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Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during his visit to Kedarnath, in Rudraprayag district, Sunday.

#### **Heavy rains**

Thiruvananthapuram: As heavy rains lashed parts of Kerala, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Sunday issued an orange alert in three districts of the state for the day. The IMD issued an orange alert for Pathanamthitta, Idukki and Malappuram districts.

#### Contract

■ Shillong: Emergency services provider Medulance on Sunday announced that it had bagged the contract to run the health emergency services in Meghalaya. Equipped with 5G smart-connected ambulances, Medulance aims to reduce response and real-time patient monitoring while being shifted to hospitals in the challenging landscape, officials said here.

#### Seize

**Barasat:** The BSF on Sunday seized 17 gold bars valued at Rs 10.23 crore from a motorcyclist in West Bengal's Bagdah area in North 24 Parganas today close to the Indo-Bangladesh border. The 27-year-old man was apprehended, the BSF said in a statement. Acting on a tip-off, the border guards stopped a motorcycle at Ranghat locality and, after searching the 27-year-old rider, found the gold bars weighing 16.7 kg wrapped in a cloth from near his waist.

#### Multiple injuries

■ New Delhi: A 25-vear-old man received multiple stab injuries on his neck and by two men in Delhi's Nihal Vihar, police said on Sunday. According to police, a PCR call was received on Saturday evening that a man received multiple stab injuries on his neck and hand after two men attacked him near Hanuman Mandir. "A police team was dispatched to the location, which got to know that the victim had been shifted to a hospital. He was identified as Hashim, a resident of Nagloi," said a senior police official.

#### Consecration

Ayodhya: The rituals for the consecration ceremony of Ram temple here began on Sunday with 'akshat puja'. The 'akshat puja' is being performed at the 'Ram Darbar' or court of Lord Ram in the temple with the worship of about 100 quintals of whole grain rice mixed with turmeric and desi ghee, the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust said.

#### **Campaigning**

Aizawi: Campaigning for the November 7 Mizoram assembly elections ended at 4pm on Sunday with no reports of any law and order problems throughout the month-long period, additional chief electoral officer H Lianzela said.



#### **'Bharose Ka Ghoshna Patra 2023-28'**

# Cong promises caste census, higher paddy procurement price

Raipur, Nov 05:

The Congress Sunday released its manifesto for the Chhattisgarh assembly polls, promising caste census, loan waiver to farmers, Rs 3,200 for per quintal for paddy procurement and subsidised cooking gas cylinders to women under a new scheme.

The ruling party in Chhattisgarh unveiled its manifesto titled 'Bharose ka Ghoshna Patra 2023-28' at six different places Raipur, Rajnandgaon, Jagdalpur, Bilaspur, Ambikapur Kawardha - two days before the first phase of the state polls.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel released the manifesto in Rajnandgaon while party's state in-



CM Bhupesh Baghel releases party's manifesto for the upcoming State Assembly elections during a press conference, in Raipur, Sunday.

charge Kumari Selja unveiled it in state capital

Promises including loan waiver to farmers, caste census, procurement of paddy at 20 quintal per acre, free education to students from KG (kindergarten) to PG (post graduation) made by Congress leaders during their poll campaign have been mentioned in the manifesto. Speaking at the launch

of the manifesto, CM Baghel said farmers will get Rs 3,200 per quintal for paddy, including input subsidy currently being given under the Rajiv Gandhi Nyay Yojna to paddy cultivators.

Tenu leaf collection will be done at Rs 6,000 per

# Salient features....

Loan waiver to farmers, caste census, procurement of paddy at 20 quintal per acre, free education to students from KG (kindergarten) to PG (post graduation). Tenu leaf collection will be done at Rs 6,000 per standard sack in place of the existing Rs 4,000 and tendu leaf collectors will additionally get an annual bonus of Rs 4,000. A Mahtari Nyay Yojana will be launched for mothers and sisters," under which a subsidy of Rs 500 per cooking gas cylinder will be given to women of all income groups. The subsidy will be directly deposited into the bank accounts of women.

the existing Rs 4,000 and tendu leaf collectors will additionally get an annual bonus of Rs 4,000, he said.

#### BJP sharpens attack

New Delhi, Nov 05 (PTI)

The BJP on Sunday sharpened its attack on Congress over Mahadev betting app and asked its former president Rahul Gandhi as well as Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to clarify their alleged links with the money transaction in



# Bihar survey inflated Muslim, Yadav numbers: Shah

Muzaffarpur, Nov 05 (PTI):

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday accused Bihar's Nitish Kumar government of deliberately showing inflated numbers of Muslims and Yadavs in the state's caste survey as part of its "appeasement politics" while giving a "raw deal" to backward classes as a whole.

Addressing a rally at Patahi in Muzaffarpur district, Shah also charged the Nitish Kumar government with "Muslim appeasement out that his party was sharing power with Nitish Kumar when the government in the state had ordered the caste survey.

that this could lead to "big trouble" in areas bordering Nepal and Bangladesh (seemant kshetra). Widely regarded as the BJP's princi-

"But we had no inkling what Nitish Kumar would do under pressure from (RJD president) Lalu Prasad. The population of Yadavs and Muslims has been inflated (abaadi badhaa kar dikha diya). And injustice (anyay) has been done to OBCs (pichhda) and EBCs (ati pichhda),'

pal strategist, Shah pointed

# PM visits Dongargarh, meets Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj

# 'Re-electing Cong and Baghel in Chh'garh a guarantee of loot'

Pendra, Nov 05:

BJP president JP Nadda on Sunday alleged Congress and corruption go hand in hand and said re-electing the ruling party in Chhattisgarh meant the "guarantee of

Addressing a public meeting in Pendra town in Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi (GPM) district two days ahead of the polling for the assembly elections, Nadda said the Congress indulges in corruption wherever it is in power. Targeting the Bhupesh Baghel government, he said, "They committed scams in liquor, rice, cow dung, teachers' transfer Public Service Commission recruitments. They did not even spare the name of Mahadev and com-SFJ LEADER'S THREAT

New Delhi, Nov 05:

Pannun, the founder of

the banned Sikhs for

Justice (SFJ), has released

a new video asking Sikhs

not to fly in Air India air-

craft after November 19, as

their lives can be under

He claimed that Air

India would not be allowed

to operate on November

19. "We are asking the Sikh

people not to fly via Air

India. From November 19,

there will be a global

blockade. Air India won't

be allowed to operate. Sikh

people, don't travel by Air

India after November 19.

Designated

Gurpatwant

threat.



JP Nadda

mitted a scam of Rs 5,000 crore (the alleged betting app scam). Asim Das informed that Rs 508 crore was given to Bhupesh Baghel for elections". Nadda's remarks came two days after the Enforcement Directorate, probing the Mahadev betting app 'scam', claimed that a forensic analysis and a statement made by a 'cash courier' had led to "startling allegations" that the betting

'Don't fly Air India after Nov 19'

Singh

app promoters paid about Rs 508 crore to Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel so far. The agency also said, "These are subject matter of investigation". Baghel has denied the allegations. The courier, Asim Das,

has been arrested by the ED after it recovered Rs 5.39 crore from him in the pollbound state, the federal had said. agency "Corruption and Congress are two sides of the same coin. Where there is Congress, there is corruption, deception and loot while where there is BJP. there is development and growth," the BJP chief said while campaigning for party candidates Prabal Pratap Singh Judev (Kota seat) and Marpachchi Pranav (Marwahi segment).

Rajnandgaon, Nov 05

Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday visited Dongargarh, a popular pilgrimage spot, in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandagon district and met Jain seer Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj.

The PM also offered

**POLL PREPARATIONS** 

Bamleshwari Temple, located on the foot of a hill in Dongargarh in the pollbound state. In the morning, Modi arrived at Gondia airport in Maharashtra and travelled from there by a helicopter. "Feeling blessed to receive the blessings of Shri Acharya



Vidhyasagar Ji Maharaj at Chandragiri Jain Mandir Dongargarh, Chhattisgarh," Modi said in a post on X. The state BJP

unit in a post on X said, "PM Narendra Modi offered prayers Bamleshwari temple and wished for the prosperity and happiness of the country." Modi was accompanied by former state chief minister Raman Singh.

Polling to the 90-member state assembly will be held in two phases on November 7 and 17. Dongargarh assembly constituency is among the 20 seats which will go to polls in the first phase on November 7.

#### **AIR QUALITY CRISIS**

#### Delhi bans entry of trucks, commercial vehicles

New Delhi, Nov 05 (PTI)

The Centre on Sunday ordered a ban on construction work related to linear public projects in Delhi-NCR and the entry of polluting trucks and commercial four-wheelers into the capital as an air quality crisis gripped the region.

These measures constitute the final stage, Stage IV, of the Centre's air pollution control plan, which is activated at least three days before the Air Quality Index surpasses the 450 mark in the capital. However, proactive im-

happen this time. The CAQM, a statutory body responsible for formulating strategies to combat pollution in the region, asked Delhi and NCR states to im-

plement all emergency measures, which also include work-from-home directives for 50 per cent of staff in government and private offices. Under the final stage (Stage IV) of the Graded Response Action Plan, only CNG, electric. and BS VI-compliant vehicles from other states are allowed to enter Delhi, with exemptions granted to those involved in essential

#### plementation could not BSF jawan on poll duty killed in

#### Modi govt's fight against corruption 'nautanki': Kejriwal Chandigarh, Nov 05 (PTI) who have been nabbed by

**Gurpatwant Singh Pannun** 

Your life can be in danger,'

Pannun said in the video

that is circulating on so-

Pannun claimed that

Delhi's Indira Gandhi

Airport would remain

shut on November 19 and

that its name would be

cial media.

International

AAP national convener Kejriwal on Arvind Sunday dubbed Narendra Modi government's fight against corruption a 'nautanki', saying those whom the BJP accuses of wrongdoing are rewarded with ministerial berths upon joining the party.

Addressing a party event in Haryana's Rohtak, the Delhi chief minister also said that if someone has committed a "huge sin or a crime" and joins the BJP, the officials of the Central Bureau of Investigation, the Enforcement Directorate



during a public meeting, in Rohtak, Sunday.

Income Department will never dare to even touch that person.

"Who are the corrupt? The corrupt are not those who have been nabbed by the ED and sent behind bars. The corrupt are those who joined the BJP due to ED's scare. Those

the ED, but did not join the BJP, are fiercely honest. Because they know today or tomorrow they will come out," the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader said.

in Jagdalpur, Sunday.

"But those who indulge in dishonesty, know that if they are arrested they will have to go to jail for life and immediately join the BJP. So, understand who is corrupt and who is honest," Kejriwal said.

The ED had recently summoned Kejriwal for questioning in the alleged Delhi excise policy case and to record his statement under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

# DOCTORS' WARN 'Air pollution affects brain'

Police personnel conduct a flag march ahead of the Chhattisgarh Assembly elections,

New Delhi, Nov 05 (PTI)

As severely-polluted air has choked Delhi, doctors in the city have warned people, saying air pollution affects not just the lungs, but also other major organs, such as the heart and the brain, across all age groups. There has been a sudden increase in cases of headache, anxiety, irritation, confusion and decrement of cognitive abilities, especially among the vulnerable populations such as the elderly, schoolgoing children and pregnant women, Dr Neeraj Gupta, head of the pulmonary medicine department at the Safdarjung Hospital, told PTI.

#### accidental grenade explosion Dantewada, Nov 05:

A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan deployed on election duty was killed after a grenade in his possession accidentally exploded in Dantewada district on Sunday, police

The blast occurred when a team of the BSF's 70th battalion stationed at Katekalyan police station for poll duty was about to launch a search operation, an official here said.

The patrolling team was moving out of the police station premises when a hand grenade kept in a pouch worn by head constable Balbeer Chand ex-

#### **About the incident**

The blast occurred when a team of the BSF's 70th battalion stationed at Katekalyan police station for poll duty was about to launch a search operation. The patrolling team was moving out of the police station premises when a hand grenade kept in a pouch worn by head constable Balbeer Chand exploded. Chand was seriously injured and immediately shifted to the Dantewada district hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

ploded, he said. Chand was seriously injured and immediately shifted to the Dantewada district hospital, where doctors de-

cial said. Chand was a resident of Himachal Pradesh, and his family members have been informed about the incident, he said. An accidental death report has been registered, and further probe is underway, he added. Dantewada is among 20

clared him dead, the offi-

assembly constituencies which will go to polls in the first phase of the twophased elections on November 7. Additional paramilitary forces have been deployed in the Dantewada assembly segment, one of the 12 constituencies in the Naxalite-hit Bastar divi-

# Mega Jail Lok Adalat held in Central Jail Durg



Central Chronicle News

constituted for the State Level Mega Jail Lok Bhilai, Nov 05: As per Adalat. Santosh Kumar Thakur (Chief Judicial the instructions of Chhattisgarh State Legal Magistrate, Durg). Sarojini Janardan Khare Authority, Services (II ADDL. JUDGE TO Bilaspur and under the THE COURT OF I CIVIL guidance of District and Sessions Judge Neeta JUDGE CLASS-I, DURG) (Chairman and Dilli Singh Baghel (V District Legal Services CIVIL JUDGE CLASS-I, Authority, Durg), "State DURG) presided over the Level Mega Jail Lok benches. Adalat" was organized on Sunday at Central Jail Durg. The lok adalat

Deepak Kumar Nikunj Bhilainagar/ Chhawani) and Ashish ommenced at 11.00 am. Dahriya (Secretary, Different benches were District Legal Services Authority, Durg) chaired the benches formed for disposing of the cases of prohibitory sections. On behalf of Central Jail Durg, RR Rai (Jail Superintendent, Durg), Shyamlal Thakur Superintendent, Central

Jail Durg) and other employees / staff of the jail were present. On this occasion, the Judicial Officers and

Secretary of District

Legal Services Authority,

Durg, provided informa-

tion to the prisoners about plea-bargaining, under trial review committee and many legal aspects of easy disposal of the cases of under trial prisoners. The District Legal Services Authority is always there to cooperate as per the law every prisoner de-

tained in the jail. In the State Level Mega Jail Lok Adalat held at the Central Jail Durg, the cases of prisoners pending in the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate / Judicial Magistrate First Class in which the prisoners have admitted the crime (Plead Guilty) and pleabargaining and compoundable cases were re-

02 division benches were formed in the District Court and 01 division bench of the Revenue Court. A total of 36 cases were resolved in the division benches, which included 29 cases of the Court and 07 cases of the Revenue Court.

# **ED raids three houses in Supela**

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Bhilai, Nov 05: On

Sunday, teams of the Directorate Enforcement conducted raids in three houses located in Maitri Vihar Colony of Supela in connection with the money laundering case associated with Mahadey Book Betting App. The team reached Supela in the wee hours of Sunday and conducted searches at three houses.

Retired elderly couples reside in two of the houses while a family resides in the third house. According to information, the ED team was unable to recover any significant evidence or proceeds of crime from these houses.

According to information, ED conducted searches at the residence of retired BSP employee Shrikant Musle, retired BSP teacher Unninayan as well as a house named Mustafa Manzil located near Dau Bada in Supela. All the three houses are lo-

cated within a radius of

The ED officials questioned the people residing in the houses about the Mahadev Book Betting App and some close aides of the Chhattisgarh Chief Minister. Later the teams

# returned back. According

100 meters.

to unconfirmed reports, the children of these elderly couples reside in Mumbai and Dubai and are allegedly involved in operations of Mahadev Book Betting

# Second randomization of EVMs held

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commenced at 11.00 am.

Bhilai, Nov 05: Under Assembly Elections 2023, EVMs were randomised Assembly Constituency No 62 Patan, 63 Durg Rural, 64 Durg City, 65 Bhilai Nagar, 66 Vaishali Nagar, 67 Ahiwara. The second randomization was done in the meeting room of the District Collectorate, Durg in the presence of

During this process, Collector and District Election Officer Pushpendra Kumar

the representatives of po-

litical parties.

Collector and Deputy District Election Officer Bajrang Dubey and all the returning officers and representatives of political parties (INC) Anil, CPI (M) Jagannath Prasad, (JCP) Bhileshwar Kumar Bharti, (Independents) Kumar Joshi. Arun Indrani Bai, Ramratan Shah, Shatruhan Prasad, Kumar Banjare, Gajendra Patel, Govind Dewangan, (Shakti Sena) Ashok Tamrakar, (BJP) Premchand Dewangan, (BMM) RS Naidu, (INC) Srivastava, Sandeep (Godwana Gadtantra Party) Manharan Singh

Thakur, (Chhattisgarh

Swabhiman Shankar Lal Sahu, BJP Bhojraj, Janata Congress Amit Kumar, Rashtriya Jan Sabha Party - Jugal Prasad Joshi, INC - Keshav Harmukh, Radheshyam Ramjoginder, Sori. Bharatiya Chetna Party -Harendra Prasad, Nyaya Dharma Sabha - Dr Anju Soni, Ram Manohar Agrawal, Anand, Gajendra Congress Kumar Sahu, Khomendra Kumar Sahu, Harish, Congress Dhalesh Sahu, API Pushpa Marissa and BSP - Delisha Rani Lahare

Dr Shrivastava's Riveting Talk Sparks Cancer Awareness organised at CCET

Bhilai, Nov 05: In an insightful session held at Christian College of Engineering and Technology, Dr Atul Shrivastava, MD, Head of the Department of Radiation and Medical Oncology at BSP Bhilai, delivered a guest lecture on cancer awareness. The event, held on November 02, 2023, attracted a diverse audience comprising students, faculty, and staff.

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The lecture delved into the critical aspect of early detection, shedding light on common symptoms and the significance of self-examinations, regular check-ups, and screenings. Dr Shrivastava also provided a



comprehensive overview of various treatment options, including surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, immunotherapy, and targeted therapy. Emphasising personalised treatment plans, he underscored the need for tailored approaches to individual patients. One of the notable elements of the event was the interactive Q&A session, allowing attendees to engage directly with Dr Shrivastava, clarifying doubts and gaining deeper insights. The emotional and psychological dimensions of cancer were not overlooked, with the speaker highlighting the necessity of support systems and counselling services for patients and their families. The lecture's positive impact resonated with the audience, leaving them with valuable knowledge on cancer prevention and treatment strategies.

**Executive Vice-Chairman Dr** Fr PS Varghese and Principal Dr Dipali Soren addressed the gathering, expressing gratitude for the enlightening session. The event was concluded by Lincy Mendonza, who extended a vote of thanks, appreciating Dr Shrivastava's expertise and the audience's active participation. The occasion served as a commendable effort in fostering awareness and understanding of crucial aspects related to cancer within the Christian College of

#### **Second random**ization of polling parties conducted

Bhilai. Nov 05: Under the

Assembly Elections 2023 the second randomization of the voting parties for assembly constituency number 62 Patan, 63 Durg Rural, 64 Durg City, 65 Bhilai Nagar, 66 Vaishali Nagar, 67 Ahiwara was held in the meeting room the District Collectorate, Durg. It was conducted in the presence of Collector and District Election Pushpendra Kumar Meena, Chief Executive Officer District Panchayat Ashwani Dewangan Additional Collector and Deputy District Election Officer Bajrang Dubey and all returning officers and employees were present.

# Vig-Quest-2023 Mega Quiz organised



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 05: Mega Quiz Competition named 'Vig-Quest-2023' was organized for the BSP employees, by Bhilai Steel Vigilance Department in associawith HRD Department, at HRD Centre. The objective of this quiz competition was

Employees with an opportunity to enhance their knowledge and awareness on India's anti-corruption organizations and agencies like CVC, CBI, various anti-corruption drives and its functions, Systems, Procedures, Rules/ Regulations of such Organisations, along with the knowledge of ISO

37001:2016 standard (ABMS), PCP-2020, SAIL CDA Rules etc.

