to face formidable opponents like India



England's Chris Woakes, Gus Atkinson and others during a practice session.

and Australia in the future.

Conversely, a defeat against Sri Lanka would erode the slim hope that mathematics currently clings to in supporting England's progression. To avoid an early exit, England must orchestrate

an all-round improvement, particularly in their batting department.

The M Chinnaswamy Stadium, with its short boundaries and run-friendly pitch, offers an ideal setting for England's batters to reignite their form. In a recent match at

**Match starts at 2 PM.**

this venue between Australia and Pakistan, a staggering 672 runs were scored collectively. England will strive to replicate their performance against Bangladesh on October 10, where they posted 364 for 9 in Dharamsala.

Sri Lanka, too, has dealt with injuries, losing captain Dasun Shanaka and young pacer Matheesha Pathirana. However, their performances were far from spectacular, making their absence less impactful.

Both teams face uncertainty in various aspects of their game, setting the stage for a potential thriller. With the match promising to be another chapter in their shared destiny, England and Sri Lanka will look to script a turnaround in their World Cup fortunes.

# Paralympics champion Sumit Antil wins javelin throw gold

Hangzhou, Oct 25 (PTI):

Reigning Paralympics champion Sumit Antil on Wednesday clinched a gold medal at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games javelin throw F64 event with a world record effort of 73.29m on the third day of competitions.

The 25-year-old broke his own previous world record of 70.83m which he had thrown while winning gold at the World Para Athletics Championships in Paris earlier this year. Another Indian, Pushpendra Singh won the bronze medal with a throw of 62.06m. Antil had won gold in the men's javelin F64 event at the Tokyo Paralympic Games with a then world record throw of 68.55m. It was the most productive day for India, picking up a whopping 24 medals, with 17 of them and all the six gold coming from athletics. India's total medals stood at 58 (15 gold, 20 silver and 23 bronze).



Ankur Dharma became the first Indian to win two gold medals in a single edition of the Asian Para Games as he clinched the top spot in men's T11 1500m race with a time of 4:27.70. He had also won a gold in men's men's T11 5000m race on Tuesday. Another Indian Sundar Singh Gurjar also set a new world record in the men's F46 javelin throw as he sent his spear to a distance of 68.60m en route to winning the gold. The earlier world record of 67.79m was in the name of Dinesh Mudiyansele Herath of Sri Lanka.

# 37th National Games Gyaneshwari wins gold medal in Weightlifting event



**Akarshi wins bronze medal in Badminton**

Raipur, Oct 25:

Gyaneshwari Yadav won gold medal for Chhattisgarh in the 49 Kg Weightlifting event of the 37th National Games underway at Goa.

Providing the above information in a statement issued here, the Chef-D-

Mission of Chhattisgarh team Mohan Lal said that Gyaneshwari won the gold medal by lifting 80 Kg in snatch and 97 Kg in Clean and Jerk to make it 177 Kg in the 49 Kg category of the Women Weightlifting in the National Games on Wednesday. Earlier, Akarshi Kashyap had won bronze medal in the Badminton event to make it 2 medals for Chhattisgarh in the National Games.

# Indian men's skeet team shoots gold in Asian Championship

New Delhi, Oct 25 (PTI):

The Indian men's trio of Anant Jeet Singh Naruka, Gurjoat Khangura and Angad Vir Singh Bajwa won the gold medal with a combined total of 358 in men's skeet team event of the Asian Shooting Championship in Changwon, South Korea.

The Indians' aggregate score was enough to pip the Korean team by a point, while Kazakhstan finished third. Naruka and Khangura also made the individual final but missed out on medals, and the two available Paris Olympic quota places, after finishing fourth and

sixth respectively. Sarabjot Singh and Surbhi Rao also won a silver for India on the day. They shot a combined 581 in qualification, the same score shot by four other teams including two Chinese pairs who took the top two positions by virtue of greater accuracy.

The Indians were third, but as only one team from a country could make the final, Sarabjot and Surbhi were drawn to play Li Xue and Liu Jinyao for gold. The Chinese prevailed 16-4, and the Indians took home silver.

