



### BRIEF



Army personnel show their skill at the Ex-Servicemen Rally organised by DAO Division of Army, in Dibrugarh, Sunday.

### Vision plan

**New Delhi:** NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam on Sunday said a vision document is being prepared for India to become a developed economy of about USD 30 trillion by 2047. The vision document will outline the institutional and structural changes/reforms that will be needed for the country to become a developed nation by 2047. The draft Vision India @2047 will be ready by December 2023 and it will be presented before the country in the next three months, he said.

### Enquiry

**New Delhi:** Aviation watchdog DGCA will conduct a preliminary enquiry against one of its senior officials for alleged corruption, and the future course of action will be decided after receiving the initial findings, according to a government official. Following a complaint of alleged graft, the official has been transferred to another department in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the official added.

### BLACK SUNDAY

## Serial blasts at prayer meeting in Kerala

■ **Two dead, 52 injured**

Kochi, Oct 29 (PTI):

Two women died and 52 persons were injured, some seriously, in multiple blasts at a Christian religious gathering in a convention centre near this port city on Sunday morning, sending shockwaves across Kerala. The death toll in the blasts at a religious gathering in Kalamassery near here increased to two with a woman, who suffered 90 per cent burns in the incident, succumbing to her injuries, Kerala Health



Minister Veena George said on Sunday. Fifty-three-year-old Kumari, a native of Thodupuzha in Idukki district of the state, succumbed to the grievous burns suffered in the incident, the minister said.

One person died on the spot in the incident, which occurred in the morning, and 52 others were injured initially.

■ **48-year-old suspect surrenders**

One man, claiming to be a member of Jehovah's Witnesses, surrendered before police in Thrissur district of the state, claiming responsibility for the multiple blasts at the Christian religious gathering at Kalamassery here on Sunday morning, police said. The officer said that the man surrendered at Kodakara police station in the morning, claiming he was the one who set off the blasts. "The man's name is Dominic Martin. He also gave evidence supporting his claim. We are examining it presently. We are also examining his claims and the reasons given for carrying out the act," the ADGP said.

## J-K cop playing cricket shot by terrorists, critical



Srinagar, Oct 29 (PTI):

An inspector of Jammu and Kashmir Police was shot and critically wounded by a terrorist in downtown Srinagar on Sunday, officials said. The officer, identified as Masroor Ahmad Wani, was playing cricket at the Eidgah playground when the lone terrorist fired three shots in the eye, abdomen and hand from close range. On Sundays, the Eidgah ground is usually filled with youngsters

playing cricket. Wani's teammates ran after the terrorist but he fired in the air before fleeing through adjoining lanes, they said. Believed to be in his late thirties, Wani was rushed to a hospital in Soura where he was undergoing an operation, the officials said, adding his condition was stated to be critical. He was posted in the district police lines. In a post on X, formerly Twitter, the Kashmir Zone Police stated, "Terrorists fired upon and injured Inspector Masroor Ahmad near Eidgah, Srinagar. He was immediately shifted to hospital for treatment. Preliminary investigation reveals that a pistol was used in this terror crime. Area cordoned off, case registered."

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RECORD HOLDER

## BSF jawan commits suicide

Kanker, Oct 29:

A 34-year-old jawan of the Border Security Force (BSF) allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service weapon in Kanker district, police said on Sunday. The incident took place on Saturday at a BSF camp in Sarangipal village under the Rowghat police station limits, around 200 km from the capital Raipur, an official said. "Constable Balmiki Sinha of BSF's 162nd battalion shot himself with an INSAS rifle at the barrack in the camp. On hearing the gunshot, his colleagues rushed to the spot and found him lying in the pool of blood," the official said.

### RAHUL'S POLL PROMISES

## 'Hike in health benefits for the poor, incentives for landless labourers'

Rajnandgaon, Oct 29:

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday promised free treatment facility up to Rs 10 lakh to the poor people under an existing health assistance scheme in Chhattisgarh if his party retains power in the state. Addressing an election rally at the Rajnandgaon district headquarters in the poll-



bound state, Gandhi also promised that agricultural landless labourers (in rural areas) will be given Rs 10,000 per year in place of the existing Rs 7,000.

### Hails 'pro-farmer' model

**Raipur:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday helped some cultivators at a village near Raipur in harvesting paddy and said the pro-farmer "model" of his party's government in Chhattisgarh will be replicated across India. Gandhi highlighted five schemes of the Congress government in poll-bound Chhattisgarh, including loan waiver and input subsidy, as best works in the interest of farmers. "If farmers are happy then India is happy," Gandhi later said in a post on X. He visited Kathiya village near state capital Raipur in the morning where he interacted with farmers and labourers and helped them in harvesting paddy, a party functionary here said.

## 'Baghel's 'corrupt' govt have no right to remain in power'

Raipur, Oct 29 (PTI):

BJP president JP Nadda on Sunday accused the Bhupesh Baghel government in Chhattisgarh of indulging in "corruption" and said the Congress-led dispensation does not have the right to remain in power in the state.

The 90-member Chhattisgarh assembly will go to polls in two phases on November 7 and 17.

Nadda was addressing the 'Booth Vijya Sankalp Abhiyan' programme in



JP Nadda

Amlidih area under Raipur Rural constituency after listening to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' radio programme there. He asked the BJP workers to visit every single house under their respec-

tive poll booths and encourage people to cast vote in next month's state elections.

"We have been watching Bhupesh Baghel's corrupt, incompetent, unbelievable and unimaginable government. I say unbelievable because have you ever seen the secretary of a CM lodged in jail for years. What evidence does one need when corruption is written on the forehead," Nadda said and asked people whether such a "corrupt" government should remain in power.



## RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

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### Redressal of complaints against entities regulated by RBI

#### Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched the "Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021" (RB-IOS) by integrating the three erstwhile Ombudsman Schemes applicable for banks, non-banking financial companies and non-bank system participants. The RB-IOS provides cost-free redress of customer complaints involving deficiency in services rendered by the Regulated Entities (REs) of RBI, if not resolved to the satisfaction of the customers or not replied within a period of 30 days by the RE.

The RB-IOS adopts a "One Nation One Ombudsman" approach for all complaints against any RE. It is therefore no longer necessary for a complainant to identify under which Ombudsman scheme/office he/she should file complaint with the Ombudsman.

Complaints received at RBI against the REs not covered under the RB-IOS are redressed at the Consumer Education and Protection Cells (CEPCs) of RBI. Any complaint against an RE can be filed through one of the following modes:

- Online - through the Complaint Management System (CMS) portal of RBI on <https://cms.rbi.org.in> → File a complaint
- Email – [crpc@rbi.org.in](mailto:crpc@rbi.org.in) in the form as specified in Annexure 'A' in the RB-IOS.
- Physical complaint (letter/post) in the form as specified in Annexure 'A' in the RB-IOS to "Centralised Receipt and Processing Centre, 4th Floor, Reserve Bank of India, Sector -17, Central Vista, Chandigarh – 160017"

Please visit <https://cms.rbi.org.in> or contact on toll-free number – 14448 (from 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM (weekdays except National Holidays) for

English and Hindi, and in ten Regional Languages (Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Marathi, Malayalam, Odia, Punjabi, Telugu and Tamil) from 9:30 AM to 5:15 PM) for more information including names of entities covered under RB-IOS and CEPCs.

#### Appeal against decision of RBI-Ombudsman

Appeal against the decision of RBI-Ombudsman can be filed online on CMS portal at <https://cms.rbi.org.in> → File an Appeal or sent to the Appellate Authority, Reserve Bank of India, Consumer Education and Protection Department, Central Office, 1st Floor, Amar Building, Sir P M Road, Fort, Mumbai 400 001 (E-mail [aaos@rbi.org.in](mailto:aaos@rbi.org.in)) within 30 days of receipt of the communication of the RBI-Ombudsman's decision, only if the complaint is closed under the appealable Clauses of RB-IOS.

#### Important Information

**Note 1:** Before lodging any complaint under the RB-IOS/CEPC, the complainant must approach the concerned bank/NBFC/Payment System Participant with the grievance. If the grievance is not redressed within 30 days or if complainant is not satisfied with the reply given by the bank/NBFC/Payment System Participant, he/she can approach the RBI-Ombudsman/CEPC. The complainants can approach the RBI-Ombudsman anytime within one year of receipt of such reply from the concerned bank / NBFC / system participant. In case no reply is received from the bank/NBFC/Payment System Participant, RBI-Ombudsman can be approached anytime within one year and one month from the date of representation to the entity.

**Note 2:** The complainant MUST indicate his/ her name, address and present contact number in the written/email complaint.



# Vehicle rally taken out for voter awareness

# Show cause notice served to Lalit

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Oct 29:** Returning Officer of Durg Rural Assembly Constituency, Mukesh Raote has issued a notice to the Assembly Constituency candidate Lalit Chandrakar regarding violation of the provisions mentioned in the Assembly Election-2023 Defacement of Property Act. According to the information received, election campaign writing has been done without consent on a private house located in village Pisegaon.



Lalit Chandrakar

This act is a violation of the model code of conduct. The wall writing was erased on the spot by FST, Secretary of Gram Panchayat and Employment Assistant of Gram Panchayat Pisegaon in compliance with the Model Code of Conduct.

Considering it to be a violation of the Model Code of Conduct, the Returning Officer has asked BJP Candidate Lalit Chandrakar to submit an immediate reply in this regard to the office as to why he got the election campaign material written on the walls without obtaining consent from the private landlords. If he fails to submit a reply, action will be taken as per election rules.



During the rally, campaign slogans and songs issued by the Election Commission and appeals to vote were played in the sound systems of the vehicles.

Commissioner Rohit Vyas, SDM Jageshwar Kaushal, Tehsildar

Panchbhai Gurudutt, Zone Commissioner Amitabh Sharma, Health Officer Dharmendra Mishra, Ajay Shukla, Anil Mishra, Ankit Saxena, VK Samuel, RP Tiwari and other officers and employees were present in the rally.

franchise in the assembly elections to be held on 17 November. Returning Officer of Assembly Constituency 65 and BMC Commissioner Rohit Vyas flagged off the rally on Sunday.

Hundred vehicles were parked sequentially in the

ground of Baikunthdham Ward 32 to write 17th November. After this, Commissioner Rohit Vyas administered oath to all the officers and employees to cast their vote without any fear, rising above the caste and without any discrimination.

The vehicle rally moved across Power House fly-over, Chhawani, Canal Road, Nandani Road, Central Avenue to HUDCO Sector 9 Chowk and concluded at Sector 7 School ground. Here the vehicles were parked to write SWEEP with a chain of ve-



Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Oct 29:** To strengthen democracy, it is necessary for every citizen to vote. A vehicle rally was taken out under the voter awareness campaign with the aim of ensuring that citizens exercise their

# Action against heavy vehicles for no-parking violation

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Oct 29:** As per the instructions of Senior Superintendent of Police (Durg) Ram Gopal Garg, continuous action is being taken against vehicles obstructing traffic and parked in the no parking zones. A penalty of Rs 80,000 was imposed on four goods vehicles.

Traffic Police teams led by Satish Thakur and Sadanand Vindhyaaraj (Deputy Superintendent of Police, Traffic), continuous action is being taken against those creating obstructions on the road and vehicles parked in no park-



ing zones. Under the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act, action was taken against four heavy vehicle drivers for disrupting the traffic by parking in the goods vehicles in the

Kumhari area on the Durg to Raipur road.

A fine of Rs 20,000 was imposed on the drivers. A total of Rs 80,000 was collected from the drivers by the Traffic Police, Durg. Traffic Police Durg will continue to take further action against drivers who disrupt traffic and park their vehicles dangerously on the no-parking zones.

# SHOs instructed to keep watch on social media

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Oct 29:** Senior Superintendent of Police (Durg) Ram Gopal Garg chaired a meeting of the Station House Officers (SHOs) of all the Police Stations and Chowkis of the district in the auditorium of Police Control Room Sector 6 Bhilai. In the meeting, he gave important guidelines regarding the upcoming assembly elections.

Keeping in view the Assembly Elections 2023, the officers and employees deployed in the elections have been included in the Flying Squads, Static Surveillance Teams, etc.

They have been deployed to inform about the



guidelines issued by the Election Commission and to give details related to the elections, including complaints, information, sensitive incidents and public rallies to the flying squad team, static moni-

toring team.

Cops were also asked to keep a close watch on social media. The cops must resolve the complaint and take action as soon as the information of illegal material is received. The fly-

ing squad was instructed to immediately reach the spot and take action.

He gave strict instructions to the SHOs to continuously monitor the goons and prepare a list of miscreants, trouble mak-

ers and habitual offenders. They were asked to take action against the goons who are disrupting the assembly elections. Action can be taken against them under the Arms Act, Excise Act, gambling and betting. SSP further asked them to serve the pending warrants in an attentive manner.

Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Abhishek Jha, Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural) Ananth Kumar, Additional Superintendent of Police (IUCAW) Meeta Pawar, Additional Superintendent of Police Anurag Jha and all gazetted officers and police station / chowki in-charges were present.

# FSTs conduct vehicle checking



Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Oct 29:** Flying Squads and Static Surveillance Teams (FST) are operational in the district after the announcement of elections. Recently, a FST intercepted a car in the Ahiwara area and recovered huge cash from the vehicle.

To prevent the misuse of money, valuables and liquor to woo voters during the elections, the FSTs are continuously checking the vehicles across the district.

Vehicle checking was done under the direction of Senior Superintendent

of Police (Durg) Ram Gopal Garg. In view of the upcoming festive season, the police are keeping a close watch on all the vehicles entering and exiting the city. Vehicle checking is being continuously done in front of Durg Police Station.

Vehicle checking campaign by CSP Durg, Kotwali team is being done in front of Kotwali Police Station under the leadership of ADM Gokul Raote, SDM Mukesh Raote, Deputy Collector Lavkesh Dhruv, Joint Collector Praveen Verma and CSP Durg Mani Shankar Chandra.

# Vigilance Awareness Week 2023 of BSP from today

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Oct 29:** SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant shall be observing the week-long Vigilance Awareness Week 2023 from October 30 to November 05, 2023, for increasing public awareness about the perils of corruption. This year's theme for Vigilance Awareness Week is "Say no to corruption; commit to the Nation", which is chosen by the Central Vigilance Commission, the apex anti-corruption body in the country.

SAIL-BSP's Vigilance Department shall organize various competitions under this theme, including drawing, painting, essay, slogan, extempore and quiz etc. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c, Bhilai Steel Plant will in-

augurate the Vigilance Awareness Week 2023, at the HRDD Conference Hall on October 30, 2023.

A Quiz Competition shall be organised for BSP Employees on October 30, 2023 at HRDD Conference Hall, whereas a Walkathon rally will be flagged-off from Ispat Bhawan to Equipment Square Bhilai on October 31, 2023, wherein the Plant Employees and stakeholders shall march, giving a message of Corruption-free working.

Speech Competitions shall be conducted for the students of PG College of Nursing and Mahila Vidyalaya, Durg on October 31 and November 01, 2023, respectively. A Debate Competition has also been scheduled at

BSP SSS- Sector-07 on November 02, 2023, while a Gram Sabha shall be organised for the villagers of Rajhara and Hirri Mines on November 03, 2023.

Various other activities including Drawing & painting competition for school students shall also be organised at Maitri Bagh, an integration session for the Vendors/ Contractors/ Customers for awareness generation and grievance redressal and for promotion of integrity pledge at BSP's MM Department between November 01-03, 2023 and Ethics Club Activities will also be organised at Suniti Udyan, Sector-08, Bhilai on November 05, 2023.

The valedictory Ceremony for Vigilance

Awareness Week 2023 shall be organised at Mahatma Gandhi Kala Mandir on November 04, 2023 where various participants and Prize winners of the respective competitions held under the week shall also be felicitated, in presence of dignitary guests from BSP's Senior Management.

The Vigilance Awareness Week is one of the tools of the Central Vigilance Commission in increasing public awareness about the perils of corruption. Vigilance Awareness Week is observed every year during the last week of October and continues till the first week of November, during which the Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel falls in.

# PM's public rally in Durg on Nov 04



Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Oct 29:** The public rally of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Durg has been postponed to November 04. Earlier, Modi was scheduled to conduct a mega rally in Durg on October 30. Now his visit has been finalised for November 04. Elaborate preparations are being done for his visit under the leadership of District BJP President Jitendra Verma.

On Sunday, District BJP President Jitendra Verma chaired a meeting of top office bearers of BJP in the BJP office regarding the

visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Verma said that on November 4, there will be a huge public meeting of Narendra Modi in Ravishankar Stadium of Durg.

In the evening, Collector Pushpendra Meena and Superintendent of Police Ramgopal Garg, District BJP President Jitendra Verma along with prominent party leaders reached the stadium and took stock of the arrangements. Verma instructed the team involved in installing the pandal to complete the work carefully and within the time limit.

# Voter awareness campaign: Risali denizens light lamp, pledge to vote

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Oct 29:** The denizens in Risali organised a programme "Deep Daan" and pledged to utilize their franchise and vote in the upcoming Assembly elections. The programme was organised in the Dussehra ground in Risali.

It is under the supervision of Risali Municipal Commissioner Ashish Dewangan that the voter awareness campaign is being run in the corporation limits to ensure 100 percent voting.

A special campaign is being run in the area to make voters aware that how important it is for them to vote. The employees of the corporation, Livelihood Mission members and citizens gathered at Dussehra and sports



ground last Saturday evening and participated in "Deep Daan" (where earthen lamps are lit).

