



# Central Chronicle



**BRIEF**

A local man holds a 'Kalash' during the flag-off ceremony of 'Amrit Kalash Yatra' under 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' initiative, at SKICC, in Srinagar, Thursday.

**Biopic**

**Kolkata:** After an overwhelming response in Bangladesh, 'Mujib: The Making of a Nation,' a biopic on Bangladesh's first president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, will be released in theatres across India on October 27. The film directed by Shyam Benegal not only delves into the life of Sheikh Mujib, the towering political figure instrumental for the birth of Bangladesh, but also uncovers other aspects of the great leader that remain largely unknown to the world, the producers said in a statement on Thursday.

**Notice**

**Kochi:** The Kerala High Court on Thursday issued a notice to AICC general secretary K C Venugopal on a revision petition filed by the victim of a rape case challenging a magistrate court's acceptance of the CBI's closure report. The high court issued the notice when the petition filed by the victim came up for hearing. In her plea, the victim, who is a prime accused in the solar panel scam, challenged the court's decision to accept the CBI's closure report giving clean chit to the Congress leader in the sexual assault case.

**Suicide**

**Sambhajnagar:** A 25-year-old man allegedly committed suicide in Hingoli district of Maharashtra on Thursday and left behind a note linking his extreme step to the ongoing stir seeking reservation for the Maratha community in jobs and education, a police official said. Krishna Kalyankar hanged himself from a tree in his farm in Akhada Balapur village in the morning, he said. Kalyankar came to his farm at around 7 am and the police were informed about his suicide at 9.30 am, said the official.

**Re-elected**

**Srinagar:** Re-elected president of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party on Thursday, former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti virtually launched her party's campaign for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and exhorted the party cadre to start work right away to strengthen the organisation. "Elections are not everything but these elections are important to get our strength back. Parliament elections are coming and you should get down to work right away," she said in her address to party workers.

## 'Baghel opened market of religious conversion in state'

**To weaken Sanatan Dharma**  
Mahasamund, Oct 26:

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday hit out at his Chhattisgarh counterpart Bhupesh Baghel, accusing him of opening a "big market of religious conversion" in the state to weaken Sanatan Dharma.



Gandhi saying the Congress leader has never visited the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

**EC issues notice to Sarma for 'Akbar' remarks**  
**New Delhi:** The Election Commission on Thursday issued a show-cause notice to Assam Chief Minister and BJP leader Himanta Biswa Sarma for his remarks targeting Chhattisgarh's lone Muslim minister Mohammad Akbar during the assembly poll campaign last week. The commission has asked Sarma to respond to the notice by 5 pm on October 30. During his speech in Kawardha in Chhattisgarh on October 18, Sarma had taken a controversial dig at Akbar saying that "the land of Mata Kaushalya will get defiled if Akbar isn't sent off." "If one Akbar comes to some place, he calls 100 Akbars. So, send him off as soon as possible, otherwise the land of Mata Kaushalya will get defiled," he said.

"We should think about what Congress has given in (the last) five years. Has he (CM Baghel) opened any university in five years? In Assam, medical colleges have been set up in each district. There has been no basic transformation in the state (Chhattisgarh). Baghel does drama every time and he has opened a big market of religious conversion to weaken Sanatan Dharma," Sarma said.

Targeting the Congress, he said 75 years passed since India got Independence, but it is PM Narendra Modi who finally constructed Ram temple (in Ayodhya). He asked why the Congress failed to build the temple all these years.



## Infiltration bid foiled, 5 terrorists killed

Srinagar, Oct 26 (PTI): Five unidentified terrorists were killed on Thursday as security forces foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Three (03) more #terrorists of LeT killed (Total 05). Identification being ascertained. Search operation in progress. Further details shall follow," the ADGP Kashmir posted on X. Earlier, the Army said alert security forces foiled an infiltration bid along the LoC on Thursday.

## 'Some people only did politics in name of farmers'

Shirdi, Oct 26 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said some people from Maharashtra only did politics in the name of farmers, comments aimed at Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) founder Sharad Pawar, who handled the agriculture portfolio during the UPA government.



PM Modi performs 'Jal Pujan' of Nilwande Dam, in Ahmednagar district, Thursday.

Ahmednagar district after inaugurating several development projects. "Some people in Maharashtra only did politics in the name of farmers. A senior leader of Maharashtra served as the country's agriculture minister. I personally respect him, but what has he done for farmers?" Modi said, without naming Pawar.

## 8 Navy veterans get death in Qatar

New Delhi, Oct 26 (PTI):

Eight former Indian Navy personnel were on Thursday handed death penalty in Qatar by a local court, a verdict that India described as "deeply" shocking. The Indian nationals, all employees of Al Dahra company, were taken into custody in August last year in an alleged case of espionage. The charges against the Indian nationals were not made public by Qatari authorities.