As many as 17 Teams from various departments of the Plant, took part in the competition, besides a large number of highly motivated and enthusiastic spectators to witness the programme. A screening round was held for all the participating teams,

followed by selection of top six teams for the Mega Finale. Vikas Piprani, AGM (SP-III) and Ashish Agrawal, AGM (T&D) were the Quiz Masters of the Vig Quest-2023.

comprising Team Nivesh Vijayan, Mgr (Pers), and K Venkat Prasad Rao, JSA (Gen Estt) won the Quiz, while team comprising Harpreet Singh, GM (Projects) and Prabha Nair, Section Officer (Purchase) and Team comprising Umesh Malayath AGM (OP-2) and KP Krishnan C/M cum OCT (CAS & CWP) were the 1st and 2nd Runnerups respectively. Three consolation prizes and various audience prizes were also awarded on the spot during the Vig\_Quest-2023. Subhash Patel, AGM (HRD) compered the pro-

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Bhilai, Nov 05: The

Valedictory Ceremony of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's

Vigilance Awareness

Week-2023, was organised

at the HRDD Conference

Hall on November 04,

2023. The objective of this

week-long programme

was to increase public

awareness about the per-

ils of corruption. Anirban

Dasgupta, Director I/c

(BSP) was the Chief

Ceremony began with the

lighting of a Ceremonial

Lamp and paying floral

Tributes to Sardar Vallabh

Bhai Patel, in the presence

of Anjani Kumar, ED

(Works), S Mukhopadhyay,

ED (Projects), AK Chakraborty, ED (MM), Dr

AK Panda, ED (F&A),

Pawan Kumar, ED (P & A),

BK Giri, ED (Mines), Dr

Ravindranath M, CMO I/c

(M&HS), CGM I/cs, CGMs,

Valedictory

Guest on this occasion.



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 05: The 16th remembrance of late glorified His Grace Dr Stephanos Theodosios, former Metropolitan of Calcutta Diocese will be celebrated on November 4-5t at St Thomas Ashram, Bhilai.

The late Dr Stephanos Mar Theodosius, was the North Indian Missionary Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church and the founder director of the Bhilai Mission. The 16th anniversary Stephanos Theodosios will be celebrated in Bhilai St Thomas

Ashram where the Bishop

entombed. On October 29 morning, the Holy Mass was presided over by the present Metropolitan of Calcutta Diocese, Bishop Alexios Mar Eusebis, followed by flag hoisting for

Vigilance Awareness Week concludes at Bhilai Steel Plant



the week-long feast.

On November 3, His Holiness the Catholicos arrived in Raipur the capital city of Chhattisgarh State, from Kottayam, Kerala. His Holiness was given a cordial welcome at the airport and a grand reception at St Mary's Orthodox Church, Raipur. By 15:00 hrs His Holiness arrived at St Thomas Ashram, Kailash Nagar, the Diocesan Centre. A grand

ganized at the centre followed by St Thomas College, Raubandha and MGM Senior Secondary School, Sector 6, Bhilai.

His Holiness Catholicos

was the Chief Guest at the 51st Jubilee celebrations of Bhilai Mission at Bhilai St Thomas Ashram Courtyard on November 4. A Diocesan level reception was also be accorded to His Holiness on this occasion.

# Opponents attempting character assassination with morphed video: Devendra

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 05: On Sunday, Bhilai Nagar MLA and Congress candidate Devendra Yadav alleged that his opponents are attempting to spoil his character by circulating a morphed obscene video on social media platforms. He asserted that his opponents are practicing the lowest level of politics to win the elections.

"After levelling baseless allegations through the central agencies, now a fake video is being circulated to tarnish my image", he said while addressing media persons here at Sector 5 on

With eyes full of tears,



Devendra said that he is a family man and is very shocked after coming to know about the morphed video. He informed that a police complaint has been made and during investigations it was discovered that the video has its first

origin from Hyderabad. It was first sent to a social media group of some youth in Risali. The mobile number which was used to first send this video has been switched off for the past several months. He alleged that with the elections coming closer, the workers of BJP are spreading this video on social media platforms for political gains.

He further said that in today's era of artificial intelligence, it has become very easy to make such morphed videos. Devendra said that the citizens will never tolerate such sordid conspiracies and give a befitting reply in the upcoming elections.

GMs and other Senior Officials from BSP's various departments. Special Guest Satyabrata Kar, GM (Vigilance) & ACVO delivered the Welcome Address on this occasion. A group of BSP-employees Plant's various departments presented a Short Play featuring evil practices of corruption at various levels in society and the ways of curbing the same, and a debate was also presented by the winner stu-



Vigilance Awareness Week-2023. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) in his address congratulated the SAIL-Vigilance Department and entire BSP Collective for the Antifrom bribery Certification to BSP. Dasgupta also appreciated the Short play presented by BSP-Employees, and students for presenting the debate, which illustrated the ill effects of corruption on society and dents of Debate competi-Organization. It is not the tion held at SSS-7 under



major hindrance in a nation's progress, but sometimes immorality in our own behaviour also becomes a major reason. A wrong committed or a lie spoken against the nation's Management interest can never be acceptable, therefore, it is necessary to adopt a policy of zero tolerance against corruption, so that we make our country a truly developed nation. For this everyone's contribution is necessary. We should always be alert and vigilant corruption alone which is a everywhere, whether it is

about safety, or be it a matter of production or maintenance, Dasgupta said. The Valedictory Ceremony Programme was compered by Md Naushad Alam, AGM (Vigilance), while Aniket Sul Ojha, GM (Vigilance) proposed the Vote of thanks. This year's theme for Vigilance Awareness Week was "Say no to corruption; commit to the Nation", which was chosen by the Central Vigilance Commission, the apex anti-corruption body in the country.

Vigilance Awareness Week is one of the tools of the Central Vigilance Commission in increasing public awareness about the perils of corruption. The 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 is observed.

# - A II B'-1 -- A

# 'Ram Temple construction in Ayodhya will be start of 'Ram Rajya' in country'

Sukma, Nov 05 (PTI): The construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya will be the beginning of 'Ram Rajya' in the country, where there will be no discrimination on the basis of caste and religion, claimed Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday.

He also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation of 'Ram Rajya', a term generally used from ancient times to denote the highest level of benevolent governance, during his nineand-half-year-old rule at the Centre through schemes related to housing for the poor, toilets, tap water and health insurance. Addressing a rally in Konta in poll-bound Chhattisgarh, he also accused the ruling Congress under Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel of encouraging "love jihad" and religious conversions.

"Construction of the Ram Temple will be completed in January in Ayodhya. People of Chhattisgarh should be more happy than UP with this as Chhattsigarh is the 'nanihal' (maternal place) of Lord Ram. (Completion of ) construction of Ram Temple in Ayodhya will be



UP CM Yogi Adityanath during a public meeting ahead of Chhattisgarh Assembly elections, at Sukma in Bastar district.

here is silent on activities

like love jihad and reli-

gious conversion. It is en-

couraging such activities

in every way. This is not a

government but a prob-

"The Congress has be-

come a problem in itself.

Get rid of this problem as

soon as possible and sup-

port us in realising the

dreams of Chhattisgarh,"

he urged the crowd.

the beginning of proclamation of Ram Rajya in the country," he said.

"Ram Rajya means a rule where there will be no discrimination on the basis of caste and religion. Benefits of schemes will reach everyone, including the poor, deprived and tribals. Everyone gets security, facilities and rights on resources. This is Ram Rajya,"

Adityanath asserted. The Congress put up hurdles in the construction of the Ram Temple, the UP CM alleged.

Targeting the Congress dispensation in the state, Adityanath said. "The government

Love jihad is a term used by right wing activists to allege a conspiracy by Muslim men to convert Hindu women by luring them into marriage.

Adityanath also accused the Baghel government of indulging in scams in coal, liquor, mining and in recruitment carried out through the Public Service Commission.

Konta is among the 20 seats that will go to polls in the first phase in Chhattisgarh on November 7. The BJP had pitted Soyam Muka against Congress MLA and minister Kawasi Lakhma.

Campaigning for the first phase of polls will end at 5pm on Sunday.

The second phase of polls for the 70 seats in the 90-member House will take place on November 17, while results will be declared on December 3.

# District Admn organizes 'SVEEP Women's Car Rally'

CEO Reena Baba Saheb Kangale leads the convoy of cars

Cars decorated with excellent voting message awarded

Raipur, Nov 05: Hundreds of women car drivers including Chief Electoral Officer of Chhattisgarh Reena Baba Saheb Kangale participated in the women car rally organized in Raipur under the voter awareness program "SVEEP". Women drivers of cars with excellent decorations and messages were also honoured in this women's car rally convoy organized under the guidance of Collector and District Returning Officer Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure.

An appeal was made through the car rally to the common voters to vote in the assembly elections to be held on 17th November. All departments of the district administration, women office bearers of local voluntary and social organizations and observers from the Election Commission of India participated in this



event.

Chief Electoral Officer of Chhattisgarh Mrs. Reena Baba Saheb Kangale herself led the convoy by holding the steering wheel in this women's car rally organized by Raipur District Administration for voter awareness. During the rally, the women riding in the jeep with her were seen on loudspeakers all the way appealing to the voters to vote on November 17.

Enthusiasm was writ large on the faces of the women participating in the sweep car rally. Women decorated their cars themselves and started visiting BTI since morning. As they started reaching the ground, they were accompanied by their families and friends giving the message of voter awareness.

Apart from giving attractive

decorations to their cars,

women themselves also partic-

ipated in the rally in traditional attire. Apart Chhattisgarhi costumes, women reached the rally like brave women wearing Maharashtrian, Bengali, Odissi, South Indian, Gujarati, traditional attire and turbans. They were seen giving the message of voting by dancing and doing Zumba on the election song "Main Bharat Hoon" at BTI Ground. Akhtar Qureshi, who was paralyzed for a long time, also came during this car rally to motivate everyone to vote. 80-year-old Akhtar participated in this rally carrying the national flag with him. Appreciating his courage, CEO Mrs Kangale not only included him in the car rally but also honored him at the Science College grounds, the concluding venue of the car rally.

About 200 cars including vintage cars like Rolls Royce, open gypsy, jeep along with electric car and e-rickshaw participated in the SVEEP Women's Car Rally. Mrs Anupama Tiwari got the first prize for excellent car decoration and message. Second prize was given to e-car and erickshaw. Mrs. Alka Tyagi got third prize. CEO Mrs Kangale rewarded these women and appreciated everyone for their active participation.

Election Commission of India Observer, Collector Dr Bhure, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Mayank Chaturvedi, District Panchayat CEO Abinash Mishra, Assistant Inspector General of Police Sanjay Sharma, Additional Commissioner of Municipal Corporation Abhishek Agrawal and others were presents.



# Campaign for first phase of voting ends

223 candidates from 20 assembly seats in fray

**Raipur, Nov 05:** The first phase of Chhattisgarh Assembly Elections 2023 is to be held on November 7. Elections are going to be held in 20 assembly seats in the first phase. At the same time, after 5 pm today, campaigning in the polling areas has stopped. Now campaigning on public platforms will be prohibited 48 hours before the closing time of voting.

As many as 223 candidates are in fray in 20 assembly constituencies in the first phase. Of them 198 are men and 25 are women. For the first phase, 40 lakh 78 thousand 681 voters will exercise their franchise. Among them are 19 lakh 93 thousand 937 male voters, 20 lakh 84 thousand 675 female voters and 69 third gender voters. A total of 5304 polling stations have been set up for the first phase of elections.

Of the 20 assembly constituencies in the first phase, voting will be held in ten assembly constituencies from 7 am to 3 pm and in ten assembly constituencies from 8 am to 5 pm. Voting will be held from 8 am to 5 pm in Pandaria, Kawardha, Khairagarh, Dongargarh, Rajnandgaon, Dongargaon, Khujji, Bastar, Jagdalpur and Chitrakote assembly constituencies. In Mohla-Manpur, Antagarh, Bhanupratappur, Kanker, Keshkal, Kondagaon, Narayanpur, Dantewada, Bijapur and Konta assembly constituencies, voting will be held from 7 am to 3 pm.

## CGST team nabs Singhal for availing input tax credit worth Rs 6.18 cr

From fake non-existent firms through fake invoices

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Nov 05: Based on intelligence that M/s Lavanya Traders, Raipur are engaged in large scale evasion of GST by way of availing and utilizing fake ITC without receipt of any underlying goods or services, the officials of Fake Invoice & Prosecution Cell, CGST & Central Excise

Prosecution Cell, CGST & Central Excise Raipur carried out search operation at the premises of the above said firm.

The investigation revealed that Rahul Singhal authorized person of M/s Lavanya Traders looks after the key affairs of the firm and is involved in availing fake input tax credit. He had availed Input Tax Credit amounting to Rs 6.18 crores from non-existent firms who have generated fake invoices without supplying any underlying goods and services.



Accused had availed/passed on fake input tax credit (without receipt/supply of any underlying goods and services) for payment of their outward GST liability.

Accordingly, Rahul Singhal was arrested on Nov 5 by Central GST team under provisions of section 69(1) of CGST Act 2017 and has been produced before the Economic Offence court and Hon Court has granted judicial

custody of the accused. In the past also CGST Raipur has taken strict enforcement action taken against tax evaders specifically against taxpayers involved in business of bogus billing, informs Md. Abu Sama (IRS), Commissioner, CGST Raipur, in a press re-



Honda Exclusive Authorized Dealerships: AARANG: V Shree Honda - 9993908971, 9893728947; AMBUKAPUR: Mahamaya Honda - 7489027000, 7489025000; Jasyamii Honda - 07774-224466, 8358065000. 8358065000. 8058065000. 9993883343; RAJPUR: Max Mahamaya Honda - 9424259688; BARADWAR: Sanpati Honda - 9009328680; BALRAMPUR: Mainshree Honda - 808554030; AKALTARA: Bhagwell Honda - 9827527016; 9425229083; BARADWAR: Sanpati Honda - 7974875687; BHILAI: Artaal Honda 9589090022/26/29, 9589090024/27; Asn Honda (Nehrunagur) - 9826535600, 0788-4013338; CHARDDA: Rahul Honda - 9827193194; CHARDMA: Neeraj Honda - 9425230052; UTAL Garpeti Honda - 09926083389; BILASPUR: Dream Honda - 07752-400957, 07752-400957 1926802408; Maosaji Honda - 07752-412020, 7024149881; KOTA: Prakash Hunda- 9826417995; BALDDA BAZAR: Kiran Honda - 7049518181, 8839950369; GR Htt: Subhkamuna Auto -7389320271; HHATAPARA: Kirun Honda - 91113532922; PALARI: Stri Ram Honda 8305759763; BAIKUNTNPUR: Priemilia Honda - 7000405012, 9754679867; DORGARGARH: Gagan Honda - 9806869214; DHAMTARI: Shrishyam Honda - 07722-233255, 9827900750; DURG: Shree Sairem Honda - 0788-4017746, 9827349450; Dharamsheela Honda (Bhamidha) - 9303035678, GUYDERDEHI: Sapan Rocks - 7354340000, 0768-2628333; JASDALPUR: Waheguru Honda - 7587006395, 9425590501, 8435090001; JANJGIR CHAMPA: Gattani Honda - 07817-222396, 7694011206, 7694011206; Shubh Honda (Baloda) - 8574921111; KC Honda (Champa) - 8319235702, DALLIRA, MARA: Shri Subh Hooda - 7748265747, 9406062344; Shri Subh Honda (Balod) 9425564232, 9584077772; KORBA: Vienal Honda - 07759-222509, 9479025937, 7987973739; Krishia Korba Honda - 7747015377, 6232103020 6232103021; JP Honda (Hardi Bazar) - 9826129114; Ashwesi Honda (Urga) - 6232103023; Bharut Honda - 8720008800, 9644659600; LORMIT: Mahemaya Honda - 8720084342; DIPKA: Kamal Honda - 9111144667; XANKER; Shivsath Honda - 8720008800, 9644659600; LORMIT: Mahemaya Honda - 968610000; LARLUMBIA: Attal Honda - 9424188280; MANASAMUHD: Sri Ayan Honda - 8120070000, 08964022000; SARAIPALI: 8889798000; MAGBHARA: Sri Sai Honda - 7697767777; MASTURII: Refuil Honda - 9068619245, 7898410560; PALI: Mahemaya Honda - 969619245, 7898410560; PALI: Mahemaya Honda - 969619245, 7898410560; PALI: Mahemaya Honda - 969619245, 7898410560; PALI: Mahemaya Honda - 8720008800; PALI: Mahemaya Honda - 969619245, 7898410560; PALI: Mahemaya 8770804342; PERDRA BOAD: Dev Hondia - 9752998221; RAIGARH: Sharida Hondia - 8103664400. 9300473589; Shariji Auto Hondia - 9343609281; DHARAMJAKKARH: Harsh Hondia - 9424180180; PATHALGAON: Dinesh Hondia - 9993199807; PAMILARIH: Gautaim Hondia - 8962109746; JASHPUIL: Dec Narayun Honda - 9425251702, 9406108464; RATANPUIL: Sunil Honda - 9893354893; PARIDUKA (GARIJARAND); Siresth Honda - 8109902966; RAIPUIR: A City Honda - 8871906000; G.K Honda - 8058254444, 9826142444; Grand Honda - 8889663336 Varum Hondia - 9977248100, A City Honda (Bhatagaon) - 9644132000; A City Honda (Bhatagaon) - 9644132000; A City Honda (Bhatagaon) - 9644132000; A City Honda (Bhatagaon) - 965460474; RAJIM, Gulab Hondia - 9839708788; BERGAON Vishwanath Honda - 9300133077; FINGESHWAR: Bangsill Hondia - 91744-223333, 8435999991; 8435999992; Rakesh Honda - 97744-223100, 9425559359, 9303730201; Mannay Hondia - 97744-223333, 8435999991; 8435999992; Rakesh Honda - 97744-223100, 9425559359, 9303730201; Mannay Hondia - 97744-223333, 8435999991; 8435999992; Rakesh Hondia - 97744-223100, 9425559359, 9303730201; Mannay Hondia - 97744-223333, 8435999991; 8435999992; Rakesh Hondia - 97744-223100, 9425559359, 9303730201; Mannay Hondia - 97744-223100, 9425559359, 9303730201; Mannay Hondia - 97744-223100, 9425559359, 9303730201; Mannay Hondia - 97744-223100, 942559359, 9303730201; Mannay Hondia - 9774 (Dongarhgaon) - 9893419781, 8815055550; Ashirwad Honda (Churlya) - 9826338415, 94242157777; RAMANUJGANJ: Vikas Honda - 9755834780; RAH00: Shri Balaji Honda - 9977311242; SAKTI: Maa Durga Honda - 9685927215; SHEON SARANGARHI, Akshat Hondu - 9406353035; SITAPUN: Akshat Hondu - 9617378901; PRATAPUR; Shri Bunbhori Hondu - 8120806101; SURAJPUR: Shri Om Hondu - 9826784095; 9926684331; TLDA: Agrawal Hondu - 9424200104; KONDAGAON: Danteshwori Hondu - 9294568660; TAPKARA: Jindal Hondu - 9406384666; KUHKURI: Mansharam Hondu - 8103798783; SARAGAON: Shri Shyam Hondu - 9406384666; KUHKURI: Mansharam Hondu - 9867224777; KURUD: Shri Shyam Hondu - 9754123000; MANDRI MASAGD: Gurukrips Hondu - 9827892427; B K Hondu - 9867224777; KURUD: Shri Shyam Hondu 07705223590,8817898279; DHARSIVA: R S. Honda - 96795628; DONDEKHI Spring Honda - 8871233553; SARSIVA: Karisk Honda - 887123355; SARSIVA: Karisk Honda - 8871233553; SARSIVA: Karisk Honda - 8871233553; SARSIVA: K Yash Honda - 9826146586, KHARSIA: Balaji Hooda - 8269515770; WADRUFINACIAR: KP Auto - 9826881578, CHUIKHADAN: Shri Radhey Honda - 9691692500; PRAAASSAON: Shri Dee Honda - 9993861735; GUNUR: Baba Honda - 9827936712; KESHKAL: Chattishgarh Honda 9993293467; KNAIRABARN: Akshat Honda - 9406534734; NAWABARN: Raja Honda - 9826067896; SUKMA: Akash Honda - 9424287457; PANDARIYA: Shiri Balsa Honda - 7393330099; TAKHATPUR: Dream Honda - 9303005917; 8839264059; TILHA: Sai Honda - 9179256022 9827138322: KAWARDHA: Printis Honds - 740055099, 7400540099, NAURI: Natia Honds - 9424211105, MAGALDAD: Devisiogen Huniss - 9998136447; PAKRANJUIL Disha Honds - 6281866932, 9406453880; AMBACARRI CHOWKI: Natia Honds - 6719811000, 9165143484; SARAIPALI: Pukraj Honds - 8889789000, 9977045800; BILASPUR SAKRII, Dreich Honds - 7024806222; BIJAPUR; Arsh Honds - 70752-417070, 417171, 9109690484; GAURELLA: Shyam Honds - 7024806222; BIJAPUR; Arsh Honds - 70752-417070, 417171, 9109690484; GAURELLA: Shyam Honds - 7084806222; BIJAPUR; Arsh Honds - 70752-417070, 417171, 9109690484; GAURELLA: Shyam Honds - 7084806222; BIJAPUR; Arsh Honds - 70752-417070, 417171, 9109690484; GAURELLA: Shyam Honds - 7084806222; BIJAPUR; Arsh Honds - 70752-417070, 417171, 9109690484; GAURELLA: Shyam Honds - 7084806222; BIJAPUR; Arsh Honds - 70752-417070, 417171, 9109690484; GAURELLA: Shyam Honds - 7084806222; BIJAPUR; Arsh Honds - 70752-417070, 417171, 9109690484; GAURELLA: Shyam Honds - 7084806222; BIJAPUR; Arsh Honds - 7084806222; BIJAPUR; Arsh Honds - 70752-417070, 417171, 9109690484; GAURELLA: Shyam Honds - 7084806222; BIJAPUR; Arsh Honds - 7 WARA: Kabiram Honda - 8319225193; Shree Sairam Honda (Risall) - 882355333; DANTEWADA: Areh Honda - 700036031; WEHRIJ MASAR: Aan Honda - 858102099) M