Women sketched out election symbols with rangoli and spread the message of voting on November 17 arranging the lit lamps. During this, a large number of citizens including Durg Rural ARO Mukesh Raote, Corporation Commissioner Ashish Dewangan,

Corporation Secretary Rohit Sahu, Sub Engineer Nitish Sahu, Akhilesh Gupta were present.

A large number of football players also participated during the program and pledged to take the message of voting to every home by taking lamp.

Here it needs a mention that Risali Corporation is running a campaign to maintain the tradition of

peaceful elections. It was started from the office first. An oath was administered to maintain democratic traditions. After this the resolution papers are being filled by the voters.

In the second phase, voters will be motivated to vote by organizing different programs like torch rally, bike rally, contact campaign and competitions in schools.

# HYU: University squad conducts surprise inspection during examinations

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Oct 29:** University officials conducted a surprise inspection of the examination centers where the supplementary examination 2023 are being conducted under Hemchand Yadav University, Durg last Saturday and took stock of the smooth conduct of the examination.

Giving this information, the Registrar of the University, Bhupendra Kuldeep said that as per the instructions of the Vice Chancellor, Dr Aruna Palta, the University officials are conducting intensive inspection of various supplementary examination centers every day.

According to Kuldeep, on Saturday the Dean, Student Welfare, Dr Prashant Srivastava, Deputy Registrar,



Rajendra Chauhan, and Assistant Registrar, Himanshu Shekhar Mandavi inspected Kalyan Postgraduate College, Bhilai and Bhilai Mahila College, Sector 09. During this, Principal of Kalyan College, Dr RP Aggarwal and Principal of Bhilai Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Sector 09, Dr Sandhya Madan Mohan were also present.

According to Kuldeep, the invigilators present in

the examination hall of Kalyan Mahavidyalaya saw that two candidates had mobile phones, which was a complete violation of the rules of the examination, hence a case of cheating was registered against those two candidates.

Now this matter will be placed before the cheating committee constituted in the university. In the supplementary examination 2023 which started from October 20, supplement-

tary examinations of many subjects have been completed so far.

These include foundation courses of Hindi and English language, sociology, commerce, computer applications, physics, mathematics and botany subjects. So far, 5000 answer sheets have reached the university from various examination centers and 25 expert professors are evaluating them every day.



## Chhattisgarh Cong to hold marathon today

● For first-time voter awareness

**Raipur, Oct 29:** The Congress will organise a marathon on Monday in Raipur in Chhattisgarh to create awareness among first-time voters in the poll-bound state. Assembly polls will take place in Chhattisgarh in two phases on November 7 and 17, while votes will be counted on December 3. "There are around 18 lakh first-time voters in Chhattisgarh. The

Congress believes young voters are the future of the country. In order to motivate them to cast their vote, the party will organise a 'voter awareness marathon' on Monday," said. "Youth in the 18-25 age segment can take part in the marathon. They can connect with each other during the event and become aware of their voting rights. Registration for the marathon, which will start from Telibandha pond at 6am and culminate at

Gandhi Maidan, can be done online and offline," he said. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, party leader Kanhaiya Kumar, among others, will take part, with the CM interacting with those who come within the first 100 in the marathon, he said. In 1989, then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi reduced the age limit for voting from 21 years to 18 years, following which the participation of young voters in democracy has increased, Shukla added.

### JCC(J) changes two candidates for polls

**Raipur, Oct 29:** Janta Congress Chhattisgarh (J) on Sunday changed two candidates for the Legislative Assembly polls in the list of 10 candidates announced here. According to the information received, Samayal Patil would now be the official candidate from Bhatgaon seat whereas Sanjay Dubey would be contesting from Durg City seat. Meanwhile, Manshu Nihal from Utkal community would be contesting from Raipur North seat whereas Durgesh Sahu from Baikunthpur, Charles Ekka from Kunkuri, Rajkumar Patel from Shakti, Professor Bramhanand Markande from Bilagarh (SC) seat, Shitkaran Mahilwar from Patan and Shesh Narayan Kurre from Nawagarh (SC) seat. Similarly, the party has also fielded Pradeep Sahu from Raipur South seat.

## Chidambaram presents report of Congress govt

● Targets BJP saying agriculture system had become weak during BJP tenure



**Raipur, Oct 29:** Former Finance Minister and Congress leader P Chidambaram highlighted achievements of the five years of Congress Government in the state at a press conference held at Congress headquarters 'Rajiv Bhavan' here on Sunday. He said that the state government had taken care of every section of the society including farmers, labourers, poor and unemployed in the last five years. He also targeted BJP saying that the agricultural system had

become very poor during the BJP tenure in the state. By the year 2018, Chhattisgarh had become the weakest in economic situation, he said. Based on the CAG report, 20% of the schools had no lights and there were no toilet facilities in the schools during the BJP tenure, he said. Chhattisgarh is proud today, he said, adding that Chhattisgarh has the lowest unemployment rate and the condition of farmers improved under Congress gave the

farmers the promised price of paddy, said Chidambaram. According to him the condition of farmers was not good in the previous BJP government and the condition of SC-ST category was also not good in the BJP government. He said that situation improved under the Congress government and the condition of farmers improved under the Congress government. Rice is available in more quantity than before, he said, adding that agriculture plays the biggest role

in the state's GDP. Congress government is focusing on education, health and employment, he said adding that state government is running many welfare schemes. Chidambaram further distinguished the performances of Congress government and previous BJP government through statistics. He said that Congress government will work keeping all sections in mind in the next 5 years also. Congress government will work with commitment in all areas including education, health and employment, he added. Congress leaders Pramod Tiwari, Akhilesh Pratap Singh and Radhika Kheda and others were present.

## NOTA option should be scrapped: Baghel

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Oct 30:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has said that the NOTA option, for citizens who are not inclined to vote for any candidate, on the electronic voting machines should be scrapped. Following a Supreme Court order, the Election Commission in 2013 added none of the above', or NOTA, button to the EVM as last option on the voting panel. NOTA has its own symbol a ballot paper with a black cross on it. Talking to reporters at Raipur airport on Saturday, Baghel said it has been seen that sometimes NOTA polled more votes than the margin of victory and loss. Asked about more than 2

lakh voters favouring NOTA in the 2018 state assembly elections and how the option impacts polls, the CM said, "The Election Commission should take its cognisance. Many times it has been seen that NOTA polled more votes than the margin of victory and loss (between two candidates)." He said many voters press the NOTA button thinking they either have to hit the one at the top or at the bottom. "So NOTA should be stopped," Baghel added. Polling to the 90-member Chhattisgarh assembly will be held in two phases on November 7 and 17. In the 2018 assembly elections, Chhattisgarh recorded 76.88 per cent voter turnout with 1,42,90,497 of the total 1,85,88,520 electors

exercising their franchise. NOTA had polled 2,82,738 votes. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, over 1.96 lakh NOTA votes were polled in the state, which has 11 parliamentary seats. NOTA then stood at the third position in five parliamentary constituencies Bastar, Surguja, Kanker, Mahasamund and Rajnandgaon. Prior to the apex court's order, those not inclined to vote for any candidate had the option of registering their decision under Rule 49-O (elector deciding not to vote) of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961. But this compromised the secrecy of the voter. The NOTA button on an EVM ensures secrecy of the ballot.

## Massive fire breaks out in scrap yard



**Raipur, Oct 29:** A massive fire broke out in a scrap yard in Khamtarai police station area of Raipur last Saturday night creating panic among the people of the entire area. On receiving information, four vehicles of police and fire brigade reached. After two hours of relentless effort the fire was brought under control. Though the cause of the fire is not

clear yet it is believed that short circuit has led eruption of fire. According to the information received from the police, fire broke out in the scrap warehouse of Girdhari Sahu under Khamtarai police station area. Due to the large amount of plastic in the warehouse, the fire spread rapidly and took a large size. The flames were visible far away.

## Rahul harvests paddy with a sickle in his hand and a towel on his head



**Raipur, Oct 29:** Congress leader and Lok Sabha member Rahul Gandhi suddenly reached among the farmers early in morning on the second day of his Chhattisgarh visit. He met with farm-

ers in Katia village of Nava Raipur and harvested paddy with a sickle in his hand and towel tied on his head. Gandhi interacted with the farmers and took information about paddy harvesting.

He posted this photo on Internet Media X while cutting paddy. Rahul Gandhi has written in his post, 'if farmers are happy then India is happy'. Further in the post, he also told about the 5 best works of the Congress government for the farmers of Chhattisgarh and said, 'the excellent work of the Congress government of Chhattisgarh has made the farmers the happiest in India'. Rahul Gandhi further wrote 'A model which we will repeat all over India'. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Deputy Chief Minister TS Singhdeo, Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, Assembly Speaker Charandas Mahant were also present with him.



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Manraj Honda - 07744-223333, 8435999991, 8435999992; Rakesh Honda (Dongarhgaon) - 9893419781, 8815055550; Ashirwad Honda (Churiya) - 9826338415, 9424215777; RAMANJIGAN: Vikas Honda - 9755834780; RAHOD: Shri Balaji Honda - 9977311242; SAKTI: Maa Durga Honda - 9685927215; SHEORINARAYAN: Arav Honda - 8109955535; SARANGARH: Akshat Honda - 9617378301; PRATAPUR: Shri Banbhora Honda - 8120806101; SURAJPUR: Shri Om Honda - 9826774095, 9926884331; TILDA: Agrawal Honda - 9424200104; KONDAGAON: Danteshwari Honda - 9294566660; TAPKARA: Jindal Honda - 9406384666; KUNKURI: Mansharam Honda - 8103798783; SARAGAON: Shyam Honda - 8461930088; SEJBAHAR: R.S Honda - 9754123000; MANDIR HASAUD: Gurukripa Honda - 9827892427; B.K Honda - 9867224777; KURUD: Shri Shyam Honda 07705223590,817898279; DHARSIVA: R.S.Honda - 9669880000; KASDOL: Laxmi Honda - 8871233553; SARSIVA: Kanisk Honda - 9575533947; BEMETARA: Sri Rama Honda - 8827050000, 8824222521, 8827120000; BHAKARA: Nitesh Honda - 9907975628; DONDEKHURD: Yash Honda - 9826146586; 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Mansi Honda - 9685010000.

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## Winds of change sweep Chh'garh as BJP gears up for new beginning

Public's discontent with false promises spells trouble for Congress: Roop Singh Mandavi

Jagdalpur, Oct 29:

In a press conference held at the BJP district office, the BJP District President, Roop Singh Mandavi, declared a promising era of change sweeping across Chhattisgarh. With the end of Congress's misrule looming on the horizon, the winds of transformation have taken hold, starting from Bastar and extending across the entire state.

Mandavi expressed confidence that the public's determination to hold the scam-riddled Congress government accountable, combined with their blessings, will pave the way for the BJP to secure a resounding majority in



Chhattisgarh. The upcoming assembly elections have left Congress in a state of confusion, as they grapple with the repercussions of their false and corrupt governance.

Highlighting the public's growing disillusionment with Congress, Mandavi pointed out that the party had been compelled to withdraw the tickets of 22 of its sitting MLAs due to fear and public displeasure. He attributed this shift in political dynamics to the dedication of BJP workers, especially Mandavi

President Vinayak Goyal, whose candidacy in the Chitrakote Assembly seat prompted Congress to replace its incumbent MLA, Rajman Benjamin. The BJP President for Bastar MP, Deepak Baij, also found himself compelled to contest as an MLA candidate. Mandavi criticized Congress for its history of false promises, particularly its repeated pledges to waive farmers' loans. He recalled how Congress had made 36 unfulfilled promises in the previous assembly elections, deceiving

hardworking farmers and other segments of society. In contrast, he emphasized that the people of Chhattisgarh continue to reap the benefits of the BJP's 15 years of development work and the welfare schemes introduced by the Modi government at the Centre.

In light of the Congress government's actions, the outcome of the upcoming elections appears bleak for the party. With strong BJP support in the Bastar division, including Chitrakote, Jagdalpur, and Bastar Assembly seats, the winds of change are indeed blowing through Chhattisgarh. Present at the conference were prominent leaders such as Vidyasharan Tiwari, Vedprakash Pandey, Sanjay Pandey, Alok Awasthi, Dinesh Panigrahi, and Jaiprakash Padhi, all united in their vision for a transformed Chhattisgarh under BJP leadership.

## New guidelines for greener firecrackers and limited hours

Strict regulations for Diwali, Chhath Puja, Guru Parv, Christmas, and New Year Celebrations

Jagdalpur, Oct 29: In a landmark move for environmentally responsible celebrations, the High Court and the National Green Tribunal have jointly issued comprehensive guidelines for the use of firecrackers during Diwali and upcoming festivals. These guidelines promote the use of eco-friendly "green" firecrackers and restrict the hours during which fireworks can be enjoyed.

Under these directives, individuals will only be allowed to use green firecrackers during Diwali, Chhath Puja, Guru Nanak Jayanti, Christmas, and New Year's festivities. Moreover, the guidelines stipulate specific timeframes for firecracker use



to minimize noise and pollution. Diwali celebrations are permitted from 8 PM to 10 PM, Chhath Puja from 6 AM to 8 AM, and Guru Parv from 8 PM to 10 PM. For Christmas and New Year, the window is set from 11:55 PM to 12:30 AM.

The district administration officials have been tasked with rigorously enforcing these instructions, ensuring that the public

adheres to the eco-conscious and noise level regulations. A unified set of guidelines has been issued for the entire state, emphasizing uniform compliance.

Furthermore, in alignment with the Supreme Court's order of November 23, 2018, the guidelines encourage the sale of green firecrackers, known for their reduced pollution impact, exclu-

sively through licensed traders. Additionally, firecrackers with noise levels exceeding prescribed limits will not be allowed in the market. Stricter measures also include revoking licenses of manufacturers who incorporate lithium, arsenic, antimony, lead, and mercury in their firecrackers. These steps collectively aim to promote eco-friendly and safe celebrations for all.

## Devvrat launches energetic Khujji campaign



Dongargaon, Oct 29: Devvrat Khobaragade, an independent candidate contesting from the Khujji Assembly constituency in the upcoming elections, has intensified his campaign. Today, he engaged in outreach efforts in various villages of the Kumarda region, including Dhanagaon, Ghupsal, Daihan, Bandhabazar, Joratarai, Jadutola, Singhbhedhi, and Amatola. Devvrat interacted with rural voters in small shops, paan stalls, grocery

stores, and community centers, introducing himself and seeking support and assistance from the people.

Originally from the village of Muchedand in the Khujji Assembly constituency, Devvrat Khobaragade informed the rural population that he is one of their own and remains actively involved in addressing local issues in the region. He appealed to everyone for their support and assistance in his campaign.

## Knowledge can help one achieve goal: Dr Aditya Shukla

Workshop on principles of life management

Raipur, Oct 29:

A one-day workshop was organized on the principles of life management at Mahant Laxmi Narayan Das Mahavidyalaya, Gandhi Chowk, Raipur. Eminent senior scientist and writer and speaker Dr Aditya Shukla expressed his views and explained the principles of life management.

Special guests in the event included Ajay Tiwari, Chairman Governing Body Committee, Anil Tiwari Secretary, RK Gupta, Vice President and Principal Dr Devashish Mukherjee. Dr Anjani Kumar Shukla,



Dinesh Sharma, many senior citizens and college staff and Dr. Aditya Shukla were also present.

He spoke on the formula of life management. He said that life management is a process which makes us better and better than before. Dr Aditya Shukla spoke on the formula of life management. Life management is a process which makes us better, he said. According to him the goal in a per-

son's life should be big because if a person has taken birth in the universe, then God has surely given him this opportunity by setting some wish. He said that accumulation of virtues and abandonment of vices are necessary for management. One can achieve his goal by knowledge, he added.

A person achieves excellence by using the resources methodically, in a



timely manner and appropriately, said Dr Aditya Shukla. He believes that every human being has intrinsic and superior qualities, only by identifying them and using them better, success can be achieved, he said. Describing success, prosperity, happiness, peace and satisfaction as the basis of life management, Dr. Shukla said that personality can be made from a person.

## Foreign national found dead in Dharampura hotel room

Jagdalpur, Octo 29:

A somber discovery unfolded on Saturday in Dharampura city as the lifeless body of an Italian national was found in a private hotel room under the jurisdiction of the Bodhghat police station.

As investigations are underway, CSP Vikas Kumar has preliminarily suggested the possibility of the individual succumbing to a heart attack. The definitive cause of death awaits confirmation pending the post-mortem report, with forensic experts having also been dispatched to the scene for further examination. The incident came to light when there was no activity in room number 305, prompting concern from the occupant's friend and hotel staff. Upon gaining access to the room, they discovered the lifeless body on the bed. The



hotel management promptly alerted the local police, who subsequently confirmed the unfortunate passing. The deceased has been identified as Moray Francisco, an Italian citizen and professional engineer, who had arrived in the area on October 17 to offer his expertise at the NMDC Steel Plant.

As the authorities await the post-mortem report to ascertain the precise cause of Moray Francisco's untimely demise, the community mourns the loss of a valued guest and contributor to the region's development efforts.

