



'PM doesn't want power to go into hands of the poor'

Sukma, Nov 01:

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not want power to go into the hands of the poor.

Addressing a rally in Sukma town of poll-bound Chhattisgarh, Kharge said the Congress, which is currently in power in the state, always stood by tribals in their fight to protect their "jal-jungle-zameen" (water, forest and land).

The tribal-dominated and Naxalite-affected Sukma district has one as-



Mallikarjun Kharge

sembly segment Konta, which is among the 20 constituencies where polling will be held in the first phase of the state elections. "When Modi ji laid the foundation stone for the new Parliament building, the then President Ram Nath Kovind was not

invited because he is 'achhoot' (untouchable) and incumbent President Droupadi Murmu was not invited at its inauguration because she is from a Scheduled Tribe. Only two people do such work, Modi and Shah," Kharge alleged. He claimed that presidents belonging to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities have been elected, but they did not get a chance to lay the foundation stone of any building. "PM Modi does not want power to go into the hands of the poor," Kharge further claimed.

PM, Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurate key rail link

Two other projects

Agartala, Nov 01 (PTI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday jointly inaugurated three projects via virtual mode, including a key rail link between Tripura's Nischintapur and Gangasagar in the neighbouring country.

The other two projects inaugurated by Modi and Hasina are the 65-km Khulna-Mongla Port Rail Line, and Unit 2 of the Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant in Bangladesh's Rampal.



The cross-border rail project near Tripura's capital Agartala and Akhaura in Bangladesh is expected to boost cross-border trade, and significantly reduce the travel time between Agartala and Kolkata via Dhaka.

Modi said inauguration of the Agartala-Akhaura Cross Border Rail Link was a "historic" moment. "This is the first rail link between the northeast and

Bangladesh," he said. All the three projects are India-assisted development initiatives.

The trial run of the 12.24-km rail project (6.78 km dual gauge line in Bangladesh and 5.46 km in Tripura) was completed on Monday, after a train from Gangasagar railway station in Brahmanbaria district of Bangladesh arrived at Nischintapur railway station.



'Contribution of tribal communities important in enriching Ch'garh's culture'

Raipur, Nov 01:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday extended greetings to the people of Chhattisgarh on its Foundation Day and said the contribution of tribal communities was important in enriching the culture of the state.

Chhattisgarh Governor B i s w a b h u s a n Harichandan and Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel also extended good wishes to the people on the state's Foundation Day. Chhattisgarh state came into existence on November 1, 2000 after being carved out of Madhya Pradesh. The Chhattisgarh government has declared a holiday for all its offices and institutions on the state Foundation Day. No cultural or other functions

are being held this year on the Foundation Day as the model code of conduct is in force in view of the state assembly elections to be held on November 7 and 17. PM Modi in a post on X said, "Best wishes to all our brothers and sisters of Chhattisgarh on the state's Foundation Day. The liveliness of the people here makes it a special state. Our tribal communities have a very important contribution in enriching the culture of this state."

"The glorious tradition and cultural heritage of the state attracts everyone. I wish for a bright future for Chhattisgarh which is full of natural and cultural magnificence," he added. Governor Harichandan in a statement said Chhattisgarh has been setting new dimensions of development every year.

Have heart-to-heart talk: Rajnath to Meiteis, Kukis

Tipa (Mizoram), Nov 01 (PTI):

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday made a fervent appeal to the warring Meitei and Kuki communities in Manipur to sit together and have a heart-to-heart conversation to end the trust deficit between the two sides.

In an address at an election rally in this southern-most part of Mizoram bordering Myanmar, Singh said violence is no solution to any problem and the two communities in Manipur must talk to each other to improve the

situation in the troubled state. "The Northeast has been peaceful in the last nine years. However, we have witnessed violence in Manipur and it is painful for us," Singh said.

"Violence is no solution to any problem. What we need is heart-to-heart conversation. I appeal to both the communities to sit together and end trust deficit," Singh added.

Manipur had been witnessing large-scale violence in the last few months because of hostilities between the Meitei and Kuki communities.

PMLA CASE ED attaches assets of Naresh Goyal

Worth Rs 538 crore

New Delhi, Nov 01 (PTI)

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday said it has attached in London, Dubai and India assets worth Rs 538 crore of Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal, his family members and companies as part of a money laundering investigation linked to an alleged bank loan fraud.

The attached properties include 17 residential flats, bungalows and commercial premises. Located in London, Dubai and various cities in India, these proper-



ties are in the name of various companies like Jetair Private Limited and Jet Enterprises Private Limited, Goyal, his wife Anita, and son Nivaan, the federal agency said in a statement. The total value of these assets is Rs 538.05 crore, the ED said.

Goyal, 74, was arrested by the ED on September 1 and the agency filed a charge

sheet against him on Tuesday before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Mumbai.

He is in judicial custody and lodged in Mumbai's Arthur Road jail.

Jet Airways, a full-service carrier, shut its operations in April 2019 after running out of cash. Later, Goyal stepped down as the chairperson of the airline.

The money laundering case against Goyal stems from a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) FIR that was registered on the basis of a complaint by Canara Bank, Mumbai.

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T&C Apply

Model Code of Conduct explained to political parties

Meeting of Observers with Political Party representatives held

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 01: A meeting of the representatives of the political parties was held in the presence of Election Observers in the Collectorate on Wednesday. Additional Collector and Deputy District Election Officer gave information about the Model Code of Conduct for the assembly elections to the representatives of political parties and candidates.

On this occasion, Deputy District Election Officer Bajrang Dubey informed about the guidelines for following the Model Code of Conduct during the Assembly elections and the Defacement of Property Act under the



Model Code of Conduct. He asked all the political parties and their candidates to strictly follow the rules.

Also, it will be mandatory to take permission regarding the fixed date, time and place for holding rallies, processions and meetings at the city and

village level. For permission, applications can be made to the concerned SDM.

During this meeting, the political parties informed the observers about the problems being faced in campaigning. The Observer said that candi-

dates will have to first obtain permission for vehicles, flags, banners etc used for campaigning. Also, the name and number of the printer and publisher should be mentioned on the banners. The expenditure will be counted in the election expenditure of the con-

cerned political party and candidate.

The observers appointed for Durg district including Nitin Singh Bhadauria, Deepak Kumar Meena, Dr Raj Krishna Prithi, Suwendu Kanungo, Sukumar Sarkar, Tariq Mehood, Dr B Naveen Kumar and R Lalvena were present. Additional Collector Arvind Ekka, Additional Collector and Commissioner of Municipal Corporation Bhilai - Rohit Vyas, SSP Ramgopal Garg, Deputy District Election Officer Bajrang Dubey, Returning and Assistant Returning Officers engaged in election work and representatives of political parties were present.

'Run for Vote Rally' organised



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 01: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Vigilance Department, with the support of the Sports, Cultural & Civic Amenities (SCCA) Department, organised a "Run for Vote Rally" on October 31, 2023.

Chief Guest on this occasion, Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) flagged

off the Rally by releasing colourful Balloons in the sky. The rally commenced at Ispat Bhawan and moved to CEZ Square and back.

Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects), AK Chakraborty, ED (MM), Samir Swarup, ED (Rowghat), Pawan Kumar, ED (P & A), BK Giri, ED (Mines), were also present

on this occasion, along with other Senior Officials and personnel from BSP's various departments, Senior Doctors, CISF Personnel and athletes.

The participants of the rally marched collectively to spread the public message of fostering a culture of active citizenship and electoral engagement in view of the forthcoming elections.

Excise Department seizes Mahua liquor and Lahan



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 01: In view of the Assembly Elections - 2023, the Excise Department is taking prompt and systematic action on the information received regarding illegal liquor possession, sale and peddling.

A total of 03 cases were registered by the department after conducting

raids in village Ghorari. Assistant Commissioner Excise informed that a total of 210 liters of Mahua liquor and 2400 kg of Mahua Lahan have been recovered from unknown people and a case has been registered under Section 34(1A), F, 34(2) of the Excise Act and taken up for investigation.

The total market value of the seized liquor and



liquor is approximately Rs 1.51 lakh. The Excise Department has issued a telephone number 0788-2325836 for filing complaints to prevent illegal sale, transportation and possession of liquor and intoxicants in the district.

Any common citizen can register a complaint on the above number round the clock. The de-

partment will keep the name of the complainant completely secret. The Excise Department is taking prompt action on the complaints received and is also informing the complainant about the action taken.

Apart from the above, complaints can also be lodged on toll free complaint number 14405 of the Excise Department.

Vigilance Awareness Walkathon organised at BSP

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 01: An Awareness Walkathon under the ongoing observance of Vigilance Awareness Week-2023 at SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant was flagged off by Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) the other day.

SAIL-BSP's Vigilance Department, with the support of the Sports, Cultural & Civic Amenities (SCCA) Department, organised this Walkathon, with the aim of spreading general awareness on this year's theme for Vigilance Awareness Week- "Say no to corruption; commit to the Nation".

The Plant Employees, athletes from the SCCA Department, CISF Commandants and Personnel and Bhilai Township Citizens present on this occasion marched



from Ispat Bhawan to CEZ Square and back, giving a message of Corruption-free working at the Plant and every organisation in India.

It is noteworthy that various competitions, including drawing, painting, essay, slogan, extempore quiz etc., are being organized by SAIL-BSP's

Vigilance Department under the Vigilance Awareness Week-2023 at BSP.

Also present were Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects), AK Chakraborty, ED (MM), Samir Swarup, ED (Rowghat), Pawan Kumar, ED (P & A), BK Giri, ED

(Mines), Dr Pramod Binayake, CMO (M&HS), Dr Rajeev Kumar Pal, CMO (M&HS), Satyabrata Kar, GM (Vigilance) & ACVO, Sandeep Gupta, GM (Vigilance), Aniket Sul Ojha, GM (Vigilance), CGMs, GMs and other Senior Officials and personnel from BSP's various departments.

Warm farewell accorded to 80 employees on superannuation



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 01: Eighty employees of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, including Nine Executives, and Seventy-One personnel posted in various departments and mining towns of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant have retired after their long service on October 31, 2023.

The Farewell Ceremony for the Executives was organized at DIC Conference Hall, Ispat Bhawan. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP), along

with Pawan Kumar, ED (P&A) handed over the Superannuation Order and Service Certificate to the Superannuating Officers. Anirban Dasgupta, bid farewell to the departing steel fraternity and wished them a healthy and happy life. Dasgupta also appreciated the retiring employees for their commendable contributions to their respective fields. The retiring executives also shared their service experience at SAIL and plans for the future, after superannuation.

The Retirement Ceremony for the Non-executives was organised at MP Hall of Bhilai Niwas, on October 31, 2023. Rajiva Kumar Srivastava, CGM (Projects), along with Sandeep Mathur, CGM (Personnel) handed over the Superannuation Orders and Service Certificates to the Superannuating personnel. Underlining their contribution, the departing steel fraternity was wished a healthy and happy life by the Plant Management.

Joint action of FST/SST and police stations

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 01: To ensure compliance with the Model Code of Conduct for the General Elections 2023 of Chhattisgarh Assembly, Durg Police led by Senior Superintendent of Police (Durg) Ram Gopal Garg is working round the clock.

Cops are deployed 24x7 in the check posts of Flying Squads / Static Surveillance Teams and Police Stations / Chowkis. In a single day on November 31, the teams seized gold, silver and other goods including Gudaku, liquor total worth a total of Rs 63,35,103.

The vigilant jawans have also



seized cash - Rs 2,20,000 and Rs 1,50,000 from Police Station Padmanabhpur and Police Station Kumhari. Rs 1 lakh has been seized by FST team, Rs 1,60,000 by SST team Anjora, Rs 59,500 by Durg FST team and Rs 80,000 was seized by SST team Amleshwar. A total of Rs 7,69,500 cash has been seized in a single day.

Apart from this, gold and silver have also been seized during

checking in the entire district Durg, 555.670 grams of gold worth Rs 33,00,000 was seized by the Police Station Durg FST team and 8 kg silver worth Rs 4,43,223 was seized by the Police Station Mohan Nagar SST team.

During the vehicle checking, the Police Station Nandini SST team seized 267 Gudaku boxes worth Rs 18,00,000. Under the Excise Act, a total of 36.72 liters of liquor worth Rs 22,380 has

been seized in the entire Durg district in a single day by the teams of Police Station Vaishali Nagar, Chhawani, Anda and Nandini Nagar.

During the intensive checking operation of Durg Police, booty worth over Rs 63,35,103 was seized in a single day. The suspects were questioned on the spot regarding the cash, gold, silver and others found in their vehicles.

As they were unable to produce any valid document, receipt and give satisfactory answer, the teams prepared panchama, seized the items under section 102 of CrPC and handed over to the concerned Police Stations to register the cognizable crimes and take further action.

Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Abhishek Jha, Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural) Ananth Kumar, Additional Superintendent of Police Anurag Jha, SST/SST Nodal Officer Deputy Superintendent of Police (Crime) Rajiv Sharma and all the gazetted officers of the district and police station / chowki in-charges are delivering the duties with dedication and commitment to ensure free, fair and peaceful elections.

RT Ramchandran Memorial Inter School Cricket inaugurated at SSV-X

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 01: The opening ceremony of 2nd RT Ramchandran Memorial Inter School Cricket Tournament 2023-24 was held on Wednesday at Sri Sankara Vidyalaya, Sector-X. The program commenced with the arrival of the chief guest Anand Madhav-Regional Manager (Bank of Baroda). The esteemed chief guest was escorted to the school ground by Bipin Deshmukh, Principal, SSV, V Ramchandran, President, SSES. Lighting of the lamp and garlanding the portrait of Goddess Saraswati, His Holiness Sri Chandrasekharendra, Saraswathi Swamigal of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam, Late RT Ramchandran, Former President, SSES and Late Bishen Singh Bedi



(a world renowned Indian cricketer) was done by the Chief Guest Anand Madhav, Bipin Deshmukh, Principal, SSV, V Ramchandran and other dignitaries. One minute silence was observed to pay a tribute to Late Bishen Singh Bedi for his contribution in Indian cricket. The Chief guest was warmly welcomed with a bouquet. The coaches and managers of participating teams were also welcomed with roses. XXIV th Chhattisgarh State Foundation day coincided with RT Ramchandran Memorial Inter

School Cricket Tournament. To mark the significance of this day, students of Sri Sankara Vidyalaya graced the occasion with Chhattisgarh State Anthem (Arpa Pabri Ke Dhar) and a harmonious rendition of "Bar Bar Haan....." which filled the air with melodious vibes. Bipin Deshmukh, Principal, SSV welcomed the dignitaries and briefed them about the tournament. In his speech he made a special mention of importance of Sportsmanship spirit. He extended his wishes on the occasion of XXIV

th Chhattisgarh State Foundation day and Karwa Chauth. The participating teams were introduced to the chief guest, creating an atmosphere of excitement and competition. The formal declaration of the tournament by the chief guest was a pivotal moment, signifying the commencement of the sporting extravaganza. The tournament initiated with a burst of fireworks and the release of balloons and pigeons in the sky. Thirteen teams from Bhilai and Durg are participating in the tournament. The teams are namely - KPS Nehru Nagar, BSP Sector - VII, KH Memorial, KPS Sunder Nagar, KV Durg, MGM Sector VI, DPS Risali, Sharda Vidyalaya, Risali, Heritage International Public School, Durg, Vishwadeep SSS, Durg, SSV, Hudco and SSV Sector X.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 01: As a result of sincere hard work and the valuable contributions of the Plant's spirited employees, SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has established several benchmarks of profit and records of production in the past. The Personnel Department of Bhilai Steel Plant makes continuous efforts towards establishing affinity and cordial relationships among the Plant's employees and their families.

The PBS and PEM departments organised the "Aap Bhi Janiye" programme on October 28, 2023, to make the spouses of the departmental employees aware of the working areas of Bhilai Steel Plant. Pawan Kumar, ED (P&A) inaugurated the "Aap



Bhi Janiye" program at the HRD Centre, which was participated by the spouses of 20 employees of PBS and PEM departments. Rajiv Pandey, CGM (Power Fac), Sandeep Mathur, CGM (Personnel), Sanjay Nikhar, GM (PP-1), Abhay Kumar, GM (PP-1), Sheeja P Mathew, GM (PW), H Shekhar, GM (Personnel), Rajeev Kumar, DGM, RK Maharana, AGM and TK Dutta, DSO, were also present on this occasion along with other senior officers,

and personnel of the Plant. The BSP Employees' spouses were given a tour of the Plant, starting from the Blast Furnace 8-Mahamaya, SMS-III, Universal Rail Mill, Rail Mill, PBS-1 and PBS-2 Departments. After the tour, they were welcomed and felicitated by Rajiv Pandey, CGM (Power Fac), who also interacted with them about their experience of the tour. The entire program was organised by the Personnel Department, Power and

Electrical, and conducted by Girish Kumar Madharia, Asst Mgr (Personnel Department). For the BSP- employees consider the Plant not only as their workplace but also as a place of worship. There is always a strong desire in the hearts of the employees' family members to know how the employees work in the Plant and how the production takes place in different units of the plant.

Along with the workers, their families also play an important role indirectly in production and profit, who are often ignorant and unaware of the operation of the plant. Therefore, the Personnel Department organizes the "Aap Bhi Janiye" program from time to time to promote affinity and family relationships among the employees.

Collector Dr Bhure launches Chamber of Commerce's 'First Vote, then Shop' campaign

Traders urged to vote as much as possible

Raipur, Oct 31:

Collector and District Election Officer Dr. Sarveshwar Bhure on Tuesday launched the voter awareness campaign "First Vote, then shop" of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries and appealed to the traders to participate in voting as much as possible. He also administered oath to the traders for 100 percent voting. The Collector congratulated and congratulated the traders for this campaign. On the request of Dr. Bhure, the traders said that Happy Voting, we will definitely vote this time and motivate our employees and the people around. The Collector said that in the previous elections it was experienced that the voting percentage in rural areas has always been good but the voting percentage in urban areas has



been relatively low. This time a special awareness campaign was run by the district administration, so that the voting percentage becomes equal in urban and rural areas. Dr. Bhure said that the district administration has tried to ensure that out of every 100 persons in the population, the names of 62 are registered in the voter list. For this, we have been running a campaign for a few months and voters were given information about

the Voter Help Line App. Due to all these efforts, 82 thousand new voters have been added to the voter list. The Collector said that the business community has always been aware. He has done many works in public interest during the Corona period and other disasters. The assembly in which the program is being organised. The population of women there is quite good. Along with this, efforts have been made to include more and

more women voters in all the assembly constituencies. Also, the responsibility of elections in the North Assembly has been given to women. He said that for good voting it is necessary that both men and women participate. Dr. Bhure informed the traders about the special voting arrangements made for senior citizens above 80 years of age and disabled people. Chamber of Commerce President Shri Amar Parwani said

that the business community will have important participation in the golden festival of democracy. All our businessmen will first vote and urge all the employees of their shop, business establishment to vote and then start business. Shri Parwani said that from a few days before the voting, while talking to someone on the phone, the businessmen should greet by saying Happy Voting instead of Hello. Municipal Corporation Commissioner Shri Mayank Chaturvedi said that businessmen have always been at the forefront in the welfare works of the society. It is hoped that you will participate fully in this Happy Voting campaign. On this occasion, a large number of businessmen including District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Mr. Abinash Mishra were present.

SECR Raipur bids farewell to ten dedicated retirees



Raipur, Nov 01: Ten dedicated members (five regular and five irregular) of South East Central Railway's Raipur division, serving in various departments, retired after completing their illustrious railway careers in October 31. The retirement ceremony, held at the community center, was attended by Assistant Divisional Personnel Officer, Mrs. Nikita Agrawal, Assistant Divisional Finance Manager, Niranjan Guniram Badge, retired employees, welfare inspectors, and employees from the Allocation Section.

Out of the ten retirees, two were from the Mechanical Department, four from the Electrical Department, one from the Engineering Department, one from the Personnel Department, one from the Commercial Department, and one from the Accounts Department. During the event, all retired employees received their retirement certificates from the Assistant Divisional Finance Manager. Payments amounting to a total of Rs. 3,59,13,334 were disbursed to

retired regular employees through e-payment. Pension payment orders, retirement identification cards, and pass certificates were provided to the retired employees on October 31. Assistant Divisional Personnel Officer and Assistant Divisional Finance Manager congratulated all the retirees. They commended the retirees for their diligent service and advised them to enjoy their retired life with their families while carefully managing the funds received during their service.

Heads of MTP Meet held at NTPC Nava Raipur



Naya Raipur, Nov 01:

Heads of Maintenance Planning (MTP) Meet was held at NTPC Nava Raipur on October 31, 2023 wherein heads of MTP Department from across NTPC stations and projects attended. The program was inaugurated by C Sivakumar, Regional Executive Director (WR-II, USSC & Ash NI) and Arindam Sinha,

Executive Director (OS). Speaking on the occasion, C Sivakumar underlined the importance of MTP in overhaul and running the plant with efficiency. He further emphasized on the role of maintenance planning to ensure availability & reliability of equipment. Standardization of process as well as implementation and adherence of safety framework is also critical, he added.

Earlier, in his opening remark, ED-OS, Arindam Sinha stressed on the importance of timely and high-quality overhauls. He asked the participants to focus on inventory management besides competency enhancement. He also emphasized on the need of achieving 100% OPI (Overhauling Preparedness Index) before start of overhauls. On this occasion, while a booklet on 'MMSD Compendium of Circulars' was released by RED (WR-II, USSC & Ash NI), the new website of MMSD was launched by ED (OS). The event marked with presentation on various critical aspects of maintenance besides open house discussion and sharing the best practices.

Night-time surveillance of elephants using drone thermal cameras

In Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve

Mainpur, Nov 01:

On the occasion of World Elephant Day, various programs were organized on Saturday, in the forest areas of Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, including Northern Udanti, Southern Udanti, Idagaon, Risangaon, Mechka Sondhur Park, Arsiakanhar, Sitanadi, Kulhadighat, and Taurenga regions, as well as in the Mainpur forest area. Starting at 10 am, rallies were held at various locations, with the participation of a large number of rural residents. The activities included painting competitions, quizzes, and various competitions for school children,

with medals and certificates awarded to the first, second, and third-place winners. Additionally, the Forest Department educated rural communities on various methods for elephant conservation and protection from elephant herd. One noteworthy development is the introduction of nighttime surveillance of elephant herds in the dense hilly forest areas of Udanti Sitanadi using thermal cameras mounted on drones. This initiative aims to provide local residents with advanced notice of approaching elephant safety and protection efforts. Furthermore, it will

be used to monitor and deter potential poaching activities. The Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve issued a press release stating that on the occasion of World Elephant Day, various programs were organized under the guidance of Chhattisgarh's Forest Minister Mohammed Akbar, Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Sudhir Agrawal, and Field Director Varun Jain of Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve. These programs were conducted within the Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve's forest areas, including Arsiakanhar, Risangaon, Kulhadighat, Khallari Eco Park in Mechka, and Kathwa. During these events,

awareness rallies were conducted, starting from the village of Sankra and traveling to the Eco Park in Mechka via motorbikes. At the Eco Park in Mechka, a quiz competition was organized for school children and rural residents. Medals and certificates were awarded to the first, second, and third-place winners, while all children received stationery supplies. Similar quiz competitions were held for school children and rural residents in Kulhadighat and Kathwa. Again, medals and certificates were presented to the top three participants, and stationery supplies were distributed to all children. Additionally, in the elephant tracking region of

Kulhadighat, rural residents of Tarazhar were provided with guidance by Assistant Directors Uditi (Mainpur) and Taurenga on four essential aspects related to elephant safety, security, and protection. Furthermore, training sessions were conducted in Sankra for officials and staff of the Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve on operating thermal cameras mounted on drones by Abhishek Singh. This training will enable the monitoring of elephant herds' activities during the night and provide valuable information to aid conservation efforts and protect local communities.

Bank of Baroda offers zero balance 'bob LITE Savings Account'

Raipur, Nov 01:

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has introduced bob LITE Savings Account, which is a Lifetime Zero Balance Savings Bank Account. The facility has been launched as a part of "BOB Ke Sang Tyohaar Ki Umang" festive campaign. bob LITE offers customers a hassle-free banking experience without any minimum balance requirement, the bank said in a statement. Further, to cater to the requirements of different customer segments, the bob LITE account also comes with a life-

time free RuPay Platinum Debit Card on maintaining a nominal Quarterly Average Balance (QAB) in the account and accountholders can also avail a lifetime free credit card, subject to eligibility. The bob LITE Savings Account also comes loaded with offers during the festive season. As a part of its ongoing festive campaign, Bank of Baroda has tied up with leading consumer brands across categories such as Electronics, Consumer Durables, Travel, Food, Fashion, Entertainment, Lifestyle, Grocery and Health, of-

fering a host of attractive offers and discounts on Bank of Baroda Debit and Credit Cards. The festive campaign will run up to 31st December, 2023 and cardholders can indulge in special offers from brands such as Reliance Digital, Croma, MakeMyTrip, Amazon, BookMyShow, Mynta, Swiggy, Zomato, and more. Top features of the bob LITE Savings Bank Account: lifetime zero balance savings account, can be opened by any resident individual, including minors (above 10 years of age and able to

read and write), Lifetime Free RuPay Platinum Debit Card with a host of attractive features, subject to maintenance of Quarterly Average Balance as follows - Rs. 3000 for Metro/Urban branches, Rs. 2000 for Semi-Urban branches and Rs. 1000 for Rural branches, lifetime Free Credit Card, subject to eligibility and attractive discounts/ offers on Bank of Baroda Debit & Credit Cards and 30 free cheque leaves in a financial year. "We are pleased to introduce the bob LITE Savings Account, with the twin objective of

bringing banking within reach with an account that is light on charges, while also delivering more joy to our customers this festive season. The account can be opened by any resident individual, including minors above the age of 10 years. bob LITE opens the doors to the formal banking ecosystem for a new generation of aspiring Indians and is aimed at fulfilling their hitherto unmet banking needs," said Ravindra Singh Negi, Chief General Manager - Retail Liabilities & NRI Business, Bank of Baroda.