# Chhath Puja to begin with 'Nhay Khay' on Nov 17

Chhath festival, also known as Surva Shasthi, will commence with "Nhay Khay" ritual across the country on November 17. Addressing a press conference at Babylon Tower in Raipur city on Sunday, Chief of the Chhath Puja Organising Committee Rajesh Kumar Singh said that the four-day Chhath festival would be celebrated with great zeal and traditional fervour from November 17 to 20. People in large number will gather at Mahadev Ghat, along Kharun River to celebrate Chhath festival this year. People, who migrated from Bihar and eastern Pradesh Chhattisgarh, celebrate Chhath Puja in Raipur, Bilaspur. Bhilai. Jagdalpur, Korba and

He further said that that the Chhath festival is dedicated to the Sun God and his sister Chhathi Maiva in order to thank them for bestowing the bounties of life on earth and to request the granting of certain wishes. The rituals of the

other parts of the state.



for long periods of time,

and offering prasad and

arghya to the setting and

rising Sun. Some devotees

also perform a prostration

march as they head for the

river banks. Chhath Puja is celebrated in Bihar, Jharkhand, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Delhi, Mumbai and other parts of the country. Grand festival of Chhath is as a means of purification of body, mind and soul,

Singh described.  $\bar{\text{He}}$  informed that in

November 17. Kharna rit-

ual will be performed on

November 18. 'Sandhya

Arghya' will be offered on

November 19. Usha

Arghya will be offered on

November 20. A cultural

programme will be held

at Mahadev Ghat on

November 19. Maha-arti

will be held at Mahadev

Ghat on November 19

evening, Chhattisgarhi

folk artists and Bhojpuri

artists will perform at

November 19. The cultur-

al programme is sched-

uled to begin at 2 pm on

the day. A grand Maha

Ghat on

Mahadev

Raipur city, the Chhath Bhandara will be organfestival will be celebrated ized for devotees at Ghat at over 50 places includ-Mahadev ing Mahadev Ghat. Nhav-November 20 morning. Khay will be held on

All kinds of facilities like parking, lighting and other facilities are being arranged for devotees at Mahadev Ghat. The members of the Samiti along with Raipur Municipal Corporation will clean Mahadev Ghat.

Sunil Singh, Ravindra Singh, Kanhaiya Singh, Parmanand Ramkumar Singh, Jayant Singh, Satyendra Singh Gautam, Brajesh Singh, Ved Narayan Singh, Sanjay Singh, Santosh Singh, Anil Singh, Manoj Singh and other members were present at the press conference.

# Our aim is to provide quality higher education: Pagaria

MATS University celebrated its 18th **Foundation day** 

Raipur, Nov 05: Our main objective is the allround development of students and providing quality higher education and to fulfill this objective, we have been working continuously since establishment. MAT's University is not only a university but also a family where higher education is being developed with the cooperation and coordination of everyone., said MATS University, Chancellor, Mr. Gajraj Pagaria on the occasion of the 18th foundation day of MATS University. Creative activities were also organised on this occasion.

University.



Raipur celebrated its 18th Foundation Day on November 3 at the Impact Center located in MATS campus.

The program was inaugurated with lighting of lamp and garlanding of the statue of Goddess Saraswati. On this occasion, Chancellor of MATS University, Mr. Gajraj Pagaria said that MATS University is the first private university established in the state of Chhattisgarh in the year 2006, which has been

awarded B++ grade by the National Assessment Accreditation Council (NAAC) of the Government of India. He said that our aim is to provide all-round development of students through higher education. To achieve this objective, all the faculty members and staff including the university management are working day and night. Pagaria said that it is a

matter of pride for us

that the students who get

higher education fron our institute get better placements at the national and international level and many students become established in the society as entrepreneurs.

On this occasion, Director General of the University Priyesh Pagaria, Vice Chancellor Prof. K.P. Yadav, Vice Chancellor Dr. Deepika Dhand, Registrar Mr. Gokulananda Panda, Dean Academic Dr. Vijay Bhushan also expressed their views. On this occasion, Heads Departments, Professors and employees of all the departments run by MAT University were prominently present. The vote of thanks was expressed Registrar, Gokulnanda Panda. A cultural program was also presented by the stu-

#### Follow the model code of conduct: Dr. Laxmisha

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Nov 05: A meeting of representatives of political parties and candidates related to Raipur was held in the Red Cross meeting room by Dr. G. Laxmisha, General South Assembly-51, in

candidates Officer

**Observer of South** 

**Assembly held a** 

tatives of political

parties and

meeting of represen-

Pushpendra Sharma. In the meeting, the candidates were asked to follow all the election related orders and model code of conduct issued by the Election Commission. Besides, the candidates were informed about their camp office and mobile number and were informed in detail about

didates also presented their queries, which were resolved as per the instructions Commission. Besides, Dr. Laxmisha

the Worry List. The can

Pandit also participated in the training workshop organised for polling per-

# **CBSE National Athletics Meet 2023-24**

**Hosted by NH Goel World School Raipur** 

Raipur, Nov 05: NH Goel World School is thrilled to announce the kick-off of its highly anticipated CBSE National Athletics Meet. The first day of the Games witnessed an electrifying atmosphere filled with unbridled energy and zest displayed by the enthusiastic students.

rated by Chief Guest, K Srinivasan, Secretary and Regional Officer. **CBSE** Bhubaneshwar along with Ms Parul Chaudhary the rising star Indian Athlete, who was the Guest of Honour. Dignitaries of NH Goel World School, Suresh

The Event was inaugu-



Rajendra Goel Managing Director SKTomar, Director Administration, Awinash Pandey, and Preeti Principal Sharma Vice-Principal graced the occasion.

During the opening ceremony, chief guest K Shrinivasan addressed the gathering by a motivation-al speech saying that

"There's No Shortcut To Success". He also highlighted the importance of these Games in fostering teamwork, perseverance, and fair play and encouraged them to embrace the true spirit of friendly competition. Ms Parul Chaudhary added that, one needs to keep boosting all the participants. The Torch was handed over to Ravneet Shahi from Ms Parul and then Dhruvee Sahu, Vijay Yadav and Ananya Pandey simultaneously. The highlight of the day

was undoubtedly the track events. Students sprinted down the track, and gracefully launched themselves into long jumps, pushing their physical limits to achieve personal best. The ground was vibrant with colorful banners, cheering spectators, and students proudly donning their respective team jerseys.

The School witnessed some final track events as follows-Girls Under-14, Shot Put was bagged by Ms. Nandini Verma in the First Position with a fabu-

lous throw marking 9.45m Shivalik from International Sr. Sec. Public School Nalagarh Solan followed by Girls Under-17, Shot Put with a powerful throw of 13.41m by S Merlin Hannah George Santhosh from St. John's Eng School Besant Nagar Chennai TN.Next category was the Boys Under-19, High Jump and the First Position was taken by Muhammed Sayan A.F with a leading leap of 1.91m from Bhavans Adarsha Vidyalaya. The National Athletic Meet will continue for the next two days, thrilling track events. Each day promises to be filled with unforgettable moments and friendly rivalries as athletes strive to make their mark.

Women's T-20 Cricket

# help elderly and disabled voters

**Red Cross, NCC, NSS students to** 

At the time of voting **School children** will be present as volunteers in 42

polling stations Bijapur, Nov 05: The first phase of voting in Bijapur Legislative

Assembly 89 will be held

of the district, including Cross, Scout Guides/NSS, NCC students of various schools and colleges will play an important role in fair and transparent elections by helping the disabled, helpless and elderly voters of the district

reach the polling booths.

on Nov 7. 488 volunteers

In this regard, during the one-day training of all the volunteers, District Organizer Narved Singh told how the disabled and elderly voters are to be helped during voting. SDO Indravati Tiger Reserve gave necessary information about Sangwari

# BBPS emerges as a sporting powerhouse



Bilaspur, (Sipat): Sipat, CBSE Delhi's annual sports events have become the stage for the students of Bal Bharati Public School (BBPS), NTPC Sipat to demonstrate their exceptional athletic prowess. These voung athletes not only secured victories but also earned the privilege to represent the nation on a larger stage.

In the realm of skating,



Alisha Singh of Class 2nd, took home a gold medal in the inline 300 meters and a silver medal in the 500 meters category in the Under-8 division. Tanvika Gunupuru clinched a gold medal in the guad 1000 meters. adding to the school's accolades. Furthermore, Ananya Bhoi, a student of Class 10th emerged as a beacon of success, conquering rival schools in the javelin throw and shot put competitions, earning gold and silver medals for her school and

himself to keep moving

ahead. The school wit-

Notably, at the recent All-India Bal Bharatiya Sports Competition in Delhi held from October 13th to 15th, the girls' badminton team secured the second position, while the boys' athletics team clinched the third position. Diya Ahuja, Riya Ahuja, and

Anushka Jadhav's remarkable performance in the girls' badminton category secured the second position, further elevating their school's reputation. During these remarkable sporting events, Ananya Bhoi of Class 10th , triumphed in the shot put competition, earning a well-deserved gold medal. Her outstanding performance was complemented by Anuj Vanshkar, who secured a silver medal in the shot put event. In addition, Raghav Vanshkar displayed his prowess by clinching a silver medal in the long jump competition, While Yuvraj Singh Rajput demonstrated his versatility, achieving both silver and bronze medals in the long jump and running events, respectively. These young athletes have showcased their commitment and exceptional skills, further solidifying their school's reputation as a breeding ground for future champions.

The principal, Mr. Shalabh Nigam expressed his profound pride in the outstanding achievements of the school's athletes, underscoring the importance of hard work, dedication, and the school's exceptional infrastructure and toptier training programs in enabling their success. Bal Bharatians truly are proving themselves as true champions in the world of sports.

Raipur, Nov 04: The Veer Narayan International Cricket Stadium in Naya Raipur witnessed electrifying quarterfinal matches in the Women's T-20 Cricket tournament, orchestrated under the auspices of BCCI. In a display of exceptional skill and determination, Bengal and Uttarakhand emerged vic-

> spectively to enter semifinals. In the first match of the day, Bengal exhibited remarkable teamwork after winning the toss and opting to field. They managed restrict Railway's women's team to a total of 95 runs, taking all 10 wickets within the allotted 20

torious by defeating

Railway and Punjab re-



overs. Hemlata and Arpana were the top scorers for Railway, contributing 25 and 23 runs, respectively. Titas Sandhu, Saika Ishaq, and Mita Paul displayed stellar performances for Bengal, each claiming 2 crucial wickets. Bengal's response was equally impressive as they successfully chased down

the target of 96 runs in 19.3 overs, with Richa's com-25 runs and posed Prativa's valuable 18 runs playing pivotal roles in their victory. Tanuja Kanwar stood out for Railway, securing 2 wick-

In the second quarterfinal match, Uttarakhand faced off against Punjab,

emerging victorious by a narrow margin of one wicket. Uttarakhand won the toss and decided to field first. Punjab, while batting first, scored 146 runs, losing 6 wickets in their allotted 20 overs. Pragati Singh contributed a stellar 53 runs, while Amanjot Kaur added 31 runs to Punjab's total. Uttarakhand, From Ameesha B took 2 wickets. with Mansi Joshi, Prerna, and Ekta Bisht each claiming 1 wicket.

In response. Uttarakhand chased down the target of 147 runs, losing 9 wickets in 19.5 overs. Jasia Akhtar led the way with 47 runs, supported by Punam Raut with 43 runs and Mansi Joshi with 18 runs. Nilam Bisht and Kanika Ahuja impressed for Punjab, taking 2 wick-

#### A Chhattisgarh village that 'elects' two legislators on the Mumbai-Howrah National

Anjora, Nov 05 (PTI): A village with a population of mere 5.000 is drawing a lot of attention ahead of the upcoming Chhattisgarh assembly elections, with candidates from two constituencies visiting the place to seek votes.

Anjora sits on the border between the Durg and Rainandgaon districts in such a manner that its one half is a part of the former, while the second belongs to the other.

The village is split into territories of the two districts just by streets. While the houses on one side of the street fall under the Rajnandgaon constituency (Rajnandgaon), those on the other come under the Durg Rural constituency. The village, located around 10 km from Durg town Highway-53 between Durg and Rainandgaon cities, is also governed by two panchayats Anjora panchayat (Rajnandgaon) and Anjora kh (B)' village panchayat (Durg).

The interesting juxtaposition has led to candidates from Durg Rural and Rajnandgaon constituencies making trips to Anjora for canvassing ahead of the elections. "Sometimes people get confused as candidates from both constituencies visit the village for campaigning. Posters and banners of candidates can be seen in the entire village irrespective of constituencies (among the two) from which they have been contesting. It is said the village elects two MLAs," quipped Anju

Sahu, sarpanch of Anjora pan-

(Rajandgaon side). Though the village is divided by streets, people here have coexisted peacefully and celebrate festivals and other functions together, said Sahu, also a Congress leader. Sahu said her paternal home is in Anjora B area which votes for the Durg rural seat, while her in-laws vote for the Rajnandgaon constituency. Polling to the 90-member Chhattisgarh assembly will be held in two phases this month. While Rajnandgaon is among the 20 seats that will go to polls in

the first phase on November 7.

the remaining 70 constituencies.

including Durg rural, will vote in

the second phase on November

17. Makhanlal Sahu, husband of

Aniora B panchavat sarpanch

Rajnandgaon district was

Sahu.

said

in the fray.

Sangeeta

formed in 1973 after being carved from Durg district (in erstwhile Madhva Pradesh). Since then, the village has been divided into two panchayats. The delimitation for assembly seats was also done in such a manner that half of the village falls in one constituency and the other half in the other segment, There are also such families

in the village whose half of the members had to vote for Rajnandangaon constituency and the other half for Durg Rural. said. he Both Rajnandgaon and Durg Rural are prominent constituencies where high-profile candidates like former chief minister Raman Singh and the state's incumbent home minister Tamradhwaj Sahu are

# **Unnati & Satish lift singles titles**

Raipur, Nov 05: Unnati Hudda and Satish Kumar Karunakaran lift women's and men's singles title of the Chhattisgarh India International Challenge Badminton tournament being organized under the aegis of Chhattisgarh Badminton Association (CBA) here. The event featured thrilling matches and remarkable performances, leaving the audience enthralled.

In the men's singles Satish Kumar Karunakaran clinched the title by defeating Ravi with a score of 24-22, 21-7. Meanwhile, in the Women's Singles final, Unnati Hudda emerged victorious. defeating Tasneem Mir with a score

of 21-18, 21-10 The women's doubles final witnessed an impressive international showdown, with the Thai pair of Tidapron Clebisun and Nattaman Laisuan beat Ashwini Bhatt and Shikha Gautam (India) to secure the title, with a score of 21-14.21-14.

In the men's doubles final, the Thai duo of Chaloampon Charoenkitamorn and Thanawin Madee took home the title by defeating



Sothon Natthpat Trikji (Thailand) with a score of 21-17, 21-17.

The Mixed Doubles final saw an exciting matchup between Indian pairs, with Satish Kumar

Karunakaran and Adya Wariath (India) emerging victorious by defeating Dingku Singh Konthoujam and Priya Konjengbam (India) with a score of 21-10, 21-18. The event's closing ceremony and prize distribu-

tion program, graced by the presence of Vivek Dewangan Managing Director, Rural Electrification Corporation), celebrated the exceptional talent on display and marked the success of the India International Challenge **Badminton Competition** 

# **GRAND WELCOME**



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar receives King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck upon the latter's arrival in New Delhi, Sunday.

# **BSF installs beehives on India-B'desh fence**

To check border crimes, generate local wages

Kolkata, Nov 05 (PTI):

The Border Security Force (BSF) has undertaken a unique experiment of installing beehives on the India-Bangladesh border fence in West Bengal to stop instances of cutting the hedge for cattle smuggling and other crimes, besides generating livelihood for the locals. The first-of-its initiative launched recently by the BSF's 32nd battalion in the border areas of Nadia district with an aim of ensuring border security and helping the local populace through apiculture, a senior officer said.

India and Bangladesh share a 4,096-km frontier, with West Bengal account-

ing for about 2,217 km. The Ayush ministry has been roped in by the BSF for the project. The ministry has provided the border-guarding force with the beehives and required expertise to fix those on the alloy-made 'smart fence".

Suieet Kumar. Commandant of the 32nd BSF battalion who conceptualised the idea, told PTI that the force has undertaken the initiative under the Centre's "Vibrant Village Programme" (VVP) and gone a step further by requesting the Ayush ministry to provide it with medicinal plants that bear flowers and can be planted around these bee boxes so that the bees can pollinate in abundance.

'The idea of tying beehives to the India-Bangladesh border fence was launched on November 2. The BSF will ensure that



BSF personnel install beehives on India-Bangladesh fence to check border crimes and generate local employment in West Bengal.

these bee boxes are accessible to the locals engaged in apiculture and there has been a very warm response this initiative," he

Officials said the border areas under the South Bengal frontier of the BSF in Nadia district are prone to cross-border crimes like cattle, gold, silver and narcotics smuggling, and there have been instances in the past when miscreants and smugglers have either cut or attempted to cut the fence for their illegal activi-

> The beehives on the fence will be a deterrent for the smugglers trying to cut the fence as any such

attempt will disturb the bees and a swarm attack of the bees can seriously injure them, a BSF official explained. While the exact

closed, the bee boxes are being put on the fence using a wooden support frame at regular intervals and in smuggling-prone vulnerable areas, the official said requesting anonymity. He said the Ayush ministry has provided the BSF with saplings of medicinal plants like tulsi, ekangi, satmuli ashwagandha, aloe vera and the force personnel, along with the locals, are planting those in the border areas. Mustard too is being

planted and a public camp was recently held in Kadipur village of Nadia where the locals were informed that the honey that they extract from these beehives will be sold through the established setup and shops of the BSF Wives' Welfare Association. The profits made from the sale of the honey will go to the locals, the official said

AIMIM will win all the seats that we are contest-

ing. We are hopeful that

people will repose confi-

"As my party leader

said, there has to be a

third front, you are seeing

what is happening here in

Telangana state. I am sure

that the BRS will come

back again with a good

majority," Akbaruddin

dence in us and elect us".