**'Shocked' India to contest order**

In its reaction, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said it is attaching "high importance" to this case and is exploring all legal options. "We have initial information that the Court of First Instance of Qatar has today passed a judgement in the case involving eight Indian employees of Al Dahra company," it said. "We are deeply shocked by the verdict of death penalty and are awaiting the detailed judgement. We are in touch with the family members and the legal team, and we are exploring all legal options," it said. The MEA said it will continue to extend all consular and legal assistance to the Indians.

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shocked by the verdict of death penalty and are awaiting the detailed judgement. We are in touch with the family members and the legal team, and we are exploring all legal options," it

said. The MEA said it will continue to extend all consular and legal assistance to the Indians. "We attach high importance to this case, and have been following it closely. We will continue to extend all consular and legal assistance. We will also take up the verdict with Qatari authorities," it said in a statement.

## BLOODBATH ON D-STREET

### Sensex slumps 900 points amid broad-based selloff; slips below 64K

Mumbai, Oct 26 (PTI):

Sliding for the sixth straight session, equity benchmark Sensex on Thursday plunged about 900 points to crash below the 64,000 level due to a broad-based selloff amid heightened tension in the Middle East.

points or 1.41 per cent to settle below the 64,000 mark at 63,148.15. During the day, it plummeted 956.08 points or 1.49 per cent to 63,092.98. A total of 2,232 firms declined, while 1,426 advanced and 142 remained unchanged on the BSE. The Nifty dived 264.90 points or 1.39 per cent to 18,857.25. "Nifty fell again for the sixth consecutive session...even as a series of poor corporate results in the US cast a shadow on the global risk appetite already impacted by the conflict in the Middle East," Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities, said.

## PAPER LEAK CASE

### ED raids premises of Raj PCC president

**Summons CM Gehlot's son in FEMA case**  
Jaipur, Oct 27 (PTI):

Turning the heat on the ruling Congress in poll-bound Rajasthan, the Enforcement Directorate on Thursday raided the premises of state Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra in Jaipur and Sikar as part of a money laundering probe into the alleged exam paper leak case and summoned Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's son in a foreign exchange violation case.



A security official keeps a vigil during the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) raid at Rajasthan Congress President Govind Singh Dotasra's residence, in Jaipur, Thursday.

## CASH-FOR-QUERY ROW

### LS panel hears BJP MP Dubey, lawyer Dehadrai

New Delhi, Oct 26 (PTI):

The Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha has asked TMC member Mahua Moitra to appear before it on October 31 in relation to cash-for-query allegations levelled against her by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, who told the panel on Thursday that it was an "open and shut" case and she should be disqualified.



BJP MP Nishikant Dubey speaks with the media.

### Mahua Moitra to appear on Oct 31

The Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha has asked Trinamool Congress member Mahua Moitra to appear before it on October 31 in connection with the cash-for-query allegations against her. After a meeting of the panel on Thursday, its head and BJP MP Vinod Kumar Sonkar also said they will seek assistance from the Ministries of Home Affairs and IT in probing the allegations against the TMC MP. Moitra has been asked to appear before the panel on October 31, Sonkar said.



the statement of Dubey, the complainant, in its first meeting. The vote ended in a tie as the members -- five of the ruling BJP and five of opposition parties -- voted on partisan lines, with the Chair casting his deciding vote in favour of hearing Dubey first as scheduled.

After the meeting, Sonkar, a BJP MP, told reporters, "We have decided to ask Mahua Moitra to appear before us on October 31." In his statement before the panel, Dubey pitched for her disqualification saying the matter pertains to Parliament's dignity and is an issue of national security, sources said, adding that he noted it was an "open and shut" case as even a businessman Darshan Hiranandani, who allegedly paid her bribes, has admitted to the charge.

**Weather**  
High 31 Low 18

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 18,857.25  
SENSEX 63,148.15

**BULLION**  
GOLD 60,725  
SILVER 71,309



## 'Congress waives off loans of farmers while BJP favours industrialists'

Raipur, Oct 26:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel today targeted BJP, calling it a well-wisher of industrialists. Addressing an election gathering in Baloda Bazar he said that the Modi government at the Center waived off loans of more than Rs 14 lakh crore of industrialists while the Congress government waived off the loans of farmers. He alleged that BJP leaders were shocked by the announcement of loan waiver for farmers. Reiterating his announcement of loan waiver, Baghel said that like last time, this time also loans of farmers will be waived off if Congress government was formed again.



Elaborating on the announcement of loan waiver, he said that the loans taken by farmers from cooperative banks and commercial banks will be waived off after formation of the Congress government. Baghel said that the Congress government worked to bring changes in the lives of the common people. He said that his government directly

transferred Rs 1.75 lakh crore to the accounts of various beneficiaries in the last 5 years. BJP leaders should tell what they will do for the farmers, labourers, tribals and women of Chhattisgarh, he said. **17.50 lakh homeless people to get houses** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that the Congress government of Chhattisgarh released the first installment for construction of houses to about 7 lakh homeless people of the state. "When our government comes back, we will gradually provide financial assistance for housing to the remaining 10 lakh houseless families", he said, adding that Congress government does whatever it says.