First time voter marathon organized in Raipur

• More than 500 youth ran for voter awareness

Raipur, Nov 01: First Time Voter Marathon was organized on Monday to ensure full participation of youth in the biggest celebration of democracy. More than 500 new voters, including school, college students, NSS and NCC volunteers, reached Telibandha pond at 6:00 am, excited to vote for the first time. To get excited, everyone first did Zumba to the live music band. Then the marathon started from Marine Drive and ended at Gandhi Maidan and voters were appealed to vote. Young voters aged



between 18 to 25 years participated in the marathon. On this occasion, mountaineer Yashi Jain was present as a youth icon. While motivating the youth to vote, Yashi Jain said that I have climbed the highest peak of four continents, but I still remember the joy and excitement

of climbing the mountain for the first time. The participants are also going to be a part of the festival of democracy for the first time. Congratulations for this and by participating in this, make voting for the first time memorable.

Farewell to Power Company CE Ramakrishna Arvind

Raipur, Nov 01:

R Arvind, retired Chief Engineer (Commercial and Regulatory Affairs) from Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company, was given farewell on his retirement at the company headquarters Vidyut Seva Bhavan. Manoj Khare, MD of Power Distribution Company and SK Katiyar, MD of Power Generation Company, honored him by presenting him a long service certificate and memento. Describing the services of retired Chief Engineer R Arvind as important for the power development of the state, the Managing Directors appreciated his contribution in the



Electricity Board and Power Company and wished him for a bright future. Narrating his work experience R Arvind attributed his success to teamwork and expressed his gratitude for the cooperation received from officers and employees during

his service journey. Executive Directors MS Kanwar, CL Netam, MR Bagde and Sandeep Modi and other senior officers were present on the occasion. The program was conducted by Manager (Public Relations) Govind Patel.

'Embrace science and rationality for more enlightened society'

Raipur, Nov 01: Dr. Dinesh Mishra, President of the Andhra Shradha Nirmoolan Samiti and a renowned eye specialist, delivered a thought-provoking address during the 67th Dhamma Chakra Pravartan Day organized by the Indian Buddhist Association. His lecture centered on the critical issue of social superstitions and the imperative to eradicate them. Dr. Mishra commenced by acknowledging India's remarkable strides in science and technology, which have propelled the nation towards innovation and progress. He highlighted the pervasive influence of technology in education and remote work, particularly amid the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Dr. Mishra soberly pointed out that

superstitions and societal ills persist in the country, causing undue harm to innocent individuals. He underscored the pressing need to cultivate a scientific perspective within society, urging people to embrace the principles of study, reason, understanding, and the adoption of a scientific approach in their lives. He stressed that a scientific outlook is intrinsically linked to rational thinking, fostering an inclination for inquiry and guiding individuals in making informed decisions. Dr. Mishra emphasized that nurturing a scientific mindset is not only vital but also an integral aspect of the Indian constitution. In a scientific worldview, only verifiable facts derived from observation, testing, and experimental



hold validity. Dr. Mishra drew parallels to Gautam Buddha's teachings, which advocate the importance of empirical validation rather than blind acceptance of hearsay. Dr. Mishra lamented that even in the 21st century, some individuals remain ensnared by superstitions, perpetuating harm to themselves and society at large. He underscored the urgency of

spreading scientific awareness and nurturing critical thinking to dismantle these deeply ingrained beliefs. Delving into various social customs and superstitions, Dr. Mishra emphasized refraining from instilling fear in children regarding ghosts, magic, and superstitions. Such practices can lead to lifelong unfounded fears. Instead, he advocated sharing stories of self-confidence and courage. Individuals endowed with self-assurance and fearlessness remain unswayed by perceived supernatural threats or celestial phenomena, such as eclipses or planetary alignments. Dr. Dinesh Mishra shed light on the prevalence of superstitions and social discrimination related to magic, spells, and witchcraft,

often leading to persecution and ostracism, especially against women labeled as "dayan" (witch) based on baseless accusations. Some women are even forced to flee their villages due to this stigma, while others tragically lose their lives or resort to suicide. Furthermore, Dr. Mishra stressed the importance of enforcing the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, which allows legal action against those making unfounded claims of magic cures, spells, and miraculous treatments. This Act covers 54 diseases and underscores the importance of seeking medical assistance from qualified healthcare professionals rather than relying on superstitions or magical remedies.

Police arrest Jeevan Chandel in credit card fraud case

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Nov 01: The police have successfully apprehended the culprits behind a credit card fraud scheme that duped innocent individuals by falsely promising to close their credit cards. The case was brought to light when Gyaneshwar Baghel, a 30-year-old resident of Akarjan within Khairagarh's jurisdiction, filed a formal complaint at the local police station.

Baghel reported that an individual named Jeevan Chandel, 25 years old and a resident of Heeretara in Dhamdha District, Durg, posed as an agent and initiated contact via mobile phone. Deceptively, Chandel created a credit card in Baghel's name



and later insisted on its closure. Having obtained the credit card, Jeevan Chandel illicitly withdrew a total of Rs 1,22,698 from Baghel's State Bank of

Khairagarh account in November 2022, January 2023, and April 2023. Promptly responding to the victim's complaint, law enforcement registered a case under section 420 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) against Chandel.

Recognizing the gravity of the situation, senior officers were alerted, and under the leadership of Superintendent of Police Ankita Sharma, Additional Superintendent of Police Neha Pandey, and Sub-divisional Officer of Police Lalchand Mohale, a dedicated team swiftly apprehended Jeevan Chandel. During interrogation, Chandel confessed to his involvement in the fraudulent activities.

Central Chronicle News

Mandir Hasaud, Nov 01: Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) was celebrated on October 31st 2023 by the students, faculty and staff members of the school with great zeal and fervor.

The nation commemorates Rashtriya Ekta Diwas on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on 31st October, who was the first home minister and deputy prime minister of India and is also known as the Iron Man of India. He was instrumental in uniting the country post independence of India.

In a special morning assembly, a floral tribute was offered to the portrait of Sardar Vallabhbhai



Patel by the Principal Rajkumar Sharma and other staff members. Nikhil Soni, a student of class V, bio sketched the life of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in his oration.

Principal Rajkumar Sharma also spoke about the necessity of the observance of the National Unity Day and a pivotal

role played by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in uniting the princely states after the independence of the country.

School also organized a "Run for Unity", which saw enthusiastic participation from the students, faculty and staff members. The theme upheld this year is "Integration of India". On

this day, school successfully created awareness about Rashtriya Ekta Diwas and honoured Sardar Patel.

Before the commencement of the run, all the students and the members of school fraternity took the pledge administered by the Principal to uphold unity and integrity of the nation.

Congress does what it promises: Madhubala Ratre

Farmers and Rural communities remain a priority

Central Chronicle News

Gingeshwar, Nov 01: District Panchayat Chairperson, Madhubala Ratre, reinforced the Congress party's commitment to delivering on its promises during her campaign. She assured the rural population that the Congress party has a track record of fulfilling its pledges, such as loan waivers for farmers and the procurement of paddy at fair prices.

She emphasized the deep-rooted empathy of the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, who hails from a farming background, towards the joys and sorrows of farmers.



Madhubala Ratre

The Congress government has consistently prioritized the welfare of farmers, the underprivileged, youth, and women, formulating comprehensive development plans to uplift their lives. Ratre reiterated that if the Congress government is re-elected in

Chhattisgarh, farmers' loans will be waived, and paddy will be procured at a minimum support price of Rs. 2800, aiming to enhance the well-being of farmers in this agriculturally driven state. She also unveiled ambitious plans for education, promising free education from kindergarten to post-graduation in all government educational institutions under a Congress-led government. Additionally, the Congress government plans to raise the support amount for landless farmers from Rs. 7000 to Rs. 10000, underscoring their commitment to uplift rural communities and secure a prosperous future for all.

Kawardha's Royal family leads the way for change

- Raja Khadgaraj Singh's AAP candidacy takes center stage
- Former MLA Raja Yogeshwar Raj Singh also supports brother Khadgaraj

Central Chronicle News

Kawardha, Nov 01: The electoral landscape in the Kawardha Assembly constituency is witnessing a significant shift as former MLA Raja Yogeshwar Raj Singh extends his support to his younger brother, Raja Khadgaraj Singh, who is contesting from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). AAP's candidate, Raja

Khadgaraj Singh, a member of the renowned Royal Rajparivar of Sahaspur Lohara, is making waves in Kawardha with his strong reputation and a dynamic campaign that resonates with the public. Large rallies, neighborhood meetings, and open interactions with the people have been pivotal in establishing AAP's presence in every village within the constituency.

Raja Khadgaraj Singh's campaign is further bolstered by the active participation of his wife and AAP's Pradesh



Upadhyaksha, Rani Akanksha Devi Singh, and his sister, who are tirelessly working to garner support from the local communities. Their warm reception is a testament to the robust backing from the people.

Notably, Raja Yogeshwar Raj Singh, the elder brother and former MLA from

Kawardha, has thrown his weight behind his sibling's AAP candidacy. Raja Yogeshwar Raj Singh has been fervently campaigning in the Pipariya region, reaching out to supporters and villagers, urging them to vote for his younger brother under the AAP banner. His endorsement has made a significant im-

pact within the villages.

Raja Yogeshwar Raj Singh continues to command the support and respect of his followers across the district. His selfless efforts to set aside political rivalry and personally connect with the people are expected to fortify AAP's position, potentially influencing the overall election outcome in Kawardha.

The appeal from the Rajparivar of Lohara and the esteemed Kawardha royal family to voters underscores a significant shift in support. Their unified call for voters to choose their respective candidates is making waves, promising a transformative election in Kawardha.

Administration wakes up after youth's death

Thorough inspection of vehicles transporting Iron Ore from Mahamaya and Dulki Mines

Central Chronicle News

Dallirajhara, Nov 01: In response to a tragic accident that claimed the life of a youth and left another seriously injured, local authorities have sprung into action. SDM Suresh Sahu and CSP Rajhara Rajesh Bagde directed a comprehensive inspection of vehicles transporting iron ore from Mahamaya and Dulki Mines to Dondi through Dallirajhara's main road. Deputy Tehsildar B. Rudrapati led this examination on Sunday evening at around 5 PM.

The incident in question occurred on October 26 when a truck belonging to BSP, en route from Jharan Dalli Mines in BSP, collided with two youths riding a motorcycle in front of Jharna Temple on the main road connecting Dallirajhara to Dondi.

Tragically, one youth lost his life, and the other sustained severe injuries. The incident led to a seven-to-eight-hour commotion, organized by Nagar Palika Upadhyaksh Santosh Devangan and local residents.

Following the turmoil, a meeting convened at the Dallirajhara office of SDM Suresh Sahu included representatives from BSP management, the local administration, local leaders, relatives of the victims, contractors, and respected citizens.

Serious allegations were also raised against BSP officials regarding a series of accidents.

B. Rudrapati, providing an update on the matter, stated that, following the

The inspection revealed that all trucks adhered to the rules. Drivers were sternly advised against speeding, overloading, or driving under the influence of alcohol. It was also

those flouting the rules, with ongoing inspections planned. The injured youth, Rakesh Nishad, a resident of Ward 10, has been referred to a medical college for treatment.

His mother, a daily wage labourer, supports the financially disadvantaged family, as his father is deceased. Ward residents have united in seeking comprehensive medical treatment and financial compensation for the injured youth.

BJP leader and Municipal Council Upadhyaksh Santosh Devangan emphasized the need for BSP management and the district collector to provide employment and compensation to the families affected by accidents involving vehicles benefiting BSP, especially when the company contributes significantly to the government and mineral trusts.

meeting held after the tragic incident on the 26th, a meticulous inspection of trucks engaged in iron ore transportation from Mahamaya and Dulki Mines was carried out under the direction of the SDM and CSP.

stressed that all trucks should be covered with tarpaulin, and transportation without proper documentation and royalties would not be tolerated.