# 'INDIA bloc now 'INDI zero' alliance as its constituents are fighting'

Indore, Nov 05 (PTI):

Union Minister Pivush Goyal on Sunday said opposition bloc Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) had begun disintegrating and had now turned into "INDI zero".

Goyal referred to the spat between Samajwadi chief Akhilesh and Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath over seat sharing for the Assembly polls here, as well Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's statement that the Congress was more interested in polls than setting the course for the

"The opposition alliance has started integrating even before it is formed. The parties in it are pitted against each other in the Assembly polls in various states. It has now turned into 'INDI zero' alliance," Goyal said at a press conference during a tour of poll-bound MP.

Nitish Kumar is sad about the state of the alliance. The Aam Aadmi Party abuses the Congress. In West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, the constituents of the alliance are fighting," he claimed.

"Bihar Chief Minister

The INDIA alliance comprises more than 25 parties opposed to the Bharatiya Janata Party, in-



**Piyush Goyal** 

cluding the Congress and (United).

**Dubbing MP Congress** chief Kamal Nath and the party's senior leader and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh as a "mismatched two were at loggerheads and busy in establishing their sons in politics.

'Kamal Ñath has already lost his credibility among the masses and is now left alone in Congress politics," Goval claimed. On the BJP not naming

CM candidates for the five states where Assembly polls are being held, Goyal said, "We have the blessings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. We are all generals under him. It is the failure of the Congress that it does not have any popular leader who can go to the masses.

On rising onion prices, Goyal said the Centre had increased the buffer stock of the kitchen staple from

two lakh tonnes to five lakh tonnes in view of irregular rains in different parts of the country and later added a consignment of two lakh tonnes while making additional purchases. "This is the first time since Independence that the Central government is providing onions at Rs 25 per kg to retail consumers from its buffer stock. Due to this, onion prices have stabilized in many places," he said.

The Union minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said prices will come down when onions sown late in the Kharif season makes it way to the markets in the next one to two weeks.

#### 'AIMIM will win all nine seats' are very hopeful that

T'gana Polls

Hyderabad, Nov 05 (PTI):

All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader Akbaruddin Owaisi on Sunday exuded confidence that AIMIM will win all the nine seats in which it is contesting for the November 30 assembly polls in Telangana.

Akbaruddin Owaisi, younger brother AIMIM president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi, who is contesting from his Chandrayangutta ment here, also expressed confidence that Chief Minister Rao's Chandrashekar

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) would once again



**Akbaruddin Owaisi** 

win the upcoming elections with a good majority. Akbaruddin Owaisi, who has been representing the Chandrayangutta segment since 1999 and seeking a sixth consecutive term, told PTI: "I have just started my campaigning and I am confident that people will support me. We

said. Asaduddin Owaisi on November 3 said his party will put up candidates in nine constituencies for the assembly polls. AIMIM won seven seats in the 2018 assembly polls

in Telangana. Asaduddin Owaisi has already made an appeal to the people to vote for AIMIM candidates wherever they contest and to BRS in the remaining seats.

# 'Cong opposed caste census, Mandal Commission report, BJP taking same path'

MP POLLS

Tikamgarh, Nov 05 (PTI):

The Congress stopped caste census and implementation of the Mandal Commission report in the past and the BJP was taking a similar stand, but both parties know the importance of "PDA" or "picchde (backwards), Dalits and Adivasis", claimed Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday.

Addressing a rally in Jatara Assembly seat in Tikamgarh in Madhya Pradesh, where Assembly polls will be held on November 17, Yadav said both the Congress and the BJP are now talking about caste census and reserva-



**Akhilesh Yadav** 

tions to woo the PDA segment. "It was the Congress that stopped the caste census and refused to imple-Mandal the Commission report. The Bharatiya Janata Party is taking the same path. Now, Congress and BJP are talking about caste census, reservations. As polls come close, both parties realise the strength of PDA. Yadav claimed.

Yadav said his party was in favour of caste census, 27 per cent reservation for Other Backward Classes and a scheme for women better than the MP government's Ladli Behna scheme as the aid would be Rs 3000 per month.

Slamming the Narendra Modi government, Yadav claimed those recruited in the armed forces under the Agniveer scheme will not get martyr status or financial assistance in case they are killed in the line of duty. Can a government that gives such half-baked provisions to soldiers be called nationalist, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister asked.

## KALI PUJA PREPARATIONS



Devotees carrying a clay idol of Goddess Kali, to be taken to Kolkata, board a Sealdah-bound train ahead of Kali Puja, at Santipur railway station in Nadia district, Sunday.

# '10,585 votes cast through home voting and postal ballots in Mizoram'

Aizawl, Nov 05 (PTI):

Altogether 10,585 senior citizens, people with disabilities (PwDs) and government officials exercised their franchise for the November 7 Mizoram polis through home voting and postal ballots till Saturday, an official said.

While 2,059 senior citizens (80 years and above) and PwDs exercised their franchise through home voting, 8,526 government officials, including security and polling personnel, voted through postal ballots, additional chief electoral officer H Lianzela said on Sunday.

Of the 11 districts.

Aizawl topped the list in home and postal voting with 2,534 people exercising their franchise, followed by Lawngtlai (1.614) and Lunglei (1,582), he said.

Lianzela said out of Milzoram's 1,276 voting centres, 149 are remote polling 'Officials who will be deployed in such polling stations started leaving for their destinations on Sunday," he said, adding that the election campaign came to an end at 4pm. More than 8.57 lakh electorates, including 4,39,026 women, will decide the fate of 174 candi-

Broadcasting Minister alleged. Slamming Delhi Chief Minister Arvind

Kejriwal for severe air pol-

lution in the national capi-

tal region, Thakur said the former had showed big

dreams but the three smoke

towers installed by the Aam

Aadmi Party government

Kejriwal used to blame

the stubble burning in

are shut.

dates in the polls, the offi-

# **'Pandemic lockdown decision was** delayed to bring down Cong govt in MP'

Bhopal, Nov 05 (PTI)

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday claimed the decision to enforce lockdown in view of COVID-19 was delayed so that the Kamal Nath government could be brought down in Madhya Pradesh.

The Nath government fell in March 2020 after a rebellion by several MLAs loyal to Jyotiraditya Scindia. It paved the way for the return of the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government of Bharatiya Janata Party.

The lockdown was enforced across the nation by the Union government in the later part of March.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdown was not implemented at the right time and a 10-day period was given to ensure our government in MP falls. This was a conspiracy. There is no dearth of traitors," Ramesh alleged.



dresses a press conference.

People are fed up of BJP rule in MP, where Assembly polls will held on November 17, and they will bring the Congress back to power, he said at a press conference here. The Congress had given six "guarantees" (poll promises) in Karnataka and has fulfilled them, while it has given 12 guarantees in Madhya Pradesh for the upcoming elections. These

guarantees include LPG cylinder in Rs 500, Rs 1500 per month to women, farm loan waiver up to Rs 2 lakh, old pension scheme for government employees, minimum support price (MSP) to farmers, allowance to unemployed youth, scholarships to school students etc, he informed. The guarantees announced by Congress in Karnataka were dubbed as "revdi" (freebies) by the BJP but Prime Minister Narendra Modi is adopting them now, he claimed.

Asked about differences in the opposition's INDIA bloc, Ramesh said the alliance is for the Lok Sabha polls, adding that Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has announced about its strengthening ahead of next year's general elections. INDIA bloc, which com-

prises more than 25 parties apart from the Congress, is a democratic alliance and its constituents speak in different tones but will reach a consensus, he claimed. Claiming that the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra had brought about a revolutionary change in Indian politics, Ramesh said it led to Congress' victory in Karnataka and will ensure similar results in Assembly polls in five states.

#### Bhopal, Nov 05 (PTI):

Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Sunday said the Congress' guarantees in Himachal Rajasthan and Karnataka have failed just like its leader Rahul Gandhi. The Congress had deceived people with such announcements, including Gandhi promising (ahead of the 2018 Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh) that he would change the chief minister if his party's government does not implement farm loan waiver of upto Rs 2 lakh in 10 days.

Gandhi also promised Rs 4,000 as unemployment allowance but all these poll guarantees failed since these were not implemented during its 15-month rule (under Kamal Nath between December 2018 and March 2020), Thakur alleged. "Such guarantees have failed in Karnataka, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh (where



'Cong guarantees in HP, Raj, K'taka

**Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur addresses a press** conference.

the Congress is in power). In HP, it had given guarantee of providing Rs 1500 per month to 22.50 lakh women. It has not been implemented even after 10 months (of the party coming to power). They had promised one lakh jobs but are yet to provide even 1,000," Thakur claimed. In HP, which is Thakur's home state, the Congress had promised to purchase cow-dung at Rs 2

per kilogram, milk at Rs 100 per litre, provision of 300unit free electricity but none of these have been fulfilled. While the Bharatiya Janata Party government in Madhya Pradesh launched the 'Ladli Behna Yojana' for women, neighbouring Congress-ruled Rajasthan has seen the highest number of atrocities against

the

Union

women,

Information

Punjab (when the Congress was in power) for Delhi's pollution but now both states have Aam Aadmi Party governments, despite which he was unable to do anything resulting in Delhi turning into a "gas chamber". Asked about Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge accusing the Centre of using Enforcement Directorate. Central Bureau of Investigation and Income Tax to terrorise opposition parties, Thakur said these agencies work independently and act as per the law.

**06** 

Election campaign ends,

door-to-door canvassing begins

CENTRAL CHRONICLE, BILASPUR, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 06, 2023

# Potters' wheels spin faster, bringing brightness to homes

As the festival of Diwali draws near, a resurgence is taking place in Kharora. The age-old tradition of pottery is experiencing a rejuvenation, with potters' wheels spinning faster than ever before. This year, the artisans are working tirelessly to craft beautiful earthen lamps and exquisite idols of Goddess Lakshmi, spreading light and joy across the region.

Last year, the global pandemic had momentarily slowed down the pace of production. However, now the wheels of creativity are in full motion, and the hands of the skilled potters are molding clay into magnificent forms. As Diwali approaches, the potters' homes are shining brightly, reflecting the hope and



The demand for earthen lamps peaks during Diwali, prompting potters to start

concerned about their

livelihoods.

their preparations a month in advance. Diyas, Kalauri, Kalash, and idols of Lakshmi are beautifully handcrafted and grace the markets with their presence. These earthen pots and lamps hold immense significance in religious rituals and worship, symbolizing purity and auspiciousness. However, modern products dominate the

market stalls and shops. leaving traditional earthenware struggling for attention. As these lamps patiently await buyers, they serve as a reminder of the rich heritage of pottery that deserves to be preserved. Despite the challenges posed by modernization, the potters have admirably clung to their anmand for plastic, electronic, and cow dung lamps has led to a decrease in the popularity of traditional earthen lamps. This decline directly affects the livelihoods of the potters, making it increasingly difficult for them to meet their basic Rising costs have added

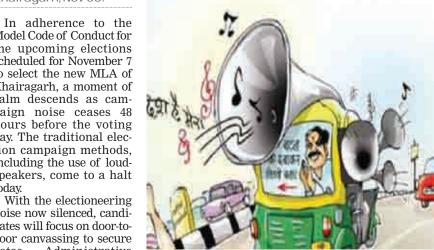
to their struggles, as they now have to purchase clay instead of having it readily available nearby. The increased cost of production has led to higher prices for their wares. In the face of these challenges, we urge everyone to support the potters, embrace tradition, and keep the flame of their artistry alive. Let us come together as a community to ensure that the potter's wheel never stops turning, preserving this cherished tradition for generations to

However, the surge in de-Model Code of Conduct for the upcoming elections scheduled for November 7 to select the new MLA of Khairagarh, a moment of calm descends as campaign noise ceases 48 hours before the voting day. The traditional election campaign methods, including the use of loudspeakers, come to a halt

Khairagarh, Nov 05:

With the electioneering noise now silenced, candidates will focus on door-todoor canvassing to secure votes. Administrative preparations have reached their final stages, follow Election Commission's directives to ensure a peaceful and orderly election process. Political parties' candidates are also entering the final stretch of their cam-

The first phase of the Chhattisgarh assembly



elections will witness voting on November 7 for Khairagarh's 73rd and Dongargarh (partial) 74th assembly seats. With only 48 hours left for campaign activities and public relations not feasible at night, candidates are tirelessly engaging with voters dur $ing \, both \, day \, and \, night.$ 

Party star campaigners

are leading the charge, mobilizing Additionally, after November 5, workers, leaders, or campaigners from other regions will need to depart from the respective assembly areas. in compliance with the Election Commission's regulations, which are being closely monitored.

#### **NSS** volunteers inspire voters through Voter Awareness Rally Chhaya Verma gets heartwarming welcome

Kareli Badi, Nov 05:

With the impending assembly elections on the horizon, a spirited voter awareness campaign took place on Saturday, led by dedicated NSS volunteers at Govt Higher Secondary School Kareli Badi. The volunteers, in a vibrant voter rally, conveyed a profound message to the villagers, emphasizing the pivotal role elections play in democracy and the power of forming a transgovernment parent through active voting.

Students spearheaded a dynamic public awareness initiative, aiming to achieve 100% voter turnout in the forthcoming elections. Program Officer Durga Sinha underscored



one's vote in assembly elections, drawing a parallel with how a pot fills drop by drop-much like our government, which takes shape with each citizen's vote. Sinha encouraged citizens to seize this opportunity, exercise their right to vote, and select the most suitable

Kishore Kumar Jangde of Govt Higher Secondary School Kareli Badi echoed the importance of participation, asserting that the voting rally was an endeavour for the entire village community. He stressed that every individual vote contributes to shaping the the responsibility of making thoughtful voting decisions. The rally saw active involvement from 70 volunteers who passionately raised awareness through posters and spirited slogans as they traversed the Notable attendees at the

rally included future supervisor women child development and Anganwadi including workers, Umeshwari Baghel, Tokeshwari, Vikas Pal, Lokesh. Tarun, Chandradev, Rahul, Karan, Sushma, Sarada, Viram, Tarni, Bhupendra, Payal, Reshmi, Vidya, Krishna Kanhaiya, Soman, Sinha, Harish, and others, all of whom joined hands to inspire informed and responsible voting choices among

Dharsiwa, Nov 05:

Chhaya Verma, the Congress candidate contesting from Dharsiwa assembly constituency, is making waves with her extensive public relations efforts in the region. She received a warm welcome during her visits to various villages, including Saragaon, Nilja, Pavani, Mangsa, Pathri, Teresar, Khudmudi, Mauhagaon, Kurud, Malaud, and Kuthrel, among others.

In each village, Chhaya Verma connected with the local communities, addressing their concerns and aspirations. One of her notable stops was at Pathri, the ances**■** Enthusiastic reception across villages in **Dharsiwa constituency** 



dreamer, Dr. Khubchand Baghel, where she was greeted with immense warmth by the villagers.

Speaking to the gathered crowd, Chhaya Verma emphasized the significance of Pathri, as it represents the dreams aspirations of Chhattisgarh's founding figure. She expressed her confidence Chhattisgarh Minister Bhupesh Baghel

fulfilling Khubchand Baghel's vision for the state. Chhaya Verma also lauded the various progressive initiatives introduced by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and shared these accomplishments with the villagers. In her speech, she urged the villagers to remain vigilant and not be swayed by false promises from other political parties, highlighting the Congress government's commitment to trust and progress. Pathri village echoed

with joy as villagers and women extended their warm welcome Congress candidate Chhaya Verma. The gathering witnessed the presence of numerous villagers and dedicated Congress supporters who celebrated her visit. This enthusiastic reception is a testament to the strong support she is garnering

# Congress govt gave tribals their rights: Baghel

Congress commits to fulfill promises for a brighter future

Kondagaon, Nov 05:

The Congress government has fulfilled the aspirations of the people of Bastar by granting tribals their rights over water, forests, and land during its five-year tenure. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel shared this uplifting news at a public meeting held in Makdi, Kondagaon.

Baghel emphasized that development has two dimensions: infrastructure development involving roads, bridges, schools, and hospitals, and the individual's well-being. The Congress government's ap-



proach centers around the individual's growth and prosperity. Initiatives like Mukhyamantri Suposhan Yojana, the malaria-free Bastar campaign, and healthcare accessibility through schemes like the Dr. Khubchand Baghel Health Assistance Scheme have greatly contributed to individual development.

Furthermore, the government has extended free treatment coverage up to Rs 10 lakh under this

Addressing past educanoted that during the previous administration, hundreds of schools in Bastar had been shuttered. However, the Congress government reopened these schools and introduced the Swami Atmanand English Medium School, offering free education to children from impoverished backgrounds. Baghel pledged to convert all schools into Swami Atmanand schools, ensuring that education remains free from KG to PG.

Expressing trust in the

Congress party's guarantees, Baghel highlighted their swift action in waiving Rs 9.5 thousand crores in loans for 19 lakh farmers. The promise of tional challenges, Baghel purchasing paddy at Rs 2500 was also realized, benefiting farmers who are now selling paddy for Rs 2640. Baghel reaffirmed the commitment to waive farmers' loans once more and challenged critics to under-

> this support. Addressing misleading claims, Baghel criticized Prime Minister Modi for unfulfilled promises and rising inflation. He highlighted the significant gap between the prices of agricultural produce in Chhattisgarh

> stand the importance of

Varanasi, Modi's constituency. Baghel reaffirmed the Congress party's dedication to fulfilling its promises and supporting the people.

In an effort to alleviate the burden of inflation. the Congress government pledged to provide a Rs 500 subsidy on gas refilling, offer free electricity up to 200 units, and a 50% reduction on electricity bills up to 400 units. Additionally, housing will be provided to 17.5 lakh families, and tendu leaf collectors will receive an annual Rs 4,000 assistance. The government also promises to address various social issues, including a caste census, with a comprehensive package of 17 guarantees.

# Paddy procurement commences at Kundel society

Kareli Badi, Nov 05:

Agricultural Kundel initiated paddy procurement November 1st with a ceremonial start that included offering prayers for the farmers' produce and precise weighing on the scales. The first purchase was made from the paddy of Ramkumar Yadav.

Since November 1 to 3, a total of 696 quintals of paddy, comprising both thick and thin varieties, have been procured from farmers. Committee manager Mohan Sahu highlighted the extensive preparations made for the pro-

BJP's manifesto is Modi's guarantee for Chhattisgarh: Dr. Pandey



curement process, including platform cleaning, ground leveling, and road construction. The availability of gunny bags has streamlined the purchase

operations. This procurement center in Kundel serves farmers from villages including Motimpur, Dhaurabhatha, Bhotha, who will sell their paddy using tokens.

Notable individuals present during this successful procurement endeavor included Tula Ram Yadav, Ramkumar Yadav, Data Assistant Clerk Eros Sahu, Dhaalu Ram, Balram, Jagesh Sahu, Keshav Sahu, Lakhan Sahu, Murali Kashyap, Gendlal Dhruv, Yashwant Phoolchand Sahu, Lomash Sonber, Ram Asaru, Kanshi Ram Sahu, Baldas Manikpuri, and Phool Chand, among others.