## Expenditure Observer conducts initial review of Candidates' accounts

Ensuring fairness in election expenditure

Jagdalpur, Oct 29:

In a significant step towards ensuring transparency and accountability in the upcoming Assembly Elections 2023, the Expenditure Observer, Praveen Ranjan, conducted the initial audit of accounting details for candidates from the Bastar, Jagdalpur, and Chitrakot Assembly constituencies. The audit took place at the Election Expenditure Monitoring Cell, established within the District Panchayat. During this



milestone event, all candidates and their agents from these three assembly constituencies presented comprehensive accounting and expenditure-related details pertaining to their election campaigns. Expenditure Observer Praveen Ranjan meticulously examined these records, providing invaluable guidance on the management of election ex-

penditure. This audit process is divided into three phases, with the first phase now successfully completed. The upcoming phases are scheduled for November 1st and 5th. All candidates are required to submit their accounting details for scrutiny during these phases. Candidates and their agents can meet with the Expenditure

Observer between 10 am and 5 pm at the Election Expenditure Monitoring Cell located in the District Panchayat.

This initiative is a crucial step in upholding the integrity of the electoral process, promoting fair competition, and ensuring that election expenditures adhere to regulations. Assistant Nodal Officer Election Expenditure Monitoring, Kamlesh Raist, along with Assistant Expenditure Observers from the three assembly constituencies, joined other officers and employees dedicated to the cause of election expenditure monitoring in this endeavor.

Downloading of e-mail ballot till 31st Oct

Raipur, Oct 29:

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer has sent the electronic form of postal ballots for service voters in 20 assembly constituencies to the District Returning Officers for the first phase of Chhattisgarh Assembly elections. As per the instructions of the Election Commission of India, the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer has informed the District Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers about the entire

process regarding voting through e-mail ballot.

The dates for various processes of voting through e-mail ballot for the first phase of elections have been fixed by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer. E-mail ballot has been issued to 4 thousand 515 service voters registered for the first phase. As per the instructions of the Commission, e-mail ballot papers are issued exactly 24 hours after the withdrawal of nominations for the first phase of elections and the time for downloading them remains fixed for the next seven days. The concerned service voter

downloads it and registers his vote and it is sent to the returning officer by post. As per rules, downloading of e-mail ballot has started on 24th October. The last date for downloading e-mail ballot will be October 31, 2023. The time for receiving marked e-mail ballots has been fixed for 07.59 am on 03 December 2023.

The Election Commission of India has issued detailed guidelines for transmission of e-mail ballot. It is noteworthy that under the Arms Act, persons working in the Central Forces, persons posted outside the state armed forces and government officials

posted in embassies outside the country have been classified as service voters. Provision for online registration has been made for these.

Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS) has been developed by the Election Commission of India for service voters. This is a completely secure system. With use of ETPBS, service voters can cast their votes through electronically received postal ballot from anywhere outside their constituency and thus the possibility of being deprived of the opportunity to vote is reduced.

## Narayana Health organised Swasth Paricharcha- 'Know Your Brain'

An awareness programme on prevalence of stroke

Raipur, Oct 29:

Over 200 attendees in event from diverse society and social group

Stroke is a leading cause of disability and mortality worldwide. It is essential for healthcare providers to provide knowledge and resources to help individuals reduce their risks and make informed choices regarding their health.

The "Know Your Brain" Swasth Paricharcha, witnessed active participation from more than 200 individuals from various walks of life. It served as a unique platform for attendees to gain a deeper un-



derstanding of brain health, its intricate functioning, and the vital role that neurological care plays in the prevention



and treatment of brain-related conditions.

Leading this enlightening initiative were two distinguished experts in

the field of neurology: Dr. H.P. Sinha, Senior Consultant, and Dr. Prashant Kumar consultant. These renowned neu-

rologists are celebrated not only for their expertise but also for their commitment to promoting brain health within the

community.

The event offered a range of activities, including informative presentations, interactive sessions. Participants had the unique opportunity to interact with these experts, ask questions, and draw from their knowledge and extensive experience. Dr. H.P. Sinha and Dr. Prashant Kumar emphasized the importance of early detection and timely treatment in preventing strokes and effectively managing neurological disorders.

Narayana Health's dedication to community well-being and healthcare education was evident throughout the "Know Your Brain" Swasth

Paricharcha. The event saw enthusiastic participation from members of various societies and social groups, including Lalit Mishra (President) Serva Bramhin Samaj Raipur, Ashok Agrawal (Chairman) Chhattisgarh Prantiya Agrawal Sangathan, Arun Shukla (President) Kanya Kubj Shiksha Mandal Brahmin Samaj, S.N.Rathore (President) Rathore Vikas Foundation and many other personalities.

It is part of a broader effort to ensure that everyone, regardless of their social or economic background, has access to essential information and resources for a healthier, stroke-free life.



## KARVA CHAUTH SHOPPING



Women shop at a market ahead of the 'Karva Chauth' festival, in Jammu, Sunday.

## J&K border residents take to cleaning bunkers

### In wake of Pakistan shelling

Arnia (J-K), Oct 29 (PTI): Days after Pakistan Rangers violated ceasefire by targeting forward posts and villages along the International border here, the border residents have taken to cleaning underground bunkers, constructed over the years, to take shelter in. A massive cleaning operation is underway to make the bunkers habitable, with locals demanding more such constructions to escape the cross-border shelling. "We cannot trust Pakistan and have started a drive to clean the bunkers to make them usable," Sarpanch, Treva vil-



Sarpanch Balbir Kaur with villagers clean a bunker after firing by the Pakistan Rangers at the Arnia area of Jammu & Kashmir.

lage of Arnia, Balbir Kaur told PTI. India shares a 3,323 km-long border with Pakistan, of which 221 km of the IB and 744 km of the Line of Control fall in Jammu and Kashmir. On February 25, 2021, India and Pakistan announced the implementation of a renewed ceasefire along the

borders in Jammu and Kashmir, which came as a major relief to the people living along the IB and the LoC. The two countries had

initially signed a ceasefire agreement in 2003, but Pakistan frequently violated the agreement, with over 5,000 violations reported in 2020 the highest in a single year. To safeguard the border residents from Pakistani shelling, the Centre had in December 2017 sanctioned the construction of 14,460 individual and community bunkers in five districts of Jammu, Kathua, and Samba covering the villages located along the IB and Poonch and Rajouri villages on the LoC.

### DEMAND NOTICE

**EDELWEISS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LTD.**  
CIN: U67100MH2007PLC174759  
Retail Central & Regd. Office: Edelweiss House, Off CST Road, Kalina, Mumbai 400098  
Under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, ("the Act") read with rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited ("EARC") under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. In exercise of powers conferred under the Section 13 (12) of the Act read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorized Officer has issued Demand Notice under section 13(2) of The Act, calling upon the following borrower(s), under the loan agreement executed between IndusInd Bank Limited, (hereinafter referred as "Original Lender" and the borrower(s)/Co-borrowers mentioned in respect of each loan account, read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said borrower(s) to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice issued to them the details of which are given below. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to EARC by the said borrower(s) respectively.

In terms of section 5 of the SARFAESI Act, Original Lender has unconditionally and irrevocably assigned above said below loan accounts along with underlying security to Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited, also acting in its capacity as Trustee of the EARC TRUST SC- 438 (herein after referred to as "EARC") vide Assignment Agreement dated 30.06.2022. Pursuant to this assignment, all the rights of the Original Lender have been transferred to "EARC". EARC is now the Secured Creditor in respect of the said Loan Accounts. EARC is vested with all the powers, authorities, right and title to further pursue proceedings under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act in order to realize the dues standing in the said Loan Accounts.

In connection with above, Notice is hereby given once again, to the Borrower(s) to pay EARC, within 60 days from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice, from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower & Co-Borrower/Mortgagor & Loan Account No.	Date of Demand Notice & Amount as specified under S.13(2)
1.	Rajbeer Kaur Dhaliwal (Borrower), Randhir Singh (Co-Borrower) LAN: HM/0022H/18/100104	2nd May 2023 & Rs. 24,19,728.59 Ps. (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Nineteen Thousand Seven Hundred TwentyEight Paise Fifty Nine Only)
2.	SHAUKAT ALI KHAN (Borrower), AKBAR KHAN (Co-Borrower) LAN: HM/0022H/18/100149	2nd May 2023 & Rs. 12,92,394.45 Ps. (Rupees Twelve Lakh Ninety Two Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Four Paise Forty Five Only)

Description Of Property:- All The Pieces And Parcel Of The Property Situated At Mauja-Kewalya Park, Village Kumhar, P.H.No. 53, Ward No. 12, Danganyia Talab Para, Kumhari, Tehsil Dhamdha, Dist. Durg (C.G.), Bearing Kharsa No. 1519/3, House No. 15, Admeasuring 92.96 Sqmtr. (Hereinafter Referred To As Questioned Property) Boundaries (As Per Sale Agreement):- North- House No. 14; South- House No. 16; East- Road; West- House No. 22

Description Of Property:- All The Pieces And Parcel Of Mortgaged Property is Situated At Mauja - Mathpuren, P.H.No. 105, R.N.M. Raipur-1, Ward No. 52, Chandrashekhar Azad Ward, Mathpuren, Raipur, Tehsil & Dist. Raipur (C.G.), Bearing Old Kharsa No. (Part Of) 248/1 (New Kharsa No. (Part Of) 248/2), Admeasuring 500 Sq. Ft. (Hereinafter Referred To As Questioned Property) Boundaries: North: Road; South: Land Of Ramdayal Ulke; East: Land Belonging To Purchaser; West: Land Of Shama Parveen.

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to EARC as aforesaid, EARC shall proceed against the above secured assets under the section 13 (4) of the Act and applicable rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrower(s) as to costs and consequences. The borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of EARC. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: 30.10.2023  
Place: Chattisgarh  
Sd/- Authorized Officer  
For Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited

### Agnipath 'not enough' for army diehards from Shekhawati region

Jhunjhunu (Raj), Oct 29 (PTI): Waking up at 3.30 am with a dream to serve in the Indian Army and going out for a run has been a daily routine for Deepak Meel for the last couple of years, but he carries a sense of disappointment. Reason - Agnipath scheme for soldiers' recruitment. Like Meel, hundreds of youths follow a similar routine every day to prepare for army recruitment in the Shekhawati region. They all face the same anguish. Though the aspirants are not vocal about political implications of the scheme introduced last year in June, discussions among the locals clearly reflect resentment towards the central government led by the BJP, which seeks to wrest back power in the state in the November 25 Assembly election. While BJP leaders claim there is no negative atmosphere around the scheme, Congress, its main rival nationally, asserts not everything is all right with the scheme. The party claims that many aspirants, ex-servicemen, and those who are still serving, are not happy with the scheme. Agnipath offers a service tenure of four years to soldiers with a provision of selection of 25 per cent of them for a further period of service.

## Sharmila Tagore conferred with Imtiaz-e-Jamia

### At JMI's 103rd foundation day

New Delhi, Oct 29 (PTI): Actor Sharmila Tagore was conferred with Imtiaz-e-Jamia, the highest honorary award of Jamia Millia Islamia, on Sunday.

Tagore was conferred with the award by Jamia Vice Chancellor Najma Akhtar on the university's 103rd foundation day. She received the award for her contribution to the Hindi Cinema. A slideshow on the journey of Tagore in the industry was screened before conferring of the award. Addressing on the occasion, VC Akhtar praised the achievements of the chief guests - Tagore and Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences



Veteran actor Sharmila Tagore after she was conferred with the Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) University's highest award 'Imtiaz-e-Jamia' during the 103rd foundation day function of the university in Delhi, Sunday.

(ILBS) Director Shiv Kumar Sarin -- and said the university would like to associate with them for its development. "It is a

great moment for us that the university has completed 103 years of its existence and the presence of such esteemed guests has made this day more special and memorable. They have been inspiring people with their achievements and good works and I hope that their association with JMI will greatly benefit the university.

"The university would like to associate with them in different ways and would like to use their experience and advice for its betterment," Akhtar said. In her acceptance speech, Tagore said she has a "family connect" with Jamia.

"From the moment I entered the university it was an emotional roller coaster for me.

### RECENT STUDY

## 'Humans long way from building conscious machines'

New Delhi, Oct 29 (PTI): We are a long way from building conscious machines, neuroscientists write in an opinion published in the journal Trends in Neurosciences.

When we, humans, are interacting with AI systems such as ChatGPT, we consciously perceive the text the language model generates. The question is whether the language model also perceives our text when we prompt it, neuroscientists from Estonia, Germany, and Australia write.

The authors argue that although the responses of these AI systems seem conscious, they are most likely not. First, they say, the inputs to language models lack the embodied, embedded information content characteristic of our sensory contact with the world around us. Second, the architectures of present-day AI algorithms are missing key features of the thalamocortical system (relating to or connecting the cortex and thalamus) that have been linked to conscious awareness in mammals, they write. Finally, the evolutionary and developmental trajectories that led to the emergence of living conscious organisms arguably have no parallels in artificial systems as envisioned today, they write.

They argue that the existence of living organisms depends on their actions and their survival is intricately linked to multi-level cellular, inter-cellular, and organismal processes culminating in agency and consciousness.

sory contact with the world around us. Second, the architectures of present-day AI algorithms are missing key features of the thalamocortical system (relating to or connecting the cortex and thalamus) that have been linked to conscious awareness in mammals, they write. Finally, the evolutionary and developmental trajectories that led to the emergence of living conscious organisms arguably have no parallels in artificial systems as envisioned today, they write.

They argue that the existence of living organisms depends on their actions and their survival is intricately linked to multi-level cellular, inter-cellular, and organismal processes culminating in agency and consciousness.

## Restaurants make Rs 1,100 crore as Kolkata splurges on food

### During Durga puja

Kolkata, Oct 29 (PTI):

During the just-concluded Durga puja festival, revellers of Kolkata not only spent hours and overwhelmed by the pandals, idols and overall decorations, besides thronging restaurants to satisfy their taste buds. The fine dining restaurants of the city made Rs 1,100 crore in six days culminating on Dashami, the last day of the festival, which is more than 20 per cent of the earnings in the same period last year, according to the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Eastern India (HRAEI).

This is the second Durga puja after all curbs related to the Covid-19 pandemic were withdrawn. The buoyancy remained on all six days till Dashami as foodies were found till 3 am across eateries, said

HRAEI President Sudesh Poddar Poddar, who is also the owner of a fine dining restaurant cum bar in Kolkata.

"As per preliminary estimates, restaurants in the city did over Rs 1,100 crore business during the period," Poddar told PTI. A spokesperson of HRAEI said there has been a 20-25 per cent rise in sales compared to the figure last year.

He said the sales in some popular restaurants in the city were even better than the Covid days of 2019. "Two years after the Covid-19 situation and the lockdown, the feel-good factor, which was apparent in 2022, continues. People are enjoying the experience of dining out and watching films in theatres," said Nitin Kothari, owner of three restaurants including two iconic ones Mocombo and Peter Cat.

## INT'L DUSSEHRA FEST



Devotees carry deites in palanquins during the International Dussehra festival, in Kullu, Sunday.

## 'Only two parties in MP, don't fall into trap of smaller outfits'



Digvijaya Singh

Bhopal, Oct 29 (PTI): There are only two parties in Madhya Pradesh and voters must not fall into the trap of smaller outfits, which are not going to form government in the poll-bound state, senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh said on Sunday.

Assembly polls will be held in MP on November 17, while counting of votes will take place on December 3. "There are

only two parties in Madhya Pradesh. Either the Congress or BJP will form the government. The smaller parties are not going to form a government (in the state). Therefore, I request all voters not to fall into their trap," Singh said in a video statement shared on his official X account. Besides the BJP and Congress, the other parties contesting the Assembly polls in the state include Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Samajwadi Party (SP), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and Gondwana Gantantra Party (GGP). The SP, BSP and GGP had won seats as well. People of the state want change after 20 years of "misgovernance" and want a Congress government under Kamal Nath, the Rajya Sabha MP added.

## 'TMC plundering West Bengal's resources, depriving people'

Kolkata, Oct 29 (PTI): The ruling TMC is plundering West Bengal's resources, depriving the people of their needs, BJP state president Sukanta Majumdar alleged on Sunday.

Speaking at a programme organised by the state BJP to commemorate the 'Amrit Kalash Yatra', he said one TMC leader after the other is going to jail in corruption cases, and no one knows where it will end.

"While Prime Minister Narendra Modi is paying homage to the great sons of the country with the 'Meri Mati, Mera Desh' programme, the TMC is plundering the resources of the state and depriving the people," alleged Majumdar, the MP of Balurghat.



Sukanta Majumdar

"After minister Partha Chatterjee, it is now Jyoti Priya Mallick who has been arrested for corruption. MLA Manik Bhattacharya is also in jail. The misdeeds of one after the other senior TMC leader are coming to light. We wonder where it will end," he added.

Majumdar said the BJP will hit the streets to take

on the "monumental corruption" of the TMC government as its senior leaders have cheated lakhs of common people.

BJP leaders Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul and Rahul Sinha were also present in the rally, which began at College Square and culminated in Esplanade.

A BJP leader said around 1,400 people with soil collected from 344 blocks of the state will travel to New Delhi in a special train from the Kolkata railway station.

Soil collected from more than 7,000 blocks in 766 districts of the country will be placed at the 'Amrit Vatika', a new monument to be built near the National War Memorial in New Delhi, as part of the campaign.



# 'Chh'garh under 'grahan' for 5 yrs, time has come to remove it'

Dongargarh, Oct 29:

BJP president JP Nadda on Sunday accused the Congress government of ignoring the people's welfare, and claimed the state has been under a "grahan" (eclipse) for five years and that time has now come to remove it.

Addressing a rally in Dongargarh assembly constituency of the poll-bound state, Nadda claimed the Congress always thought about itself or "its family" and not about the welfare of people.