## BJP warns officials working as Congress agent

**To register complaint against them with ECI**

Central Chronicle News



**Raipur, Oct 26:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday warned the officials including the policemen to refrain from creating hurdles on path of the BJP workers like an agent of Congress Government and would register complaint against them with the Election Commission soon. Addressing a press conference at party office here on Thursday afternoon, the BJP MLA from Prayagraj and Central Media in-charge for the Chhattisgarh Polls Siddharth Nath Singh said that Chhattisgarh has already removed several officials including the IAS Officer who have been working for the Congress government and added

that their removal should be a lesson for the others who are still working as a Congress Agent. He said that several complaints have already been received against them and the party would soon approach Election Commission for action against them. He further alleged that the Congress has now resorted to seek assistance from Naxalites as they are apprehensive of their defeat in the upcoming Polls. He added that the BJP workers are being made victim of target killing to stop from working in favour of saffron brigade.

## ED raids indicate BJP's imminent election defeat in all five states: Deepak Bajj

Central investigative agencies have become subsidiary organizations of BJP

Raipur, Oct 26:



The ED raids on Rajasthan Pradesh Congress president and Chhattisgarh are enough to explain the nervousness of the BJP, Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee Chief Deepak Bajj said. According to him ED raids are indicative of BJP's election defeat in five states. He said that BJP started misusing central agencies and central security forces and resorting to dictatorial and undemocratic activities. BJP has no issues left against Congress, so it is presenting misleading figures of corruption by getting wrong proceedings done through ED, he alleged. Ever since the BJP came to power at the Center in 2014, investigative agencies have been used more to target promi-

nent opposition leaders, he said, adding that in the 8 years of Modi government, 95 percent of the cases have been filed only against opposition party leaders. BJP stopped investigation against those leaders who joined BJP, he said. Dozens of leaders like Narayan Rane, Mukul Rai, Hemant Biswa Sarma, Yeddyurappa, Eknath Shinde, against whom ED, IT and CBI proceedings were going on and FIRs

were lodged, became virtuous as soon as they joined BJP, he said. Bajj said that ever since the Modi government was formed in the country, it had been arbitrarily misusing the central agencies. Such an example of misuse of central agencies to suppress political opponents and serve the political interests of the ruling BJP has never been seen in history, he said. A total of 5422 cases have been registered in ED since its inception and out of these, 5310 cases have been filed only during the Modi government of BJP, he said. Before that, ED had registered only 112 cases. According to him 95 percent cases have been registered against opposition party leaders and ED has never raided or registered any case against even a single BJP leader.

## RDA starts online payments for consumers

For various properties

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Oct 26:** Raipur Development Authority (RDA) has started the services of online payment of the money against the properties allotted to them under various schemes. Providing the above information, the RDA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dharmesh Kumar Sahu said that the consumers would be provided the demand number through SMS on the registered mobile number for the payment of the outstanding amount. After which the consumers have to login to the official website http://rda.cgstage.gov.in

and search the option of online payment menu which would take them to the online window for the payments. On entering the demand number, the consumers would get details of the outstanding amount as well as the property details. Through the above option, the consumers can make online payment choosing the options of Credit Card, Debit Card, Netbanking and UPI. Payments can also be done through QR code using the UPI options. CEO further informed that the RDA administration has extended the rebate amount on one-time payment of the outstanding amount.

## Women employees on election work to get all basic facilities: Collector



Raipur, Oct 26:

**Observes training workshop of polling officers**

Collector and District Returning Officer Dr Sarveshwar Bhure today visited NIT and Pt Ravishankar Shukla University to observe the training workshop of polling officers. He emphasized maximum attendance in the training. All officers and employees should listen and accept

the words of the master trainer seriously, he said, adding that 'the better you take training, the more efficiently you will be able to complete the election work'. It is our endeavor that women officers and employees always dis-

charge their responsibilities seriously in election work, he said. He said that all efforts were being to provide all basic facilities to women staff on election duty. Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat Avinash Mishra, Deputy District Returning Officer Gajendra Thakur and other concerned officers were present.

## Dahria, Chhaya Verma, Juneja file nominations

**Raipur, Oct 26:** Minister Shiv Kumar Dahria, former Rajya Sabha MP Chhaya Verma and Raipur North MLA Kuldeep Juneja filed nominations on Thursday. All three leaders claimed victory. According to Dahria, Chhattisgarh has favourable atmosphere for victory of Congress. The way works have been carried out in Chhattisgarh under the leadership of Congress and Bhupesh Baghel, the people of Chhattisgarh are trusting the Congress government, he said, adding that Congress government will come again in the state.