BSP management assured that strict actions would be taken against



केनरा बँक Canara Bank
A Division of India Licensing

Main Branch-II, Raipur (C.G.)

POSESSION NOTICE [Appendix IV under the Act-Rule-8(1)]

Whereas, The under signed being the Authorised officer of the Canara Bank under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a Demand Notice was issued on the date in the given following table calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days of receipt of said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property, described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the said Act on the dates mentioned against the account. The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the CANARA BANK (Below mentioned Branches) for the amount and interest mentioned thereon.

The Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagee's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

S. No.	Borrower Name	Detail of Possessed Property	Demand Notice Amount	Demand Notice Date
1.	Mr. Rahul Dodeja S/o Anoop Kumar Dodeja, MIG 5 Shankar Niwas NPHB Colony Katora Talab, Raipur CG 492001 (Borrower) and Mrs. Kajal Dodeja W/o Anoop Dodeja, MIG-5 Shankar Niwas NPHB, Colony Katora Talab, Raipur CG-492001 (Co-Borrower)	1) Flat no. 306, 9th floor, Rajat Centrum, Part of Khasra 637/01, P.H. No. 105/47, Village-Bhatagaon, Main Road, R.I.C. - Raipur-1, Shyam Prasad Mukherjee Ward no. 63 Tahsil Dist Raipur CG. Boundaries of the property- East-Open Area, West- Duct & Flat No. 907, North-Flat No. 905, South-Open Area. 2) Flat No. 602, 6th Floor, I Block, Green Glory, Part of Khasra No. 1211/22, 1320/21, 1216/19, 1217/19, 1218/31, 1211/23, 1320/22, 1216/20, 1217/20, 1218/32, P.H. No. 63, situated Shankar Nagar, Mahatma Jai Prakash Ward No. 28, R.I.C. Raipur-1, Tah and Dist- Raipur (C.G.). Boundaries of the Property- East- Colony Road, West- Colony Road, North-Flat 1, 601, South- Open Space.	₹ 1,32,02,381.67 with interest and applicable charges thereon.	30.08.2023 01.11.2023 Possession Notice Date

Date: 01.10.2023 Place: Raipur (CG) Authorized Officer, Canara Bank

Public Notice

This is to inform to the public that the original Sale Deed dated 19/09/2013 is registered in the office of Sub-registrar Raipur, Vide Book No A/1, Volume no 60338, Serial No. 3271, Page No 85 to 99 executed by Smt. Swastantra W/O Shri Anil Das Podwar R/O Jhanda Chowk, Azad Nagar, Rawatnata, Raipur (C.G.) in favour of Shri Babu Lal Kesharwani S/O Shri Rajmani Kesharwani R/O Khadanpara, Rawatnata, Raipur (C.G.) & another Sale Deed dated 12/12/2011 is registered in the office of Sub-registrar Raipur, Vide Book No A/1, Volume no 52688, Serial No. 3849 (Gai), Page No 23 to 33 executed by M/s. Nasrudin S/O Hazi Jamnal Hing R/O Gari Nagar, Bargan, Raipur (C.G.) in favour of Shri Baidyan Kesharwani R/O Deen Dayal Upadhyay Nagar, Gudhyari, Raipur (C.G.) for the Kh. No. 390/01, 390/19A, Area 1680 Sq. Ft. Situated at Rawatnata, Pt. Rawatnatar Shukla Ward No. 12, Raipur, P. C. no-86, R/O- Raipur-21-Rawatnata, Raipur & Dist- Raipur (C.G.) in respect of property owner has been lost/ Misplaced by Owner Shri Rajmani Kesharwani (Gupta) S/O Late Shri Gajadhar Kesharwani (Gupta) R/O Banjari Nagar, Rawatnata, Raipur (C.G.). The FIR has been placed for lost of the above said Sale deed by the owner.

Now Shri Rajmani Kesharwani (Gupta) has applied for issue from JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED hereby invites claims & objections, if any, for the mortgage the above said property within the 15 days from the date of publication of this notice along with relevant proofs and documents supporting the claim in my office. If no objections are received within above mentioned time, without any reference to such claims and the claims if any shall be deemed to have been given up or waived.

Raipur Dated 01/11/2023
Vijay Shankar Tiwari
Advocate
779, "Gauri - Kesar Kung",
Sundar Nagar, Raipur (C.G.)
Mobile 94252-08945, Mobile 90390-08945

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CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Office: Chola Crest, C 54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru Vi Ka, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.
Branch Office: Shop No- 7th Floor, Currency Tower, VIP Chowk, G.E. Road, Telibandha, Raipur, CG 492001,
Contact No: Prakash Verma- 9981343191, Prakhar Sharma- 9826432751

E-AUCTION NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notices hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagee(s) that the below scribed immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the **Symbolic Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited** the same shall be referred here in after as **Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited**. The Secured Assets will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "What ever there is" basis through E-Auction. It is hereby informed to General public that we are going to conduct public E-Auction through <https://bankauctions.in>.

Account No. and Name of borrower, co-borrower, Mortgagees	1. Date 2. Demand Notice Amount 3. Total Loan Outstanding 4. Possession Date	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit & Bid Increment Amount (In Rs.)	E-Auction Date and Time, EMD Submission Last Date, Inspection Date
Loan Nos. X0HERRH00003033143 and HE02RRH00000001803 Borrower & Co-borrower 1. RAJESH KUMAR, AGRAWAL, Residing At- Karishma Apartment VIP Estate, V V Vihar Mowla Saddu Raipur, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492007, 2. POONAM AGRAWAL, 3. SANTOSH KUMAR AGRAWAL, 4. MANJU AGRAWAL, 5. PREM CHAND AGRAWAL, 6. NEHA AGRAWAL, Residing At- Gali No 4 Karishma Apartment VIP Estate, V V Vihar Mowla Saddu Raipur, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492007, 7. AGRAWALJI KAGULSHAN SWEETS, Residing At Shop No 5 Sahu Complex, Near Pani Tanki Mowla Raipur, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001.	17.12.2021 ₹ 2,97,43,389.35/- ₹ 60,23,445.00/- totaling to ₹ 3,57,66,834.35/- as on 17.12.2021 ₹ 2,47,87,765/- & ₹ 76,98,853/- totally ₹ 3,24,86,618/- as on 30.10.2023 together with further interest, penal interest, costs and charges thereon till the date of payment. 23.03.2022 Symbolic Possession	PROPERTY-1 All that piece and parcel of the Commercial Shop bearing No. 06, on the Ground Floor, Comprising Area 360.00 Sq. Ft. Comprised Area in Part of Khasra No. 377/4 & 378/10, Situated at Known as "Sahu Complex" Village-Mowla, Bhimrao Ambedkar Ward, Ward No. 27, P. H. No.109, R.I.C. Raipur, Tahsil & District Raipur (C.G.) Boundaries: -As Per Sale Deed NORTH: Road, SOUTH: Land of Prema Bai Sahu, EAST: Shop No. 7, WEST: Shop No. 5. PROPERTY-2 All that piece and parcel of the Commercial Shop bearing No. 05, Comprising Area 360.00 Sq. Ft. Comprised in Part of Khasra No. 377/4 & 378/10, Situated at Known as "Sahu Complex" Village Mowla, Bhimrao Ambedkar Ward, Ward No. 27, P. H. No. 109, R.I.C. Raipur, Tahsil & District Raipur (C.G.) Boundaries: - NORTH: Road, SOUTH: Land of Sahu, EAST: Shop No. 6, WEST: Gate.	₹ 75,00,000/- ₹ 7,50,000/- ₹ 1,00,000/- ₹ 75,00,000/- ₹ 7,50,000/- ₹ 1,00,000/-	24.11.2023 at 11:00 am to 1:00 PM (with unlimited extension of 5 min each), 22.11.2023 (up to 5.30 PM) 16.11.2023 and 17.11.2023 (10.00 A.M to 1.00 P.M.)

1. All interested participants/bidders are requested to visit the website <https://bankauctions.in> & <https://cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notice> for details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact Mr. Muhemmad Rahees 8124000030, Ms.4 Closure; Mr. Jaya Prakash Reddy, Phone No. 8142000064, Email: info@bankauctions.in.

2. For further details on terms and conditions please visit- <https://bankauctions.in/> & <https://cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notice> to take part in e-auction.

THIS IS ALSO A STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

Date: 02.11.2023, Place: Raipur (C.G.) Authorized Officer/ M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited

Bhavna Bohra announces State-of-the-Art facilities for women

Guru Bal Das exposes corrupt Congress govt

Engages with Pandariya's residents, receives enthusiastic support

Pandariya, Nov 01:

As the first phase of voting approaches on November 7th in Chhattisgarh, political candidates are intensifying their efforts to connect with the public, comprehend their concerns, and share their visions for a brighter future. Bhavna Bohra, the Bharatiya Janata Party's candidate for the Pandariya constituency in the state assembly, engaged in an extensive interaction within the Pandariya Mandal. During this event, she not only familiarized herself with the region's challenges but also unveiled her ambitious plans for Pandariya's progress. The residents of Pandariya extended a warm welcome to Bhavna Bohra, expressing their support and showering her with blessings for a triumphant victory in the upcoming elections.



One of the pivotal highlights of this engagement was Bhavna Bohra's significant announcement regarding the construction of state-of-the-art facilities dedicated to the Mitanins and Self-Help Groups in Pandariya. This announcement resonated widely, with everyone recognizing it as a commendable and empowering initiative. Bhavna Bohra emphasized, "Our Mitanin and Self-Help Group sisters have always been committed to service, and addressing their needs is our

foremost priority. In the near future, we will embark on the construction of well-equipped centers at the block level in Lohara and Pandariya, offering convenience and resources to our Mitanin and Self-Help Group sisters. This initiative will effectively eliminate any challenges they face, be it related to training, event organization, or addressing various issues within their scope of activities." Furthering her address, Bhavna articulated, "The affection and support I

have received from the people of Pandariya, whether as a daughter or sister, have always been a source of inspiration. In the forthcoming elections, I have chosen a path dedicated to service. My commitment to serving the public, whether through my role as a District Panchayat member or various public welfare initiatives, will extend across the entire Pandariya constituency." Expressing her unwavering confidence in securing victory with the

blessings of the people, Bhavna earnestly appealed to the electorate to cast their votes in favor of the Bharatiya Janata Party on November 7th. She underlined their steadfast commitment to prioritize the continuous development of tribal areas and affirmed their dedication to fulfilling this vision with the invaluable support of the people.

During her address to the gathering, Bhavna Bohra also highlighted the array of service initiatives and facilities she has introduced within her capacity as a District Panchayat member in Zone 12. These initiatives encompass services such as ambulance facilities, health path labs, complimentary bus services for girls, and a myriad of other public welfare projects. Her overarching objective is to extend these benefits to the entirety of the Pandariya constituency, ensuring that every issue, irrespective of its magnitude, is swiftly and effectively addressed for the well-being of the residents.

Vijay Sharma gains overwhelming support in BJP's quest for victory

Kawardha, Nov 01:

In a campaign rally, Guru Bal Das from the Satnami Panth, supporting Bharatiya Janata Party candidate Vijay Sharma, unveiled a scathing critique of the current Congress government in Chhattisgarh. The gathering in Dabara Bhat witnessed the presence of MP Santosh Pandey, former MLA Siyaram Sahu, former district president Ramkumar Bhatt, General Secretary Santosh Patel, and the BJP's candidate Vijay Sharma.

Addressing the assembly, Guru Bal Das didn't mince words when he accused the Congress government of being deceptive and untrustworthy. He highlighted that while the Congress promised to uplift society, the people's blessings appear to be firmly in the camp of those vying for victory, and the BJP is poised to form the government.

Guru Bal Das remarked,



"In past elections, Congress championed the cause of reservation but conveniently forgot society's interests once in power. Their election manifestos, filled with false promises, betrayed the people's trust. They advocated for various issues while in opposition but conveniently abandoned them upon assuming power."

Further elaborating on the issue, Guru Bal Das stated, "Despite our unwavering support for the Satnami Samaj's reservation demand, Congress failed to deliver the promised 16% reservation, even after conducting an internal survey. In 2013, when we contested elections alongside the Satnami Sena, Congress attributed

their loss to the presence of Satnami Sena. Even in the previous elections, the BJP acknowledged our demand. We have demonstrated the awareness and strength of the Satnami Samaj to both political parties. In 2018, we believed that the Congress government would work toward the upliftment of society, but they instead deceived us. This is why we have aligned with the BJP, trusting that they comprehend the societal importance and will strive for its progress."