He said people will have to decide whether they want to choose a government which serves itself or the one which serves the masses. Targeting the Bhupesh Baghel government in Chhattisgarh over "corruption", Nadda said,



BJP national president JP Nadda addresses a public meeting at Thekkadih of Dongargarh assembly constituency, in Rajnandgaon district, Sunday.

"There was a Chandra Grahan (lunar eclipse) on Saturday. Chhattisgarh has been under grahan for five years and an opportunity has come to remove it." Dongargarh is among the 20 assembly constituencies which will go to polls in the first phase of

Bamleshwari. "Not a single brick or stone of development was laid by the Congress in Chhattisgarh, but I can say confidently that the BJP can claim its role in every single brick of growth in the state," Nadda said.

"The Congress never thought about the people as it only thought about itself and its family," he claimed.

There was a long chain of chief ministers from the Congress (in the then undivided Madhya Pradesh) -- Arjun Singh, Motilal Vora and Shyama Charan Shukla -- and a long chain of prime ministers (in previous Congress government at Centre), but Bharat Ratna recipient and former prime minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee gave

Chhattisgarh its name, he said.

"They ruled here but never thought about Chhattisgarh and it was Vajpayee ji who thought about the people of Chhattisgarh," Nadda said.

Chhattisgarh state was formed in 2000 after being carved out of Madhya Pradesh during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government at the Centre.

Listing various "scams" under the Baghel-led regime, the BJP president asked the gathering, "Is this government corrupt or not? Does this government have the right to remain in power?"

He appealed to the people to support Vinod Khandekar, the BJP's candidate from Dongargarh seat, and elect the party to power in the state.

## Collector inspects EVM machine commissioning process

Korba, Oct 29:

Collector Saurabh Kumar, along with District Election Officer, inspected the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) Warehouse situated within the collectorate premises. During the inspection, the Collector oversaw the commissioning process of the EVM machines, the VVPAT (Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail) units, and other related equipment.

Throughout the visit, the Collector emphasized the importance of taking precautions to ensure the security of the EVM machines. He provided specific directives to officials on implementing all necessary arrangements within the IT College's strongroom. On this occasion, Deputy District Election Officer Seema Patre, Deputy Collector



Saroj Mahilange, along with other officers and staff from the Election Department, were also present to facilitate the inspection process.

## Voter awareness campaign conducted

Residents unite to promote 100% voter participation from Churi to Dhanras

Korba, Oct 29:

In a collective effort to strengthen democracy, a relentless voter awareness campaign is underway across all constituencies of Korba. Guided by Collector and District Election Officer Saurabh Kumar, along with Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat and District SVEEP Nodal Vishwadeep, a special drive has taken place, spanning from the village of Churi to Dhanras in



Katghora. In this remarkable campaign, a dedicated team comprising rural youth, esteemed elderly citizens, women, and men, have organized spirited rallies within local communities. Their mission is to instill a sense of responsibility and ensure that every eligible voter exercises their right with a resounding 100% participation rate. Anil Ratre, the team leader

overseeing the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Program (SVEEP), highlighted the significance of the upcoming Assembly elections scheduled for November 17 in the district. In honour of this pivotal event, the Voter Awareness Campaign has been initiated throughout the district. As an integral part of this initia-

tive, residents are fervently encouraged to embrace their civic duty. Volunteers visit every household, engaging with residents to emphasize the profound importance of casting their votes.

The enthusiasm for this campaign has transcended urban and rural boundaries, with individuals from all walks of life actively participating. Moreover, participants are solemnly pledging to exercise their voting rights impartially and without prejudice during the upcoming Assembly elections. This inclusive and proactive approach reflects the community's unwavering commitment to fostering a robust democratic process in Korba.

## SECL registers fastest 100 MT coal dispatch of its history

Korba, Oct 26:

South Eastern Coalfields Limited has achieved 100 million tonnes of coal dispatch for FY 23-24. This is the fastest 100 MT coal dispatch achieved by the company since its inception. Last year the company had dispatched around 85 million tonnes of coal in the same period and thus in this financial year the company has registered a growth of 17.65%.

Of the total coal dispatch, more than 80% went to the power sector as the company dispatched around 81 million tonnes of coal to the power plants across the country. This is a significant development keeping



coalfield, where most of the old and underground mines are located, also made a notable contribution. In the same period, there has been an increase of about 20 percent in coal dispatch by Korea Rewa coalfield as compared to last year. Last year the coalfield made had dispatched 9.75 MT but this year it increased to 11.75 MT.

SECL's Gevra mine which is currently the largest coal mine in the country has contributed 30.3 MT while Dipka and Kusmunda contributed 19.1 MT and 25.1 MT of coal respectively. The total share of all three mega projects in the total dispatch has been more than 74 percent. Apart from this, SECL's Korea Rewa

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## Expenditure Observer Shobhan Sutradhar oversees candidate audits

Election candidates urged to stick to budget

Khairagarh, Oct 29:

Sobhan Sutradhar, serving as the Election Expenditure Observer appointed by the Election Commission of India for the Khairagarh Assembly constituency, has commenced the examination of election expenditure records belonging to contesting candidates. This marks a significant step towards ensuring transparency and fairness in the electoral process.

During the scrutiny, Sutradhar emphasized the importance of adhering to the specific spending limits set for candidates participating in the election, reminding representatives



from all political parties of their responsibility in maintaining financial transparency.

Candidates are required to submit their expenditure records, vouchers, bank passbooks, and other essential documents in three phases. The first phase of scrutinizing expenditure records was conducted today at the Collectorate Conference Room. Subsequent phases will occur on November 1st and November 5th, providing a comprehensive overview of candidates' spending habits.

Candidates found to be

non-compliant or failing to provide information to the Election Expenditure Officer will receive notices. Failure to rectify discrepancies may result in a candidate being declared ineligible, as per the guidelines set by the Election Commission of India.

These measures ensure that candidates report their daily expenses accurately, fostering transparency and integrity in the election process. Assistant Expenditure Observer Rishabh Jain, along with other officials, is actively participating in the scrutiny process.

## Tree planting conducted in urban and rural post offices

Pithora, Oct 29:

Despite Sunday being a day of rest, the Raipur Postal Circle has taken a step towards promoting cleanliness and environmental beauty. In a commendable initiative, both urban and rural post offices in the division came together today for a successful tree planting program.

Under the expert guidance of Mr. Surendra Sahu, the Sub-Divisional Postal Inspector of Mahasamund Division, and Deepchand Puri, the Postal Inspector of Saraipali Sub-Division, this eco-conscious endeavour unfolded.

The tree planting event witnessed enthusiastic participation not only from dedicated rural postal service workers



but also from respected community figures, including B.P.M. and A.B.P.M

## Two accused in permanent warrant cases arrested again

Khairagarh, Oct 29:

The diligent efforts of the Khairagarh district's permanent warrant team, led by Superintendent of Police Anika Sharma, have once again resulted in the capture and court presentation of individuals wanted on long-standing permanent warrants. On Saturday, the permanent warrant team received crucial information about an accused individual who had been evading capture by frequently changing locations and hiding in various areas. Acting on this lead, the team successfully cornered and arrested the suspects.

The arrested individuals, Santosh Kujam, 24 years old and son of Motiram Kujam, a resident of Chikhli, Rajnandgaon, and Chaitu Ram Satnami, 47 years old and son of Kartik Satnami, residing in Chandgadih Police Station, Khairagarh, were promptly presented in court. This operation was a testament to the dedication and competence of law enforcement, particularly Sub-Inspector Birendra Chandrakar, Head Constable Ashutosh



Singh, Constable Lokesh Thakur, Lala Nishad, Tejaram, Uday Baraeth, and Constable Lakshmi Chandel, who played pivotal roles in ensuring the arrest of these repeat offenders.

## Cattle owner narrowly escapes tiger attack

Sonhat, Oct 29:

In a forest near Kachohar Nignohar, a local cattle owner encountered a tiger while grazing his herd. The tiger killed one of his cows but fortunately, the villager escaped unharmed. The incident occurred on a Friday evening around 4 PM, in the vicinity of the Gurughasidas National Park, within the Deogarh range of the undivided Korea MCB district.

Suresh Lal, a 53-year-old resident of Kachohar, had ventured about 2 kilometers into the forest to graze his cattle. While he was in the jungle, he heard his cattle in distress and approached cautiously to find a group of them gathered. To his shock, he witnessed a tiger attacking one of the cows, eventually killing it and consuming its flesh. During the



confrontation, the tiger noticed Suresh and lunged at him. Reacting quickly, he managed to fend off the tiger and escape with minor injury. The tiger then resumed feeding on the deceased cow.

Suresh promptly returned to the village and alerted fellow residents, who immediately notified the forest department. The forest department swiftly transported the in-

jured Suresh Lal to Sonhat CHC (Community Health Center) at 10 PM for medical treatment.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Akhilesh Mishra confirmed that, according to the villager's account, it appears to have been a tiger attack. The forest department is actively tracking the tiger's movements and searching for paw prints to confirm its presence in the area.

## Hemant Khute appointed manager of State mini golf team

Pithora, Oct 29:

Hemant Khute has been appointed as the manager of the Chhattisgarh state mini golf team, gearing up for the 37th Senior Mini Golf National Selection Competition to be held in Goa.

Khute shared his enthusiasm for the upcoming national selection competition, scheduled to take place from November 1st to November 3rd in Goa. Notably, the team comprises a total of 27 members, including 12 women and 12 men players, along with two coaches and Khute himself as the manager. This impressive participation level at the national level demonstrates the team's commitment and determination. Chhattisgarh's women's team emerged as champions in the previous Mini Golf National Selection Competition held in

Rajasthan, while the men's team secured the title of runners-up with an outstanding performance. Furthermore, the state's team clinched the gold medal in the mixed doubles category, showcasing their prowess in the sport. Under the leadership of Bhupendra Prasad, the State Secretary of the Chhattisgarh Mini Golf Association, this year's team is exceptionally

strong. It boasts nine international players from Chhattisgarh, including six who recently competed in the World Cup in Europe. Their invaluable experience is expected to significantly contribute to the team's success. The Chhattisgarh Olympic Association has extended its hearty congratulations and best wishes to the state's talented and determined team as they embark on this prestigious competition.

## Students from Rani Rashmi Devi College engage in voter awareness program

Khairagarh, Oct 29:

In an inspiring show of civic responsibility, over a dozen students from Rani Rashmi Devi Singh Government College, Khairagarh, actively participated in a district-level voter awareness program held at the auditorium of Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya. Under the National Service Scheme, these students showcased their commitment to democracy. The event featured an array of engaging activities, including vibrant rangoli creations, eye-catching posters, thought-provoking slogan compositions, and captivating street plays. The students' efforts were met with admiration from all quarters.

Under the dedicated guidance of Prof. Suresh Kumar Adwani, the college's SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) in-charge, and Prof. Yashpal Janghal, the NSS (National Service Scheme) in-charge, the students demonstrated a strong commitment to raising voter awareness. The presentations received accolades from election officials, including District Magistrate Gopal Varma, who commended the students for their civic engagement. This noteworthy initiative was further enriched



by the contributions of campus ambassadors Tikendra Varma and Shruti Agrawal, along with the enthusiastic participation of students like Nagama Niayaji, Varsha Varma, Vandana Varma, Devendra Patel, Himanshu, Mukesh Kawar, Kuleshwar Manikpuri, Anju Dhurve, and Vinayak Sahu. Their dedication and commitment added significant value to the event.



# Thousands loot UN aid warehouses in Gaza

● **Death toll tops 8,000 and Israel widens ground offensive**

Deir Al Balah, Oct 29:

The Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza says over 8,000 Palestinians have been killed since war broke out on October 7.

It said on Sunday that the toll has risen to 8,005 Palestinians, including more than 3,300 minors and over 2,000 women.

The Health Ministry is part of the Hamas-run government but includes doctors and veteran civil servants who are not affiliated with the group. Its tolls from previous wars have held up to UN scrutiny, independent investigations and even Israel's tallies.

The ministry released detailed records last week showing the names, ages and ID numbers of most of the deaths it has recorded, saying some bodies have



**Palestinians evacuate a building destroyed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip in Rafah on Sunday, Oct. 29.**

not yet been identified. More than 1,400 people have been killed on the Israeli side, the vast majority civilians killed by Hamas in its bloody October 7 incursion into Israel.

Thousands of people broke into aid warehouses in Gaza to take flour and basic hygiene products, a UN agency said on Sunday, in a mark of growing desperation and the breakdown of public order three weeks into the

war between Israel and Gaza's militant Hamas rulers.

Tanks and infantry pushed into Gaza over the weekend as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced a "second stage" in the war, three weeks after Hamas launched a brutal incursion into Israel. The widening ground offensive came as Israel also pounded the territory from air, land and sea.

The bombardment de-

scribed by Gaza residents as the most intense of the war knocked out most communications in the territory late Friday, largely cutting off the besieged enclave's 2.3 million people from the world. Communications were restored to much of Gaza early Sunday.

The Israeli military said on Sunday it had struck over 450 militant targets over the past 24 hours, including Hamas command centres, observation posts and anti-tank missile launching positions. It said more ground forces were sent into Gaza overnight.

Thomas White, Gaza for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, said the warehouse break-ins were "a worrying sign that civil order is starting to break down after three weeks of war and a tight siege on Gaza. People are scared, frustrated and desperate", he said.

## MOBILE ARTILLERY



**An Israeli mobile artillery unit is seen in a position near the Israel-Gaza border, Israel. Israel expanded its ground operation in Gaza with infantry and armored vehicles backed by "massive" strikes from the air and sea, including the bombing of Hamas tunnels, a key target in its campaign to crush the territory's ruling group after its bloody incursion in Israel three weeks ago.**

## G-7 nations back strong supply chains for energy and food despite global tensions

Tokyo, Oct 29 (AP):

Trade and economy officials from the Group of Seven wealthy democracies strengthened their pledge on Sunday to work together to ensure smooth supply chains for essentials like energy and food despite global uncertainties. The nations promised to maintain "a free and fair trading system based on the rule of law and enhancing economic resilience and economic security," officials said in a joint statement.

Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, who co-hosted the two-day event in the western city of Osaka, pointed to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas war as the latest threats to stable energy and food supplies.

"We nations that share important values have a position of responsibility amid growing uncertainties," she said in closing the meeting, stressing democracy, inclusiveness and human rights.

Worries are growing among developed nations about maintaining a stable supply of computer chips as well as essential minerals, like lithium, which are critical these days amid the demand for electric vehicles and other green en-



ergy. The G-7 includes the US, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Britain. The European Union, Australia, Chile, India, Indonesia and Kenya were invited to take part in the two-day meeting, as were economic organisations such as the World Trade Organization.

The G-7 nations reiterated their criticism of what they called in their joint statement "Russia's brutal, unprovoked, unjustifiable and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine."

The participants discussed how trade policy can contribute to tackling climate change, strengthening food security, promoting digital trade and working toward sustainable development.

Trade is one sector where growing political tensions with China have been playing out, although China was not directly

mentioned in the meetings.

China, while absent at the meetings, loomed as a focal point. China has imposed export curbs on two metals used in computer chips and solar cells gallium and germanium that it said were intended to "safeguard national security." At the G-7 summit in Hiroshima in southwestern Japan earlier this year, participants referred to "economic coercion" in an oblique reference to China's leveraging some nations' dependence for economic items. That phrase was again used at the Osaka G-7.

As the host nation, Japan focused on how China has banned imports of Japanese seafood after the recent massive release of treated wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear plant, which experienced reactor meltdowns in 2011.

## Immense scope for investment, trade between India and Vietnam: Ambassador

Ho Chi Minh City, Oct 29 (PTI):

India and Vietnam have shown a steady growth pattern and there is immense scope for investments and trade between both the countries, Indian envoy here has said.

As both the countries are growing rapidly, the thrust areas have been emphasised on infrastructure, manufacturing and connectivity for increased bilateral trade and investments between India and Vietnam, Ambassador Sandeep Arya told PTI at the North East India Festival (NEIF) being held here. A steady growth pattern has been witnessed in the trade between the two countries with USD 15 billion in total trade, out of which India exports about seven billion dollars and Vietnam about eight billion dollars, he pointed out.

Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) have also grown by about eight times during the last ten years while the export growth of domestic enterprises was three times during the same period between the two countries. "There is immense potential for growth of trade and investments between the two countries and is particularly rele-

vant for North Eastern states," the ambassador said.

The most important factor for increasing trade relations between Vietnam and North East India is civil aviation connectivity, he said.

"Guwahati is already among the approved list of airports and as such the Government of India's approval is not really necessary to start operations in the sector. Any airline that wants to fly to Guwahati does not require specific approval which is required for many other airports," Arya said.

There is a group of airports as part of the ASEAN arrangement and there is a very strong case for air connectivity between Vietnam and North East India, he added.

From the North Eastern states there are nearby ports in Myanmar, Bangladesh and Kolkata in India which presents it as an ideal area, providing direct shipping services. Besides, the extension of the India Myanmar Thailand (IMT) Highway and multimodal transport through Myanmar also presents a strong case for trade promotion and investment opportunities, he added.

## UN chief Guterres meets Nepal PM Prachanda, DPM Khadka

Kathmandu, Oct 29 (PTI):

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Sunday called on Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' after arriving here on first official visit to the Himalayan nation.

Guterres also held separate meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Purna Bahadur Khadka and Foreign Minister Narayan Prakash Saud.