# Preparations underway for smooth election in Kawardha

Kawardha, Nov 05:

In anticipation of the upcoming Chhattisgarh elections on November 07, a significant step towards ensuring free, fair, peaceful, and transparent voting is underway. On November 06, materials will be distributed at the Bilaspur Road agricultural produce market for 804 polling stations in assembly constituencies 71-Pandariya 72-Kawardha Kabirdham district. Distribution will commence

Janmejay Mahobe Following the schedule the Election Commission of India, voting in Kabirdham district will commence at 8 am on November 07. The material will be distributed to 411 polling teams formed for 411 stations

at 07 am from Kawardha, as

instructed by Collector and

District Election Officer

Kawardha assembly constituency of the district. Similarly, material will be distributed to 393 polling teams formed for 393 polling stations of Pandariya Assembly constituency. Apart from this, 103 polling parties (25 percent) have been reserved for Kawardha Assembly and 99 polling parties (25 percent) have been reserved for Pandariya

Notably, 24 polling stations in the district have been transformed into model polling stations, with ten Sangwari polling stations in each assembly constituency. An exceptional feature of these 20 polling stations is the presence of all-female staff members, from the presiding officer to polling party numbers 1, 2, and 3. Furthermore, both assembly constituencies will feature one polling cen-

ter for disabled voters and

one youth-managed polling center, each staffed accord-

In Pandariya assembly constituency, a total of 14 candidates are vying for victory, with an additional option of NOTA. The constituency boasts 393 polling stations, equipped with 473 ballot units, 474 control units, and 513 VVPATs. To ensure a smooth process, 80 Control Units, 81 Ballot Units, and 120 VVPATs have been kept in reserve.

In the Kawardha assembly constituency, there are 16 candidates and an option for NOTA, making a total of 17 choices for voters. With 411 polling stations, each station will utilize two ballot units. The materials include 990 Ballot Units, 497 Control Units, and 540 VVPATs, with 168 Ballot Units, 86 Control Units, and 129 VVPATs held in reserve to guarantee an efficient voting experience.

The Bharatiya Janata Party

Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Nov 05:

(BJP) Chhattisgarh State unveiled its manifesto, setting forth a roadmap for the state's progress and inclusivity. A press conference organized by BJP District Gaurela Pendra Marwahi at District BJP Office Gaurela provided insights into the manifesto's highlights. Dr. Yadunath Pandey, former MP and former State BJP President of Jharkhand, emphasized the manifesto's importance as a guiding document for Chhattisgarh's development, prosperity, and the fulfillment of its people's aspirations.

Dr. Pandey elaborated on the "Modi Guarantee," a key feature of the manifesto, showcasing major promises. Under the "Krishak Unnati Yojana", the BJP commits to purchasing 21 quintals per acre of paddy from the state's farmers at the rate of Rs 3,100 per quintal. Additionally, the "Mahtari Additionally, the Vandan Yojana" pledges annual financial assistance of Rs 12,000 to every married woman. The manifesto also promises recruitment to



prehensive Deendayal Upadhyay

Agricultural Laborer Welfare

Scheme, financial assistance of

Rs 10.000 annually, and health in-

surance coverage of Rs 10 lakh

under Ayushman Bharat, focus-

ing on the all-round development

of different areas and sections of

society. Dr. Yadunath Pandey ex-

pressed hope that the voters of

fill one lakh vacant government posts, the completion of 18 lakh Prime Minister's residences, access to drinking water in every household within two years, and an increase in the tendu leaf collection rate to Rs 500 per standard bag, along with bonuses of up to Rs 4,500 for collectors.

The manifesto includes a com-

Gaurela Pendra Marwahi district would wholeheartedly support this vision for Chhattisgarh. He believes that by joining the Vikas Yatra, the BJP will once again form the government in Chhattisgarh. Dr. Pandey, while citing various achievements of the Narendra Modi government at the Centre, emphasized the transformative potential of Modi's leadership and the guarantee it offers for Chhattisgarh's future.

The press conference witnessed the presence of key BJP officials, including District BJP in-charge Dr. Jaiprakash Sharma, Marwahi Assembly in-charge Sanjay Agarwal, District BJP President Kanhaiya Singh Rathore, General Secretary Rakesh Chaturvedi District Media Balkrishna Agarwal, co-in-charge Tapas Sharma, Vice President Geeta Gupta, and numerous other dignitaries. The occasion also included honoring women expressing their gratitude for the inclusion of Mahtari Vandan Yojana in the manifesto, as well as farmers benefiting from the Krishak Unnati Yojana.

Miraculous escape for people in a municipality

Kathmandu, Nov 05 (PTI): A municipality in the epicentre of Friday's deadly earthquake in Nepal's Jajarkot district reported no death from the tremor even though at least 157 people were killed in other

# Nepal govt scrambles to rush aid to quake victims



Houses collapsed after an earthquake in Jajarkot, Nepal, Sunday, Nov. 5. More than 150 people were killed and several others injured.

Kathmandu, Nov 05 (PTI):

Nepal's authorities on Sunday scrambled to rush aid to people affected by Friday's earthquake that has killed at least 157 people and left a trail of destruction in the Himalayan nation's remote mountainous re-

The earthquake with an epicentre in Jajarkot district, about 500km west of Kathmandu, was recorded just before midnight on Friday. As the earthquake destroyed hundreds of houses in the mountainous region, several people had to spend Saturday night under the open sky.

Out of a total of 157 people who died in the tragedy, the bodies of 120 have so far been handed over to the family members. About 253 people injured in the quake, the most devastating in the country since 2015. Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' is holding a Cabinet meeting to decide on a special relief package for the survivors of the earthquake. The government on Saturday said it is not in a hurry to seek foreign help for search and rescue operations and in the management of relief distribution and other logistics in the wake of the devastating earthquake in western Nepal, particularly Jajarkot

Rukum districts. In the aftermath of the disaster. Nepal's immediate neighbours, India and China, and the United States have offered support with logistics, and search for the victims by sending rescue teams to the country. "We are yet to make any decision on accepting foreign aid,"

parts of the district and neighbouring Rukum West, according to a media report on Sunday. According to the National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Centre, a 6.4 magnitude earthquake with epicentre at the Ramidanda village in Barekot Rural Municipality iolted the country on Friday just before midnight. Despite massive physical damage to the houses and public infrastructure, the rural municipality entirely avoided human causality as of Saturday evening, the Kathmandu Post newspaper reported. "When we see the badly damaged houses, it is difficult to believe how we all cheated death in the area," said Bir Bahadur Giri, chairperson of the rural municipality. "It is a divine land, and many people believe god saved them." According to him, five people in the rural municipality were injured. Of them, two re-

ceived treatment at the local health office while three were flown to a Surkhet-based hospital, the paper re-

ported. The rural municipality has around 3,500

houses. "There is hardly any house undamaged by

the earthquake. At least 90 per cent of them need to

be rebuilt while around 1,000 houses have been badly

hit and people have been staying in open spaces," said

Prachanda Saturday as he visited the earthquake-affected areas. "There will be a Cabinet meeting on Sunday morning for those decisions," he said. "We will then speed up relief and rehabilitation operations." The government on Saturday evening decided to send

relief materials like blankets, clothing and food items starting Sunday. The distribution of relief materials donated by the different agencies will also be carried out. Local government officials say the situation was chaotic on Saturday morning due to inadequate means to deal with the disaster.

#### **HUMANITARIAN AWARDS**



Pashtana Durrani, Founder of LEARN Afghanistan, receives the 2023 Muhammad Ali Principle Award for "Conviction" from Azhar Azeez, right, president and CEO, Muslim Aid USA, at the tenth annual Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Awards, at the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Ky. Durrani is an Afghan human rights activist and community development expert whose focus is girls' education.

# Ukrainian missile strike on shipyard in Crimea damages Russian ship

Moscow, Nov 05 (AP):

The Russian military said a Ukrainian missile strike on a shipyard in annexed Crimea had damaged a Russian ship.

The Russian Defence Ministry said late Saturday that Ukrainian forces fired 15 cruise missiles at the Zaliv shipyard in Kerch, a city in the east of the Crimean Peninsula. Air defences shot down 13 missiles but others hit the shipyard

and damaged a vessel, a statement from the ministry said.

The ministry didn't give details about the ship or the extent of the damage.

The Ukrainian air force commander, Mykola Oleshchuk, said in a statement that at the time of the attack carried out by Ukrainian tactical aviation, "one of the most modern ships of Russia's Black Sea fleet was at the shipyard carri-

**Afghan farmers lose income of more than \$1bn** 

missiles". He didn't say directly, however, that this particular ship was damaged by the strike.

Peninsula, which Russia illegally annexed from Ukraine in 2014, has been a frequent target since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a full-scale invasion of Ukraine 20 months ago. Crimea has served as the key hub supporting the

## Israeli jets strike Gaza refugee camp

**US fails to win immediate** support for pause in fighting

Khan Younis (Gaza Strip), Nov 05 (AP): Israeli warplanes struck a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip early Sunday, killing at least 33 people and wounding dozens, health officials said. The strike came as Israel said it would press on with its offensive to crush the territory's Hamas rulers, despite US appeals for a pause to get aid to desper-

The soaring death toll in Gaza has sparked growing international anger, with



Palestinians look for survivors of the Israeli bombardment in the Maghazi refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Sunday.

tens of thousands from Washington to Berlin taking to the streets Saturday to demand an immediate

Israel has rejected the idea of halting its offensive, even for brief humanitarian pauses proposed by U.S. Secretary of State

Johannesburg, Nov 05 (AP):

US officials and law-

makers expressed support

Saturday for the extension

of a trade programme that

grants eligible African

countries duty-free access

tain conditions, including

Antony Blinken during his current tour of the region. Instead, it said that the besieged enclave's Hamas rulers were "encountering the full force' of its troops

"Anyone in Gaza City is risking their life," Israel's Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant said.

Large columns of smoke rose as Israel's military said it had encircled Gaza City, the initial target of its offensive against Hamas. Gaza's Health Ministry has said more than 9,400 Palestinians have been killed in the territory in nearly a month of war, and that number is likely to rise as the assault continues.

#### After the Taliban banned poppy cultivation

Islamabad, Nov 05 (AP):

Afghan farmers have lost income of more than USD 1 billion from opium sales after the Taliban outlawed poppy cultivation, according to a report from the UN drugs agency published on Sunday.

Afghanistan was the world's biggest opium producer and a major source for heroin in Europe and Asia when the Taliban seized power in August

They pledged to wipe

out the country's drug cultivation industry and imposed a formal ban in April 2022, dealing a heavy blow to hundreds of thousands of farmers and day labourers who relied on proceeds from the crop to survive.

Opium crashed by 95 per cent after the ban, the report from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime said.

Until 2023, the value of Afghanistan's opiate exports frequently outstripped the value of its legal exports.

UN officials said the strong contraction of the opium economy is expected to have far-reaching consequences for the

country as opiate exports before the ban accounted for between 9-14 per cent of the national GDP. Afghans need urgent hu-

manitarian assistance to meet their most immediate needs, absorb the shock of lost income and save lives, said UNODC executive director, Ghada "Afghanistan is in dire

need of strong investment in sustainable livelihoods to provide Afghans with opportunities away from opium," she said.

Afghans are dealing with drought, severe economic hardship and the continued consequences of decades of war and natu-

The downturn, along with the halt of international financing that propped up the economy of the former Westernbacked government, is driving people into poverty, hunger, and addiction.

A September report from the UNODC said that Afghanistan is the world's fastest-growing maker of methamphetamine, with seizures of the synthetic drug increasing as poppy cultivation shrinks.

Lower incomes along the opiate supply chain could stimulate other illegal activities like the trafficking of arms, people or synthetic drugs, the most recent UNODC report

# PRO-PALESTINIAN DEMONSTRATION



#### Russia says it test-fired intercontinental ballistic missile from new nuclear submarine

Moscow, Nov 05 (AP):

The Russian military on Sunday reported a successful test launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile designed to carry nuclear warheads from a new nuclear submarine.

The report comes as tensions are soaring between Russia and the West over the fighting in Ukraine. Adding to those tensions. President Vladimir Putin last week signed a bill revoking Russia's ratification of a global nuclear test ban in a move that Moscow said was needed to establish parity with the United States

The Russian Defence Ministry said in a statement that the Imperator Alexander III strategic derwater position in Russia's northern White Sea, and hit a target in the far-eastern region of Kamchatka. It wasn't immediately clear from the statement when the test

**Imperator** Alexander III is one of the new Borei-class nuclear submarines that carry 16 Bulava missiles each and are intended to serve as the core naval component of the nation's nuclear forces in the coming decades. According to the Defence Ministry, launching a ballistic missile is the final test for the vessel, after which a decision should be made on its in-

duction into the fleet.

missile cruiser fired the Bulava missile from an unlaunch occurred.

to US markets. The move follows a clear push by eligible African countries at the African Growth and Opportunity Act trade forum in Johannesburg to have the programme extended. It is currently slated to expire in September 2025. AGOA is US legislation that allows sub-Saharan African countries dutyfree access to US markets provided they meet cer-

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday opened the second phase of overhead metro rail service to ease Dhaka's notorious traffic jams, earning the city an ill repute of being the world's slowest city.

Dhaka, Nov 05 (PTI):

Today, we're so delighted," Hasina said while opening the metro rail service between Uttara and Motijheel, which has eight stations and spans 9.53 kilometres.

On December 28 last year, Bangladesh launched its first metro rail service with Japanese assistance to ease commuting in the capital Dhaka, one of the

law and the protection of

Addressing the forum

this week, South African

Ramaphosa called on the

human rights.

President



most congested cities in the world.

State-owned Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL) has been entrusted with the task of operating the service built with Japanese technical

and financial assistance. "The commuters will be able to travel over 20-kilometre distance from Uttara area to Motijheel (business district) in little over 30 minutes," DMTCL

The commuters usually needed over an hour to travel the distance during non-peak hours by road, while during the start or end of office hours, they often required as many as two and half hours.

managing director M.N.

Siddique told reporters.

The prime minister had opened the first phase of the route from Uttara to Agargaon on December 28 last year while opening the second phase on Saturday she boarded the

metro and headed to Motijheel for another inaugural programme at the

According to officials concerned, each train can run at a speed of 100 to 110 kilometres per hour with 2,300 passengers. The service is designed to carry 60,000 passengers per hour and half a million passengers per day.

"One train will arrive at each station every four minutes," Siddique said.

The metro rail system was built at a cost of Taka 334.720 billions (USD 4 mil-

International Cooperation Agency (JICA) provided Taka 19,719 of the total amount while the rest was financed by Bangladesh's

own exchequer.

The service opened on Saturday is called "Mass Rapid Transit Line 6" or MRT Line-6 while five more routes will be opened in phases with one being an underground track. The routes are intended to bring Dhaka under an integrated network of metro rail services in subsequent phases covering areas on the city outskirts as well.

Hasina on Saturday also formally inaugurated the construction work of MRT Line-5 to build a 140kilometre metro rail network in the capital and ad-

# **Blinken meets Palestinian** leader in West Bank

#### diplomacy as Gaza war escalates

Ramallah (West Bank), Nov 05 (AP): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken brought his frenetic Mideast diplomatic push on the Israel-Hamas war to the occupied West Bank on Sunday, meeting with Palestinian Mahmoud Abbas in his latest bid to ease civilian suffering in the Gaza Strip and begin to sketch out a postconflict scenario for the ter-

Blinken travelled to Ramallah for his previously unannounced visit in an ar-

camp in the Gaza Strip, killing at least 40 people and wounding dozens, health officials said. Despite the secrecy and the State Department refusing to confirm the trip until after Blinken had physically left the West Bank, protests

erupted against his visit and

US support for Israel as

under tight security just

hours after Israeli war-

planes struck a refugee

word of his arrival leaked. Aside from pleasantries neither man spoke as they greeted each other in front of cameras and the meeting ended without any public comment. It was not immediately clear if the lack of words indicated the meeting

countries that are part of the AGOA programme participated in the forum, where African businesses Meeks in a statement. showcased products ranging from food and jew-

US Congress to extend the programme for a far longer period than the previous 10-year extension Africa's growth," granted in 2015. More than 30 African Foreign Committee

**US officials, lawmakers express support for** 

extension of Africa trade programme

ellery to electronics. The forum concluded Saturday. In a statement released Friday, US lawmakers ex-

pressed support for the ex-

adherence to the rule of tension of the program.

"Africa is on the precipice of an unprecedented demographic boom. The timely reauthorisation of AGOA is important to provide business certainty and show the United States' continued support towards economic said House Affairs chairman Michael McCaul and ranking member Gregory

US trade representative Katherine Tai, who led the US delegation, emphasised AGOA's impact on African businesses and its importance to the United States. "AGOA remains the

cornerstone of the US economic partnership with Africa, let us not forget the real impact that AGOA has had on real lives, real people," she said.

Earlier this week, President Joe Biden announced his intention to boot Niger, Gabon, the Central African Republic and Uganda from AGOA.

He said Niger and Gabon had failed to establish or make continual progress toward the protection of political pluralism and the rule of law, while citing the Central African Republic and Uganda as having committed gross violations of in-

ternationally recognised

human rights.

# Stepping up Mideast

President

moured motorcade and

had gone poorly.

# c e n T R A L le

Since 1974 Volume 11 No. 218

#### **Delhi's Suffocating Haze A Looming Public Health Crisis**

s Delhiites woke up to yet another day shrouded in a toxic haze, the grim reality of our city's air quality crisis became all too apparent. Now the pollution levels soared into the "severe plus" category, plunging the National Capital Region into an air quality nightmare. This escalating environmental emergency can no longer be dismissed as an unfortunate annual occurrence; it demands our immediate and unwavering attention. The Air Quality Index (AQI) plummeted from a concerning 415 on Saturday afternoon to a staggering 460 on Sunday morning, painting a bleak picture of our air quality. Under the central government's air pollution control plan, any AQI crossing the ominous 450-mark triggers a slew of emergency measures, including a ban on polluting trucks, commercial four-wheelers, and all types of construction activities. It is imperative that these mandated measures are enforced without delay to alleviate the dire situation. The concentration of PM2.5, those fine particulate matter particles notorious for penetrating deep into the respiratory system, exceeded government-prescribed safe limits by an alarming seven to eight times at multiple locations across Delhi-NCR. Shockingly, it reached levels 80 to 100 times higher than the healthy limit set by the World Health Organization (WHO). This dire statistic underscores the perilous state of our air. The deteriorating air quality can be attributed to a combination of factors, including a gradual drop in temperatures, stagnant winds that trap pollution, and the surge in post-harvest paddy straw burning across Punjab and Haryana. Data from the Central Pollution Control Board paints a troubling picture, revealing that Delhi's AQI increased by over 200 points between October 27 and November 3, culminating in the "severe plus" category on Friday. Friday's 24-hour average AQI (468) was the worst recorded since November 12, 2021. Neighboring cities such as Ghaziabad, Gurugram, Noida, Greater Noida, and Faridabad are also grappling with hazardous air quality, further highlighting the regional nature of this crisis. In the midst of this air quality catastrophe, a critical initiative aimed at identifying different sources of pollution in Delhi and taking appropriate mitigating actions was abruptly halted on the orders of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee Chairman Ashwani Kumar. Additionally, a large smog tower installed at Connaught Place to combat air pollution was unilaterally ordered to cease operations. These actions not only raise questions about our commitment to addressing air pollution but also hinder progress toward cleaner air. Delhi's air quality now ranks among the worst in the world's capital cities. A report by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC) revealed that air pollution is cutting short lives by nearly 12 years in Delhi. This is an alarming statistic that should prompt swift and decisive action from all stakeholders. The hazardous pollution levels have forced many to abandon their morning walks, sports, and outdoor activities. Parents are rightfully concerned, as health experts emphasize that children, who breathe faster, are more vulnerable to the harmful effects of pollution. Unfavorable meteorological conditions, combined with emissions from vehicles, paddy straw burning, firecrackers, and other local sources of pollution, conspire to create hazardous air quality levels in Delhi-NCR every winter. Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana, in particular, contributes significantly to this annual crisis. The authorities must recognize the gravity of the situation and act swiftly. We cannot afford to be complacent any longer. It is incumbent upon us to implement stringent measures to curb pollution, reduce emissions, and protect the health and well-being of our citizens, especially the vulnerable and the young. The time for action is now, for every breath we take matters, and the health of our city and its people depends on the choices we make today.