Concluding his speech, Guru Bal Das expressed confidence in Vijay Sharma, saying, "Our support stands firmly with Vijay Sharma, and the community is firmly behind him. With resounding support, Vijay Sharma will emerge victorious, and the BJP will ascend to power in the state, ushering out the corrupt government."

The event was attended by numerous members of the Satnami Samaj, including monks, priests, Chhadidar, Sathidar, Raj Mahant, and followers, alongside enthusiastic Bharatiya Janata Party workers.

Youth sentenced to life for raping minor girl

Khairagarh, Nov 01:

In a landmark verdict, the Khairagarh Sessions Court has sentenced Amit Kumar Netam, a 22-year-old youth, to life imprisonment for the heinous crime of raping a minor girl. Additional Sessions Judge Chandrakumar Kashyap pronounced the sentence, bringing justice to the victim and her family.

The harrowing incident occurred nearly two and a half years ago, on March 20, 2021. The mother of the victim, a 12-year-old girl, filed a report at the Gandai Police Station, detailing how Amit Kumar Netam, the accused, had committed the crime. On that fateful evening, Amit Kumar

lured the girl from their home under the pretext of going to a store. As time passed and the girl did not return, the family grew increasingly concerned and questioned the accused.

The family's suspicions deepened when the victim's grandmother revealed that she had witnessed Amit Kumar taking her granddaughter towards a field. Upon further questioning, the accused confessed to abandoning the girl near a haystack after sexually assaulting her and attempting to strangle her to death. Medical examination confirmed the heinous act, revealing both sexual assault and physical injuries.

The police registered a

case against Amit Kumar under Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code and Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. He was subsequently arrested and put on trial.

On October 31, Additional Sessions Judge Chandrakumar Kashyap delivered a verdict that emphasized the gravity of the accused's actions, deeming them unacceptable in civilized society. The accused received a life sentence for the rape and an additional 10 years of life imprisonment under Section 307. He was fined Rs 2,000 for his crimes and an additional Rs 500 for violating Section 5 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

Kareli Badi, Nov 01:

Ajay Chandrakar, the Kurud Assembly candidate for BJP, embarked on a meaningful journey through Mohrenga, Hasda, Bhendri, and Khairjithi, where he engaged in a worker's meeting and established a rapport with the local villagers. His visit was marked by a warm welcome to new voters in Hasda No. 1, adorned with traditional Gamchha.

During these interactions, Ajay Chandrakar voiced his concerns regarding the unfulfilled promises of the previous Congress government and the ambiguity surrounding current announcements. He questioned the lack of clarity on which



farmers' loans would be waived, whether they are short-term, medium-term, or long-term loans from various banks, including the District Cooperative Bank. He urged the community not to place trust in a government of falsehoods.

Chandrakar highlighted the government's failure to procure 2500 quintals of paddy, the non-waiver of

loans for women's groups, and the delayed delivery of promised housing for the underprivileged. These issues, he stressed, deserve careful consideration.

Encouraging party workers to be proactive and informed, Chandrakar pointed out the absence of significant development in villages under Bhupesh's government in the past five years.

He emphasized that development had been confined mainly to specific areas, such as Narva Garva Ghurva Bari, and lamented the lack of funding for these initiatives, with Panchayats bearing the financial burden.

Chandrakar compared the BJP's 15-year tenure, marked by substantial progress in electricity, road infrastructure, edu-

cation, and healthcare, with the perceived stagnation during the Janata Congress government's rule. He expressed disappointment over fishermen not receiving anticipated benefits, the absence of button material under the scheme, and inadequate protection for Narva.

In his closing remarks, Chandrakar rallied the workers, highlighting the stark differences between mere praise from the Congress government and tangible achievements by the BJP in the villages. The meeting saw the participation of numerous dedicated workers, including Shyam Sahu, Mandal President Horilal Sahu, Virendra Sahu, Rajesh Sahu, and Durgesh Yadav, among others.

Boida NSS organizes voter education drive with enthusiastic volunteers

Korba, Nov 01:

The National Service Scheme (NSS) in Boida, under the guidance of Dr. Ashok Kumar Shrotri, Director of the NSS unit and the Ministry of Sports and Youth Welfare, Delhi, along with Dr. Nita Bajpayee, State National Service Scheme Officer, and Dr. Manoj Sinha, Program Coordinator at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, conducted a voter awareness program. District Organizer Y. K. Tiwari provided supervision, and Principal Lakhna Lal Banjare offered support for



the initiative.

The program, organized by Program Officer Rajendra Kumar Nayak with administrative guidance, aimed to promote awareness about the importance of voting. Enthusiastic volunteers

from the NSS unit of Boida National Service Scheme took to the streets and visited households to encourage people to exercise their right to vote on November 17th.

Emphasizing the significance of voting, these dedi-

cated volunteers motivated women, men, and individuals aged 18 and older to participate in the electoral process. They also engaged with pedestrians on the streets, educating them about the crucial role of voting and inspiring them to cast their ballots in the upcoming election on November 17th.

The campaign featured impactful slogans such as '100% Voting, Chhattisgarh's Mission' and '100% Voting Campaign for Atal Bihari Vajpayee Vishwavidyalaya, Korba-Bilaspur.' Nitin Upadhyay, TE, and Thana Incharge Hardeep Bazaar

lauded and commended this voter awareness campaign, recognizing its potential to contribute to the development and progress of India.

The campaign's success was made possible by the dedicated contributions of volunteers including Veerendra Kumar Yadav, Tulsi Patel, Chanda Patel, Nisha Patel, Lakheshwar Kumar Shrivastav, Teesa Maravi, Pratiksha Gendle, Bhoomika Patel, and Urmila Patel. Rajendra Kumar Nayak, the Program Officer of the National Service Scheme, played a pivotal role in orchestrating the initiative.

24 candidates file nominations on final day

Mungeli, Nov 01:

The final day of nomination filing for the second phase of the legislative assembly elections in Mungeli witnessed an electric atmosphere at the collectorate premises. Supporters of candidates arrived in jubilant processions, accompanied by music and fanfare, marking the occasion with fervour.

The collectorate and its vicinity were a spectacle, adorned with throngs of people and flags representing various political parties. On this crucial day, a total of 24 candidates submitted their nominations, contributing to a grand total of 76 nominations filed by 42 aspirants across the district. The second phase of the leg-

Festive atmosphere at collectorate as election momentum grows

islative assembly elections reached its culmination on Monday, which served as the closing date for nominations. Supporters of candidates added to the festivities by organizing rallies filled with music and spirited slogans, creating an enthusiastic atmosphere that resonated throughout the area. Given the substantial crowd on the final day, the police administration had strategically erected barricades and redirected traffic from the main road in front of the collectorate. Both inside and outside the collectorate premises, supporters of the candidates gathered, making their presence felt. The

collectorate police station was visible and prepared to manage the proceedings.

Under the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly General Elections 2023, the last day of nomination filing witnessed 24 candidates submitting their nomination forms. In Constituency No. 26, Lormi, a notable 40 applications were submitted by 23 aspirants, highlighting the significance of this phase. Similarly, in Constituency No. 27, Mungeli, the nomination tally reached 36 applications filed by 19 dedicated aspirants, underscoring the democratic spirit of the region.

Congress gains ground with farmer-friendly policies: Neelkanth

Kabeerdham, Nov 01:

As the state assembly elections draw near, Neelkanth Chandravanshi, the official Congress candidate for the Pandariya assembly constituency, is making significant strides in connecting with voters in every village within his jurisdiction. In an ongoing outreach campaign, Neelkanth Chandravanshi has been actively engaging with rural residents, attentively listening to their concerns and addressing local issues. Villagers have been approaching Neelkanth with a range of matters specific to their region, and in response, he has

provided assurance that, once in office, the government will effectively address their needs. During a recent visit to the village of Gaumati within the Pandariya assembly constituency, Neelkanth Chandravanshi received a warm welcome from the villagers. He partook in the worship and rituals of Mata Durga, followed by joining the traditional immersion procession of Mata Rani alongside the local community, accompanied by the rhythmic beats of drums and manjiras. Chandravanshi's outreach also extended to the Charbhata Market, where rural residents greeted him with enthusiasm. He discussed the

various welfare schemes implemented by the Bhupesh government, highlighting initiatives such as loan waivers and the purchase of 20 quintals of paddy at support prices. He also emphasized that these policies have positively impacted individuals from all walks of life, regardless of their political affiliations. The growing support for Congress is evident, as individuals like Ramkumar Kaushik from Bazaar Charbhata have decided to join the party, influenced by Congress's farmer-friendly actions. Neelkanth personally welcomed him into the party by draping him with a gamchha (scarf).

Kawardha, Nov 01:

In the run-up to the November 7 Assembly elections, Congress candidate Akbar Bhai is leaving no stone unturned in connecting with constituents across various rural and urban areas of the Kawardha constituency. His recent outreach efforts covered Junwani Jungle, Dullapur, Kothar, Rabeli, Lohzari, Baiharsari, and Kawardha, where he urged voters to support progress and development in the region.

Akbar Bhai, contesting



for the Kawardha Assembly constituency, reiterated that over the past five years, the Congress government has

earned the trust of diverse sections of society, including farmers, labourers, landless families, and small traders. He appealed to the public for their blessings to empower Congress once again to form the government in the state.

During his campaign, residents of Junwani Jungle, Dullapur, Kothar, Rabeli, Lohzari, Baiharsari, and Kawardha expressed their contentment with Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's administration. They applauded the government's commitment to

enhancing the economic well-being of the people and commended various government initiatives.

Akbar underscored Congress's renewed promises to farmers, including the commitment to provide 200 units of free electricity, loan waivers for women's groups, and immediate paddy procurement at support prices. These eight significant announcements have resonated with the citizens, leaving them delighted. In the event of Congress's victory in Chhattisgarh, they will once again honour their pledge to waive

loans for all farmers in the state. He stressed that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's initiatives have garnered the trust of farmers, landless labourers, tribal communities, and the younger generation.

Akbar is actively engaging with rural and urban communities in his constituency, ensuring Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's plans and policies directly benefit the people. The public is rallying behind Akbar in his mission to advance progress and development in Chhattisgarh.

Diwali festivities reverberate at Walt Disney World Resort in Florida

New York, Nov 01 (PTI):

In a first, Diwali festivities reverberated at Walt Disney World Resort in Florida as hundreds of dancers showcased the culture and heritage of India through performances in celebration of the festival of lights for a global audience at the iconic American destination.

The first-ever Youth Celebration of Diwali was hosted by Jashn Productions with over 400 dancers from across the country celebrating the festival of lights through dance performances at Disney Springs, and Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park, a press release issued here said.

The Dance Fest led under the direction of Jeanie Beri, founder of Jashn Productions was a three-day event comprising vibrant colours, costumes and performances by dancers from around North America.



Artists perform during Diwali Dance Fest at Walt Disney World Resort, in Florida, USA.

"Bringing Diwali to Walt Disney World Resort for the first time ever was so exhilarating," Beri said. "We created history by sharing the joy and excitement of this important festival with the South Asian dance community. Celebrating the magic of Diwali in The Most Magical Place on Earth' was truly a dream come true." Beri said Jashn Productions is looking forward to bringing people to-

gether to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of South Asia with more events like the Diwali Dance Fest.

The festival, from October 26-28, kicked off with an official parade at Disney Springs, where dancers performed a 20-minute choreographed piece while parading through the streets of Disney Springs.

The Dance Fest Showcase, held at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme

Park, included 17 dance schools and performances from various regions of India including Gujarat, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh weaving elements of pop and hip-hop.

The Diwali Dance Fest was the first of its kind celebration that gave children the opportunity to showcase their talent on a world-renowned platform, the release added. Over 1,000 guests experienced the sights and sounds of Diwali as the iconic Disney park reverberated with sounds of Indian music and colourful costumes.

Walt Disney's iconic Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse opened the event alongside specially-abled children.

Jashn Productions donated USD 10K to the N-Lorem Foundation whose mission is to develop and provide personalized experimental medicines free of cost to patients with nano-rare conditions.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE



Maasai women stand with Britain's Queen Camilla, centre, after dressing her with their traditional regalia during a visit to the equine welfare charity, Brooke, to learn how Brooke and the Kenya Society for the Protection and Care of Animals are working together towards the protection of donkeys and promoting their welfare, in Karen District of Nairobi, Kenya, Wednesday, Nov. 1.