In a post on X, Nepal's Prime Minister's office said a meeting was held between PM Prachanda and UN chief Guterres, who is here on an official visit to Nepal at the friendly invitation of the prime minister. Guterres said that the transitional justice process in Nepal that the government is trying to conclude must help bring peace to victims, families and communities.

Addressing the media after meeting Prime Minister Prachanda, the UN chief pledged the world body's support to Nepal to develop a process that meets international standards, the Supreme Court's rulings, and the needs of victims and to put it into practice, My Republica newspaper re-



**Nepalese Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, center left and UN Secretary-General António Guterres, center, right, wave to media after their meeting at Prime Minister's office in Kathmandu, Nepal, Sunday, Oct. 29.**

ported. In a joint press briefing with Prime Minister Prachanda, the UN chief urged developed countries to increase support to countries like Nepal that are hard-hit by the impacts of climate change. "Nepal is also caught in a blizzard of global crises not of its making: the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation, and the enormous threat posed by climate chaos," he said.

He said that much more international action is needed. The developed countries must step up to support sustainable development, and help developing economies, including Nepal, to tackle the climate crisis, he said.

Guterres arrived here in the wee hours of Sunday on a four-day official visit. He was received by Foreign Minister Saud and senior foreign ministry officials at the Tribhuvan International Airport. The UN chief was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the airport, said a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry.

The UN chief is accompanied by Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean Pierre Lacroix, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations to Nepal Hanaa Singer-Hamdy and other officials from the UN Headquarters in New York and the United Nations country team in Nepal.

## India-US ties deepen amid China's ongoing challenge: Indian-American experts

Washington, Oct 29 (PTI):

The US-India relationship is destined to deepen as long as China poses a threat, an eminent Indian-American expert has said.

Ashley Tellis, the Tata Chair for Strategic Affairs, at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, also said the coming years are also going to see a deepening of ties, not just between the two nations, but between the two societies.

"This (India-US) relationship is destined to deepen as long as China remains out there as something that both countries will have to manage," he said.

The US has been placing focus on India, seeking to cement ties with one of the world's fastest-growing economies, as tensions with China remain high.

The US and China have one of the world's most important and complex bilateral relationships. Since 1949, the countries have experienced periods of

both tension and cooperation over issues including trade, climate change, the South China Sea, Taiwan and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ties between India and China nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

"So, in some sense, success is fated; simply because the structural factors will not give us the luxury of pulling apart. There's a caveat though, and the caveat should also remind us about the contingency of that success. Should things happen to China, this relationship could also go in other directions, right? So the structural factors work both ways," Tellis told a Washington audience this week.

His remarks came at an event "Friends and Benefits: The India-US Story" by well-known columnist Seema Sihoni.

## Trump's 'chaos, vendettas and drama' are dangerous for US: Nikki Haley

Washington, Oct 29 (PTI):

Indian-American Republican presidential aspirant Nikki Haley has said former president Donald Trump's victory in the 2024 election would result in "four years of chaos, vendettas and drama" that would be dangerous for the US, which needs a captain who will steady the ship, not capsize it.

Haley, 51, launched her strongest criticism of her former boss Trump on Saturday as she addressed an influential group of Jewish Republicans in Las Vegas.

Though she gave credit to Trump for pro-Israel policies, but asked, "The question is, what will he do in the future?"

"History will record that Donald Trump was a pro-Israel president. Getting out of the Iran deal was necessary. Recognising Jerusalem as Israel's capital was a wrong made right...I'm happy to give President Trump the credit he de-



serves. And I was honoured to have played a part in those efforts," Haley said in her address to the Republican Jewish Coalition.

This year's Jewish conference comes as Israel is reeling from a terrorist attack from Hamas militants on October 7.

"But as Americans, we need to ask a critical question. We all know what Trump did in the past. The question is what will he do in the future? We are living through the most dangerous period in our lifetimes," she said.

Referring to the Israel-Hamas and Ukraine wars and violence in other parts of the world, Haley, the former governor of South Carolina and

United Nations ambassador in the Trump administration, said the world is on fire.

She said as a military wife whose husband is currently deployed, and as the mom of two children, nothing matters to her more than stopping war, keeping the peace, and protecting the American people.

"We must defend our freedom - before it's too late. The stakes couldn't be higher. And given those stakes, we cannot have four years of chaos, vendettas, and drama," she said, referring to Trump.

"We can't afford to go down that road - not now. Eight years ago, it was good to have a leader who broke things. But right now, we need a leader who also knows how to put things back together," she added.

America needs "a captain who will steady the ship, not capsize it". And Republicans need a candidate who can win, Haley said.

## Trump promises to revive Muslim ban, gets slammed by White House

Washington, Oct 29 (PTI):

Former US President Donald Trump has vowed to revive a controversial travel ban on people from some Muslim-majority countries if he is elected to a second White House term.

While speaking at the annual summit of the Republican Jewish Coalition on Saturday, Trump, 77, said: "You remember the travel ban?"

## Gaza war has entered a new stage and will be 'long and difficult': Netanyahu

Jerusalem, Oct 28 (AP):

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the nation Saturday night that the military has opened a "second stage" in the war against Hamas by sending ground forces into Gaza and expanding attacks from the ground, air and sea. He said it will only increase ahead of a broad ground invasion into the territory.

"It will be long and diffi-



"On day one, I will restore our travel ban. We had a travel ban because we didn't want people coming into our country who really love the idea

of blowing our country up."

He said the travel ban imposed during his administration was an amazing success.

"We didn't have one incident in four years because we kept bad people the hell out of our country. We kept them out. We didn't have one, not one instance," Trump, the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination, said.



cult," he said. "We are ready." The bombardment, described by Gaza residents as the most intense of the war, knocked out most communications in Gaza. This largely cut off

the besieged enclave's 2.3 million people from the world, while enabling the Israeli military to control the narrative in the new stage of fighting. The military released grainy images Saturday showing tank columns moving slowly in open areas of Gaza, many apparently near the border, and said warplanes bombed dozens of Hamas tunnels and underground bunkers.





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### Border Aggression

#### A Dangerous and Unacceptable Escalation

The firing and shelling along the International Border in the Arnia and Suchetgarh sectors, resulting in injuries to two BSF soldiers and a civilian woman, have once again raised serious concerns. These incidents are a stark reminder of the persistent border tensions between India and Pakistan. While it is essential to defend our borders and respond effectively to any provocations, it is equally vital to assess the broader implications of these hostilities. Pakistan's track record in such matters is far from exemplary. Despite facing economic challenges and relying on international financial assistance to sustain itself, Pakistan continues to engage in reckless acts of aggression along the border. These actions not only endanger the lives of innocent Indian civilians but also violate established international norms that prohibit the targeting of non-combatants. It is crucial to recognize the cowardly nature of these actions by Pakistani Rangers. Instead of addressing its internal challenges and focusing on the welfare of its people, Pakistan diverts attention through border provocations. Such behavior not only reflects poorly on Pakistan's leadership but also endangers the stability of the entire region. The recent incidents are not isolated; they are part of a pattern of provocation by Pakistani Rangers. Despite the signing of a renewed agreement on February 25, 2021, Pakistan has continued to engage in acts of aggression. Indian security forces have responded effectively in the past, and they must continue to do so to protect our borders and citizens. However, it is imperative that Indian authorities prioritize the safety and well-being of civilians in border villages. Immediate medical assistance should be provided to the injured, and affected families must receive the support they need. As the harvesting season is underway, steps should be taken to ensure the welfare of those affected by these hostilities. Compensation for losses incurred by civilians must be in accordance with established norms. With winter approaching, arrangements should be made to accommodate those who have sought refuge in safer areas. Safe havens in the form of bunkers must be provided for border villages that have repeatedly faced the brunt of unprovoked firing. While defending our borders is non-negotiable, it is also essential to approach these incidents with a focus on the humanitarian aspect. Both nations must exercise restraint and prioritize the well-being of civilians. Escalation serves no one's interests, and dialogue and diplomacy should be the preferred means to address outstanding issues. In the face of such provocations, India must stand firm in protecting its sovereignty and citizens. At the same time, it should demonstrate to the world its commitment to international norms and the safety of civilians, setting an example of responsible leadership in a region marred by conflict. The international community must also take note of Pakistan's continued provocations. While diplomatic efforts have been made to address the long-standing issues between India and Pakistan, it is essential for the world to hold Pakistan accountable for its actions. Reckless aggression along the border not only poses a threat to regional stability but also undermines efforts to promote peace and cooperation in the region. It is disheartening to witness the suffering of innocent civilians caught in the crossfire of border hostilities. Families are forced to abandon their homes and seek refuge in safer areas, disrupting their lives and livelihoods. As responsible nations, both India and Pakistan must consider the human cost of their actions and work towards lasting peace.

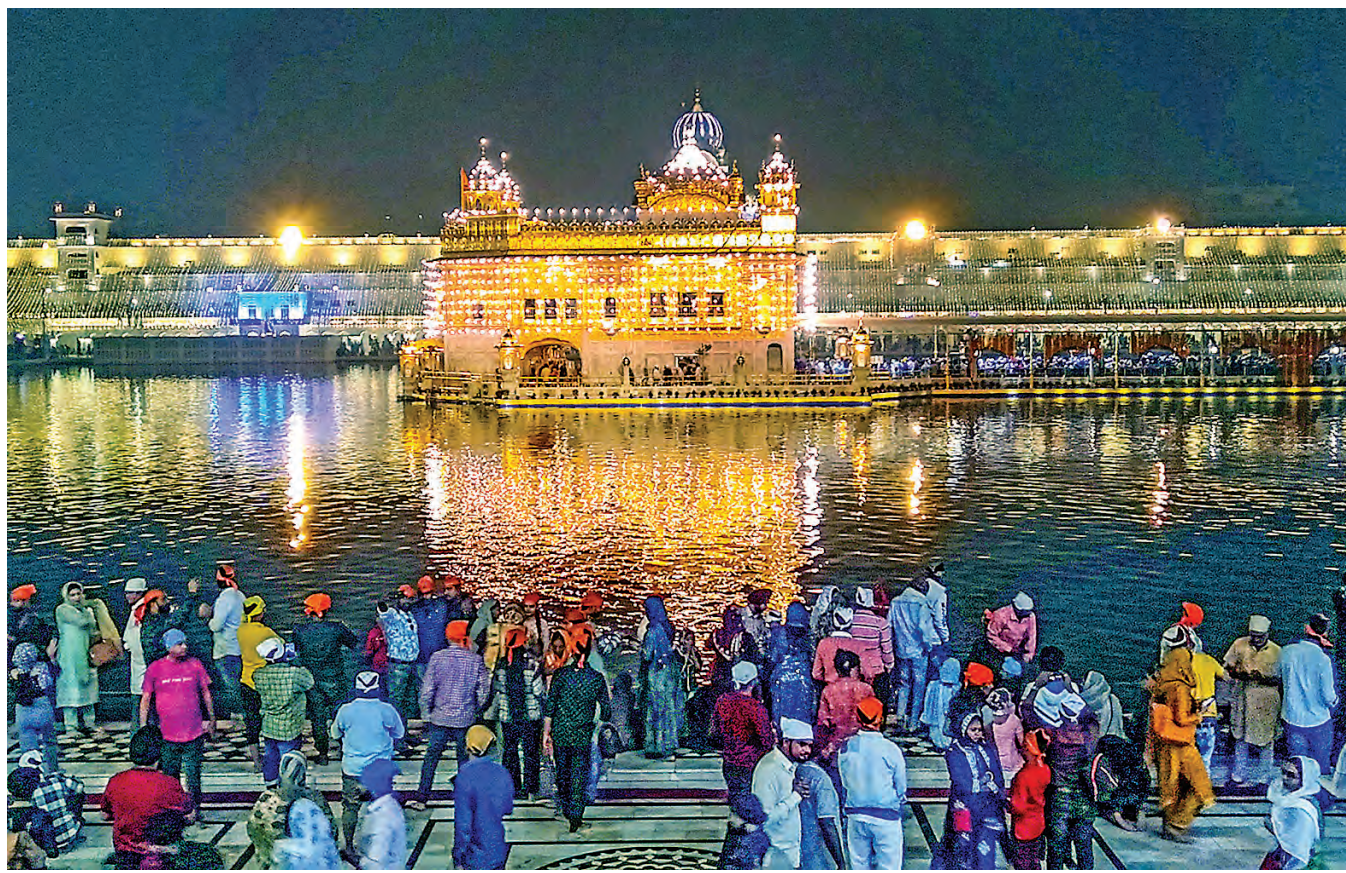
### Science, Mythology, Education

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee

In the ongoing discourse about India's educational landscape, the spotlight has once again turned to the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks, which have become a battleground for ideological struggles. This time, the controversy centers around the introduction of reading modules on India's Chandrayaan-3 mission for middle-school students. While the aim is to create awareness among students, the module has raised eyebrows by intertwining science with mythology. The module, titled 'Chandrayaan Utsav', was unveiled by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in the presence of ISRO Chairman S Somanath. It spans 17 pages and begins with a thought-provoking question: "Did this scientific achievement happen only now? Didn't it happen in the past?" This question sets the tone for a narrative that merges scientific accomplishments with ancient Indian mythology, a blend that has sparked considerable debate within the scientific community. The module invokes the 'Vyaanika Shastra', a text authored by Sanskrit scholar Subbaraya Shastri in 1923, which delves into the "Science of Aeronautics." According to the module, this text suggests that India possessed knowledge of flying vehicles in ancient times. The narrative goes on to reference the Vedas, citing instances of gods using wheeled chariots capable of flight, often referred to as "mechanical birds." These mythical vehicles supposedly transported deities between earth, heaven, and other celestial realms known as 'Loka'. The module even mentions the "Pushpak Vimaan", a floating chariot used by Ravana in the Ramayana, attributed to Guru Vishwakarma, the chief architect of the Devas. However, it is essential to distinguish between mythology and science. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) conducted research that concluded that the flying concepts described in these ancient texts were not viable according to the principles of aerodynamics and Newton's laws of motion. In essence, any attempt to create aircraft based on these ideas would have inevitably led to catastrophic failures. The inclusion of these mythological references in the educational curriculum raises questions about the message it conveys. While mythology is a rich and essential part of India's cultural heritage, it is imperative to differentiate between historical facts and imaginative storytelling. Education should equip students with the tools to critically analyze information and discern fact from fiction. Moreover, it is disheartening to witness attempts to elevate mythology above current scientific achievements. Rather than pitting the two against each other, it is more productive to celebrate mythology as a valuable cultural resource while emphasizing the importance of rigorous scientific inquiry. In the quest for a well-rounded education, it is crucial to strike a balance between preserving our cultural heritage and fostering a scientific temper among students. Encouraging critical thinking and an appreciation for both scientific advancements and mythological narratives can help students develop a holistic worldview.

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

### GURU RAM DAS ANNIVERSARY



Golden Temple illuminated ahead of the birth anniversary of Guru Ram Das, in Amritsar.

## Martyrdom of Agnivir Sainik & availability of war facilities

JAYESH RANE



Israel's attacks on the Gaza Strip to root out terrorists have become a topic of global discussion. Everyone is watching how the Gaza Strip is being burnt by Israeli airstrikes. Israeli Air Force jets are targeting Hamas locations to eliminate Hamas permanently. Their plan seems to be how to defeat Hamas through continuous airstrikes. Israel has launched a massive campaign to eliminate Hamas. The environment in Israel & Palestine is naturally normal. That is, there is no picture where it is snowing, there is fog in the atmosphere. The basic reason behind telling all the above things is 'India should learn war strategy from Israel.' Especially by the Indian Air Force. Akshay Gawte (age 22 years), son of Buldhana district of Maharashtra, who served as a Agnivir in the Indian Army, passed away due to heart failure. Siachen is the highest mountain range in the world. Indian Army is stationed here at a height of 23,000 feet. The temperature here drops to minus 55 degrees. One has to depend on air route for food supply. A 22-year-old youth martyred while performing his duty. This incident is very distressing. Mainly, Akshay Gawte was the first Agnivir fighter who martyred while working on the border. In a harsh climate region like Siachen. What innovative methods can be adopted to monitor the enemy? This should be seriously considered. There is young

blood & posting of new recruits here is an established part of the Army's modus operandi. So it seems that this should be changed.

The climate in the snow-covered regions is constantly changing. Sometimes gusty winds & sometimes snowfall. Patrolling on foot in such a blood-freezing minus degree temperature is a tough challenge. Soldiers have been adopting it for years and protecting the border areas from enemy infiltration. This is why 142 crore people of India can do their daily business - job - education - tourism comfortably. There is a lot of sacrifice of soldiers behind it. Which is impossible to express in words.

Many young boys & girls are moving in that direction with the selfless goal of joining the army & serving the nation. From physical fitness to proving necessary to pass the written test. This is where the tough journey of the soldiers begins. Written exam, medical tests are conducted to join government jobs. But there is no point of physical labor anywhere in it. Exams are organized according to the requirements of the job. However, passing the military exam & serving is not the job of a child. For that, only soldiers can have the fortitude & the mentality to keep going in the face of difficult situations.