In the junior events, India's Shubham Bisla and Sainyam won bronze in the

10m air pistol mixed team competition, overcoming Kazakhstan's Malika Seil and Kiril Tsukanov 16-10 in the first bronze medal match. Naruka, who won silver at the Hangzhou Asian Games, shot 33 in the six-man men's skeet final to finish fourth. Qatari Rashid Saleh Al-Athba won gold with 53 hits out of 60. While he already had won a Paris quota in earlier competitions, second placed Kim Minso of Korea and Chinese Taipei's bronze medal winner Lee Meng Yuan, took the other two, as Naruka fell short, shooting 33 out of the first 40 targets.

# Momentum creates confidence: SA batting coach Duminy

Mumbai, Oct 25 (PTI):

South Africa will look to carry the momentum gained over the last few days here as they head to Chennai for their next World Cup assignment against Pakistan, says batting coach and former player JP Duminy. South Africa trounced reigning champions England and Bangladesh posting successive 350-plus totals to bounce back strongly after being upset by the Netherlands in Dharamsala. "We are certainly going to take confidence out of it," Duminy told reporters after their 149-run win over Bangladesh here on Tuesday. "We have been speaking about momentum creates confi-

dence', you think about back-to-back wins and I guess the way we have played in the last two games, we will certainly take a lot of confidence out of it," he said. Boasting a better net run-rate than India, South Africa will now be eyeing to go to the top of the table, upstaging the hosts when they face Pakistan on Friday. "Getting into a big match against Pakistan, we certainly want to enjoy the victory and soak up what we really did well. There are areas where we can improve, there are always areas that you can focus on and see how we can get better at. The next game against Pakistan is obviously a crucial one for us," Duminy added.

# Ronaldo scores twice in Al-Nassr's victory

Riyadh, Oct 25 (AP):

Cristiano Ronaldo scored two second-half goals as Saudi Arabia's Al-Nassr beat Al-Duhail of Qatar 4-3 in the Asian Champions League.

Al-Nassr has nine points from three games in Group E, three clear of Persepolis after the Iranian team defeated Tajikistan's Istiklol 2-0. Ronaldo's backheel set up Anderson Talisca for the opening goal and

# It has always been my motto to chase betterment and not excellence: Kohli

Chennai, Oct 25 (PTI):

Enjoying a good run of form in the ongoing World Cup, star India batter Virat Kohli says his motto has always been to chase betterment and not excellence.

Kohli is currently India's highest run-scorer in the tournament, having made 354 runs in five outings at an average of 118.00, including a century and three half-centuries.

"I have always worked on how I can better myself every day, every practice session, every year and every season. So, that is what has helped me play



for this long and perform," Kohli told Star Sports. "I don't think it is possible to perform consistently without having that mindset,

because if performance is your goal, then one can get satisfied after a while and stop working on their game." "It has always been my motto to chase betterment and not excellence because I honestly don't know what the definition of excellence is. There is no limit to it, nor there is a set standard that when you reach here you have achieved excellence.

"So, I try to work towards betterment every day, so that would be a better word to use. And yes, performance becomes a byproduct, because your mindset is how do I make the team win from here."

# Pandya may miss more World Cup matches

New Delhi, Oct 25 (PTI):

Star all-rounder Hardik Pandya is likely to sit out of India's next two World Cup matches as he is yet to recover from his ankle injury that rendered him out of action last week. Pandya had slipped in his follow-through while bowling against Bangladesh in Pune on October 19 and missed the clash against New Zealand in Dharamsala on October 22 due to the injury. The Bardoa player had reported to National Cricket Academy on Monday in Bengaluru for



his injury management.

"Hardik is still under medication. While the swelling on his left ankle has subsided considerably, he will start bowling only towards the weekend. Right now, important is to give him time to recover," an NCA source told PTI.





CONG MANIFESTO

# Cong promises annual allowance of Rs 10,000 for women heads of families

In poll-bound Rajasthan

Jaipur, Oct 25 (PTI):

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra slammed the BJP-led Centre on Wednesday over its "hollow" welfare schemes, addressing a rally where her party promised an annual honorarium of Rs 10,000 to the woman head of a family.