Jaishankar meets Portugal PM; discusses contemporary challenges

Lisbon, Nov 01 (PTI): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has discussed contemporary challenges with Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa and appreciated his guidance for the further development of India-Portugal ties. Jaishankar, who arrived here on the first leg of his four-day visit to Portugal and Italy with an aim to further bolster India's bilateral ties with the two key European nations, also appreciated Portugal's support for India-EU ties. "Pleasure to meet Prime Minister @antoniocostap today (Tuesday). Conveyed the warm greetings of PM @narendramodi. Discussed contemporary challenges and appreciated his guidance for the further development of our ties," Jaishankar said on X. Earlier, the foreign minister held "pro-

ductive talks" with his Portuguese counterpart Joao Cravinho here during which they discussed the progress in bilateral economic cooperation and exchanged views on West Asia, Ukraine, Central Asia and the Indo-Pacific. He also met Augusto Santos Silva, the President of the Assembly of the Portuguese Republic, and discussed the importance of two democracies cooperating closely in a volatile world. "Delighted to meet @ASantosSilvaPAR, President of the Assembly of the Portuguese Republic today morning in Lisbon. Have always valued his strong support for our bilateral ties. Discussed the importance of our two democracies cooperating closely in a volatile world," Jaishankar said in another post.

Israeli airstrikes hit refugee camp for a second day

Rafah, Nov 01 (AP):

The Hamas-run government in Gaza says Israeli airstrikes have hit apartment buildings in a refugee camp near Gaza City for a second day in a row, causing many deaths and injuries. The toll from Wednesday's strikes was not immediately known.

Meanwhile, dozens of people with foreign passports entered the Rafah crossing from Gaza to Egypt. It appeared to be the first time that foreign passport holders have been allowed to leave the besieged territory since the start of the Israel-Hamas war more than three weeks ago.

Communications and internet services were gradually being restored after the second major cut



Smoke rises following an Israeli airstrike in the Gaza Strip, as seen from southern Israel, Wednesday, Nov. 1.

in five days, according to Paltel, the main service provider. Humanitarian aid agencies have warned that such blackouts severely disrupt their work in an already dire situation in Gaza. The Palestinian death toll in the Israel-Hamas war has reached

8,525, according to the Hamas-run Health Ministry in Gaza. In the occupied West Bank, more than 122 Palestinians have been killed in violence and Israeli raids. More than 1,400 people in Israel have been killed, most of them civilians slain in the ini-

tial October 7 Hamas rampage that started the fighting. In addition, around 240 hostages were taken from Israel into Gaza by the militant group. One of the captives, a female Israeli soldier, was rescued in a special forces operation. Lebanon's caretaker prime minister said Wednesday that time is of the essence in stopping the Hamas-Israel war from "going out of control" and affecting Lebanon and the wider region.

Najib Mikati has been scrambling with international governments to keep Lebanon away from the war, as militants from the Hezbollah group and Israeli troops have been clashing along the tense Lebanon-Israel border since the onset of the war on Oct. 7.

Trump leads in home state of Nikki Haley: CNN poll

Washington, Nov 01 (PTI):

Former US president Donald Trump leads Indian-American politician Nikki Haley by more than 30 percentage points in her home state of South Carolina as they vie for the Republican Party's nomination for the 2024 presidential election, according to the latest opinion poll by CNN.

The 77-year-old former president, currently the front-runner among the Republican Party candidates, has the support of 53 per cent of its responders in South Carolina as opposed to 22 per cent who support Haley, who is the former governor of South Carolina. Vivek Ramaswamy, the 38-

year-old Indian-American, is trailing far behind with about one percentage point in the CNN polls of South Carolina, which is one of the early primary states.

The US presidential elections are scheduled to be held on November 5, 2024.

Trump's base of support in South Carolina is far more solid than his rivals' pool of core supporters.

An 82 per cent majority of his current backers say that they will definitely support him. Just 42 per cent of 51-year-old Haley's supporters and 38 per cent of DeSantis' backers say they are certain they won't change their minds, CNN said.

UN, international community urged to condemn, halt Pakistan deportation of over million Afghans

Washington, Nov 01 (PTI):

The United States, the United Nations and the international community have urged by an Indian diaspora body to condemn and halt deportation of over a million Afghans from Pakistan, and appealed to the IMF to stop its financial aid to Islamabad.

Condemning Pakistan's decision in this regard, the Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIIDS) said this is illegal and the international norms.

"The Islamic Republic of Pakistan's planned forced deportation of Afghan refugees, who had fled under duress from the brutal Taliban rule, is not only illegal under interna-



Afghans wait for clearance to depart for their homeland at a deportation camp setup by authorities to facilitate people living in Pakistan illegally, in Chaman, a town on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, Wednesday, Nov. 1.

tional law but could also trigger a massive humanitarian crisis," said Khanderao Kand, chief of policy and strategy at FIIDS.

"It was always known since the times of Osama Bin Laden that Pakistan

worked very closely with the Taliban as it's proxy to have a grip over Afghanistan. Now Pakistan seems frustrated at its weakening control over the Taliban," he said.

FIIDS said that Pak is trying to do the exact

things to Afghan refugees that it earlier did to their minority Hindu and Sikh citizens.

"So our discussion with Afghan experts brought us to the conclusion that Pakistan is trying to do the same to its Afghan refugees that it did to its minority Hindu and Sikh citizens back in 1947, which is to harass and run them away so as to steal all their assets and properties," he said. FIIDS also urged the IMF to stop financial aid to cash-strapped Pakistan.

"We urge the IMF to stop USD 3 billion approved by arrangement in June and the US to stop all military aid as well as any USAID funds to Pakistan, until it stops this deportation.

Pak, IMF to start negotiations today

For release of \$ 710 mn second tranche of \$ 3 bn loan

Islamabad, Nov 01 (PTI):

Pakistan and the IMF will start their negotiations Thursday for the release of USD 710 million second tranche of a USD 3 billion loan to the cash-strapped country to stabilise its debt-ridden economy - a real challenge for the caretaker government ahead of the elections expected in January.

A review mission from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will arrive here on Thursday and review the country's economic performance during the first three months of the current fiscal year - from July to September.

"The IMF team led by Nathan Porter will field a mission to Pakistan start-

ing on November 2 on the first review under the current Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) of USD 3 billion," Esther Perez, the resident representative of the IMF, said last week.

The IMF had proposed November 7 in anticipation of a delay in compiling the first quarter data but the Ministry of Finance assured that all the relevant data was available for the review talks, according to local media reports.

While approving the USD 3 billion loan in July this year, the Washington-based global lender had also released the first tranche of USD 1.2 billion. Although essentially a bridge loan, it offered much respite to Pakistan,

which was battling an acute balance of payments crisis and falling foreign exchange reserves.

Ahead of the crucial talks, Pakistan was confident to secure the nod of the creditor for release of the second tranche under the short-term loan.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar expressed optimism on Tuesday regarding Pakistan's upcoming review, Hum News channel reported.

"We have achieved our targets, including revenue goals. We are confident that our negotiations for the second tranche will be successful," he said.

"Pakistan has achieved the structural bench agreed with the IMF and

its important condition of increasing gas prices has also been met. Similarly, the circular credit is also within the prescribed limit and the fiscal deficit is in accordance with the set target as well," the Express Tribune newspaper reported on Wednesday ahead of the talks.

It said that the Federal Board of Revenue's tax collections have exceeded their set target.

There are some difficulties about the external financing required for the budget deficit, but this issue will also be resolved easily too because of the assurances given by friendly countries including China, the UAE and Saudi Arabia, the paper said.

China keeps up military pressure on Taiwan

● Sending 43 planes and 7 ships near self-governing island

Taipei (Taiwan), Nov 01 (AP): Taiwan said on Wednesday that China sent 43 military aircraft and seven ships near the self-ruled island, the latest sign that Beijing plans no let-up in its campaign of harassment, threats and intimidation.

Taiwan's Defence Ministry said the figure was current for the 24 hours up to 6:00 a.m. on Wednesday and that 37 of the aircraft had crossed the median line in the Taiwan Strait, which China no longer recognises as an informal divider between the sides.

It said Taiwan had monitored the situation, scrambled jet fighters, dispatched ships and activated land-based missile systems, all standard responses to Chinese military activities, which include crossing into Taiwan's air defense identification zone but not into its actual airspace.

Such Chinese maneuvers have become frequent and aggressive since then-US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan in August 2022. China suspended military communication with the US to show its displeasure over her trip to Taiwan, which Beijing considers part of its territory to be brought under its control by force if necessary.

Rajeev Chandrasekhar to bring India's perspective to the UK's AI Safety Summit

London, Nov 01 (PTI):

Union Minister of State for IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar will bring the Indian perspective on harnessing artificial intelligence for the benefit of citizens at the UK's two-day AI Safety Summit, which opened on Wednesday.

Hosted by British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire, the home of modern computing where celebrated British mathematician Alan Turing's team broke the Enigma code, the summit is bringing together representatives from 27 countries. Besides, businesses, civil society, and AI



India's technology minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar speaks during the first plenary session on of the AI Safety Summit at Bletchley Park, on Wednesday, Nov. 1.

experts, tech billionaire Elon Musk and OpenAI's Sam Altman, will participate in the first global summit of its kind to discuss the global future of AI and its risks.

"Look forward to discuss ways in which Artificial Intelligence can be harnessed to transform lives of citizens, catalyse the Digital Economy while ensuring safety and trust of Digital Nagriks (sic)," Chandrasekhar, who is the Minister of State for Entrepreneurship, Skill Development, Electronics and Technology said in a

post on X. The historic Bletchley Park venue has been chosen for its tech significance as the base where the Enigma code was cracked to turn the tide of World War II in favour of Britain.

On day one of the summit, UK Technology Secretary Michelle Donelan set out the UK government's vision for safety and security to be at the heart of advances in AI, in order to enable the enormous opportunities it will bring. It follows Sunak's big push to pitch the UK as a leader in examining and testing new types of AI, announcing Britain as the headquarters of the world's first AI Safety Institute.

India-born author Nandini Das wins 2023 British Academy Book Prize

London, Nov 01 (PTI):

India-born author Nandini Das has been named the winner of the 2023 British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding, a leading international non-fiction prize worth GBP 25,000, for her book Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire'.

The UK-based academic's debut work, described as the "true origin story of Britain and India told through England's first diplomatic mission to the Mughal courts", was revealed as this year's winner at a ceremony at the British Academy in London on Tuesday

evening. As a Professor in the English faculty at the University of Oxford, the 49-year-old author has sought to present a new perspective on the origins of empire through the story of the arrival of the first English ambassador in India, Sir Thomas Roe, in the early 17th century.

"By using contemporary sources by Indian and British political figures, officials and merchants she has given the story an unparalleled immediacy that brings to life these early encounters and the misunderstandings that sometimes threatened to wreck the whole endeavour," said Professor Charles Tripp, Chair of the prize jury.



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iPhone Alert

Safeguarding Privacy in the Digital Age

In an age where our lives are increasingly intertwined with technology, issues of privacy and surveillance have taken center stage. The iPhone alert issued by Apple has once again ignited the debate over unlawful surveillance, breaches of our right to privacy, and the vulnerability of our personal data. Apple's clarification on the alert, while attempting to ease concerns, has not extinguished the flames of apprehension. The alarm was sounded when several Opposition leaders received messages warning them of potential state-sponsored attacks on their iPhones. Apple's subsequent assertion that some of these notifications might be false alarms has done little to allay fears. The Indian government, in response to these alarming developments, has declared its intent to take the matter seriously. It is crucial to recognize that this warning message is not unique to India; it has been issued globally, indicating a broader concern. The tech giant, Apple, has been called upon to participate in the ongoing investigation. The backdrop against which these events unfold is unsettlingly familiar. In 2021, India found itself entangled in allegations of unchecked state surveillance. Reports emerged that a variety of individuals, including activists, journalists, and politicians, had fallen victim to the invasive Israeli firm NSO's Pegasus spyware, a tool typically reserved for nation-states. Once again, troubling questions emerge regarding the illicit manipulation of mobile devices for political purposes. Pegasus, as a spyware, possesses the ability to surreptitiously breach encrypted messages, eavesdrop on conversations, remotely activate phone cameras and microphones, and continuously track the device's location. It is a sophisticated tool with potentially far-reaching consequences for individuals' privacy and security. In response to these allegations, a Supreme Court-appointed committee undertook an examination of the situation. Regrettably, no conclusive evidence regarding the use of the spyware in the examined phones was found. Nevertheless, it is noteworthy that cooperation from the Central government was lacking, casting a shadow of ambiguity over the issue of unauthorized surveillance. Last month, Apple took emergency action by issuing a software update after being alerted to an unknown vulnerability. This vulnerability had the potential to allow NSO Group to surreptitiously install its spyware on iPhones and iPads. The urgency of such a response underscores the gravity of the situation. In 2017, the Indian apex court made a momentous declaration by recognizing privacy as a fundamental right. This landmark ruling was hailed as a pivotal moment in reinforcing constitutional provisions aimed at safeguarding data protection. However, this acknowledgment must be followed by substantive action. The crux of the matter lies in the need for an effective oversight mechanism. It is imperative that we address the persistent red flags that are frequently raised in the context of national security being used as a pretext for pervasive surveillance. When individual and data protection rights are violated, it erodes the very fabric of our democracy. The iPhone alert serves as a stark reminder of the challenges we face in safeguarding our privacy and ensuring that our digital lives remain secure. It is a call to action, demanding a comprehensive reevaluation of our surveillance policies, legal frameworks, and the protection of our fundamental rights.