## Denied a ticket, Cong MLA Kismat Lal Nand joins JCC(J)

**Raipur, Oct 26:** Congress MLA Kismat Lal Nand, who has not been given a ticket for the upcoming Assembly polls by the ruling party, has joined the Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J) founded by former chief minister late Ajit Jogi. The JCC(J) has fielded Nand from Saraipali seat, which is reserved for Scheduled Castes. He will take on the Congress' Chaturani Nand. Posting pictures of Kismat Lal Nand, JCC (J) state president and former MLA Amit Jog said on X, "Congress MLA from Saraipali Kismat Lal Nand ji today joined JCC (J) in the presence of party's national president and MLA Dr Renu Jogi." The Congress has been facing rebellion in the run up to the Assembly polls, which will be held in two phases on November 7 and 17. Counting of votes will take place on December 3. Congress MLA Anup Nag is contesting as an Independent from Antagarh seat, which president of the party's Mungeli district unit Sagar Singh Bais and chairperson of Mahasamund Nagar Palika Rashi Mahilang have quit and joined JCC (J). JCC (J) fielded Mahilang from Mahasamund and Bais from Lormi seat. The JCC(J) on Thursday announced the names of Prabha Bela Markam, Dr Sarita Bhardwaj and Ravindra Dwivedi from Samri, Mungeli and Janjgir-Champa seats, respectively. The JCC(J) has so far declared candidates for 33 out of 90 Assembly seats in the state.

## Fire accident prevention training given to officers and employees of Raj Bhavan



**Raipur, Oct 25:** Officials and employees of Raj Bhavan were given training by the fire department team for prevention and rescue in case of accident.

tal fire accidents in offices and homes on Thursday. In the training it was explained how many types fire accidents can cause, which fire fighting equip-

ment is used to protect against which type of fire? How to avoid electrical fire, how to take protection in case of fire in office and measures to prevent it

were explained. It was explained how to keep fire extinguishers in vehicles. In case of fire due to LPG at home and oil in pan, the methods of extinguishing fire using bucket and blanket were explained through demonstration. Training was also given on how to extinguish the fire on oneself and another person. In this training organised in the Raj Bhavan premises, training was given by District Commander Durg Mr. Nagendra Singh, Assistant Sub Inspector of Fire Station, Tikrapara, Raipur Mr. Deepak Kaushik, Mr. Anil Sahu, Mr. Roshan Singh, Fireman Mr. Jitendra Bhatt, Mr. Vijay Chauragadhe were present.

## RIVER POLLUTION



Idol immersions after Durga Puja leave river polluted yet again

## White Coat Ceremony held at Pt JNM Medical College

**Fresh medical students administered oath in the year of diamond jubilee**

Raipur, Oct 26:



matter of great pride for the college to administer the Maharishi Charak Code of Medical Conduct oath to 230 newly admitted MBBS first year students in the presence of the Vice Chancellor in the diamond jubilee year of the college. Medical education is very long and difficult and requires lifelong study, going through courses one after the other, she said in her address to the students. Dr Arvind Neral, President of the Medical Teachers Association,

gave information about the moral values ??and ideals to be followed while practicing the medical profession. Dr Neral said that apart from medicines, patients expect friendliness, smile and friendly behavior from an ideal doctor. Director Medical Education Dr Vishnu Dutt administered the oath of Charak Code of Conduct to the students. The words said by him were repeated by 230 newly admitted students by raising their

right hands. Chief guest Vice Chancellor Dr Ashok Chandrakar mentioned the new guidelines issued by the National Medical Commission and congratulated the students. In the presence of the chief guest, he praised the Medical College, Raipur for organizing this grand and dignified "White Coat Ceremony". In his address, he pounded the role of doctors in the society and assured all possible help to the medical students on

behalf of the university. He talked about incorporating the moral values ??given by Maharishi Charak for the doctors working in the medical field in their daily medical activities and wished for the bright future of these future doctors. Students gave a musical presentation of "We are with you, we are the doctors, we are always there for you", while mentioning their social responsibilities. Medical Education Unit

Coordinator Dr Manju Singh proposed a vote of thanks. The ceremony was successfully conducted by Dr Piyush Bhargava, Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry. Group photos were taken in small groups with the personalities on stage and with the medical teachers, which will be memorable for them throughout their life. Hospital Superintendent Dr SBS Netam was present in the program. Dr Devpriya Lakra, Dr Nirmal Verma, Dr Sumeet Tripathi, Dr PK Khodiyar, Dr Jagriti Agarwal, Dr KK Sahu, Dr Ri Khare, Dr Santosh Sonkar, Dr Snigdha Jain, Dr Praveen Kurre, Dr Devpriya Rath, Dr Diwaker Dhurandhar and other medical teachers were present.