The climate at Siachen is undulating. So you have to act accordingly. Indian Army has lost many officers-soldiers in avalanches in the region. But since it is mandatory to keep an eye on the enemy, India is deploying troops in these tough areas. However, how can the air force keep an eye on this region? Also, how can the Indian satellites in space be helped? It should have been studied by the Indian Army. However, there are limits to foot patrol. It is difficult to take a single step in icy areas. If the Air Force has limit, how appropriate can it be to patrol with

the help of drones? This should also be considered. In the Russia-Ukraine war, Ukraine has claimed that we have attacked some parts of Russia with the help of drones. In the war between Azerbaijan & Armenia. Azerbaijan has defeated Armenia by attacking with drones. There is no doubt that drones will continue to grow in importance. Being an unmanned device, there is no loss of manpower & drones perform the illustrious task of attacking & destroying enemy locations.

Soldiers are a valuable asset to any country. Losing them, wartime or not is devastating. Another soldier is again appointed in that place. However, how the technology can be used? In soldiers patrolling guidelines needs to be looked at. Bad environment can have negative effects on the body & lead to loss of life. There should be a solution to this by giving priority to the formula of saving the lives of soldiers. Even though soldiers are assigned at minus degree temperatures through training, considering that soldiers are human beings too, everyone's physical capabilities are different. How can we forget this? Can the number of drones & their patrolling rounds be increased? It can also be seen. Humans have limitations in actually reaching difficult places. But that is not the case with drones. A drone can reach anywhere in a short time.

The state whose soldiers - officers become martyrs. Schools & colleges in those states should pay homage to him. Along with this their complete information should be given to the students. This is necessary because only the people of the that village & those who read newspapers, watch the news are aware of it. Others are busy with their daily lives. Ganeshotsav - Navratri also have mandals. They also can involve citizens by organiz-

ing tribute programs in their areas. National love should not be limited only to 26th January & 15th August. The government would issue orders & then we organize programs for martyred soldier. So one should organize a tribute program by taking the initiative. Love for the country need to grow. The martyrs who have sacrificed their all should be duly recorded.

Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh expressed the view 'India should learn from the changing global geopolitical situation. New challenges are emerging from the global security situation. We must always be ready to face them.' The Defense Minister asked the top officers of the Indian Air Force to emphasize the need to enhance preparedness. In his statement, the Defense Minister said 'All the three armed services should work together to tackle the security challenges.' Rajnath Singh made these comments while addressing the inaugural session of the two-day Air Force Commanders' Conference in New Delhi on Thursday (26 Oct.).

Rajnath Singh said there is a need to analyze & learn from new trends in air warfare to strengthen the country's defense preparedness. He asked the air force commanders to strengthen the air defense system & focus on the use of drones. Necessary action should be taken immediately on the orders of the Defense Minister. Because the situation does not stop for anyone. So we have to change accordingly. To strengthen the hands of the soldiers guarding the borders of the country, they should be given the necessary war facilities.

(The writer is an analyst on various subjects like social, educational, technical, political, economic, revenue, religious, arts, international affairs, defence, agriculture etc.)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Chilling Signs of Suppression

The four following recent incidents point to the same thing. 1) Ravish Kumar had to resign from NDTV. 2) Amartya Sen had been dragged into a dispute over a small piece of land of his ancestral home in Santiniketan. 3) Online news portal NewsClick editor, Prabir Purkayastha and its HR head Amit Chakraborty have been slapped with UAPA and 4) Arundhati Roy and SS Hussain are to be prosecuted under the anti-terrorism law for their speeches which were delivered 13 years ago in 2010 in a seminar in New Delhi. Dissent which is regarded as lifeblood of democracy, is being treated with zero tolerance.

#### Sujit De, Kolkata Qatar's Death Penalty

The recent sentencing of eight former Indian Navy officers to death in Qatar has raised serious concerns about the fairness of the legal proceedings and its potential impact on India-Qatar relations. While respecting Qatar's sovereignty, the gravity of the death penalty warrants transparency, impartiality, and adherence to due process. Reports of irregularities raise questions about the accused's rights and access to a fair trial. Diplomatic channels should be activated to ensure international standards of justice. Both nations must investigate thoroughly to uphold justice and human rights, preserving their relationship in the process.

#### Maimul Safui, Howrah Small teams ahead

Neitherland winning against a strong team and Afghanistan defeating the defending champions, have proved their powers in ICC World Cup 2023. Australia after loosing first two matches, has come back in an outstanding way and created a new history breaking old records on Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi. 2023 World Cup is going on differently. Therefore, it cannot be predicted that who will emerge victorious. Small teams can't be taken lightly.

#### TKR.Noori, Mumbai Experienced bowler Shami

India defeated New Zealand by four wickets in a World Cup match, their first win over the Black Caps in an ICC competition in 20 years. India will be happy that he has broken New Zealand's illusion. Shami took 5 wickets in his first match of the World Cup, but now how can the Indian team's experienced bowler Mohammed Shami be ignored? Could he be left out of the 11 when Hardik returns? It was a great team effort, where everyone has contributed. Congratulations to the Indian team on its spectacular and historic win against New Zealand. Keep it up.

M O Azmi

## RELIGION IS JUST A CONCEPT

Kajal Chatterjee

Swami Vivekananda - - - that epitome of humanity and Hindu-Muslim brotherhood - - - had started the ritual of Kumari Puja by selecting a 4-year-old Kashmiri Muslim girl in Kheer Bhavani in 1898.

Yes, this all-embracing sage used to see the Divine Mother in all female entities irrespective of religion.

By drawing inspiration from Vivekananda, the Durga Puja organisers in the Northern fringes of Kolkata had chosen Nafisa - - a Muslim girl - - as their 'Kumari' to be worshipped as Mother Goddess in human form so as to acknowledge divinity in a person.

When our very own fellow citizens of Islamic lineage are being increasingly portrayed as the "Other" in this democratic

secular heterogeneous country of all; this Puja organisers have definitely established an excellent example of communal harmony by daring to choose a Muslim girl for Kumari Puja rituals for the first time.

No wonder why Haji Illyas, a Muslim priest, has remarked "In this time of provocation, such affection ... such efforts for communal amity shall be approved". In this context, the activities of the Nandi family of Pandua, Hooghly district, West Bengal should also be recalled for continuing the tradition of expressing gratitude to a pir as they believe that the blessings showered by him had changed their economic fortunes centuries ago.

According to the family legend, one unknown pir had given two mohurs (gold coins) to their forefathers and advised them to

launch their own business when they were struggling for survival amid penury more than 200 years ago. They invested the coins in the business of betel nuts and edible oil and shifted to Kolkata to expand the enterprise.

As a mark of respect to the original pir, the Nandi family offers a prayer at a local dargah during Durga Puja, thereby maintaining a tradition that their forefathers began 225 years ago - - around 1798 when Shah Alam II was the Mughal Emperor of India and Babar Ali Khan was the Nawab of Bengal.

And after completion of the puja in the auspicious day of Mahanavami, at first the family offers the bhog prasad (a meal of blessed food in Hinduism) to a pir and distribute it among others only after he finished eating.

When our very own fellow cit-

izens of Islamic lineage are being increasingly portrayed as the "Other" in this democratic secular heterogeneous country of all; the said families and Puja organisers have definitely established excellent examples of communal harmony brotherhood and religious syncretism.

Will the communal brigade of this country, obsessed with "Gomata"-beef-hijab-azaan-halal-love jihad" and can even go the extreme of killing innocent souls, learn any lesson of mutual love and respect in this heterogeneous country of all.

And last but not the least. Will the Bengalis get awakened of the fact that the likes of Swami Vivekananda and the liberal Durga Puja tradition of the Nandi family form the real essence and culture of all-embracing secular Bengal; not rabid religious muscle-flexing

of erecting temples by destructing mosques.

So instead of vitiating the environment of divinity-cum-humanity associated with the Durga Puja through erection of audacious pandals emitting foul odour of 6th December 1992, Bengalis should learn to respect its roots culture and heritage by drawing inspiration from the golden hearts who remain indebted to a pir of centuries ago or bring a Muslim girl in the ambit of Kumari Puja.

No wonder why it is said "Religion is just a concept ... which many people interpret in wrong ways to create differences". It is high time all human beings be placed upon an absolutely equal pedestal and treated the same irrespective of their origin-birth-caste-religion-language-race-region-nationality.



**BRIEF**

**Trident Realty**

**New Delhi:** Trident Realty on Sunday said it will invest Rs 700 crore to develop more than 400 luxury independent floors in Panchkula. Delhi-based Trident Realty is developing a 200-acre township Trident Hills at Panchkula. In the township, the company has launched 412 independent floors project 'Windsong Residences'. Trident Realty is planning to invest Rs 700 crore for the construction of 412 units of low-rise premium independent floors, the company said in a statement.

**Yes Bank**

**New Delhi:** Yes Bank on Saturday said the bank has acquired 2.4 crore additional shares of J C Flowers Asset Reconstruction (JC Flowers ARC), taking its stake to 9.9 per cent. Shares of JC Flowers ARC were transferred from JCF ARC LLC to the bank on October 27, 2023, Yes Bank said in a regulatory filing. "On November 28, 2022, the bank had acquired 9.9 per cent of the equity share capital of JC Flowers ARC."

**FSSAI**

**New Delhi:** Food regulator FSSAI has stressed on ensuring safe food to students and asked state authorities to provide trainings to those handling food items in canteens of hostels and universities. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) CEO G Kamala Vardhana Rao on Saturday addressed the 42nd Central Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting at Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. He urged states and Union Territories to create awareness on food safety.

**LatentView Analytics Ltd**

**Chennai:** Global digital analytics and consulting solutions firm, LatentView Analytics Ltd has reported a consolidated profit after tax of Rs 34 crore for the July-September quarter, the company said. The city-based company formerly known as Latent View Analytics Pvt Ltd had reported a consolidated profit after tax at Rs 37.2 crore during the corresponding period of last year. For the half year ending September 30, 2023 the consolidated profit after tax was at Rs 66.8 crore as against Rs 68.7 crore registered during the same period of last year.

**TVS Credit**

**Chennai:** Non-banking finance company TVS Credit Services Ltd has posted a profit after tax for the July-September quarter at Rs 134 crore up by 40 per cent. The company had registered a net profit at Rs 96 crore during the corresponding quarter of last financial year. For the six month period ended September 30, 2023 the net profit stood at Rs 252 crore, the company said on Sunday. The assets under management as of September 2023 grew to Rs 23,516 crore from Rs 20,602 crore registered in the same period of last year.

## Govt wants India's telecom service to remain most affordable in entire world: Ashwini Vaishnaw

New Delhi, Oct 29 (PTI):



The government wants India's telecom service to remain the most affordable in the entire world, union telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

According to the telecom sector industry body Cellular Operators Association of India, telecom operators have not been able to monetise 5G service since its launch last year.

"From the government side we are very clear. We would like telecom service to continue to remain the most affordable in the entire world and today among all large economies India's telecom sector is the most affordable telecom sector," Vaishnaw told PTI in an interview at India Mobile Congress 2023. According

to analysts, telecom operators need an average revenue per user (ARPU) in the range of Rs 270-300 over next three years to realise the investments they are making in building 5G networks.

At present ARPU in India is in the range of Rs 140-200 compared to global average of Rs 600-850 and about Rs 580 in China. Telecom operators have been demanding that 4-5 apps that generate large traffic on their net-

work should pay revenue share based on the business they generate from India to compensate for the network cost.

Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio are the only two out of four mobile service providers that have rolled out 5G services and their combined investment in 5G network is estimated to be around Rs 3 lakh crore including the cost of spectrum.

Both the companies have not yet started charging for 5G data usage. While debt ridden Vodafone Idea non-executive additional director Kumar Mangalam Birla at the event announced that the company will make significant investments to roll out 5G network and expand 4G coverage in the coming quarters.

## Tamil Nadu can be a key destination for Taiwan firms to invest: CII

Chennai, Oct 29 (PTI):

A 15-member delegation from the Confederation of Indian Industry explored the possibilities of boosting ties with Taiwan in various industrial sectors, a senior official said.

The delegation led by CII Tamil Nadu Textile Panel Convenor G R Gopi Kumar studied areas of mutual understanding in man-made fabrics, sustainable and technical textiles and invited firms from Taiwan to invest in the state.

"Given the shared economic and commercial interests between India and Taiwan in several sectors especially in technical textiles, we feel that our successful delegation will help businesses leverage the strengths on either

side to collaborate and complement in terms of strengthening trade," said Kumar.

The delegation was focused on exploring and fostering trade opportunities between Taiwan and Tamil Nadu, especially in areas of functionality fabrics, and smart, sustainable initiatives among others, he said in a statement.

"India in general, Tamil Nadu in particular, can be a key destination for Taiwanese firms to strengthen their presence in global supply chains in textile products," he added.

During their visit to Taiwan, the delegation visited the 27th Taipei Innovative Textile Application Show, which is a sourcing hub for innovative textiles in Asia.

## India a key market, will continue investments and accelerate electrification: Honda

Tokyo, Oct 29 (PTI):



**Honda Motor President and CEO Toshihiro Mibe.**

Japanese auto major Honda Motor Co Ltd will continue to invest in India, a key market for its future growth strategy while also accelerating electrification of vehicles in line with its global plans to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, according to top company officials.

At the global level, Honda is open for alliances and collaboration with other firms if it offers a "win-win" situation in the wake of new development in the mobility sector, Honda Motor President and CEO Toshihiro Mibe told visiting Indian journalists at the company's headquarters here in an interaction.

"Our strategy is to achieve carbon neutrality

by 2050. To achieve that, we have milestones set for 2030-35 and 2040... For Honda, the Indian market is a big market and it is the market where electrification is rapidly progressing for both cars and two-wheelers," he said.

Underlining the significance of India, Asian Honda Motor Co President & CEO and Head of Regional Operations (Asia & Oceania) Toshio Kuwahara said, "The Indian market is quite im-

portant for us because of its scale. It is already number seven in the world for us (in terms of units sold)."

Excluding China, he said, "When we look at the Asia Pacific region, electrification or the market for electric vehicles is going to be critical and because India is an important one, we think that there should be an emphasis on India as well."

With the restructuring of its operations in India behind, Honda had in June this year announced plans to launch five new SUVs, including a fully electric model, in India by 2030 as it tries to revive its fortune in the country, where SUVs have been the fastest growing segment in the passenger vehicles segment.

## Axis Bank's H1FY 24 PAT at Rs.11,661 cr



**New Delhi, Oct 29:** Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector banks in India announced its Q2FY24 results, reporting net profit of Rs. 5,864 crores, as compared to Rs. 5,330 crores in Q2FY23. The Bank's Net Interest Income (NII) grew 19% YOY and 3% QOQ to Rs. 12,315 crores in Q2FY24 from Rs. 10,360 crores in Q2FY23. Its Net interest margin (NIM) for Q2FY24 stood at 4.11%, which is grown by 15 bps YOY and 1 bps QOQ. On a QAB basis, total deposits grew 16% YOY and 1% QoQ, Savings Account deposits grew 17% YOY, Current Account deposits grew 11% whereas CASA ratio stood at 43% YOY. The Bank's operating revenue reflects a 22% growth from Rs. 14,216 crores in Q2FY23

to Rs. 17,349 crores in Q2FY24. As of 30th September 2023, the Bank's reported Gross NPA and Net NPA levels at 1.73% and 0.36% respectively. The Bank's Fee income for Q2FY24 grew 31% YOY to Rs. 4,963 crores. Retail fees grew 38% YOY, constituting 70% of the Bank's total fee income. Overall capital adequacy ratio (CAR) including profit stood at 17.84% with CET 1 ratio of 14.56%.

Amitabh Chaudhry, MD&CEO, Axis Bank said, "In spite of a highly volatile global geopolitical landscape, we believe the India story remains strong."

## VIRASAT ART & HERITAGE FESTIVAL



**Vintage scooters participate in the Virasat Art & Heritage festival in Dehradun, Sunday, Oct. 29.**

## SBI ropes in MS Dhoni as brand ambassador

**New Delhi, Oct 29 (PTI):** The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) on Sunday announced its collaboration with cricketing legend Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its official brand ambassador. As the brand ambassador of SBI, Dhoni will play a pivotal role in various marketing and promotional campaigns, the bank said in a statement.

His remarkable capacity to maintain composure in stressful situations and his renowned ability for clear thinking and rapid decision-making under duress makes him the ideal choice that resonates with SBI to connect with its customers and stakeholders across the country, it added. This association symbolises the bank's commitment to forging



deeper connections with its customers, reflecting the values of reliability and leadership, it said.

SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara said, "Dhoni's association with SBI as a satisfied customer makes him a perfect embodiment of our brand's ethos. With this partnership, we aim to reinforce our commitment to serving the nation and our customers with trust, integrity, and unwavering dedication".

## Varanium Cloud reports net profit of Rs. 96.25 cr

**Mumbai, Oct 29:** Mumbai based Technology Solutions Company, Varanium Cloud Limited has reported exponential growth in business operations with robust growth in the total income and net profit. Company has reported a stand-alone net profit of Rs. 96.25 crore for six months (H1) of FY23-24 ended September 2023 as against net profit of Rs. 26.37 crore in H1 of FY22-23, growth of 265% Y-o-Y. Total income from operations for H1FY23-24 was reported at Rs. 377.33 crore, higher by 205.4% Y-o-Y as compare to total income of Rs. 123.55 crore in H1 FY22-23. EPS for H1FY24 was at Rs. 22.44 per share. Recently, EVLI Emerging Frontier Fund has bought total of 4.76 lakh shares in the company through bulk deal on 11 October and 12 October, 2023. The fund invested total of Rs. 10.45 crore in the company.