### **Protecting J&K's Fragile Ecosystem**

he recent release of a preliminary notification by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) designating three critical areas in Jammu and Kashmir-Dachigam National Park, Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary, and Overa-Aru Wildlife Sanctuary—underscores the urgent need to safeguard our region's pristine ecosystem. This move by the government reflects growing concerns over the rapid decline in glacier cover in the region, a phenomenon with far-reaching environmental consequences. Time and again, we have witnessed the issuance of directives by authoritative bodies such as the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the Supreme Court, and the MoEFCC, all aimed at preserving our forests, environment, and ecology, However, it is deeply disconcerting to note that despite these repeated warnings, the Building Operations Controlling Authority (BOCA) has been complicit in facilitating construction activities in ecologically fragile areas, such as the Sonamarg region. The recent revelations brought to light by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the High Court serve as a stark wake-up call. It has come to light that a significant number of hotels, restaurants, and guesthouses in the region were constructed without proper authorization, blatantly disregarding a Supreme Court judgment regarding Patnitop. Numerous development authorities are operating in violation of established guidelines, and a multitude of cases involving high-ranking officials are either under investigation or subject to legal proceedings. Regrettably, these legal actions have failed to act as an effective deterrent. Officials continue to push forward with construction projects under the guise of development, resulting in extensive environmental damage. It is abundantly clear that unchecked and extensive construction has wreaked havoc on our environment, leading to repeated disasters in various states, particularly in mountainous regions. Jammu and Kashmir's glaciers are receding at an alarming rate, far exceeding acceptable proportions. Despite this, there is an unprecedented push to advance construction agendas in eco-fragile zones. All three of the designated regions are wildlife sanctuaries, each with its own established and stringent rules and regulations. It is imperative to investigate why officials continue to flout these established procedures. In reality, once construction is completed, often after the destruction of forested areas, it can take years, and in some cases, decades, for the courts to intervene and render a final judgment. In the meantime, extensive damage has already been inflicted. All legal entities involved must adopt a proactive stance to thwart attempts to disrupt the delicate balance of nature. There are numerous eco-friendly approaches to promoting development that should be prioritized and pursued. Every tourist destination has its capacity to accommodate visitors, and exceeding these limits will result in irreparable damage. Due to the persistent pressure and the unwavering stance of the courts, some semblance of order has been maintained in certain cases. The consequences of receding glaciers are dire, including a lack of water in downstream rivers during dry seasons. Jammu and Kashmir has already witnessed this phenomenon in several of its waterways, with the Jhelum River's water level falling below a meter at certain points. This has led to a scarcity of drinking water, inadequate water supply for hydroelectric projects, severe electricity shortages, and a decline in tourism. The time to act is now, as further delay will only exacerbate the damage to our environment and jeopardize the well-being of future generations.

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 to editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com.

#### VOTER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



Participants during a voter awareness campaign ahead of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, in Bhopal, Sunday, Nov. 5.

# **Our social festivals are losing their colour**



In the wake of marketization's pervasive influence, our beloved festivals have undergone a profound transformation. What were once vibrant and meaningful celebrations now seem to have lost their genuine flavor. Major festivals, once characterized by unity and empathy, have been reduced to formalities, overshadowed by the relentless pursuit of wealth. The divisive specter of dirty politics further erodes their essence. In this era of economic dominance, the spirit of equality and community that festivals once embodied has waned, leaving a bitter aftertaste where camaraderie and unity once thrived. It is crucial to examine the impact of this change on our festivals and the broader societal implications it entails.

eing agricultural, each change of entertainment. Festivals have been included on these occasions, which is appropriate. In the first category, there are those fasts, festivals, and fairs, which are cultural and whose objective is to protect the basic elements and ideas of Indian culture. All the major festivals of Hindus come under this category, like Holika Utsav, Diwali, Basant. Shrayani, Sankranti etc. Preservation of culture is their soul. The second category includes those festivals which are created in memory of some great man. They are meant to remember the qualities, activities, pious character, and greatness of the great man whose memory they symbolize. Festivals like Navami. Krishna Ashtami. Bhishma Panchami, Hanuman Jayanti, Nag Panchami, etc. can be kept in this

That means there is a festival here every day. An example of unity in diversity is seen on the occasion of this festival. In the daily hustle and bustle, which has become energy-intensive and is becoming desolate, these festivals bring refreshing moments to a person along with happiness, joy, joy, and happiness. This applies not only to Hinduism but to various religions and sects. These festivals are based on social beliefs, tradiple and communities. All festivals have their traditions and customs. These festivals provide character and emotional strength to humans by developing moral qualities like compassion, kindness, simplicity, hospitality, mutual love, goodwill, and philanthropy in human life. The pride and identity of Indian culture, these festivals are very important

from social, religious, cultural, and spiritual points of view.

Social festivals and inter-school cultural programs provide wonderful op-portunities to help build children's selfconfidence and interpersonal skills. Interpersonal skills include the ability to communicate and interact effectively with others and self-confidence is the belief in oneself and one's abilities. both of which are essential for building positive relationships with others. Social festivals bring exposure to different cultures, languages, and traditions, which can broaden their horizons and help them develop empathy and understanding towards others. You can make new friends and contacts, which can help you feel more connected to the community and develop a sense of belonging. These events are a great way to develop this because they bring a lot of people together, and thus create a feeling of unity and brotherhood. These teach us to be more accepting, tolerant, and inclusive towards people from different walks of life.

Marketization has changed all the systems. Our festivals also did not remain untouched by this. Perhaps that is why major festivals are losing their flavor and it seems that we celebrate festivals only to fulfill formalities. No one has time to inquire about people's pain and suffering at these major festivals. Everyone is busy earning money. Dirty politics has also spoiled the fun of festivals. We were slaves for hundreds of years. But our elders never let the color of these festivals fade. Today in this economic era everything has changed. It was said that on festival days there should be no small person. And not any big one. All equal. But now it is just a display of colors and the meeting is just a formality. Even on festival days, we are not able to fully connect with our loved ones and society. Due to this the taste of sweets has become bitter. We talk about removing the darkness from the entire earth, but we are not able to remove even the darkness within ourselves. This ritual performed by us on festivals perhaps indicates that our festivals too have gone away along with

our older generations. Our festivals are the living form of our sensibilities and traditions, which every community member likes to celebrate or rather, to celebrate again and again, every year. Innumerable concerns about our civilization and culture are hidden in these beliefs, traditions, and ideas. The thought of our festivity, which fills our lives with unique colors of life, gives birth to a new flow of zeal and enthusiasm in the mind. Both our mind and life are festive. Our festive spirit binds family and society together. It teaches us to live in an organized manner. Gives the gift of participation and mutual coordination. Our festivals, which add colors to our lives, social festivals provide a unique platform to collaborate, meet and socialize with peers, showcase one's talent, and teach and learn about different cultures and traditions. Is. These skills are an essential part of our lives and are often at the core of almost all aspects of our lives.

Therefore, as far as their relevance is concerned in the present times, on the days of fasts and festivals, we remember the said deity, observe fast, donate, and listen to stories, which shows the message of social harmony along with personal progress. The seeds of Indian culture are hidden in it. "Festivals have an unmatched contribution to the development of Indian culture. Fasts, festivals, fairs, etc. have special significance in Indian culture. Most of the festivals of Hindus are celebrated because Hindu sages have made plans to make life interesting and beautiful. Every festival, fast, celebration, fair, etc. has a hidden significance. Indian culture is associated with each. They have been decided keeping a specific idea or objective in mind. Special emphasis has been laid on the need for value education to re-establish values. Value educa tion has become the need of the hour today. Therefore, it needs to be implemented as soon as possible. In the present digital age, people are forgetting their civilization and culture.

(Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, All India Radio and TV panelist.)

**Victory Campaign** 

India's victorious campaign on their way to the Cricket World Cup continues.Team India has proven its superiority by defeating the best teams in the world in every field of cricket.Despite scores big and small, the winning goal propelled the Indian team forward. Now, as India moves ahead on their path to the finals, taking the remaining matches seriously, India will have to continue their winning streak till the finals. If this happens, this will surely be the golden era for Indian cricket. Which will be unforgettable. However, the team's hard work also needs the support of luck.

#### N. Ashraf, Mumbai Corporate Influence

The influence of corporate funding in politics is undeniable. Political parties openly receive financial support from the corporate sector, a practice sanctioned by existing legislation. The Income Tax Act allows companies to claim unlimited deductions under Section 80GGB for donations to political parties. In return, these companies naturally expect favors, which often find their way into policy decisions. This pervasive issue of corruption, infiltrating every facet of society, finds its origins in such financial contributions. It's high time we address this concerning influence, ensuring transparency and accountability in political financing to safeguard the integrity of

our democracy.

MK Nair, Raipur

#### Pakistan's **Economic Struggles**

Pakistan grapples with chronic economic dependency, hindering its selfsustenance and growth. Political policies largely underpin the country's economic crisis. Unlike India and Bangladesh, which flourished within stable democratic systems, Pakistan lacks a visionary leader akin to Nehru, who invested in critical infrastructure for future development. Instead, Pakistan has oscillated between military rule and a fragile democracy propped up by the military. Addressing these issues is paramount for Pakistan's economic sta-

Rakesh Gupta, Korba

bility and self-reliance.

# **On the Road of Inclusive Growth**



Satish Singh

he poor have neither caste nor religion. It is difficult for them to live every day. When it is not possible for the villagers to survive in villages, then they move to big cities or metros in search of employment. When they are unable to get employment even in cities due to lack of technical skills, they start self-employment. Usually they sell vegetables, readymade clothes, toys, decorative items, flowers etc. on the roadside. Still their life is full of struggle. Due to lack of capital, they are not able to earn enough to meet their daily needs. To help such people or make them self-reliant, the government had launched the PM Street Vendor Self-reliant Fund (PM Swanidhi) on 1 June 2020.

Under this scheme, a loan of Rs.50,000 is given to the street vendor without any guarantee or security. This amount is released to the borrower in 3 instalments i.e., Rs.10,000, Rs.20,000 and Rs.20,000. There is a provision in the scheme to release the second and third instalments only after the first instalment has been paid, so that the possibility of the loan account turning into a non-performing asset (NPA) is reof the responsibility of repaying the loan. There is also a provision in the scheme to give interest subsidy of 7 percent to the borrowers who repay the loan regularly. Cashback up to Rs.1200 is given every year to the borrowers who do digital transactions, so that the culture of digital transactions develops among them, and they can keep pace with the digitalization campaign of the government.

Till now, under this scheme, all three instalments have been disbursed in 70 lakh loan accounts, amounting to Rs.9100 crore. The percentage of taking and repaying the loan is 68 percent from the first to the second instalment and 75 percent from the second to the third instalment. As awareness increases, the tendency to repay loans can improve further. Government banks are playing an important role in giving shape to PM Swanidhi, in which State Bank of India is at the top. It has disbursed 31 percent of the total loan amount disbursed. Bank of Baroda is at second place with loan disbursement of 11 percent, while Union Bank of India is at third place with loan disbursement of

At the time of launch of this scheme, the government had set a target of disbursing the first instalment i.e., Rs.10,000 to 50 lakh street vendors. Later, due to high demand, public sector banks disbursed 106 percent loans more than the target. Seeing the success of the scheme, the government revised the old target and set a target of disbursing loans as first instalment to 63 lakh vendors instead of 50 lakh vendors, while including the second and third instalment, it will be disbursed to 88.5 lakh vendors by December 2023. However, this target has not been achieved yet, but it is expected that banks will achieve this target soon.

Among the beneficiaries of PM Swanidhi, 75 percent are from nonupper caste, in which the percentage of backward classes is 44, while the percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is 22. The number of women among the beneficiaries is 43 percent and the number of men is 57 percent. 26 percent people from the upper caste have taken advantage of this scheme, while 8 percent people from the minority class have taken loans under this scheme. Among those taking benefit of this scheme, the number of people aged between 26 to 45 years is two-thirds and the number of people aged between 18 to 45 years is three-fourth, while the average age of those taking benefit of the scheme is 41 vears. These figures show that the weaker sections of the society including women, young and old are all trying to become financially strong with the help of this scheme.

After loan disbursement, the percentage of people spending through debit cards has increased by 50 percent in the year 2023 as compared to the year 2021. The average expenditure has increased by Rs.28,000 in just 2 years. Beneficiaries of PM Swanidhi spent Rs.51,672 through debit cards in the financial year 2021, while Rs.60,974 were spent in the financial year 2022, Rs.79,372 in the financial year 2023 and Rs.32,555 in the current financial year till the month of August, which shows that the beneficiaries of PM Swanidhi are gradually becoming self-reliant. Due to PM Swanidhi Yojana, the spending propensity of street vendors and their

acceptance towards digital transactions

has increased. Now they have started shopping online with the help of debit cards. They have also started taking advantage of cashback, earned points, dis-

counts on debit card transactions etc. It is also being seen that those who had taken loan under PM Swanidhi in the financial year 2023 were spending more than those who had not taken any loan in the financial year 2022. Similarly, those people who have taken the second and third instalment of the loan, their financial capacity has improved further, and they are spending regularly. The national average of such people who spend regularly is 22 percent. However, the percentage of such people varies state-wise. In this case, the percentage of some states is more than the national average, while the percentage of some states is less than the national average. Presently more than 9 lakh street vendors are spending regularly after loan disbursement. 63 percent of the people, whose age is less than 25 years or more than 60 years, were spending beyond basic needs after the loan amount was disbursed.

According to PM Swanidhi dash-board, 5.9 lakh borrowers live in big cities, while the rest live in other cities. In Banaras, 45 percent of borrowers are pending regularly, which is the highest in the country. In this case, Bengaluru is at second place, Chennai is at third place and Prayagraj is at fourth place. The dashboard also shows that people from small towns are also taking benefits from PM Swanidhi Yojana. If this trend becomes stronger, the percentage of workers migrating from small towns to metropolitan cities will reduce. After opening the account under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, people usually used to spend money to meet their basic needs or used the bank account to transfer money, but after getting the loan under PM Swanidhi Yojana, people used to spend money to fulfil other than basic needs, because their business has strengthened, and beneficiaries have now started spending on other items as per their wish.

There has been an incremental increase of 8 percent in credit from accounts opened under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and loans being given under PM Swanidhi. In the last 9 years. 30 percent are the beneficiaries who had opened a deposit account for the first time or had also taken loan facility for the first time. At the same time, the gross domestic product (GDP) has increased by 6 percent from fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2023.

In the last 9 years, the government has started many schemes to eradicate poverty. Overdraft facility was also given to those who regularly transact in the accounts opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yoiana, which helped the weaker sections of the society to improve their financial condition. Under Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, 42 percent new accounts were opened only because of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yoiana. Subsequently, to bring the weaker sections of the society into the mainstream, ensure inclusive growth and help businesses during the Corona pandemic, the government implemented PM Swanidhi, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, ECLGS etc. Today, due to these schemes, 6 percent of the workers working in the informal sector have been formalized, which has increased the possibility of providing more facilities to the needy people, strengthened the economy and strengthened inclusive development. Besides, the possibility of increase in government revenue in the coming years has also increased.

#### **BRIEF**

#### **Air India**

■ New Delhi: Air India has entered into an interline partnership with Alaska Airlines. The partnership will allow Air India customers to "avail seam less connections from New York JFK, Newark-New Jersey, Washington DC, Chicago, San Francisco, and Vancouver gateways to and from 32 destinations in the USA, Mexico, and Canada on Alaska Airline's network", according to a release. An interline arrangement refers to a pact to issue and accept tickets for flights that are operated by the partner airline.

#### **NTPC**

New Delhi: Stateowned power giant NTPC on Saturday said its group installed capacity has reached 73.874 MW after its arm started commercial operations of a 50 MW wind energy unit. "NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC, has on Nov 4 declared commercial operation of its first project of 50 MW Wind at Davapar Project in Gujarat, taking the group installed capacity to 73,874 MW," a company statement said.

#### **Sundram Fasteners**

■ Chennai: Sundram Fasteners Ltd, engaged in auto components manufacturing, has reported a standalone profit for the July-September 2023 quarter at Rs 117.93 crore, the company said. The standalone profit during the corresponding quarter of last financial year was at Rs 111.75 crore, the Chennaiheadquartered company said. For the six months period ended September 30, 2023 the standalone profit was at Rs 230.46 crore, as against Rs 241.86 crore registered in the same period of last year, the

#### Jeep India

company said.

Coimbatore: Automaker Jeep India has strengthened its retail footprint with the inauguration of a new dealership -- SGA Jeep, here, as it plans to increase its dealer ship network to 80 by the end of the year, the company said on Sunday. Currently, Jeep India is present in 64 cities across the country and has over 72 touch points. The SGA Jeep, in the city, is spread across 2,100 sqft and would offer the full range of JEEP Grand Cherokee, Wrangler, Meridian and Compass in the region. Besides, it would also serve neighbouring districts including Erode,

#### **Retail Stores**

Nigiris and Tirupur.

■ **Bhopal:** Campus Activewear, has launched two exclusive retail stores in Raipur at City Centre Mall and Ambuia Mall. Both stores offer a wide range of highquality, fashionable, and affordable footwear solutions. The outlet launches are a part of the brand's growth journey from continuously driving fashion forward narrative and adopting a multi-channel sales approach to add value to the customer's brand journey while serving the latent demand.

# IOC acquires Mercator Petroleum for Rs 148 crore

New Delhi, Nov 05 (PTI):

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has ac-Mercator quired Petroleum for about Rs 148 crore in an insolvency proceeding, according to regulatory filings by the company.

"The resolution plan submitted by IOC for acquisition of 100 per cent stake in Mercator Petroleum Limited (MPL) has been approved by the National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai Bench vide its order dated November 2, 2023 under the relevant provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, the firm said in the filing.

MPL has an onland oil and gas exploration block located in Cambav Basin. Gujarat. The block CB-ONN-2005/9, which the company had won in 7th NELP bid round in 2008. has potential oil discovery of 45.5 million barrels of inplace reserves.

IOC's Koyali refinery is located about 60 km from block and in the November 2019 it signed a contract to buy oil from the block.

"IOC will implement the Resolution Plan and complete the regulatory processes, including obtaining necessary approvals, if any, for successful implementation of the Resolution Plan," it said. As per the resolution

plan, the company will pay Rs 135 crore to secured financial creditors, who had admitted claims of Rs 291 crore. No payment has been provided for unsecured financial creditors, who had admitted claims of Rs 118 crore. The resolution plan offers Rs 5.40 crore to operational creditors vendors, workmen, employees and statutory dues against their total admitted claims of Rs 73

Additionally, IOC will bear insolvency proceeding cost of Rs 8.7 crore. Cayman Island-based oil services company Halliburton Offshore Services Inc had initiated insolvency proceedings in August 2021 after Mercator defaulted on payment of Rs 2.87 crore.

IOC's resolution plan for Mercator Petroleum was approved by the committee of creditors by 100 per cent vote. It then moved to the NCLT, which has now given its approval.

IOC is the second PSU to have acquired a company in an solvency proceeding. In March this year, India's largest gas firm GAIL acquired insolvent privatesector chemical company JBF Petrochemicals for Rs 2,079 crore, helping the state-owned firm expand its footprint in the petrochemical business.