## RPI (A) should get representation in CG govt if BJP wins: Athawale

**Raipur, Oct 26:** Union minister and RPI (A) president Ramdas Athawale on Thursday said that his party will not contest next month's Chhattisgarh assembly elections but will seek representation in the government if BJP comes to power in the state. RPI (A) is a constituent of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) at the Centre. Addressing a press conference at Raipur Press Club, the Union minister of state for social justice and empowerment excluded confidence over the victory of the BJP in the Congress-governed state. "The RPI has decided to support BJP candidates in all 90 seats of the state. We will not contest any seat in Chhattisgarh. However, if BJP gets elected to power in the state, RPI should get a

share in the government and I will talk about it to Raman Singh (former chief minister)," he said. The RPI leader also targeted the ruling Congress alleging that corruption has increased under the current dispensation and people want a change this time. "We are confident that BJP will be elected to power as Modi ji has done a lot of work and worked on the policy of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas", he added. The RPI (A) had unsuccessfully contested the 2018 assembly elections in Chhattisgarh on 7 seats. It collectively polled only 3,257 votes (0.02 per cent). Chhattisgarh will see voting in two phases on November 7 and 17. Votes will be counted on December 3.











## CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 49 No. 26

### China-Bhutan Relations

#### India's Concerns Valid

China and Bhutan recently took a significant step towards resolving their long-standing boundary dispute, marking progress in their diplomatic engagement. The signing of an agreement outlining the roles and responsibilities of the joint technical team tasked with delimiting and demarcating their shared border is a noteworthy development. However, India must vigilantly assess this burgeoning China-Bhutan rapport, given its potential implications for regional stability. In the backdrop of these diplomatic moves, India has valid reasons to be cautious about the deepening China-Bhutan engagement. A recent Pentagon report highlighted China's activities near Doklam, including the construction of underground storage facilities and the establishment of villages in disputed Bhutanese territories. This development raises concerns about China's intentions in the region. It's crucial to recall that the Doklam tri-junction, in close proximity to India's strategic Siliguri Corridor, was the site of a tense standoff in 2017. The standoff erupted when the Chinese military initiated road construction near the Chicken Neck, a narrow strip of land connecting India's North-Eastern states to the mainland. India's resolute objections forced China to abandon its plans at that time. The region remains strategically sensitive, and any encroachment could have far-reaching consequences. China has adopted a proactive approach in wooing Bhutan, offering a three-step roadmap to settle their boundary dispute. Despite China's assertions that it respects Bhutan's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, its military activities in the vicinity raise apprehensions about its expansionist ambitions. This fervent Chinese pursuit of improved relations with Bhutan stands in stark contrast to its attitude towards India along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Amid the prolonged border standoff in eastern Ladakh, China has insisted on separating the boundary issue from bilateral ties with India. This approach effectively keeps the border dispute simmering while allowing China to assert its military prowess and remind India of the 1962 conflict. India must be proactive in engaging with Bhutan and conveying its concerns about the potential risks associated with cozying up to China. Bhutan's historical and enduring relationship with India is of strategic importance to both nations. India should underscore the critical need for Bhutan to maintain a balanced and cautious approach in its dealings with China. The geopolitical landscape in the Himalayan region demands a nuanced and vigilant response. While Bhutan is fully entitled to pursue diplomatic relations with any nation, it must do so with a clear understanding of the geopolitical complexities involved. China's history of territorial assertiveness in the South China Sea and its contentious border disputes with neighboring countries underscore the need for Bhutan to exercise due diligence. Furthermore, India should continue its diplomatic efforts to engage with Bhutan on this matter, offering its support and expertise in navigating the complex dynamics of international relations. Bhutan's security and sovereignty are of paramount importance to both India and Bhutan, making their partnership in the face of emerging challenges all the more crucial.

### Social Media Storm

#### Ensuring Online Safety for Our Youth

The perils of social media have cast a dark shadow over the digital landscape, prompting a reckoning akin to the tobacco industry's day of reckoning. In a collective effort to hold Big Tech accountable, dozens of U.S. states have rallied against Meta, the conglomerate behind Facebook and Instagram. Their grievance? The alleged harm inflicted on the mental health of young users. Meta, of course, staunchly denies any wrongdoing, adamantly rejecting claims that it profits from manipulative features that ensnare children and teenagers in the web of addictive and compulsive social media usage. The chorus of concern from parents, educators, caregivers, and policymakers worldwide has been growing louder for years. The verdict is in: the negative impact of prolonged social media exposure on mental and physical well-being is undeniable. Studies have drawn disconcerting links between excessive screen time and conditions such as depression, anxiety, insomnia, and eating disorders. In response, Meta asserts that it has taken proactive steps to create a safer online environment for teenagers and families. However, the lawsuits paint a grim picture, highlighting the platform's seductive and reward-driven features that keep the youth tethered to their screens, often at the expense of their self-esteem and overall well-being. This legal battle isn't isolated; Meta, TikTok, and YouTube are already grappling with hundreds of lawsuits in the U.S., all centering on the platforms' impact on mental health and allegations of misleading the public about their safety. Yet, the current wave of litigation represents a watershed moment. Its outcome could potentially set a precedent with far-reaching implications on a global scale. The clamor for stronger online protections, including age-appropriate health and safety standards for apps, has been reignited. However, experts caution that an outright ban on social media may not be the silver bullet for ensuring online safety. Instead, the focus should pivot toward digital literacy and privacy education. It's an uphill battle, as children are often resistant to such discussions. Parents must approach social media engagement with empathy, adopting a non-judgmental stance. Open dialogues about the importance of limiting screen time before bedtime, understanding the "fear of missing out" (FOMO), scrutinizing the content they encounter, and exploring how it makes them feel – both energized and depleted – can be the first steps toward building a healthier relationship with technology. In a world where connectivity is a double-edged sword, any effort to engage with our youth on the subject of online safety is an investment in their well-being. Digital natives are growing up in a complex digital landscape, and they deserve guidance that equips them to navigate it effectively. It's about striking a balance between reaping the benefits of technology and shielding ourselves from its darker aspects.