## TVS Motor rolls out TVS Cheema Scholarship Fund to serve TN engineering students

Chennai, Oct 29 (PTI):

Two and three-wheeler major TVS Motor has launched the "TVS Cheema Scholarship" fund with a corpus of Rs 100 crore, to serve 500 students every year, the company said on Sunday.

The aim of the programme is to offer financial support to students of mechanical engineering branch from Tamil Nadu every year, company Chairman-Emeritus Venu Srinivasan said.

The scholarship was unveiled by Chief Minister M K Stalin on Saturday evening, at an event to commemorate the birth centenary of the founder of the company T S Srinivasan, fondly known as 'Cheema', who is also a



**The scholarship was unveiled by Chief Minister M K Stalin on Saturday evening, at an event to commemorate the birth centenary of the founder of the company T S Srinivasan, fondly known as 'Cheema', who is also a mechanical engineer.**

mechanical engineer. This scholarship is a fitting tribute to his memory and aims to promote future talent and expand opportunities for deserving students pursuing me-

chanical engineering, which is a key to robotics and future technologies, a company statement said.

TVS Motor would work closely with premier educational institutions in the

## SBI Card announces festive offer 2023

**New Delhi, Oct 29:** SBI Card, India's largest pure-play credit card issuer, has rolled out many exciting offers for its cardholders across India for festive season 2023. Millions of SBI Card customers can take advantage of around 2200 merchant funded and cash-back offers across online and offline merchants in key cities, including tier 2 and tier 3. The expansive spread of offers range across a wide set of popular categories including consumer durables, mobiles, laptops, fashion, furniture, jewellery, and grocery. SBI Card has lined up many EMI focused offers with several marquee brands to ensure that cardholders can make large purchases with ease. Festive offer 2023 for SBI Card customers includes over 600 national level offers, and over 1500 regional and hyperlocal offers that will be valid till 15 November 2023.

watch. Together, they promise to take the world of horology to new heights. Adrian Bosshard, Rado CEO, expressed his enthusiasm for the collaboration, stating, "We are thrilled to welcome Katrina Kaif into the Rado family. Her timeless beauty and global recognition align seamlessly with Rado's core principles. We look forward to this journey of redefining luxury together."

Katrina Kaif also shared her excitement about the partnership, saying, "I am honoured and excited to be associated with Rado, a brand known for its excellence in watchmaking. Rado watches have always fascinated me with their innovative designs and commitment to quality."



## Election personnel to receive free medical facilities during duty

Central Chronicle News

**Balrampur, Oct 29:** In an effort to provide organized medical coordination and healthcare facilities to election officials and employees during election duty, District Election Officer and Collector Remijus Ekka, along with Sector Officers, conducted a medical training session by Master Trainer Pawan Kumar Rathore at the district office building in Bilaspur.

During the training, information was provided regarding the medical arrangements made by the State Election Commission for election-related health issues to be faced by the nodal officers, sector officers, and master trainers involved in election work. They were briefed on the symptoms of heart attacks, strokes, and epilepsy, as



well as the initial steps that can be taken in emergency situations.

Furthermore, the training emphasized the importance of election officials and employees with underlying health conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and thyroid disorders to carry their medications with them.

It also encouraged them to incorporate yoga, meditation, and exercise into their daily routines. Information was shared

about the medical facilities available to election personnel at government hospitals in the state.

Providing information about healthcare arrangements, it has been announced that for the Legislative Assembly elections in 2023, government officials and employees appointed for election duties will be provided with free medical facilities at all state-run government hospitals.

In cases where essential

healthcare facilities are not available in the state government hospitals or for emergency situations, officials and employees can receive treatment at four hospitals in the capital city, Raipur such as Shri Balaji Hospital Mova, Shri Narayana Hospital Devendra Nagar Raipur, Ramkrishna Care Hospital Pachpedi Naka Raipur, and NHMMI Hospital Pachpedi Naka. Additionally, similar medical facilities for treatment will be available out-

side the state at Hyderabad's Care Hospital and Apollo Hospital in Visakhapatnam. Furthermore, officials and employees will also have the option to receive treatment in two private hospitals outside the state.

Dr. Rameshwar Sharma, Civil Surgeon of Balrampur District Hospital, provided information about administering CPR in case of a heart attack through a demonstration. Information was also shared regarding the medical kits provided on the day of voting.

During the event, key officials such as District Panchayat CEO Rena Jameel, Additional Collector SS Paikara, Bhagwat Jayaswal, Deputy District Election Officer Amit Shrivastav, and all sector officers were present.

## Eurokids Rajim dazzles with enchanting Navratri celebration

**Students immerse in festive joy with Art and Dance**

Central Chronicle News

**Rajim, Oct 29:** Eurokids Rajim hosted a magnificent Navratri festival celebration, creating an enchanting experience for students and parents alike. The event was a vibrant fusion of art, culture, and festivity, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees.

The celebration featured an array of engaging activities, including art and craft sessions that allowed students to unleash their creativity. Storytelling sessions were held to educate children about the significance of Vijaya Dashami, adding depth to their understanding of the festival.

The highlight of the event was the mesmerizing dance performances by the talented young students. Their graceful



moves and enthusiasm for the festival left everyone in awe, spreading infectious joy and energy.

Eurokids Rajim also witnessed active participation from mothers, who enthusiastically

joined various activities organized by the school. Their involvement added a special touch of warmth and togetherness to the celebration, making it a grand success.

## Rashi dispels election rumors, pledges allegiance to Congress

**Dedicated to securing victory for Cong in district**

Central Chronicle News

**Mahasamund, Oct 29:** Congress stalwart and Mahasamund Municipal Corporation President, Rashi Tribhuvan Mahilang, convened a press conference on Friday evening to address recent media speculations surrounding her potential candidacy. She unequivocally refuted rumors of her switching allegiance to the Chhattisgarh Janata Congress (Jogi) Party.

Rashi informed the gathered journalists that unfounded reports of her candidacy for the Mahasamund constituency had been circulating in the media for several days. She clarified that someone had acquired a nomination form in her



name without her knowledge. She emphasized her unwavering commitment to the Congress party, asserting that she would never defect. Rashi revealed that she learned about her alleged nomination for the Mahasamund Assembly elections through social media, as the Chhattisgarh Janata Congress (Jogi) Party had purportedly nominated her. She reiterated her dedication and loyalty to the Congress party, pledging to work wholeheartedly for the party's victory, not only in Mahasamund but

also in the three other seats within the district. With the shared objective of securing all four seats in the district, Rashi, in collaboration with the Congress candidate for the Mahasamund Assembly, Dr. Rashmi Chandrakar, will diligently work toward the party's success. The Congress party aims to achieve a resounding victory in Chhattisgarh, with a target of 75 seats, ultimately reestablishing Bhupesh Baghel's government in the state, and this district-wide effort plays a pivotal role in that ambition.

## Police arrest main suspect Sachin with stolen jewellery

**Kurud SDOP achieves significant success**

Central Chronicle News

**Kurud, Oct 29:** Sachin alias Satish, the principal suspect among three involved in a burglary at a residence in Kurud town on the night of Dussehra, has been apprehended by the police. The burglary, which resulted in the theft of valuable gold jewellery, saw Sachin's arrest while his two accomplices, along with stolen silver jewellery and remaining cash, remain at large.

Taking the theft incident seriously, a dedicated team was formed under the guidance of Superintendent of Police Prashant Thakur, with Kurud SDOP K.K. Vajpayee at the helm. The main suspect, Sachin, has been arrested and subsequently placed in judicial



custody. It was revealed that Sachin had a previous criminal record related to theft.

In response to the theft, Kurud SDOP K.K. Vajpayee, with the cooperation of Kurud Police and the Cyber Police, constituted separate teams to thoroughly investigate the matter. In just three days, they successfully apprehended the main suspect, who was found in possession of gold jewellery worth lakhs.

K.K. Vajpayee has actively engaged with po-

lice officials from Kurud, Bakhara, Magarlod, and the Beat In-charge of Birjhar village since assuming his role as the SDOP of Kurud subdivision. His proactive approach to policing has resulted in the resolution of two major cases, including a murder in Marod and a significant theft in Kurud town, showcasing both efficient law enforcement and the community's trust in it.

According to Kurud Police sources, the theft

was reported by Ms. Rashmi Gwal, daughter of Mr. Rajesh Gwal, from Shankar Nagar Kurud. She stated that on the night of October 24, thieves made off with gold jewellery, including a gold chain, gold earrings, gold bangles, a gold ring, a gold locket, and gold finger rings, collectively valued at approximately three lakhs. The case was registered at Kurud Police Station under sections 457 and 380 of the Indian Penal Code.

Sachin, alias Satish, who was apprehended, was found in possession of gold jewellery, including a gold chain worth Rs. 50,000, a set of gold earrings worth Rs. 15,000, gold bangles worth Rs. 50,000, a gold locket and earrings set worth Rs. 83,000, gold finger rings worth Rs. 26,000, and a gold locket worth Rs. 5,000, totaling approximately Rs. 2,66,500. Additionally, the items used for the theft such as spanner, a rod, cutting pliers, and a screwdriver were recovered from his residence during the investigation.

The arrest operation was led by Ramesh Sahu, Police Station In-charge of Kurud and Cyber Officer, Lokesh Netam, Gopi Chandrakar, Rajesh Chandrakar, and the Cyber and Kurud Police team played crucial roles in this successful apprehension.

## AAP's Lekharam Sahu unveils vision for Chhattisgarh

**Comprehensive action plan to address state's vital issues**

**Katgi, Oct 29:** Lekharam Sahu, the Aam Aadmi Party's candidate for Kasdol Vidhan Sabha, unveiled a promising vision for Chhattisgarh during a press conference at the local press club.

Sahu confronted long-standing issues, particularly the water supply crisis that has plagued thousands of acres of agricultural land linked to the Balar Dam through Samoda Diversion in Chhattisgarh for the past 15 years. Due to ongoing project delays worth crores of rupees, the canal has deteriorated into a drain, causing severe water shortages for local farmers. Sahu confidently assured the public that



these issues would be effectively addressed when the Aam Aadmi Party comes to power.

The candidate highlighted disparities within the state's education sector. He pointed out that during the BJP regime, D.A.V. schools were established separately, while under Congress governance, schools were run separately, leading to an educational divide. Sahu firmly declared his party's commitment to rectify this inequality and promote equal educational opportunities for all.

Sahu expressed unwavering confidence, assert-

ing that neither the BJP nor the Congress posed significant challenges to the Aam Aadmi Party in the upcoming Kasdol Vidhan Sabha elections. He elaborated on the unique situations surrounding the candidates from both rival parties.

In the Congress camp, a 'parachute candidate' has sparked opposition among local Congress workers, while in the BJP, the declared candidate's interactions with the Congress have caused a recognition crisis among local BJP workers. Sahu emphasized that both parties posed no

### Commitments include

**Comprehensive Healthcare:** Ensuring free medical facilities ranging from one lakh to fifty lakh rupees, similar to the healthcare services provided in Delhi and Punjab.

**Empowering the Youth:** Offering an unemployment allowance of three thousand rupees to all unemployed youth in Chhattisgarh until they secure government jobs.

**Women's Empowerment:** Providing financial assistance of one thousand rupees per month to every woman above the age of 18 under the Women's Honor Scheme.

**Support for Mothers and Sisters:** Introducing free bus facilities for all mothers and sisters to ease their travels.

**Accessible Electricity:** Providing free electricity to all households, except industrial organizations.

**Effective Governance:** Implementing schemes akin to the successful programs initiated by the Aam Aadmi Party government in other states, ensuring Chhattisgarh's development and prosperity.

formidable challenge to the Aam Aadmi Party's agenda.

Addressing internal opposition within the Aam Aadmi Party concerning other candidates, Sahu emphasized the party's culture of unity and solidarity. He emphasized that

while party workers have the right to voice their demands, opposing a candidate goes against the party's values of cohesion and teamwork. Sahu outlined an ambitious roadmap for Chhattisgarh under the Aam Aadmi Party's governance.

## Bhaktin Mata Committee's commendable initiatives garner widespread support

**Odisha Governor Raghubar Das to grace upcoming social respect event**

Central Chronicle News

**Rajim, Oct 29:** Sahu Society Rajim Bhaktin Mata committee holds an essential meeting here. The meeting graced by esteemed personalities including N.T. Rathore, Executive President of the All India Tailik Sahu Mahasabha, Hasmukh Bhai Modi, General Secretary of the Gujarati Mod Modi Samaj, and Chhattisgarh State Vice President of Sahu Sangh, Sunil Bhai Supari Wala from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, saw significant developments.

Highlighting the meeting's significance, the distinguished Raghubar Das, former Chief Minister of Jharkhand and the newly appointed Governor of



Odisha by the Indian government, was celebrated with great pride by the Sahu community. The Bhaktin Mata Committee has announced plans to conduct a social respect ceremony in Rajim in honour of the esteemed Governor. Additionally, a youth introduction conference is scheduled for January 2024. These decisions were unanimously agreed upon during the meeting. In his address, N.T. Rathore emphasized the vital role played by social organizations across the nation, advocating for their dedicated commitment to the societal development and upliftment. He stressed that the ultimate objective of all such organizations should be self-

less service. Rathore also called for the management of free healthcare and education services to provide essential support to the underprivileged segments of society. By channeling altruistic efforts, the society as a whole is poised to make significant progress. The proceedings of the meeting were efficiently conducted by General Secretary Minjun Sahu. Notable attendees included Lala Sahu, President of the Committee, along with Dr. Mahendra Sahu, Rupendra Sahu, Balaram Sahu, Uma Sahu, Nootan Sahu, Dr. Radheshyam Sahu, Bodhan Sahu, Suniti Sahu, and various members from the Women's Wing, among others.

## Collector inspects liquor warehouse and bottling plant

**Unauthorized liquor distribution faces strict action, FIRs to follow**  
**CRPF maintains 24-hour vigilance for election integrity assurance**

**Bilaspur, Oct 29:** In a bid to ensure the upcoming assembly elections in the district are conducted with transparency and peace, the district administration is leaving no stone unturned. Collector Avansh Sharan undertook an inspection of two liquor bottling units, which included the excise department's liquor godown situated in the Sirgitti industrial

area. A stern warning was issued by the Collector, emphasizing that if any unauthorized production or distribution of liquor was detected within these establishments, strict actions would be taken against the management, including the filing of FIRs. Additionally, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel will be deployed at these sites across the district, beginning tomorrow.

CRPF will maintain round-the-clock surveillance at the entry and exit points of liquor, with immediate installation of CCTV cameras at the en-



trance gate of Legend Distillery as per the Collector's directives. Assistant Excise Commissioner Dinkar

Vasanik accompanied the Collector during this visit. Collector Sharan dedicated nearly two hours to inspect the government



liquor godown and the privately-operated bottling units, Golden Prince Wines and Legend Distillery, both situated in

Sirgitti. He meticulously scrutinized their operations, liquor production, and distribution processes. Strict adherence to

election-related regulations was stressed, with clear instructions to refrain from engaging in any irregular activities.

CCTV footage was reviewed, and various records maintained by the department at the godown were verified, with instructions to ensure their regular updates. The Collector also conducted an extensive inspection of Golden Prince Wines and Legend Distillery.

It is noteworthy that alcohol supply to 207 liquor shops spanning 14 districts in Bilaspur and Surguja divisions originates from the excise warehouse situated in

Sirgitti. The transportation of liquor is meticulously tracked using GPS-equipped vehicles. Surveillance of all four warehouses is conducted via 25 CCTVs. The Collector also assessed various registers maintained by the department at the warehouse, emphasizing the need for continuous updates.

During his visit to Golden Prince Wines and Legend Distillery, he observed the blending and bottling processes of alcohol and encouraged the workers employed there to cast their votes on Election Day, slated for November 17th.



# Shami, Bumrah ignite another demolition of England

**India crush England by 100 runs**

Lucknow, Oct 29 (PTI):

In a thrilling World Cup encounter on Sunday, Rohit Sharma showcased his batting prowess on a challenging pitch, leading India to a commanding 100-run victory over England. The match, held in Lucknow, saw India post a total of 229 for nine, with England crumbling under pressure and getting bundled out for just 129 runs.

England's performance in the tournament has been baffling, with their fifth defeat in six games leaving them languishing at the bottom of the points table. Despite their undeniable talent, nothing seems to be clicking for the defending champions. Although it briefly appeared that they might secure a win during the innings break, their batting lineup faltered against India's aggressive bowling attack, with only Livingstone managing to



cross the 20-run mark. Jasprit Bumrah led the charge for India with the ball, dismissing key English batsmen Malan

and Root in successive deliveries. Shami and Kuldeep chipped in with crucial wickets, with Kuldeep's dismissal of

Buttler all but sealing the game for India. India's opportunity to bat first for the first time in the tournament al-

lowed their batters to set a competitive target. However, Rohit Sharma (87 off 101) and Suryakumar Yadav (49 off 47) were the only ones who managed to adapt to the two-paced wicket. Their partnership of 91 runs stabilized India's innings after a shaky start at 40 for three in the 12th over. Rohit's departure triggered a flurry of wickets, but Suryakumar played a crucial role in guiding the tailenders to score valuable runs in the death overs.

England, to their credit, put up an impressive effort with the ball and in the field. Chris Woakes and Adil Rashid impressed with their bowling, while David Willey's effectiveness also played a significant role.

Rohit Sharma's masterclass with the bat was the highlight of the match. After a cautious start against Willey, Rohit unleashed his full array of shots, using his feet effectively against both pacers and spinners to find the boundaries.