Kerala Blasts

The Need for Thorough Investigations

Yash Pal Ralhan

In the wake of the tragic blasts that shook the peaceful state of Kerala, it is imperative that we address the pressing issues that have emerged from this disturbing incident. The explosions, which occurred during a prayer meeting of Jehovah's Witnesses in Kochi, have left three innocent lives lost and have ignited a wave of concerns that should not be taken lightly. First and foremost, we must emphasize the importance of conducting a thorough and unbiased investigation into this matter. The one person who has surrendered himself to the police claims to be a former member of the sect and alleges that his drastic actions were driven by desperation, as his attempts to reform the sect's practices, which he views as anti-national, had failed. It is now the responsibility of the authorities to delve deep into this case, verifying every aspect of his story. We need answers as to whether this was a solitary act or if there was a network supporting such a horrendous mission. The truth must come to light swiftly to prevent further such acts from occurring. The Central Government should engage with the Kerala Government, sharing all available information and, if necessary, involving the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for a comprehensive investigation. These explosions should serve as a warning to other states as well, as there may be attempts to disrupt interfaith peace using subversive methods. Vigilance among the public is crucial to avoid falling into these traps. Simultaneously, every effort should be directed towards exposing the sinister network responsible for these acts. Those who sympathize locally with such ideologies should also be held accountable alongside the main suspects. India is a secular country, where multiple religious communities have coexisted harmoniously for centuries. Any attempt to disrupt this harmony is unacceptable and must be met with a firm response. The onus of preserving this brotherhood primarily rests with the State Governments. Kerala, in particular, should reflect on its social fabric following these blasts. Upon closer examination, it is evident that these three blasts may have deep-rooted connections to sect-based groupism and religious radicalism. Rather than indiscriminate violence, these acts seem to carry a message aimed at the larger society. They appear to be designed to spread a 'fear-psychosis' in the name of religious factionalism. At this juncture, it is challenging to confirm whether the perpetrator genuinely belonged to the Jehovah's Witnesses sect. His actions may have been an attempt to mislead the authorities, concealing the actual identity of those behind this dreadful act. What is clear is that the attacker was well-prepared, planning not just one but three bomb blasts. Such operations cannot be executed by a single individual alone. This requires the support of a well-coordinated team with sinister intentions of causing harm at a religious gathering. The level of planning involved suggests that this was not a spontaneous act but one that had been meticulously plotted over weeks or even months. There is also a concerning angle related to the upcoming legislative and Lok Sabha elections. While India has seen a decline in such blasts over the years due to stringent measures taken by the Central government, some elements may still attempt to use violence for political gain. This angle, too, must be examined thoroughly. However, the most critical issue Kerala faces is the instant traction that hate messages gain within the state. The spread of venomous narratives and the rapid communalization of incidents, even before concrete information is available, are deeply troubling. The state's unique social fabric of peace, brotherhood, and harmony should be safeguarded at all costs. It is imperative that all political parties unite against divisive forces and take a stand to protect Kerala's cherished legacy of being "God's Own Country."

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the newspaper.)

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 editor@centralchronicle@gmail.com.

KARNATAKA RAJYOTSAVA

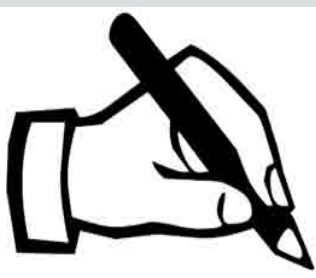


Karnataka tableau artists participate in a procession during an event organised for celebrations of 'Karnataka Rajyotsava', in Chikmagalur, Wednesday, Nov. 01.

Achieving \$4.5 trillion through higher production growth could create 90 million jobs



PROF. SUNIL GOYAL



India's production sphere is an important giver to the country's financial growth. It accounts for about 15% of India's gross domestic product (GDP) and provides employment to about 12% of the country's workforce. The sphere is extremely diverse and includes many industries such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, automobiles and consumer rare goods. In recent years, the Government of India has taken several initiatives to boost the production sphere. The 'Make in India' campaign is one of the major initiatives aimed at increasing the share of production sphere in the country's GDP and boosting the growth of domestic production. The government has also set up several Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to draw overseas capital in the area.

So far, India has followed a unique growth trajectory. Over the past two decades, the services sphere grew rapidly without a production boom, unlike other countries where production growth precedes services. The service

sphere's contribution to GDP has risen from 45 percent to 55 percent while production has remained largely stagnant at 15 percent in 2017 and 17 percent in 2022. Going forward, growth in production is a must if India wants to reach the projected target of \$20 trillion by 2047. With the right measures and rigorous execution, India's production sphere can reach \$4.5 trillion, taking its GDP share to 22 percent (against a base projection of \$2.5 trillion with a 17 percent share in GDP), which is both a necessity and an opportunity for India to shine.

India has roughly 800 million working-age people and will add about 200 million more over the next three decades. Production employs 50 million to 60 million people today. Even with a conservative projection of \$3.5 trillion output by 2047, production has the potential to create 85 million more jobs. Achieving \$4.5 trillion through higher production growth could create 90 million jobs—a big boost for income and a multi-

plier for economic growth. At about 2 percent, India's trade deficit indicates a high dependence on imports, which will put pressure on budgetary expenditures, currency, export competitiveness, and domestic investments. India needs to be self-reliant in its pursuit of becoming a global superpower in the geopolitically-sensitive world order. A thriving, self-reliant domestic production sphere will give India a platform to reach its goals.

The government recognizes this necessity, and significant efforts have been made for a wide-ranging push on production. Broad government reforms have started showing momentum, from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) to the ease of doing business and the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes. Furthermore, the global value chain reconfiguration post-pandemic has added positive pressure and presented an opportunity for India to become a production superpower.

Six areas will be essential for India to realize its full potential in production: Firstly, focus on enhancing competitiveness in spheres of strength. Secondly, establish a stronghold in next-generation spheres. Thirdly, drive a smart production stack similar to India Stack. Fourthly, enhance capabilities at scale. Fifthly, accelerate the transition to future-ready infrastructure, and the Sixth, strategic investment in ESG

(Environmental, Social, and Governance).

Apart from this, the production sphere in India continues to face several challenges, including lack of substructure, scarcity of trained workers and troubles in getting funds. Moreover, the sphere has also been affected by a slowdown in global demand and increasing competition from countries like China. However, this scenario also offers huge growth opportunities in the sphere and is expected to play a significant role in the growth of the Indian economy through sustained reforms. India's production sphere needs upgradation and restructurings for becoming worldwide viable. Absence of actual, stretchy and embattled policy provision along with loyal actions like the advancement of set-up and edification would mean the sluggishness of the sphere. The government needs to discourse the fundamental glitches for the breakthrough ingenuities like Make in India and Skill India to exertion and production sphere to grow.

(Author is an Eminent Social Scientist, Columnist, and Professor of DoHE, GoMP based at Indore, Madhya Pradesh. Email gasspub@gmail.com. The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the newspaper.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Policy of expansionism

Since the days of Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai, China has pursued a policy of expansionism, which has only intensified over the years, especially under the aggressive nationalistic tendencies of the current supreme, Xi Jinping. In 2017, India may have succeeded in forcing China to drop its plan to build a road close to the Siliguri Corridor, but the recent agreement between China and Bhutan may lead to China gaining control of Doklam, to the detriment of India's strategic interests. India has every reason to be wary of the China-Bhutan bonhomie. It should proactively reach out to Bhutan to prevent it from falling into the Chinese trap.

MK Nair, Raipur

Advancing Waste Management

India must embrace advanced technologies, similar to Western countries, to address its challenges, including waste management. Our adherence to tradition and rituals often hinders the adoption of modern ideas. Waste management requires specialized infrastructure for segregation, collection, and transport. In the West, waste disposal systems are highly efficient. Despite technological achievements like moon landings, India continues to grapple with avoidable earthy problems. Embracing scientific temper and modern solutions can help India overcome waste management challenges and create a more sustainable future.

Shiv Kumar Mishra, Raipur

Temple Politics

As PM receives an invite for the Ram temple consecration, the Congress raises concerns over religious politics. Despite objections from various parties, the BJP is likely to leverage the Ram temple issue for electoral gains. It's crucial for the Opposition to engage voters with reasoned arguments. Relying solely on the Ram temple won't ensure 'Ram Rajya' in the country. Voting based on religious sentiments, at the expense of pressing needs like education, livelihood, and healthcare, risks leaving the nation to fate ('Ram bharose') instead of addressing its real challenges.

Rakesh Gupta

One Nation, One Poll

The Law Commission has presented the 'One Nation, One Election' (ONOE) plan to the Kovind panel, suggesting simultaneous Assembly and parliamentary polls. However, ONOE raises concerns regarding the Constitution's five-year tenure for Lok Sabha and state assemblies. If a government falls mid-term, would elections be rerun in all states, or would President's rule be imposed? ONOE seems at odds with federalism, as it implies the entire nation as 'one,' potentially conflicting with Article 1, which envisions India as a Union of States. Balancing the benefits of ONOE with federal principles is crucial for its feasibility and acceptance.

Krishna Kumar, Kollam

DON'T TEACH RAM TO BENGALIS

Kajal Chatterjee

According to a senior BJP leader of West Bengal (with roots in North West India), "this Durga Puja" has proven beyond doubt that Lord Ram has "awakened" in the hearts of Bengali Hindus. He was referring to the huge rush of visitors in the Central Kolkata Puja Pandal modelled upon the upcoming Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

Perhaps the "pundit" within this BJP leader is simply ignorant of the fact that since centuries, Bengalis grow up through stories of Ramayana right from childhood. Not only significant number of towns/villages in Bengal start with the name of the epic hero, "Ram" is also very commonly used first or middle name among the Bengalis since generations.

Innumerable Bengali devotional songs and kirtans are based upon Ram and tales revolving around him. No Bengali has any problem with Bhajans of Meera asso-

ciated with Ram or Mahatma Gandhi's favourite "Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram...".

However, no secular and humanitarian Bengali will ever tolerate misuse of the name of Ram to flex muscle of rabid Hindutva or invoke Islamophobia. No true Bengali, bearing all-embracing syncretic legacy of Lalon Fakir-Rabindranath Tagore-Kazi Nazrul Islam, can ever endorse steering of any Rath (in the name of Ram) which ignite/ignited riots along its pathway. How can any Bengali of morality and values endorse barbaric demolition of any shrine through sheer muscular might and making a mockery of law just on the basis of "belief" that the epic hero had taken birth right at the very spot where the said shrine was standing for centuries.

No true Bengali can support diktat of "Jai Shri Ram" as "proof" of one's "patriotism" or Hindu credentials. No Bengali worth his/her salt will support exploitation

of the name of Ram as "war-cry" of sorts to intimidate the minorities! No proud Bengali will sanction the dirty mindset of chanting the holy name of Ram just to taunt abuse humiliate West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee in any Central Government function or target our guests in the absolutely innocent Pakistani cricketers visiting India to participate in the ongoing World Cup!

So before acting as self-declared judge while evaluating Bengalis and their relationship with Ram, the saffron ecosystem should at first learn to respect Bengal Bengalis and get acquainted with their culture. Else Rabindranath Tagore will continue to "take birth" in Visva-Bharati, Raja Rammohan Roy will remain "chamcha of the British" with "land-grabber" Amartya Sen surely "agent of the West".

Last but not the least. The BJP leaders, who are basking in the "pride" of "winning

hearts of Bengalis" just on the basis of people flocking to droves in the Central Kolkata Puja pandel modelled upon Ayodhya Ram mandir, should remember that the frantic rush towards it was not at all "Bengali exclusive"! Rather innumerable persons not of Bengali origin (be they resident of Bengal or visitors from Bihar-Jharkhand) had flocked there in droves. Moreover this Central Kolkata Puja is one of the oldest and most popular for several decades. So it is natural that pandal-hoppers would visit there (Ram Mandir or no Ram Mandir).