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

### DURGA VISARJAN



Devotees immerse (visarjan) an idol of goddess Durga during Vijaydashami celebrations marking the end of the Durga Puja festival, in Nadia, Thursday, Oct. 26.

## Digitization and Audiovisual archiving to ensure the permanent accessibility

### World Day for Audiovisual Heritage



PROF. SUNIL GOYAL



UNESCO declared October 27 as the World Day for AV Heritage to raise awareness of the significance of AV documents and to draw attention to the need to safeguard them. Every year, activities are organized by different institutions worldwide around a theme to drum up interest in the event. The 2023 World Day for Audiovisual Heritage will be celebrated on 27 October under the theme "Your Window to the World". Why do we do the things we do, and why do we do things the way we do them?

In the profession of audiovisual archiving, there is a need to constantly ask these questions in the context of changing practices and technology. Philosophies guide, shape, question and challenge the development of the profession and practice through constant review, but also by holding in tension the temporary, fleeting factors that too easily occupy us. Among the major current issues are digitization and format obsolescence. The standard question – "have you digitized your collection yet?" – misunder-

stands the complexities wrought by the changing paradigm, requiring not only the expansion of skills, technology and budgets, but exacerbating the divide between those archives who can, and cannot, adapt to the changes. The challenge is not only to migrate analogue works in danger, but to keep pace with the flood of new born-digital productions – all the while preserving the technology and skills of an analogue era that in some ways is surprisingly resurgent. Audiovisual archiving is treated as a profession in its own right, not as a specialized subset of an existing profession. In developing this theme, the book documents what is actually the case, rather than inventing or imposing theories or constructs by analogy from the other memory professions. It seeks to be descriptive rather than prescriptive. Historically, the label "archive" was adopted not in deference to the field of archival science but for unrelated pragmatic reasons: the terms suggested reliability and solidity.

The clear definition of terms and concepts are fundamental to everything else. Terms like film, tape, record, digital and analogue have both precise meanings and wider nuances. Audiovisual archives have a variety of organizational descriptors, and institutional names are also brands which describe and position the organization, yet also evoke intangible qualities and values. Broader concepts like audiovisual heritage, audiovisual document, audiovisual archive and audiovisual archivist are defining ideas which merit discussion at length. Characteristically, audiovisual documents are not perceived directly but must be mediated by a technological device, and their content has linear duration: it is perceived over time. Preservation is an often-misused term. In the profession it is a precise and fundamental concept: the totality of things necessary to ensure the permanent accessibility – forever – of an audiovisual document with the maximum integrity. It is not a discrete process. In the digital context, more than ever, it is a never-ending management task. Nothing has ever been preserved – it is only being preserved. Yet preservation is never an end in itself: without the objective of access, it has no point. Audiovisual archiving had no formal beginning. It emerged from diffuse organizational environments. Only in the 1930s did it begin to take recognizable shape and develop international groupings. The

present landscape embraces a variety of non-profit and for-profit entities with varying degrees of organizational independence. It includes government or quasi-government bodies, subsets of broadcasting organizations, production studios or universities, community and on-line archives. Some have highly specialized themes and coverage; some focus on particular media; some have broad ranging national briefs which embrace the entire audiovisual spectrum of television, film, radio, recorded sound, on-line and computer-based media. All memory institutions and professions have a paradigm – a world view which they bring to bear on the material of interest to them. It allows them to select, describe, arrange and provide access to material in meaningful ways: for example, as information, record, history or art. These worldviews are not essentially determined by the physical or digital format of the material: memory institutions in general collect across paper-based, digital and audiovisual formats. Characteristically, audiovisual archives perceive works such as films, television programs, songs or symphonies holistically in their own right: not principally as information, art or record but as all of those things simultaneously.

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Compensation Disparity

The recent tragic demise of Army's Agniveer, Gawate Akshay Laxman, while serving at the Siachen Glacier, has exposed a concerning gap in compensation for our heroes and their families. Laxman, the first Agniveer to fall on operational duty, highlights the unequal treatment received by these brave souls compared to regular soldiers. While the Army promises Laxman's family a lump sum of Rs 1 crore, including insurance and ex-gratia relief, the Seva Nidhi fund contributions and future salary payments further sweeten the deal. However, the Ministry of Defence offers only Rs 50 lakh in insurance for a regular soldier, with varying ex-gratia payouts, gratuity, and battle casualty funds. The disparity continues with lifelong family pensions, monthly allowances, education benefits, and even medical or engineering entrance exam fee coverage. It's high time we bridge this gap and ensure equality in honoring our heroes and their families.