**Rohit Sharma is the MPlayer of the Match for his 87: After the first 10 overs, it was important to stitch a partnership. You have to play the situation as well and not just play your shots. If you have that experience, you should use it. But I still thought we were 20-30 runs short. The new ball was a bit challenging and as the game went on, the ball got softer and it was not easy to rotate strike.**

Virat Kohli and Shreyas Iyer fell cheaply, but Rohit continued to dominate the English bowlers, striking ten boundaries in his innings.

Despite playing with five bowlers due to Hardik Pandya's absence, India opted not to include R Ashwin in the playing eleven. Nonetheless, their strong batting and exceptional bowling performance secured a convincing victory, reaffirming their World Cup aspirations.

# Vaishali downs former world champion Mariya Muzychuk



Isle of Man (UK), Oct 29 (PTI):

India's R Vaishali crashed through the defenses of former world champion Mariya Muzychuk of Ukraine to move to 3.5 points after the fourth round of FIDE women's Grand Swiss, a part of the World Championship cycle.

Vaishali, the sister of the more famous R Praggnanandhaa, had made her third and final Grandmaster norm at the just-concluded Qatar Masters and it was clear that she was ready for the bigger challenges.

On Saturday, the Chennai-based player delivered her best with yet another scintillating performance, thanks to her

brilliant attacking skills. The Sicilian defense by Vaishali was met with the Rossolimo Sicilian but she had some opening ideas that caught Muzychuk off guard, the resulting position was quite complicated but when it comes to calculating the deepest secret out of any position Vaishali has shown that she is the one to be relied upon.

Muzychuk did not stand any chance as she first lost a piece and subsequently walked in to checkmate web. Amazingly it took just 23 moves for Vaishali to seal her third victory in four games.

In the open section, Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi slipped from what looked like a cruise and was held to a draw by Alexandr Predke of Serbia.

Arjun looked in command and if the analysis engines were anything to go by, he should have converted another full point that would have taken him to 3.5 points.

# Shakib admits 'worst ever' World Cup performance



Kolkata, Oct 29 (PTI):

Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan has admitted that a chaotic buildup could have resulted in their "worst ever" World Cup campaign after they cut a sorry figure with an 87-run defeat to the Netherlands for their fifth loss on the trot. Chasing a small target of 230 runs, Bangladesh folded inside 43 overs, managing a mere 142 to see their World Cup campaign as good as over.

"You can definitely say that (it's Bangladesh's worst World Cup performance). I won't disagree," Shakib said in the post-match media interaction here on Saturday.

"I don't have an answer as to why we played this way. We were sloppy in the field. We bowled brilliant-

ly. We haven't batted the way we can bat throughout the tournament.

"It is a big concern. Today was another day when we totally gave the Dutch the two points. It is hard to swallow. It is very difficult to digest."

Faced with persistent questions from Bangladeshi journalists, Shakib made a candid admission that the team was "underprepared" and his fallout with former captain Tamim Iqbal may have "affected" the side.

"It could be," Shakib said when asked if Tamim's exclusion had affected the team.

"It is not unusual. I don't know what's in everyone's heart. I don't disagree with you. It may have had an effect." Tamim, the only Bangladeshi batter to have centuries in all the three formats, had made a shock retirement in July only to reverse his decision at the request of the country's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The 34-year-old played the opening two matches before taking a break in the final match of their home series against New Zealand in the buildup to the World Cup.

# Kumara-less Sri Lanka face spirited Afghanistan

Pune, Oct 29 (PTI):

Emboldened by back-to-back wins, a tenacious Sri Lanka will have to tide over the injury-enforced absence of lead pacer Lahiru Kumara when they face a spirited Afghanistan in a battle for survival in the World Cup here on Monday.

Kumara was ruled out of the World Cup on Sunday with a left thigh muscle injury which he suffered here during a training session.

Pacer Dushmantha Chameera has come in as his replacement. But the Lankans have shown a propensity to fight against odds.

With two wins from five matches, both Sri Lanka and Afghanistan have kept alive their outside hopes of making it to the semi-finals, provided they don't suffer any more hiccups and also other results go their way in the showpiece event.

However, only one team can emerge victorious from this contest, dashing



Sri Lanka's captain Kusal Mendis (R) runs during a practice session.

the slim chances of the other.

After three successive defeats, Sri Lanka have revived some hopes with two convincing victories over Netherlands and England.

But they will take Afghanistan lightly at their own peril, knowing well that the Afghans are capable of punching above their weight.

Afghanistan have sent shock waves across the world with wins over

England and Pakistan and will look to knock the wind out of the sails of Sri Lanka to continue their success story.

For the Islanders, some tight bowling, led by pacer Kumara, and fielding that saw them dismantling England in their last game. Kumara's absence will definitely be felt by the Lankans.

The return of experienced all-rounder Angelo Matthews has helped the

bowling unit to ace the middle-overs and Sri Lanka will hope to continue the trend.

Afghanistan, on the other hand, are coming into the match after recording their highest successful chase in ODIs with a solid top-order display.

Opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz, with 224 runs, has been their best batter but Ibrahim Zadran, Hashmatullah Shahidi, Rahmat Shah have also come good in the last match and they will look to carry the confidence against the Lankans. Azmatullah Omarzai too has a fifty to his name.

Going by records, Afghanistan have won just thrice in 11 ODIs against Sri Lanka but never in the two meetings in the World Cup.

But two of those wins came in June this year and November last year at Hambantota and Pallekele respectively and Afghanistan will draw inspiration from that when they face the Lankans.

# De Leede demands ICC's attention for 'bigger nation' status

Kolkata, Oct 29 (PTI):

Two upset wins in the ongoing World Cup under their belt, minnows Netherlands have now called for ICC's attention for "bigger nation" status, batting all-rounder Bas de Leede has said.

The Dutch, who are the only Associate Nation in the World Cup, first produced the biggest stunner of the global showpiece, defeating South Africa by 38 runs in Dharamsala. On Saturday, defending a modest 229, the Dutch bowled out Bangladesh for 142 for yet another upset result, this time by a handsome 87-run margin. "Every win we get is going to be big for us and for cricket in the Netherlands. We want to inspire young kids to take up the game," De Leede told reporters in the post-match interaction at Eden Gardens here. "And we also want to try and get the ICC's attention to start looking at us as a potentially bigger nation in the coming years. So definitely every win helps." It is, however, unclear whether the Dutchman's demand for a Test status for the country and more exposure will be entertained by the world body. Domestic cricket struc-



ture is one of the major criteria in awarding a country Test status and the Dutch cricketers mostly play country cricket for exposure.

Their chances of making the semi-finals, however, appear slim as they have to win all their three remaining matches and hope for favourable results from other teams. The Netherlands, who have four points from six matches, will next take on Afghanistan in Lucknow on November 3 before facing the struggling defending champions England in Pune on November 8.

# India thrash Malaysia 5-0 in women's Asian Champions Trophy



Players of India (white) and Malaysia in action during the Asian Championship Trophy match at Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Astroturf Hockey Stadium, in Ranchi.

Ranchi, Oct 28 (PTI):

Stalwart Vandana Katariya slammed a brace while Sangita Kumari, Lalremsiami and Jyoti scored a goal each as India came up with another dominating display of stick-work to thrash Malaysia 5-0 in the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Saturday.

Continuing from where they had left off on Friday, decimating Thailand 7-1 in the opening match, the Indian midfield worked in

Another rasping penalty corner from Vandana saw Malaysia go down 0-2 midway through the second quarter and just before the conclusion of the first half, Sangita, who had slammed a hat-trick against Thailand on Friday, weaved her way into the circle to score a fine field goal. Almost immediately, Lalremsiami too got her name on the score-sheet with another field effort before Jyoti piled on the rivals' misery in the 38th minute. India could have won by a 6-0 margin had a penalty stroke awarded to them in the first quarter not been declared void following video referral. The referee awarded a penalty stroke to India but the Malaysians took the video referral following which the decision was overturned. However, the disappointment did not affect the tempo of the India team, which went about its job in a calm and composed manner: India will next take on China on Monday. China had defeated India in the Hangzhou Asian Games semifinals, preventing them from securing a direct 2024 Paris Olympic qualification.

# India defeat hosts Malaysia 3-1



Sultan of Johor Cup Hockey

Johor Bahru, Oct 29 (PTI):

Goals from Aditya Lalage, Amandeep Lakra and Rohit helped Indian colts decimate hosts Malaysia 3-1 in the Sultan of Johor Cup tournament here on Saturday.

After drawing their opening match against Pakistan, the Uttam Singh-led India junior side was in its elements and took the lead in the 28th minute through Lalage, which was followed by goals from Amandeep (37th) and Rohit (54th) as the defending champions earned three full points.

India had a confident start with forward Angad Bir Singh leading the charge and working in tandem with Aditya to set up

goal-scoring chances. However, an alert Malaysian goalkeeper Rafaizul Mohamad kept India from taking an early lead. After a goalless first 10 minutes, Malaysia took the lead with a splendid goal from Suhaimi Irfan Shammie in the 13th minute. The first few minutes of the second quarter saw India create chances galore in the circle with Angad winning two back-to-back penalty corners.

However, India were not successful in converting them. India won three more penalty corners as the quarter progressed but the Malaysian defence kept the rivals at bay.

India finally scored the equaliser in the 28th minute when Lalage nudged in a blazing cross from Vishnukant Singh as the first half ended on equal terms.

# Bellingham's brace sees Real Madrid beat Barcelona 2-1

Barcelona, Oct 29 (AP):

Jude Bellingham won't forget his first "clasico" match for Real Madrid. And neither will Barcelona.

Already a fan favourite at Madrid, the young England midfielder established himself as its undisputed leader after he scored two goals, including an injury time winner, to almost single-handedly lead a 2-1 comeback victory at his team's fiercest rival on Saturday in the Spanish league.

"I had watched many clasicos from the sofa with my family, and I told them that today it was my turn to live it firsthand and do something great," Bellingham said. "I've done that and I'm very happy."

Bellingham continued his superb scoring form since joining Madrid this summer with 13 goals in as many games overall and a Spanish league-leading 10 goals after 11 rounds. He has blossomed into a clinical finisher since moving to Spain's capital. In all of last season he had 14 goals for former club Borussia Dortmund in Germany. Some space well outside



Real Madrid's English midfielder #5 Jude Bellingham celebrates with Real Madrid's German defender #22 Antonio Rudiger after scoring a goal.

the area was enough for Bellingham to blast in a superb equaliser in the 68th minute and cancel out Ilkay Gundogan's opener. And then Bellingham knew where to be in the final moments: in the heart

of the box to poach the winner when a deflected cross fell his way. "I don't know how to explain what Jude is doing," Luka Modric, who played his 500th game for Madrid, said about his new teammate.





### 'Will field properly and win on this pitch'

New Delhi, Oct 29 (PTI):

Once known for his stylish flicks and sharp catching on the cricket field, Mohammed Azharuddin has entered the electoral fray in Telangana as the Congress candidate from Jubilee Hills, saying he will bat aggressively and field properly to win on this new pitch.

A swashbuckling batsman from Hyderabad, Azhar made a mark in the cricketing arena with his inimitable swagger and stylish stroke play.

Like the explosive start he had to his cricketing ca-



Mohammed Azharuddin

reer with three back-to-back centuries, he also began his political innings with a win from Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad Lok Sabha seat in 2009.

He lost from Rajasthan's Tonk-Sawai Madhopur in 2014 and after waiting in the wings patiently he is now entering the state elec-

toral contest for the first time by seeking to wrest the Jubilee Hills constituency in the Secunderabad Lok Sabha segment from the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). In an interview with PTI, the former India cricket captain said he was yearning to contest from his home state and do something for the people of Telangana after being an MP from Uttar Pradesh and then unsuccessfully contesting the 2014 Lok Sabha polls from Tonk-Sawai Madhopur. "I was very happy to get the ticket this time from my own state. I

must thank my high command - Mallikarjun Kharge ji, Sonia Gandhi ji, Rahul ji, Priyanka ji and most importantly our PCC chief A Revanth Reddy - for giving me this opportunity. Insha Allah (God willing) we will try our best and win the election," said Azhar, who is a veteran of 99 Test matches and 334 One Day Internationals. The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee working president said, "Winds of change are blowing in Telangana in the Congress' favour and we will definitely prevail."

### Cong, BJP have fielded 29 relatives of leaders as candidates so far

Jaipur, Oct 29 (PTI):

The Congress and the BJP - the two main contenders in the November 25 assembly elections in Rajasthan - have fielded at least 29 candidates who are kin of leaders or belong to political families so far. Of the 200 assembly constituencies, the BJP has so far announced candidates for 124 seats and the ruling Congress 95.

Leaders of both the parties said they have taken

cautious steps to avoid any revolt within their respective parties, which could affect their prospects in the key elections.

#### RAJ POLLS

In its two lists of 124 candidates, the BJP has given tickets to at least 11 people who are family members of prominent leaders. The Congress, which has announced 95 candidates so far, has given tickets to 18 people hailing from political families.

The BJP list has several sons, daughters, granddaughters and daughter-in-laws of prominent leaders. It has given due attention to family members of leaders who died owing to health issues. The BJP has given a ticket to Ram Swaroop Lamba, the son of late MP Sanwar Lal Jat, to contest from the Nasirabad seat and Shailesh Singh, the son of late former state minister Digamber Singh,

from the Deeg-Kumher constituency.

The party has once again bet on Lamba who won the 2018 elections. He had also contested the Lok Sabha bypoll from Ajmer earlier and lost to Congress' Raghu Sharma by a margin of 80,000 votes.

The ruling Congress has also fielded a number of people with political background. Most of them also won the 2018 elections.

### 'No rift between me and Kamal Nath'

Bhopal, Oct 29 (PTI):

Ahead of the Madhya Pradesh assembly polls, senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Sunday denied having differences with state Congress president Kamal Nath and claimed such reports were a propaganda of the ruling BJP.

Singh in a statement noted several newspapers have claimed that he cancelled his visits to Jhabua and Khategaon due to his displeasure.

"The factionalism in the BJP is at its peak these days and to cover it up they are sponsoring and spreading false news of rift among Congress leaders, especially between Kamal Nath and me. Every leader of the Congress is united and determined to defeat the BJP," Singh said in a statement. The Rajya Sabha member further said he cancelled his Jhabua and



Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh during inauguration of the main election office of Congress candidate of Bhopal's South-West seat PC Sharma ahead of the state assembly elections, in Bhopal, Sunday.

Khategaon visits as the AICC general secretary wanted to discuss some issues of organisational and electoral importance.

There is "no factionalism" in the Congress, he asserted.

However, state BJP secretary Rajneesh Agrawal said differences between Nath and Singh were out in the open, as evident from a conversation between them which was

video recorded.

"It is clearly evident from recent events that Nath and his supporters wanted to keep Singh away from the campaigning and were sidelining him," Agrawal said.

He said Nath had openly asked to "tear" clothes of Singh when protests happened after ticket distribution. Singh then held Nath responsible for ticket distribution saying the electoral forms are signed by Nath, who is the state party chief, Agrawal pointed out.

"What else is needed to show differences between them," the BJP leader said. The Congress workers openly blackened the face of Singh's picture in posters and also burnt his effigy after being denied tickets, Agrawal said.

What does the BJP have to do with it? This all is happening in the Congress, by its leaders and workers, he added.

### 'Star campaigners like PM to boost BJP's T'gana polls campaign'

From Nov 3

Hyderabad, Oct 29 (PTI):

Telangana BJP will intensify its campaign from November 3 with rallies by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, party chief JP Nadda and several union ministers including Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah and Nitin Gadkari, state unit president G Kishan Reddy said on Sunday.

Speaking at the party office here, Reddy said BJP's announcement that it would pick a BC candidate for the chief minister's post in Telangana if it comes to power is a historic decision and a social revolution.

Recently at a poll rally in Telangana, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had said that the BJP would choose a leader from the Backward Class as chief minister in the state if the



G Kishan Reddy

party comes to power in the November 30 assembly elections.

"Modi who belongs to a poor family is Prime Minister of this country and offering great services to the nation," Reddy said, adding that people from various sections are appreciating his party's decision. He slammed Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao alleging that he had gone back on his promise to make a Dalit leader the CM of Telangana.

### 'Cong will fulfill six guarantees in T'gana'



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge during a public meeting in Sangareddy, Telangana, Sunday.

Hyderabad, Oct 29 (PTI):

Questioning who benefited under the Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao-led government in Telangana, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday assured that if the party comes to power in Telangana it will implement its six guarantees in the state.

Addressing a public

meeting in Sangareddy constituency in the run-up to the November 30 Assembly polls in Telangana, Kharge highlighted the six poll guarantees announced by the Congress in Telangana and urged the people to elect the grand old party in the state. He attacked Telangana Chief Minister Chandrasekhar Rao saying "KCR ji kept doing whatever he wanted and asked "who benefitted from it?"

"Did students, women and farmers benefit? That's why the Congress party is giving you six guarantees," he said. The Congress party has fulfilled the promises it made to the people of Karnataka, he said, adding "What we promise we deliver, but you promise only for votes and then go away."

Attacking BRS leaders for raising doubts about implementation of the five guarantees of Congress in Karnataka,

Kharge said Telangana Congress president A Revanth Reddy will arrange a luxury bus and take the BRS leaders to Karnataka and show them about implementation of the promises.

Accusing the BRS and the BJP of working together, Kharge said "BJP and Modi question what the Congress did in 70 years. And its 'B' team BRS is also saying the same thing.

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