GAIL had outbid a consortium of IOC and Oil Natural Corporation (ONGC) in the insolvency process run by IDBI Bank to recover Rs 5.628 crore of dues to financial and operational

#### **DIWALI PREPARATIONS**



A craftsman paints 'diyas' ahead of the festival of Diwali, in Amritsar.

#### Tata Steel seeks financial aid for Netherlands unit

■ To submit decarbonization proposal to Dutch govt soon

New Delhi, Nov 05 (PTI):

After securing a funding in the UK, Tata Steel is looking for a financial aid from the Netherlands government to execute its decarbonization plans.

In October 2021, Tata Steel completed the process of separating Tata Steel UK and Tata Steel Netherlands as two independent companies from Tata Steel Europe. "In Netherlands, we will shortly be submitting the detailed decarbonization proposal to the Dutch government seeking regulatory and financial support," Tata Steel CEO & MD TV Narendran said. Tata Steel Netherlands has been workintensely with Government Netherlands on the contours of the decarbonization project covering emission and health standards.

The detailed decarboniza-

tion proposal will shortly be submitted to Government of Netherlands seeking regulatory and financial support which is critical for the company's Dutch operations. Both parties will then discuss the detailed conditions of the project, a Tata Steel statement said. The board of Tata Steel will duly consider the project for approval at an appropriate time, it said. The company did not elaborate on the decarbonization plans it looks to undertake in the

#### Tata Steel seeks financial aid for Netherlands unit **■** To submit decarbonization

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> ect for approval at an appropriate time, it said. The company did not elaborate on the decarbonization plans it looks to

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undertake Netherlands. In the Netherlands, the company has a 7 million tonne per annum (MTPA) plant in IJmuiden. The company's goal is to produce CO2-neutral steel by 2050 in Europe.

On September 15, Tata Steel and the UK government agreed on a joint investment plan of 1.25 billion pounds to execute decarbonization plans at Port Talbot steel making facility in Britain under which it will install new plant machinery with low emission technologies.

Of the 1.25 billion pounds, the UK government's contribution would be of up to 500 million pounds, Tata Steel said.

India-headquartered Tata Steel owns the UK's largest steelwork of 5 MTPA at Port Talbot in South Wales and employs around 8,000 people across all its operations in the

#### **MLMML launches** new 'Jeeto Strong'

Mahindra Last Mile Mobility

Pune, Nov 05:

Limited (MLMML), a subsidiary of Mahindra and Mahindra, has launched the "Mahindra Jeeto Strong". There are more than 200000 satisfied Jeeto customers in the country. The Jeeto Strong retains the core value of Jeeto brand - best-insegment mileage - while bringing in a higher payload capacity and more features. The Jeeto Strong is all set to redefine last mile cargo transportation. With a much-higher payload capacity of 815 kg in diesel and 750 kg in CNG, it enhances productivity. It stands out with best-in-segment mileage (32.00 km/l in diesel, 35.00 km/kg in CNG), a first in a sub-2 tonne ICE cargo 4-wheeler - electric vacuum pump-assisted braking, a userfriendly brand-new digital clus-

# Revenue growth to come back in H2: Marico MD & CEO

New Delhi, Nov 05 (PTI):

Home-grown FMCG major Marico expects revenue growth to come back in the second half of the fiscal and sluggish rural demand to gradually imrove, said its Managing Director and CEO Saugata

It has taken price corrections after softening of inflation in the domestic market in the last two quarters, which has some effects on its revenue growth. However, it has helped it either gain or sustain market share and also increase penetration in some of its portfolio, he added.

In the next two quarters, revenue growth of the company would be in line with volume growth,

Mumbai, Nov 05:

Fulfil your dreams this

annual marque

Diwali as Croma, a Tata

Enterprise, is back with

'Festival of Dreams' cam-

paign with a host of dream

deals and much-awaited

offers across stores and

Croma.com and is on till

15th November 2023 across

categories such Smart

TVs to Laptops, Washing

Refrigerators,

Smartphones, and much

more. Further to its com-

mitment to being cus-

tomer-focused, Croma is

all set to turn your dreams

into reality with an array

of exciting discounts and

offers in Croma stores and

the Website Croma.com

and Tata Neu. \*All offers

Elevate your home en-

tertainment with a capti-

vating range of 55", 65",

are subject to T&C.

Croma

Machines,



Marico MD & CEO Saugata Gupta

Gupta told PTI. "Revenue growth is expected to move into the positive territory in H2 as pricing deflation in the domestic business steadily tapers off. The company has taken price drops in its core brands as Saffola and Parachute," Gupta added.

Marico, week, which owns popular Saffola, brands

and 75" 4K LED TVs, now

accessible with convenient

EMI options commencing

at a mere Rs 2990 per month. For those who

fancy Samsung TVs,

there's a special treat - the

Lifestyle Frame TV can be

yours for the same month-

ly amount, complete with

a Free Bezel worth Rs 8990.

Intel Core i3 Laptops fea-

turing MS Office, available

starting at just Rs 30,900.

That's not all; for those

looking to upgrade their

tech game, Croma is pro-

viding fantastic EMI deals.

When you buy a Laptop,

you can enjoy up to 24

months of EMI, making it

easier than ever to stay

connected and stay ahead

in the world of technology.

give your kitchen an up-

grade this Diwali, Croma

has some exciting offers

If you're planning to

Step into the world of

Samsung

elegant 55"

Croma launches 'Festival

of Dreams' campaign

#### Parachute, and Livon, reported 17.2 per cent increase in consolidated net profit for September quarter. However, its revenue from operations marginally reduced to Rs 2,476 crore

Marico nas also reported an underlying volume growth of 3 per cent in the domestic business.

When asked about rural markets, he said it will gradually improve as sentiments are improving.

"One of the good things is that there was some uncertainty due to rainfall in August and it improved significantly September. Overall, we are

also now going to lap a lower base. So therefore I see the revenue and volume situation both improving," he said.

#### **PURE EV launches** vehicle exchange program

New Delhi, Nov 05:

This Diwali season, PURE EV, a leading E2W manufacturing company launched Vehicle **Exchange Program. Customers** will embark on a journey of extraordinary savings, with an unprecedented Referral Scheme showering INR 40,000 in cashback, combined with Festive Deals worth INR 15,000 to 20,000.

The company is thrilled to implement this program PAN India, inviting all dealers to conduct vehicle exchange camps at their outlets from 6th to 9th November/8th to 12 November based on the region. PURE EV's Vehicle **Exchange Program, initially** launched in Hyderabad, has garnered exceptional success. The four-day pilot camp saw an overwhelming response, drawing enthusiastic crowds during extended hours.

Tyre demand to remain robust amid positive economic environment: JK Tyre CMD

New Delhi, Nov 05 (PTI):

Demand for tyres in the domestic market is expected to remain robust going ahead as the automobile industry continues to scale new highs amid a positive economic environment, JK Chairman and Managing Director Raghupati Singhania said.

In an interaction with PTI, the veteran industry leader said that robust Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth and the government's focus on infrastructure development, is expected to fuel growth for the automobile sector as well as the tyre industry.

We see that the domestic demand will continue to be robust due to the healthy macroeconomic factors as well as the investments in infra and of course, overall



feel good economic environment that we are running

through," he said. Elaborating on some positive factors, Singhania said freight availability remains consistent, helping the commercial vehicle segment.

Besides, robust GDP growth and more disposable income is helping in the enhanced offtake of cars, he noted.

"So, we foresee that car demand will go up and so will the demand for tyres,

Singhania said. He said more and more people are now looking to travel by road as various high quality roads have come up in the last 18-20 months. 'This is going to open

new venues of usage of cars in particular. And, therefore, the consumption of tyres," Singhania said.

On JK Tyres, he said the company being a leader in the truck and bus radial tyres continues to focus on the segment.

"However, we will also have an enhanced focus on Passenger Car Radial (PCR) because the headroom is even better in the segment,'

he added. Singhania said the company's topline has been growing consistently over the last few quarters and it

expects to maintain it going

#### Hyundai Motor India set for SUVs accounting over 60% of total sales this year: COO Tarun Garg

New Delhi, Nov 05 (PTI):

Hyundai Motor India Ltd is on track to achieving 60 per cent of its total domestic sales from SUVs this year with models like Creta and the newly launched Exter accelerating the growth, according to company COO Tarun

With exports accelerating in the last three months, the company is also confident of sustaining its overseas shipments momentum despite concerns over global geopolitical situation. "We will end up with more than 60 per cent at the end of the vear which is what we said at the beginning of the year...We are now almost reaching there," Garg told PTI. He was responding to a query on how much



would SUVs contribute to the company's overall sales considering the traction its models have witnessed in the market.

He further said,"For us the good thing has been that SUV contribution has moved to 63 per cent in October and year-to-date at 59 per cent as against industry SUV percentage of 48 per cent. So that has really helped us to outperform the industry in terms of January to October numbers.'

#### Khadim India unlikely to have showcases festive range of products

Mumbai, Nov 05:

Khadim India, the home grown second largest retail footwear brand launches Diwali campaign, 'Dil Mein Diwali Pairon Mein Khadim' to celebrate the joyous festival in this market. The campaign highlights the festive collection of the brand designed for the entire family to celebrate the festival of lights. Furthermore to add on to the festivity the brand is also offering attractive offers for its consumers to enjoy. The campaign reassures its users that their beloved footwear brand is a one stop destination for fashion footwear and accessories for all. The brand has launched its festive range of footwear under the primary brand Khadim and its sub brands British Walkers, Lazard, Turk, Sharon, Cleo, Softtouch, PRO, Bonito & Adriana. Also have introduced in store offers for

consumers on purchase of

Rs.1000 & above.

# hyperloop trains in near future: NITI member V K Saraswat

New Delhi, Nov 05 (PTI):

India is unlikely to go in for hyperloop technology for ultra high-speed trains in the near future as the technology is at a 'very low level' of maturity and may not be economically viable at the current juncture, NITI Aayog Member V K Saraswat said on Sunday. Saraswat, who is heading a committee to explore the technological and commercial viability of the Virgin Hyperloop technology, further said some foreign companies have shown interest to bring the technology in India. "Hyperloop technology as far as we are concerned, we found that the offer which came from foreign countries are not very viable options. They are at a very low level of maturity of technology," he told PTI in an interview. Hyperloop is a high-speed

train, running in vacuum in

posed Elon Musk, who is behind electric car company

transport company SpaceX.

more than 161 km/hr.

Tesla and commercial space

"So we have not given much importance to that and as on today, it is only a study programme. I don't expect hyperloop to enter into our transportation framework in the near future," he said. The Virgin Hyperloop test run was conducted on November 9, 2020, on a 500-metre track in Las Vegas in the US with a pod, as the hyperloop vehicles are called, travelling with passengers, including an Indian, inside an enclosed tube at

# **Yogi Adityanath denounces** Congress's false promises

**Woos voters in Chhattisgarh** 

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Nov 05: With the assembly elections on the horizon, political activities are in full swing in the state. Prominent leaders from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), including Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, are making their way to campaign rallies to garner support for their candi-

As Yogi Adityanath arrived in Dongargaon and Khujji assembly constituencies, the enthusiastic crowd welcomed him with resounding chants of "Jaishree Ram." Prior to addressing the gathering. he urged the audience to vote for both BJP candi-



Yogi Adityanath did not mince words in criticizing the incumbent Congress government, exposing what he called a web of deception. He emphasized the deep-rooted connection between the people of Uttar Pradesh Chhattisgarh, stating that Chhattisgarh is like a maternal home for the people

dant natural resources in Chhattisgarh, he lamented the mismanagement by the Congress government, accusing it of neglecting the welfare of the public and misappropriating central schemes.

Yogi Adityanath described Congress's promises as a "bundle of lies" and criticized the party for its

Highlighting the abun- contributions to terrorism, Naxalism, and social unrest. He also pointed out the delay in providing bonuses to farmers and the discontinuation of subsidies and bonuses initiated by the previous government.

> The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister highlighted his government's achieve-

ing to the poor and pledged to build homes for 18 lakh impoverished individuals in Chhattisgarh.

blamed Congress government for failing to extend the benefits of Modi government schemes to the needy, citing the mismanagement of funds and delays in imple-

In a lighthearted remark, he compared the Congress's delay in fulfilling promises to the BJP's commitment to construct the Ram temple, which has now become a reality.

Adityanath's Yogi speech attracted a large and enthusiastic audience, causing the event's tent to overflow. After the program, a group of young volunteers from various organizations met with him, expressing their determination to follow in his footsteps and serve the

# Two accused of decades-old crimes apprehended in Nagpur

Police crack long-standing cases after 20 years

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Nov 05: In a remarkable breakthrough, the relentless efforts of a dedicated police team led to the arrest of two individuals accused of crimes dating back two decades in Nagpur.

Superintendent Police Ankita Sharma's specially formed team, including sub-inspector head constable Ashutosh Singh, constable Lokesh Thakur, Lala Nishad, Tejram, Uday Bareth, and female constable Lakshmi Chandel, managed to apprehend these longsought-after fugitives.

Kunwar Singh, also known as Mansingh Satnami, aged 52 and a resident of Tendubhata police station Dogargarh, had been on the run since breaking into a house in Facing charges under sections 294, 323, and 506, he had successfulfor two decades, residing incognito in Nagpur.

Another accused. Ganesh Ram Satnami. aged 35 and a resident of Amlidih Kala Khairagarh District KCG, had eloped with a girl from his own village, leading to charges under sections 363 and 366. He had managed to remain hidden from the police in Nagpur for 13 years before finally being apprehended.

The police team received crucial information about the whereabouts of these fugitives, who had changed locations repeatedly over the years. Acting swiftly upon this information, they successfully surrounded and arrested the accused individuals, who are now facing justice in

# **HPCL's Vigilance Awareness Week** inspires integrity and patriotism



HPCL empowers youth to fight corruption and uphold honesty

**Recognition and** awards for talented students promoting national values

Central Chronicle News

Mandir Hasaud, Nov 05:

Corporation (HPCL) conducted a highly successful Vigilance Awareness Week program from October 31st to November 5th. The initiative, held at the HPCL LPG Regional Office Municipal Council Mandir Hasaud near Raipur, aimed to promote national interest, integrity, and the fight against corruption.

During the program, a special event took place on school children, teachers,

key figures such as Nitin Patil. Chief Kumar Manager Vigilance from HPCL Vigilance Department, Pankaj Prakash Ratparkhi, Head of HPCL Raipur HPG Regional Office, Saniav Kumar Dewangan, Head of LPG Filling Plant, and Anil Principal Saraswati Shishu Mandir School. Approximately 60 and officers participated in this enlightening event.

The students showcased their dedication to the nation through rangoli, paintings, essays, and speeches focused on eradicating corruption and upholding honesty. HPCL LPG Filling Plant Regional Office recognized and awarded talented students for their outstanding contributions, offering best wishes for their bright

# Kalash Yatra and Karva Chauth program boost voter awareness

District officials promote fair and fearless voting

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Nov 05: In a good move to enhance voter awareness, District Election Officer and Collector Korba, Saurabh Kumar, along with District SVEEP Nodal Officer Vishwadeep, T.P., organized the SVEEP Kalash Yatra and Karva Chauth program, creating a unique platform for civic engage-

Assistant Nodal Officer Anil Ratre revealed that with the invaluable support of the District Program Officer from the Women and Development Department in Korba, approximately 400 women par-



Yatra, marching from TP Nagar to the CSEB Football Ground through the main road. At the ground, these women organized various programs dedicated to voter

Activities such as group sua dance, forming a human ticipated in the Kalash chain, engaging in debate di-

BSF soldiers unite in compassionate

initiative for comrade Valmiki

**Chhattisgarh BSF employees' family extends support to fellow soldiers** 

alogues, and spreading voter messages were part of the event. The women present took an oath for 100% and fair voting, administered by the Chief Executive Officer of the District Panchayat.

District Program Officer Preeti Khokhar stressed the the upcoming assembly elections on November 17 as "Maha Voting Tihar," emphasizing that voting should be carried out without fear or temptation. She appealed to all voters in Korba district to exercise their right to vote on

# RPF seizes Rs 8 lakh cash and silver jewellery

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Nov 05: In the run-up to the district's assembly elections, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) has intensified its efforts to apprehend individuals carrying illegal cash and materials from other districts and states.

tion, the RPF conducted investigations Railway Bilaspur Station, leading to the seizure of approximately Rs 8 lakh in cash and valuable silver jewellery.

In a significant opera-

During the operation, Rs 3 lakh and 42 thousand in cash were recovfrom Ashok



Bhatapara. When questioned, Agarwal failed to provide accurate information about the source of the money. Similarly, Rs 3 lakh in cash was confiscated from Omprakash Bishnoi of Maharashtra, and Rs 1

Agarwal, a resident of lakh 50 thousand along with 967 grams of silver jewellery were seized from Rohit Kumar Lonia, a resident of Karhipara Nirtu in the district. The RPF has subsequently transferred all these cases to the FST team for further action.

the country's borders and challenging Naxal-affected

warming display of camaraderie and compassion, Chhattisgarh's dedicated employees serving in the Border Security Force (BSF), the nation's largest paramilitary force, have initiated a remarkable endeavour. They have established a close-knit commucalled "Chhattisgarhiya BSF Employees Family" through WhatsApp, uniting members deployed across

Central Chronicle News

Arang, Nov 05: In a heart-

unique family shares a noble commitment to donating blood and providing financial support whenever their fellow soldiers are in need. In a recent and touching act of solidarity, they came together to offer financial as-

mately Rs. 1.5 lakh to support the family of their departed comrade, Valmiki

Valmiki Sinha, a brave member of the 162nd battalion of the Border Security Force, was stationed in the Naxal-affected area of Chhattisgarh.

Hailing from the village of Rewa (Lakholi) in the Arang block of Raipur's capital, his family received this generous contribution. This compassionate gesture stands as a historical example of unity and support. The collective effort of Chhattisgarh's BSF sol-

diers not only pays tribute to their fallen comrade but also sends a powerful message to society. It underscores the deep respect and sympathy that exists for BSF soldiers among their own families and within the local community.

Such acts of kindness and unity serve as a testament to humanity's enduring spirit, reminding us that selfless deeds fulfill our true purpose. The commendable contributions of all the members in this group reflect the bonds of solidarity and compassion that run deep among Chhattisgarh's

# BJP highlights Modi's guarantee manifesto for voter benefits

**Kurud assembly** candidate shares election promises

Central Chronicle News

Kareli Badi, Nov 05: BJP's Kurud Assembly candidate and MLA, Ajay Chandrakar, is actively engaging with various villages, rallying support for the upcoming elections. On Saturday, his representatives made visits to Kareli Badi, Kundel, Motimpur, and connected with the general public and party

A gathering was held in Kareli Badi, where Jyoti Chandrakar, BJP District



Vice President, unveiled the party's promises for the assembly elections, ensuring benefits for all segments of society upon victory. Jyoti Chandrakar emphasized the importance of the Modi guarantee announcement, highlighting the reasonable rate of

paddy at Rs 3100 per quintal and the provision of lump sum cash amounts. He passionately reached out to the people, urging their support for Ajay Chandrakar. District BJP Kisan Morcha President, Virendra Sahu, and Mahendra Sahu rallied

BJP workers to actively participate in the election campaign and work diligently for the party's success. They hailed the BJP's significant commitments as guarantees, including a two-year bonus for farmers upon victory. Women were also informed about the manifesto, which includes an annual Rs 12,000 benefit. BJP workers were tasked with spreading the word about these promises to the public while also highlighting the accomplishments of the present government.

sistance totaling approxi-

The event witnessed the presence of numerous dedicated workers, including Shyam Sahu, Omnath Sahu, Mohan Sahu, Khumendra Sahu, Vidya Yadav, Kripa Ram Sahu, Thaneshwar Sarpanch Domar Sahu, Deputy Sarpanch Padum Sahu, Daneshwar Sinha, Neelkanth Sinha, Bhojram Sahu, Pokhan, Dularva, and Tilak Ram.