Ysash Pal Raihan, Jalandhar

#### Election Ploys

Political parties, gearing up for elections, often employ tactics to broaden their voter base. A recent example is Karnataka's Congress, which promised to ban Bajrang Dal but took no action post-election. The latest proposal for a caste census seems a similar move. Each election brings new slogans, promising progress for marginalized sections, yet reservations rise without significant real-world impact. The caste census could foster divisions; leaders must safeguard national unity and strength.

Chandra Mohan, New Delhi

#### Diplomatic Decorum

India's adherence to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, seeking diplomatic parity with Canada, is a legitimate response to Canadian meddling in Indian affairs. Article 11.1 of the Convention grants the host nation authority to determine the size of foreign diplomatic missions, rendering Canada's resistance to India's reduction request puzzling. Despite strained ties, India's willingness to restore Canadian visa services underscores its commitment to diplomacy, conditional on the safety of its diplomats. Canada should prioritize adherence to the Vienna Convention over aligning with the US and UK to foster stronger bilateral relations.

Rakesh Gupta, Korba

## Tackling Hunger: The Urgent Need for Breakfast and Midday Meals

Sujit De

Hunger and malnutrition persist as grim realities in our country, and recent statements by Union Minister Smriti Irani have only highlighted the insensitivity towards this pressing issue. Equating her own brief morning hunger to the struggle of impoverished individuals is not just insensitive but also a stark reminder of the disconnect between policymakers and the harsh realities faced by millions of Indians.

It is essential for our leaders to understand the gravity of the situation. Extreme poverty drives thousands of unemployed youth and farmers to the brink of despair, leading to tragic suicides. As a nation, we cannot afford to ignore the dire consequences of hunger and malnutrition any longer.

Contrary to the Minister's assertion, the Global Hunger Index (GHI) does not rely on anecdotal hunger experiences. Instead, it employs four key indicators: undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting, and child mortality. Disturbingly, India's child wasting rate stands at a staggering 18.7%, the highest globally. This statistic aligns with former World Bank President Jim Yong Kim's warning that a significant portion of a stunted workforce severely hampers economic competitiveness.

The recent 2023 Global Hunger Index paints a bleak picture for India, ranking us 111th out of 125 countries. Our standing lags far behind neighboring nations like China, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. This alarming situation calls for immediate

action to alleviate hunger and malnutrition.

One crucial step in this diet is the introduction of both breakfast and midday meals for students in government and aided schools across the nation. The new National Educational Policy has rightly proposed this essential addition to address the challenge of hungry children struggling to learn effectively.

To implement this initiative successfully, the Central Government must allocate substantially more funds than the current allocation of Rs 11,600 crore for 2023-24, which is lower than the revised allocation for the previous year. While some states and union territories have commendably provided additional nutritious items such as milk, eggs, and fruits using their resources, it is imperative for the Central

Government to fund these provisions nationwide.

It is disheartening that certain Indian states have eliminated eggs from midday meals due to government reservations about non-vegetarian items. This decision disregards the desires of most students and parents who eagerly support the inclusion of eggs. Given that a significant majority of Indians are non-vegetarian, the ban on eggs seems unjust and detrimental to the nutritional needs of our children.

Breakfast and midday meals enriched with essential nutrients can effectively combat child stunting and malnutrition. Eggs, in particular, are a cost-effective and highly nutritious food item that can help address this pressing issue. By allowing prejudices to deprive our children of such a valuable resource, we perpetuate

their suffering and hinder their development.

Our nation's children deserve better. We cannot continue to turn a blind eye to the millions of hungry, malnourished children with stunted growth. It is high time the government prioritizes the health and well-being of our children over grandiose missions that hold little relevance to their welfare.

Addressing hunger and malnutrition should be a top priority for our nation. The implementation of breakfast and midday meals in all government and aided schools, along with increased funding and the inclusion of nutritious items like eggs, is a crucial step towards securing a healthier and brighter future for our children. It is time to act decisively and prioritize the well-being of our most vulnerable citizens.











# ASSEMBLY ELECTION - 2023

## IN FIVE STATES

CENTRAL CHRONICLE, RAIPUR, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2023



### BJP PRESS MEET



Union Minister of State and BJP leader Arjun Ram Meghwal and Rajasthan state BJP President C.P. Joshi address a press conference at the party office, in Jaipur, Thursday.