At a public rally addressed by Gandhi, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot promised two "guarantees" if the Congress is re-elected in the state -- cooking gas cylinders for Rs 500 to 1.05 crore families and an annual honorarium of Rs 10,000 to the woman head of a family. The rally was organised at Ardwata village in Jhunjhunu district. It was the second rally of Gandhi in poll-bound Rajasthan within a week. The Congress general secretary said a bill for women's reservation in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies has been passed in Parliament, but it will take 10 years to implement it.

She also pointed out that 10 years have gone by since the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) was announced.

The ERCP is an ambitious project that will help



Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot with Congress leaders Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and others during a public meeting ahead of the upcoming state Assembly election, in Jhunjhunu district, Wednesday.

augment the irrigation facilities in an area of around 2 lakh hectares and address the drinking water problems of 13 districts in eastern Rajasthan.

"Their (Centre's) schemes are hollow, whereas the schemes of the Congress government (in Rajasthan) are being implemented on the ground," Gandhi said.

She said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has understood that talking about religions and castes during polls will get votes for it. "The Centre tries to suppress people. It only wants to be in power and secure its future," Gandhi said. She also alleged that the BJP-led Centre is running for a select few industrialists and there is no hearing of public issues in this government. "You need to understand what kind of leaders and gov-

ernments you want -- those who look for their own future and to be in the government and when elections come, talk about religion or the leaders who work for you.

"It is your responsibility to make a leader accountable. The truth is that there are people who indulge in the politics of religion and that is where their accountability ends. They have understood that during elections, they should talk about religion as everyone's sentiments are connected to it ... and that will get them votes. They have understood that there is no need to work, just talk about religions and castes and that will get them votes," the Congress leader said. She asked the people to wake up to this or else, this system will not come to an end. "A leader has to work and

## 'Schemes of BJP-led Centre hollow'

Jaipur, Oct 25 (PTI): Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra slammed the BJP-led Centre on Wednesday, saying its schemes are "hollow", whereas those framed by the Ashok Gehlot government in Rajasthan are being implemented on the ground. The Congress general secretary said a bill for women's reservation in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies has been passed in Parliament, but it will take 10 years to implement it. She also pointed out that 10 years have gone by since the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) was announced. "Their (Centre's) schemes are hollow, whereas the schemes of the Congress government (in Rajasthan) are being implemented on the ground," Gandhi said while addressing a public meeting in Jhunjhunu district of poll-bound Rajasthan.

perform," Gandhi said. She also said the announcements of the Narendra Modi government and BJP are hollow and empty.

"They (BJP) speak of women's reservation but it will be implemented after 10 years. They talked about OBC reservation, but when we raised the issue of a caste census, they went silent because they had also spoken of the ERCP, but nothing happened," Gandhi said.

"Their announcements are hollow, but all the guarantees and promises made by the Congress government have been executed on the ground," she added. The Congress leader lauded the schemes announced by the state government, such as the Chiranjeevi health scheme, the old pension scheme, the inflation relief

camp, among others. She also talked about "divisions" in the BJP.

"Modi asks to vote for him. He is not going to be the chief minister. He is the prime minister," she said. "The BJP is a scattered party, which is not taking care of your future and is causing inflation. On the other hand, the Congress is dedicated to you," Gandhi said.

She said in the Congress, there are young leaders like Sachin Pilot as well as experienced hands like Gehlot.

Gehlot announced that under the "Grah Laxmi Guarantee" scheme, the woman head of a family will be given Rs 10,000 a year in instalments.

He also promised that 1.05 crore families will get LPG cylinders for Rs 500 if the Congress retains power in the state.

## KULLU DUSSEHRA



Devotees during the week-long International Kullu Dussehra festival, at Dhalpur ground in Kullu district, Wednesday.

## Cong changes 4 candidates after workers protest

Bhopal, Oct 25 (PTI): The Congress has changed its candidates in four constituencies for the November 17 assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, days after its lists sparked protests at various places in the state.