# CJ conducts surprise inspection at District and Sessions Court

Central Chronicle News

Korea, Nov 05: The Honourable Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court, Ramesh Sinha, conducted an unexpected inspection of the Korea District and Sessions Court, igniting a renewed focus on judicial efficiency and dignity.

During the surprise visit, Chief Justice Sinha meticulously examined all the court complex's rooms and commended the court's cleanliness standards, aligning seamlessly with the court's stature. He also directed administrative officers to enhance the court's aesthetics by painting its external walls. Chief Justice Sinha met with lawyers and offered directives to resolve their issues. Following a



meeting with the judges, he stressed the expeditious resolution of longstanding cases and the timely handling of new ones. The District and Sessions Judge informed Chief Justice Sinha that there are currently 600 pending cases under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act. In response, the Chief Justice issued priority instructions for their swift

resolution. Korea District and Sessions Judge Anand Kumar Dhruv joined the inspection, emphasizing the commitment to a more efficient and dignified legal system. Also present during this momentous occasion were Registrar General Arvind Kumar Verma, Additional Registrar cum PPS M.V.L.N Subramaniam, and Protocol Officer R. S. Negi.

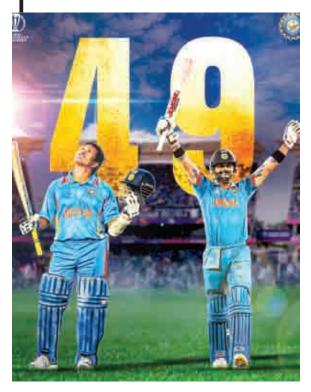




India's premier batter Virat Kohli on Sunday equalled his idol Sachin Tendulkar's record of most ODI centuries with his 49th hundred in their World Cup match against South Africa here, celebrating his 35th birthday in the most befitting man-

Kohli reached the landmark when he scored a single off Kagiso Rabada in the 49th over of the Indian innings in front of a packed Eden Gardens crowds that kept chanting his names.

With this the Indian maestro added another feather to his already illustrious cap while continuing his rich vein of form in the tournament. He remained unbeaten on 101 and faced 121 balls in his knock that had 10 shots to the fence. Expectations have been building up here since the Indian team landed in the City of Joy that houses



ic venues

Prior to the match against South Africa,

out on his 49th ODI century during India's match against Sri Lanka on Thursday

Master Blaster, who was watching the game, Kohli was dismissed for 88. a stroke-filled knock of 95 off 104 balls to seal India's four-wicket win over New Zealand at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Stadium. Association Kohli entered this game iust one short of matching Tendulkar's incredible tally. While Kohli took 277 innings to hit 49th century, Tendulkar took 452 in-

However it may be mentioned that Kohli has always been a top-order batter, Tendulkar batted down the order in about 80 matches before becoming a top-order batter in different playing condi-

In Tendulkar's era, five fielders were allowed outside the 30-yard circle and only one ball was used. compared to two balls from different ends in current era and one less field-

#### **India make 326 for 5 against Proteas**

Kolkata: A perseverant Virat Kohli finally conjured up his highly-anticipated and record-equalling 49th ODI century that steered India to a challenging 326 for five against formidable South Africa in the World Cup here on Sunday. India skipper Rohit Sharma (40 off 24) went about his business in his own inimitable style while Shubhman Gill (23 off 24) was cautious as the two provided a flying start to the hosts after electing to bat. Shreyas Iyer (77) played the perfect foil while Ravindra Jadeja (29 off 15) played crucial role in taking India past the 300-run mark. Barring Keshav Maharaj who bowled his full quota at a stretch, no other bowler could create an impact on an different-looking Eden wicket that became slower as the game progressed and aided spin. At a venue where he has the ODI world record score of 264, Rohit smashed bowlers all around the park before Bayuma's terrific catch at mid-off halted his innings. India's turbo-charged start by Rohit was already halted by Kagiso Rabada's wicket-maiden first over, and Maharaj produced a classical left-arm spin to remove the in-form Gill. Well-aware of Kohli's weakness against Maharai, the South African skipper had the left-arm spinner go non-stop at one end. But Kohli navigated the phase well in an intriguing battle against Maharaj. South Africa's second spinner Tabraiz Shamsi could not make full use of the conditions unlike his Chepauk show, helped the Indians. While Kohli and Iyer played with respect against Maharaj, they were happy to take charge against Shamsi. Kohli brought up his fifty off 67 balls -- his sixth in eight innings in the World Cup -- in Maharaj's last over. Lanky leftarm pacer Jansen, who was South Africa's main bowler in the powerplay, bowled a lot of freebies and was wayward.

# Harry Kane grabs hat-trick in 'Klassiker'

Berlin, Nov 05 (AP):

Harry Kane scored a hat trick in "der Klassiker" as Munich away to deliver a big Bundesliga statement.

Bayern's 10th consecutive league win over its old rival dealt Dortmund its first defeat of the season in the Bundesliga, and it banished any fears of a slump in form for Bayern following its own shock German Cup exit on Wednesday.

Bayern has now won its last 10 league games against Dortmund by a combined score of 33-11.

It also lifted the 11-time defending champion five points clear of Dortmund after 10 rounds, two behind early season leader Bayer Leverkusen, which stayed top with a 3-2 win at Hoffenheim.

The Bavarian powerhouse got off to a great with Dayot Upamecano heading in Leroy San 's corner in the fourth minute, five minKane to make it 2-0 on a counterattack.

Jamal Musiala should have made it 3-0 right after the break as Dortmund made another lackluster start, but the young Germany star fired straight at goalkeeper

# Jessica Pegula beats Coco Gauff at the WTA Finals

Cancun, Nov 05 (AP):

Jessica Pegula outplayed

U.S. Open winner Coco Gauff and beat her 6-2, 6-1 at the WTA Finals in a matchup between American doubles partners on a rainy and windy evening to reach the title match at the season-ending championship for the first

Their semifinal was tied at 2-all when the fifth-seeded Pegula a 29-year-old born in New York and now based in Florida who is a decade older than Gauff reeled off six games in a row to claim the opening set and lead 2-0 in the sec-



two U.S. women played each other in the final four at this event since 2002, when Serena Williams defeated Jennifer Capriati. and the third-seeded Gauff met at the net for a hug.

"Coco is still the present and the future of U.S. tennis. I'm happy that I'm also at the top of the game and one of the leaders for all the Americans," Pegula said. "So that's always really nice. And that's kind of just where I see myself."

They were scheduled to play a doubles match together later Saturday, but that was wiped out by rain and the second singles semifinal, between No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka and No. 2 Iga Swiatek, was suspended for the night. They were in just the fourth game

## Uncertainty looms over Lanka-Bangla World Cup clash Due to severe air pollution

New Delhi, Nov 05 (PTI):

The notorious air pollution in the national capital has shrouded the World Cup clash between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in doubt and it remains to be seen if the health of the players takes precedence over the contest, here on

A thick layer of toxic haze has enveloped the national capital once again, forcing the two teams to cancel their training at least once as Air Quality Index (AQI) remains in the severe category.

While Sri Lanka decided to stay indoors on Saturday, Bangladesh braved hazardous conditions to train last evening, wearing masks at the Feroz Shah Kotla. The 'Tigers' had cancelled their opening training session on Friday due to poor quality air. The AQI is



above 400-mark on a scale of 500 since Thursday and according to the Air Quality Early Warning System, it is likely to remain 'severe' till Tuesday. On Sunday morning, the AQI stood at 457 according to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The International Cricket Council (ICC) has made it clear that a call on future of the match will be taken only on game day when the match officials assess the air quality on Monday. Article 2.8 of ICC's playing conditions, says "If at any time the umpires together agree that the conditions of ground, weather or light, or any other cir-

sion ahead of the ICC Men's Cricke World Cup 2023 match against Sr Lanka, at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi, Sunday, Nov. 5.

#### **Match starts 2:00PM IST.**

cumstances are dangerous or unreasonable, they shall immediately suspend play, or not allow play to start or to recommence." "The decision as to whether conditions are so bad as to warrant such action is one for the umpires alone to make following consultation with the ICC Match Referee." Both the teams are no strangers to such a situation with the Sri Lankan players resorting to masks during a Test series back in 2017 and Bangladesh cricketers doing the same in a T20 in 2019. A number of Sri Lankan players had faced respiratory issues back then, while some even vomited in the dressing room due to the hazardous condi tions. Bangladesh are already out of reckoning, while Sri Lanka's semifinal hopes are hanging by a thread, depending more on mathe-

# Most satisfying ODI I have played: Zampa

Ahmedabad, Nov 05 (PTI)

A match-winning spell, a stellar fielding display and a vital contribution with the bat against arch-rivals England made for the "most ODI satisfying" Australia spinner Adam

The leg-spinner smashed 29 off 19 balls, featuring four hits to the boundary, and then returned with miserly figures of 3/21.

To add to that, Zampa took a stunning running catch to send David Willey back to the pavilion and complete a perfect day.

"It's probably the most satisfying ODI I've ever played to be honest," Zampa, who was adjudged



player of the match, said after Australia's 33-run win over England on Saturday.

"Batting innings, really satisfying. Starky (Starc) and I spoke about trying to take it deep, with still staying fairly positive, because we stuffed it up against New Zealand. "But nice to contribute with the bat, it I mean. I am not known as the best fielder in the world but satisfying to work on stuff and things come off like that so it's a good feel-His victims with the ball included Ben Stokes and Moeen Ali, who were threatening to take the match away from Australia, and skipper Jos Buttler.

"I'd say tonight is as satisfying as it feels after an ODI in terms of my 10 overs. Bowling mainly to lefties, Malan, Stokes, Ali, they're quality players. And to sit back, knowing that I went for 20 runs off 10 overs, my length control was as good as it's been, it was a really satisfying one tonight," Zampa said.

#### inches closer to GM title Isle of Man (UK), Nov 05 (PTI): On the verge of her Grandmaster title, R Vaishali world champion Zhongyi Tan of China to remain in sole lead

Vaishali dumps Zhongyi Tan,

after the end of the 10th and penultimate round of FIDE Women Grand Prix here. Vaishali, along with her younger brother Praggnanandhaa became the first brother-sister duo to qualify for the respective Candidates and they will be in action in Canada next year, fighting for a place in the World

Championship finals. At 2498 live rating, Vaishali is just two points short of becoming a Grandmaster and when she does that, she and Pragg

lings in the world to achieve this feat. Vaishali on eight points, is followed solely by na muzychuk of Ukraine a half point behind. Another half point away is Vaishali's last round opponent Batkhuyag Mungutuul of Mangolia. Vaishali's second place is secured irrespective of her last round result.

It was a Sicilian defense by Zhongyi and it came as a surprise to Vaishali as the Chinese went for the Classical system. Vaishali decided to sidestep from long theoretical battles and her instinct proved right even though Zhongyi got a fighting position in the middle

# Frustration grows and adds but belief not shaken: Buttler

Ahmedabad, Nov 05 (PTI)

Captain Jos Butlter said England's dismal World Cup campaign and his own batting failure has been frustrating but insisted that it hasn't shaken his belief in either himself or the team.

England's World Cup defence officially ended after they went down by 33 runs to arch rivals Australia on Saturday. It was their sixth defeat in the seven games they have played in the tournament so far.

"I wouldn't say the belief shaken, more just the frustration grows and adds.



Like I said, these are top quality players," Buttler said after the defeat to Australia. Despite the abundance of talent and experience, the England players have cut a sorry figure. One of the most destructive players in the game, Buttler's form has deserted him at the World

# Dominant India beat Korea 2-0

#### ■ To set up women's **ACT hockey title** clash against Japan

Ranchi, Nov 05 (PTI):

Unbeaten India continued their sparkling form, defeating Asian Games silver medallist South Korea 2-0 to enter the final of the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on

Saturday. The Indians, thrashed Korea 5-0 in their final round-robin match, scored through Salima Tete (11th minute0 and Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke

(19th) to emerge winners. Asian Games bronze medallist India will take on Japan in the final on Sunday. The Japanese eked out a narrow 2-1 win over Asian Games champions China 2-1 in the first semifinal. Kana Urata (34th minute) and Miyu



Suzuki (44th) scored for Japan, while China's lone strike came from the stick of Tiantian Luo (11th).

In the second semifinal later in the day, the Indians started from where they left and pressed hard on the Japanese goal from the onset with relentless attacks. India's ploy resulted in successive penalty corners in the third minute of the first quarter but the Japanese defence stood tall with goalkeeper Kim Eunji making a good save to deny Deepika from the second attempt.

A minute later Monika came agonisingly close to scoring from open play from a counter-attack but her shot to the bottom corner went inches off the

India's relentless pressure finally tasted success

in the 11th minute when

Salima gave the lead after

being set up by Udita from

a counter-attack to end the first quarter with a slender one goal advantage.

The Indians started with the same intensity in the second quarter and doubled their lead four minutes later from a penalty corner.

Vaishnavi scored from a rebound from close range with a reverse flick after Deep Grace Ekka's flick was saved by the Korean goalkeeper. India won another

penalty corner in the 27th minute but Deep Grace's flick from the third battery was brilliantly saved by Korean keeper Eunji as the hosts went into the halfway break with a twogoal cushion.

Trailing by two goals, the Koreans looked more positive in the third quarter and made some attacking moves into the Indian citadel but were not able to

realise them into goals. The Koreans soon earned back-to-back penalty corners but failed to penetrate the Indian de-

Penalty corners came thick and fast for India but they failed to utilise the chances, which definitely would be a cause of concern for the team's chief coach Janneke Schopman going forward.

Thereafter, the Indians preferred to play safe and was content in defending their two-goal advantage, especially after being down by two players --Jyoti and Vandana Kataraiya, who were shown cards in the final five minutes of the game.

Korea took advantage of the two player advantage and pressed hard on the Indian defence and in the process secured another penalty corner four minutes from the final hooter but failed to beat India captain Savita Punia in front of the goal.

# Djokovic wins a 3-set battle with Rublev

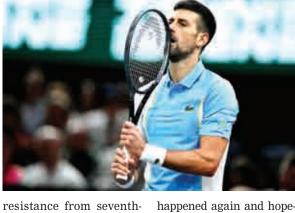
#### ■ To set up Paris **Masters final** against Dimitrov

Paris, Nov 05 (AP):

Top-ranked Djokovic was made to fight for more than three hours by Andrey Rublev in their semifinal match before earning the right to play for a record-extending seventh title at the Paris Masters.

Djokovic overcame a slow start to rally past his Russian opponent 5-7, 7-6 (3), 7-5 and maintain his perfect record in the semifinals at the indoor tournament. The Serbian player will take on Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov in Sunday's final. "Rublev was suffocating me like a snake suffocates a frog for most of the match," Djokovic said. "He was playing an extremely high level that he possesses, but today he was off the charts, honestly. I don't think I've ever faced Rublev this good."

Dimitrov overcame strong



seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas with a 6-3, 6-7 (1), 7-6 (3) victory. The road to the final has not been an easy one for Djokovic, who defeated defending champion Holger Rune in three sets in the quarterfinals and also came out on top of a three-set contest in the third round.

Djokovic said he has been hampered by a stomach virus that made "him feel terrible the past three days." He took pride in "not giving up, fighting and believing that I can come back, which

fully it can happen tomor-Against Rubley, Djokovic

made some unusual mistakes from the baseline early on but improved as the the match advanced. Rublev earned a set point

at 6-5 in the opener when he made the most of a weak second serve by Djokovic with an excellent backhand return that he followed up with a forehand winner. Djokovic then fluffed a drop shot that bounced back in his own half.



# 'Cong didn't care for tribals, its two leaders fighting to capture party in MP'

Seoni, Nov 05 (PTI)

Prime Narendra Modi on Sunday said the Congress did not work for the welfare of tribals and that two senior Congress leaders were fighting in Madhya Pradesh to establish their sons and capture the party organisation in the state.

"We are the disciples and worshippers of tribals who made Lord Ram, Purshottam Ram," Modi said addressing a public meeting in Seoni district of MP ahead of the state elections scheduled on November 17.

Out of the total 230 assembly seats in MP, 47 are reserved for the Scheduled Tribe candidates. Of the four assembly seats in



Seoni, two are reserved for tribals.

Modi said the Congress, despite being in power for five-six decades in the Independence, did not do anything for the welfare of the tribal community.

He also said the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalvan Anna Yoina, providing free ration to 80 crore poor people, will be extended for the next five

CENTRAL CHRONICLE, BILASPUR, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 06, 2023

The PM listed the works done by the BJP government for the uplift of tribals and slammed the previous Congress government over various scams.

During the Congress regime before 2014, scams worth lakhs and crores of rupees took place but no such thing has taken place during the BJP government and the money thus saved is being spent on providing free ration to the poor people, he said.

Slamming the Congress, ne PM said, "The the PM said, Congress was creating confusion among the tribals. The word tribal does not sound good from their mouth. These tribals have taken care of Lord Ram.



Voters stand in a queue to cast their votes for the Gram Panchayat election, at Tembhu village in Karad, Maharashtra. Sundav.

## INDIA alliance will work for people, not 'leader's image': Tharoor

Aizawl, Nov 05 (PTI)

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor Sunday asserted that the opposition INDIA alliance is the answer if the citizens of the country want the next government at the Centre to work for the people rather than the "image of a leader".

The Lok Sabha MP from Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala claimed that the Congress is ahead of the BJP in all the five assembly poll-bound states and the outcome will boost the morale of the opposition alliance before next year's Lok Sabha polls. In an interview with

PTI, Tharoor said, "I think

the time has come for Indian voters to ask what is in their self interest, not what's in Modi's image or PR work of the BJP. Do you want a government that will give your welfare a priority? Do you want a government that will put people first and not the image of the leader first?"

He asserted that the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) is the answer if the citizens want a government that will think about the people instead of a single leader.

"Frankly, it seems the people of India are getting ready to send a strong message to the BJP. If you look at the elections, at the

moment, the BJP is way behind the Congress in four of the five states and slightly behind in the fifth one, Rajasthan.

"So, if you are looking at the outcome, it looks like the opposition is going to get a very strong wind in its sails when it goes for Lok Sabha elections next year. And that can't be good news for the BJP," he

Referring to the pre-poll surveys in Rajasthan, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana, the senior Congress leader said that all of them have put the opposition party ahead of the BJP in all states except Rajasthan. "If you also

pick up what party workers are saying on the ground, there is a lot of confidence Congress party that we are going to do very well in

these elections," he added. Polling in these five states will take place between November 7 and 30 in multiple phases, while the votes will be counted on the same day on December 3.

Asked if he would like to term the polls in these five states as "semi-finals" before the Lok Sabha elections, Tharoor said the terminology is a "bit awkward" because the voters have learnt to vote differently in assembly and Lok Sabha elections.

# Kishan Reddy slams Rahul for making light of BJP's promise of backward caste CM

scheme.

in the Delhi excise poli-

cy case, he said probe

agencies had also ques-

Hyderabad, Nov 05 (PTI)

Taking exception to Rahul Gandhi making light of BJP's announcement to make a backward caste leader the chief minister in Telangana, Union Minister G Kishan Reddy on Sunday said the Congress leader insulted the BCs with his com-

Asked about Rahul Gandhi saying as to how can make a Backward Caste leader the CM when it would only get a meagre percentage of votes, he said anything is possible if

T'GANA POLLS

backward classes who constitute 55 per cent of the state's population get

Reddy, who attended a Meet the Press event at Press Club here, said Rahul Gandhi is speaking in a way of insulting the backward classes when the BJP, which is in power at the Centre and in many states, took a decision to make a leader from backward caste as chief minister if it came to power.

Recalling late N Rama Rao's scheme of supplying rice at two rutioned Congress leader pees per kg in undivided Sonia Gandhi but not Andhra Pradesh, Reddy, arrested her. president of BJP in Telangana, said it



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