### 'People will suffer if they don't vote for a good party'

Achempet (T'gana), Oct 26 (PTI): Cautioning people not to fall for glib talk and vote for the "wrong people", Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Thursday said it is the public who suffer if they don't choose a good party that works for the development of the state. Speaking at an election rally here, Rao, also known as KCR said BJP chief ministers who are not able to provide adequate drinking water and power facilities in their own states, will descend here for the poll campaign and "preach" to the voters. "Personally we don't lose anything (if not voted to



K Chandrasekhar Rao

power). If you defeat us, then we will take rest. We don't lose or gain anything. But you (people) will lose. It is my responsibility to tell you, as the fighters and achievers of Telangana and to guide Telangana in the right way, it is our duty to tell

you,' he said. Hitting out at the Congress he said all that the party wants is to boss over Telangana, instead of its wellbeing. Rao alleged the Congress promised that it would give 20 hours power to farmers in Karnataka, but ended up being unable to supply electricity even for five hours. He said even Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state Gujarat also does not provide power for 24 hours to farmers. Alleging that though the Congress Party ruled for over fifty years after the independence, it never thought of implementing schemes such as Dalit Bandhu.

### Cong trying to politicise ED action against party leaders in Raj: BJP

New Delhi, Oct 26 (PTI): Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and other Congress leaders are trying to "politicise" the Enforcement Directorate's action as it has moved in to catch "big fishes" who were involved in the examination paper leak case, the BJP said on Thursday. The BJP's reaction came after the Congress slammed the Centre over the ED action against its leaders in Rajasthan and accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of taking the help of probe agencies in fighting the November 25 assembly polls in the state.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday raided the premises of Rajasthan Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra in Jaipur and Sikar as part of a money laundering probe into the exam paper leak case and summoned Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's son in a foreign exchange violation case. Gehlot flayed the ED action, saying terror has been unleashed in the country.

### Harshita Pandey attends NCW meeting



New Delhi, Oct 26:

On the issue of Woman Safety Audit valuation at Public and Work Place, a special meeting was called by National Commission for Women (NCW) on October 26 in New Delhi and Harshita Pandey from Chhattisgarh attended this meeting. The meeting was chaired by National Chairperson Rekha

Sharma.

It needs to be mentioned here, a massive survey in connection with women safety at public and work place was conducted in more than 12 cities and 25 metro cities. The meeting reviewed the outcome of Woman Safety Audit valuation. The others invited were former member secretary Minakshi Gupta, Priti Madan and other important invitees.

### 'They've unleashed terror in country'

Jaipur, Oct 26 (PTI):

Slamming the ED action against his son Vaibhav and Rajasthan Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Thursday accused the BJP of unleashing "terror" in the country. Gehlot also said the Enforcement Directorate (ED) swung into action after he announced two poll promises on Wednesday for women of the state. He said that five more promises are also going to be declared on Friday and dared the ED to find five more Congress leaders to take action. The chief minister also likened the ED action to loust attack and said the ED raids would destroy



CM Ashok Gehlot addresses a press conference.

"BJP's cross".

Gehlot claimed that ED raids happen wherever elections are held. Be it Chhattisgarh, Karnataka or Himachal Pradesh, ED raids happened just before elections, the chief minister said. "Raids happened but the Congress won the elections. The situation is worrisome. They have unleashed terror in the country," Gehlot said at a press conference here.

Asserting that the Congress "will not be scared no matter how hard they try", he alleged the BJP was targeting him through ED raids as they could not topple his government. "We will win the elections," the chief minister asserted. The ED on Thursday raided the premises of state Congress president Dotasra and Omprakash Hudla, the party's candidate from Mahua assembly seat, as part of a money laundering probe into the alleged exam paper leak case in the poll-bound state. The agency has also summoned Vaibhav Gehlot for questioning in a case related to alleged contravention of the foreign exchange law.

### 'Cong, SP in principle fighting together on several issues'



Randeep Singh Surjewala

Bhopal, Oct 26 (PTI):

Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala said on Thursday that his party and SP are in principle fighting together in the country over issues like unemployment, corrup-

tion and inflation and that their DNA for the Constitution and the nation is the same. Surjewala's remarks came amid public discord between the Congress and Samajwadi Party (SP) over seat-sharing for next month's assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh. Both parties are partners in the opposition bloc INDIA. "We have been talking to our INDIA alliance friends from time to time. Sometimes coordination with them (on issues) gets established and sometimes it may not. But in principle and in terms of policies, we are fighting together in the country on the issues of unemployment, inflation and corruption," he said.

Advertisement for Kalda Bani Evam (कालड़ा बर्न एवं) featuring a woman and text about plastic and cosmetic surgery services.

Large advertisement for Honda Shine 100cc motorcycle. Includes a photo of the bike, a man holding a 'Shine' sign, and promotional text: 'SAME TRUST NOW IN 100CC', 'IMPRESSIVE MILEAGE | SUPERB STYLE', 'DELIGHTFUL COMFORT | AFFORDABLE PRICE', and '₹ 65100/- EX-SHOWROOM PRICE (CHHATTISGARH)'. It also features a 'SUPER 6 OFFERS' section with details on ROI, EMI, cashback, and down payment, along with QR codes for dealer details and a 'CLICK BOOK RELAX' button.