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) on Wednesday morning changed its earlier announced candidates from Sumaoli, Pipariya, Badnagar and Jaora assembly seats. From Badnagar, the Congress has now fielded Murlu Morwal, whose

supporters had staged an aggressive protest and burnt tyres in front of party state chief Kamal Nath's bungalow in Bhopal. Earlier, the Congress had given the ticket to Rajendra Singh Solanki from this seat. In Pipariya (SC) of Narmadapuram district, the Congress has replaced Guru Charan Khare with Virendra Belvanshi.

From the Sumawali seat in Morena district, the party has now fielded its sitting legislator Ajab Singh Kushwaha in place of the earlier announced Kuldeep Sikarwar.

Kushwaha had emerged victorious on a Congress ticket during the bypoll after the collapse of the Kamal Nath government in 2020. After he was denied a Congress ticket this time, Kushwaha had taken out a protest rally along with his supporters.

The Congress has also changed its candidate for the Jaora seat in Ratlam district, where Himmat Shrimal had been put up earlier. It has now nominated Virendra Singh Solanki from this seat. Solanki's supporters had opposed the candidature of Shrimal.

## 'Why doesn't Priyanka speak about crime against women in Raj'

Jaipur, Oct 25 (PTI): BJP national spokesperson Rajyavardhan Rathore hit out at Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who is set to address a public rally in Jhunjhunu on Wednesday, and asked "why she does not speak when there is a crime against women in Rajasthan".

He alleged that the "political tourism division" of the Congress failed to respond to the crimes like rape in the state.

Rathore, who is the BJP's candidate from Jaipur's Jhotwara assembly constituency, claimed that two



Rajyavardhan Rathore

lakh incidents of crime against women happened during the Congress' rule in Rajasthan and the law-and-order situation has deteriorated. "Priyanka

Gandhi is coming to Rajasthan today. I want to ask why does she not speak when there is a crime against women in Rajasthan. Two lakh crimes against women have happened in the state and why did the 'Political Tourism Division' of the Congress miss it," he said at a press conference here.

According to Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi is likely to make some announcements for the home-makers in Rajasthan during the election rally in Jhunjhunu district.

## Shah on 3-day visit to MP as polls enter last lap

New Delhi, Oct 25 (PTI): Home Minister Amit Shah will be in Madhya Pradesh for three days from October 28 on a visit aimed at toning up the BJP's election machinery and ironing out any irritants ahead of the November 17 assembly polls as the party pulls out all the stops to fend off the challenge from the Congress. Party sources said Shah will hold organisational meetings in all 10 'sambhag' (divisions) of the state where the BJP is making an all-out attempt to retain the hold on power that it has maintained for the last two decades except for an around 15-month rule of the Congress after the 2018 polls.

## 'Such decisions are taken by party's legislative wing'

Bhopal, Oct 25 (PTI):

Union minister Arjun Munda on Wednesday said a decision on whether a tribal person would be chosen as the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh if the BJP retains power in the state after the assembly polls would be taken by the party's state legislative wing.

The Tribal Affairs Minister said this in a press conference here in response to a question whether Madhya Pradesh will get its first tribal chief minister if the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) continues to be at the helm in the state. Elections to the 230-member legislative assembly will be

## TRIBAL BJP CM IN MP POST-POLLS



Arjun Munda

held in a single phase on November 17. "After the polls, the elected members of the legislative assembly elect their leader. The respective

legislative party of each state takes a decision as to who should be the chief minister. BJP never decides such issues on the basis of caste, but

ensures that all such issues are discussed at the meeting," Munda said responding to the query.

A total of 47 seats are reserved for the Scheduled Tribes (ST) candidates, while 35 others are earmarked for the Scheduled Caste (SC) community in Madhya Pradesh.

Highlighting the steps taken by the BJP-led governments at the national level for the welfare of tribal community, Munda said a separate ministry for tribals was formed for the first time when the party was in power at the Centre under prime minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee's leadership.

## Dholpur MLA Shobharani Kushwaha joins Cong

Jaipur, Oct 25 (PTI): Expelled by the BJP for cross-voting in Rajya Sabha polls, Dholpur MLA Shobharani Kushwaha joined the Congress along with three others on Wednesday.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra welcomed the four leaders into the party at a public meeting held at Aradavata in Jhunjhunu.

A BJP leader from Kishangarh, Vikas Chaudhary, and former National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson Mamta Sharma also joined the Congress.

The BJP had expelled Kushwaha from the party earlier in June last year for 'cross-voting' in the Rajya Sabha elections in Rajasthan.

Choudhary was disgruntled over not getting a BJP ticket from the Kishangarh Assembly seat in the upcoming polls. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Rajasthan Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra were among the party leaders present at the public meeting.

## CELEBRATION CONTINUES



Devotees dance during immersion of the idol of Goddess Durga on the bank of the Ganga river at the end of Durga Puja festival, in Kolkata, Wednesday.

## Gehlot meets veteran BJP leader Suryakanta Vyas

Terms it 'courtesy visit'

Jodhpur, Oct 25 (PTI):

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot sprang a surprise by meeting veteran BJP leader Suryakanta Vyas at her residence here late Monday.

Gehlot wrapped up his two-day campaign trail in Sardarpura constituency, from where he will be contesting the Assembly polls. He then reached the residence of Vyas in the walled city at around 12.30 am and stayed there for about 15 minutes.

Vyas is a three-time MLA from Soorsagar constituency, winning the polls in 2008, 2013, and



Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot meets BJP MLA Suryakanta Vyas at her residence, in Jodhpur, Wednesday.

2018. Speaking to reporters on Tuesday morning, ahead of his departure to join party leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in Jhunjhunu, Gehlot termed it a "courtesy visit" in recognition of her service to the people of Jodhpur.

"She has served Jodhpur for a long time. She has played a long inning. So, I visited her to give my respect to her," said Gehlot.

The BJP has dropped 85-year-old Vyas from its list of candidates for the November 25 polls, replacing her with Devendra Joshi to contest from Soorsagar constituency.

## Maha Guv felicitates medallists from Berlin Special Olympics

Mumbai, Oct 25:

Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais felicitated 20 athletes and coaches from Maharashtra who bagged medals for the country in the 'Special Olympics' at Raj Bhavan Mumbai on Wednesday (25th). The Special Olympics were held for the intellectually challenged persons in Berlin in June 2023.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said the divyang sports persons have done the State and the nation proud by bagging more than 200 medals in the Special Olympics. He said there was time when India



stood at the bottom of the medal table in events like the Olympics. He said, India has now crossed the century of medals in the recently concluded Asian Games held in China.

According to Dr Medha Somaiya, Maharashtra State President of Special Olympic Bharat, 194 athletes from India participated in Special Olympics. Together they

won 202 medals for the country. She said the Divyang athletes from Maharashtra won 20 medals in this competition. She informed that contestants from 8 years to 80 years of age participate in the Special Olympics. The Special Olympic Games were held in Berlin in the month of June.

The Governor also felicitated Sports coaches and Unified Partners on this occasion. Area Director Dr Bhagwan Talwar, parents, Sports Director and recipients of Special Olympic gold, silver and bronze medallists were present.

## 'K'taka has become Cong's ATM to fund upcoming polls'

Hyderabad, Oct 25 (PTI):

Karnataka has become the Congress' ATM and the party has collected huge sums of money through "corruption" to fund the upcoming polls in different states including Telangana, BJP spokesperson Syed Zafar Islam alleged on Wednesday.

Addressing a press conference here, he said recently a huge amount of cash was seized in Karnataka after raids.

"The Congress government is indulged in ram-



Syed Zafar Islam

use in Telangana elections and other states. They accumulated thousands of crores of rupees from builders, contractors and businessmen through a 50 per cent commission and that money is being sent to Telangana from Tamil Nadu," he charged.

The Income Tax department is investigating the matter, he said.

The BJP leader further attacked the ruling BRS, Congress, Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM over "corruption and dynastic politics".

## मुंह का ना खुलना

पान, तंबाकू सेवन के कारण मुंह का ना खुलना एक्सपर्ट डेंट में चोट या अन्य कारणों से मुंह का ना खुलना



## कालडा बर्न एं

प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर आर.के.सी.के.सामने, चौबे कालोनी एवं पंचपेठे नाका, धनतरी रोड, कलसर्न मॉल के पास, रायपुर कॉल : 9827143060/8871003060