So before jumping in delight of "winning Bengali hearts", BJP must also note that a very popular puja organiser in Kalyani, Nadia district has declined to accept "Durga Ratna" award comprising Rs.5 lakh in cash, a citation and a plaque just because this award has been instituted by the West Bengal Governor. No it's not a personal grudge against the individual person in Governor,

but a vehement protest against the nominated representative of the BJP-led Centre which has scandalously frozen the funds which are entitled due of West Bengal for years with the total now surpassing more than Rs. 1 lakh crore.

How can BJP dare to dream of registering electoral triumph in Bengal by depriving several lakhs of deprived poor Bengali beneficiaries of central schemes; though the party-led Government has no problem in garnering taxes under several heads from the state of Bengal. It is high time BJP not only learns to respect Bengalis, but also pay entitled due to the state. Else they must remain mentally prepared to get another electoral shock in the state as received on 2021 Assembly polls.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the newspaper.)

BRIEF

Resignation



New Delhi: Bank of Baroda's digital lending business head Akhil Handa has quit, days after the Reserve Bank of India barred the state-owned lender from onboarding fresh customers on its mobile application 'bob World'. In a late-night regulatory filing, Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Tuesday informed about the cessation of employment of Akhil Handa. BoB announced the appointment of Kadgator Sheetal Venkatesmurt as head of Digital Channels and Operations and Digital Lending Business.

Co-branded card

New Delhi: Pure play credit card issuer SBI Card and Reliance Retail have come together to launch a co-branded card with host of features. The lifestyle-focused credit card offers a holistic shopping experience to customers across segments with varied spending needs, right from mass to premium, SBI Card said in a statement. The Reliance SBI Card enables cardholders to unlock rewards and benefits while transacting at Reliance Retail's extensive and diverse ecosystem, ranging from fashion and lifestyle to grocery, consumer electronics to pharma, furniture to jewellery, and many more, it said.

Investment

New Delhi: Karnataka's IT minister Priyank Kharge urged the technology industry to invest not just in Bengaluru but beyond the capital city also as the state government is committed to provide conducive investment environment. "I'm here to request your cooperation and request all of you to help Karnataka go beyond just Bengaluru. We are here to request you to break boundaries together. We are providing a conducive environment for investment outside the city," Kharge said here at a preview meeting for the 26th Bengaluru Tech Summit.

More than 97 pc of Rs 2,000 notes returned: RBI

Mumbai, Nov 01:

The Reserve Bank on Wednesday said more than 97 per cent of the Rs 2,000 banknotes in circulation have been returned to the banking system, and only Rs 10,000 crore worth of such notes are still with public. On May 19 this year, the RBI had announced the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 denomination banknotes from circulation. "The total value of Rs 2,000 banknotes in circulation, which amounted to Rs 3.56 lakh crore as at the close of business on May 19, 2023 when the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 banknotes was announced, has declined to Rs 0.10 lakh crore as at the close of business on October 31, 2023," it said in a circular. Thus, RBI added, more than 97 per cent of the Rs 2,000 banknotes in circulation as on May 19, 2023, have since been returned. Public can deposit and/or exchange the Rs 2,000 banknotes at the 19 RBI offices in the country. "Members of the public are requested to avail the facility of sending the Rs 2,000 banknotes through post offices of India Post.

This will obviate the need for travel to RBI offices for deposit/exchange of the Rs 2,000 banknotes," the central bank said. Meanwhile, long queues are being witnessed during the working hours at the RBI offices for exchange/deposit of Rs 2,000 notes. The Reserve Bank of India further said all entities facilitating cross border payment transactions for import and export of goods and services will be directly regulated by it.

Such entities will be treated as Payment Aggregator-Cross Border (PA-CB), the central bank said in a circular. "Keeping in view the developments that have taken place in the area of cross-border payments, it has been decided to bring all entities facilitating cross-border payment transactions for import and export of goods and services under direct regulation of the RBI," it said.

Currently, all Payment Aggregators (PAs), which facilitate processing of domestic transactions in online mode, are covered within the scope of RBI regulations. Non-banks providing PA-CB services as on the date should have a minimum net worth of Rs 15 crore at the time of submitting application to the RBI for authorisation and a minimum net worth of Rs 25 crore by March 31, 2026, it said. New non-bank PA-CBs (entities which have not commenced operations) should have a minimum net worth of Rs 15 crore at the time of submitting application and should attain a minimum net worth of Rs 25 crore by the end of the third financial year of grant of authorisation. The circular also prescribes procedures for handling of online transactions by the PAs. It also said banks undertaking PA-CB activity should ensure compliance with the requirements for PA-CBs by April 30, 2024. "In respect of import and export transactions processed by PA-CBs, the maximum value per unit of goods / services sold / purchased shall be Rs 25,00,000," the circular said.

Health of rural development institutions fragile; lack financial viability: N K Singh

New Delhi, Nov 01:



The 15th Finance Commission Chairman N K Singh said the health of rural development institutions, like panchayati raj, remain fragile with financial viability eluding them. Speaking at the 2nd Rohini Nayar award for outstanding contribution to rural development by an individual 40 years or under, Singh said the ability of the institutions for projectisation and viability of technical assistance for project preparation remains mired in technical incompetence. Nayar, an economist, had retired as the Principal Advisor, Rural Development, in the erstwhile Planning Commission in 2005.

She is known for her contributions to the academic literature, policy making, including rural employment guarantee scheme MNREGA, and institution building

in the context of rural development in India. Remembering Nayar's contribution, Singh said, "What would Rohini have said if she was with us today? How she would question the way in which important aspects of the rural development institutions have evolved? "Unfortunately many remain fragile with financial viability continuously eluding them." Singh, a former bureaucrat, also said that the centrepiece of a rural development programme is the health of the urban local bodies, the municipalities and more importantly the framework of panchayati raj institution. Singh questioned if these institutions have been restructured enough as per the changing requirements of present times.

"The ability of the institutions for projectisation, viability of technical assistance for project preparation remains mired in technical incompetence very often so much so that the meagre financial resources cannot be gainfully utilised both in design and implementation," Singh said. The 15th Finance Commission in its report had stipulated a compulsory auditing of accounts of such institutions, adoption of uniform practices as well as suggested conditional transfers for three important national programmes, including for health sector.

Govt allows direct overseas listing of Indian cos

Notifies relevant section under companies law

New Delhi, Nov 01:

In a significant move, the government has permitted Indian companies to list on foreign exchanges, subject to certain conditions. The corporate affairs ministry has notified the relevant section under the companies law in this regard. Currently, overseas listings by local listed entities are carried out through American Depository Receipts (ADRs) and Global Depository Receipts (GDRs).

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2020 (29 of 2020), the

Central Government hereby appoints the 30th day of October 2023 as the date on which the provisions of section 5 of the said Act shall come into force," the ministry said in a notification on October 30. The rules for direct overseas listing of Indian companies are yet to be notified.

Section 5 allows certain classes of public companies to list their securities on permitted stock exchanges in permissible foreign jurisdictions, or such other jurisdictions, as may be prescribed. On October 13, a senior government official said the ministry was looking at various aspects, including the possible eligibility criteria, to prepare the rules for the direct overseas listing of companies. On July 28, Finance and Corporate Affairs

Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government has decided to allow domestic companies to list overseas to help them access capital from the world markets. In May 2020, the move was announced as part of the Covid relief package. A senior government official, on July 28, said that initially, the plan is to allow companies to list at the International Financial Services Centre in GIFT City, Ahmedabad, and later, they can list in any of the eight to nine specified overseas jurisdictions. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had previously recommended a framework within which such direct listing will be facilitated, and it is expected that the Sebi framework will be the basis for future regulation in this area.

FM Sitharaman to embark on 3-day visit to Sri Lanka

New Delhi, Nov 01:

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will be on a three-day official visit to Sri Lanka beginning Wednesday to address 'NAAM 200' and India Sri Lanka Business Summit, among others. During her visit, she will give the keynote address as the Guest of Honour at the 'NAAM 200' organised by the Government of Sri Lanka to commemorate the 200th anniversary of arrival of India-origin Tamils (IOTs) to the island nation on November 2 in Colombo, the finance ministry said in a statement on Tuesday. 'NAAM 200' will be graced by Ranil Wickremesinghe, President of Sri Lanka, Dinesh Gunawardena, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, among several other dignitaries, it said. Other invitees from Indian political parties and Representative of Malaysian Tamil Congress will also be present in the event, it said.



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman being welcomed upon her arrival at the Colombo airport, Sri Lanka, Wednesday, Nov. 1.

Sitharaman will also give keynote address at the India Sri Lanka Business Summit on the theme 'Enhancing Connectivity: Partnering for Prosperity', being jointly organised by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Indo-Lanka Chamber of

Commerce & Industry, and the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, on the same day. As part of the official visit, the finance minister will have call on the president and prime minister of Sri Lanka.

She will witness the exchange of the

Memorandum of Understanding for Solar Electrification of Religious Places in Sri Lanka, wherein India will allocate Rs 82.40 crore out of the Government of India's total grant of Rs 107.47 crore earmarked for the promotion of Buddhist ties, it said. The finance minister will also inaugurate SBI branches at Trincomalee and Jaffna. Her visit comes at a time when Sri Lanka is struggling to come out of the financial crisis hit last year, the worst since its independence from Britain in 1948, due to a severe paucity of foreign exchange reserves. As the country struggled and locked in the throes of the crisis, India extended multi-pronged assistance of about USD 4 billion to it last year through multiple credit lines and currency support, in line with India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy.

Growth momentum strong, Q2 GDP growth will surprise on the upside: Das

Mumbai, Nov 01:

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said the growth momentum continues to be strong, and the official data for GDP expansion in the second quarter will surprise on the upside. Speaking at the annual BFSI Insight Summit organised by Business Standard here, Das said inflation is the first priority for the RBI at the moment. "Looking at the momentum of economic activity, looking at a few early data points that have come in a few early indicators, I can say that the second quarter GDP number as and when it is released



at the end of November, in all probability will surprise everyone on the upside," Das said. He said the RBI estimates the real GDP growth for the second quarter of the current fiscal to come at 6.4 per cent. Das said geopolitical uncertainties are the biggest risk to global growth at present, but India is better placed to handle it as compared to other countries.

GST collections rise 13 pc to Rs 1.72 lakh cr in Oct; second highest-ever

New Delhi, Nov 01:

GST collections increased 13 per cent to Rs 1.72 lakh crore in October, the second highest-ever, helped by momentum in the economy, efforts of taxmen in checking evasion and festive demand. "GST revenue collection for October 2023 is second highest ever, next only to April 2023, at Rs 1.72 lakh crore; records increase of 13 per cent Y-o-Y," the finance ministry said in a statement. The highest-ever revenue from Goods and Services Tax (GST) was recorded in April 2023 at Rs 1.87 lakh crore, while in September, it was Rs 1.63 lakh crore. The average gross monthly GST collection in



the current fiscal has also shown an 11 per cent growth year-on-year at Rs 1.66 lakh crore.

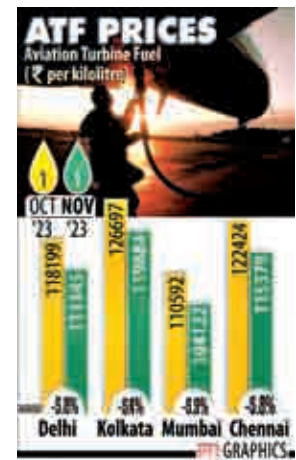
Icra Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said GST collections benefited from quarter-end adjustments related to transactions in

the previous month and the overall momentum in the economy. "With this, the pace of YoY growth jumped to a 10-month high in October 2023, which is encouraging. At present, we project the CGST collections to mildly exceed the FY2024 BE," Nayar said. During October, revenue from domestic transactions was 13 per cent higher year-on-year. The gross GST revenue collected in October 2023 is Rs 1,72,003 crore, out of which Rs 30,062 crore is Central GST, Rs 38,171 crore is State GST, Rs 91,315 crore (including Rs 42,127 crore collected on import of goods) is Integrated GST, and Rs 12,456 crore (including Rs 1,294 crore collected on import of goods) is cess.

ATF price cut 5.8 pc; commercial LPG rate hiked by Rs 101.5

New Delhi, Nov 01:

Jet fuel or ATF price on Wednesday was cut by almost 6 per cent after four rounds of monthly increases since July, while commercial cooking gas (LPG) rates were raised by a steep Rs 101.5 per 19-kg cylinder in line with international benchmarks. However, the price of domestic LPG - used in household kitchens for cooking purposes - remained unchanged at Rs 903 per 14.2-kg cylinder. Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was cut by Rs 6,854.25, or 5.79 per cent, in the national capital to Rs 1,18,199.17 per kl from Rs 1,25,053.42 per kl, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. The price cut comes on the back of four rounds of increases, the last on October 1, when rates

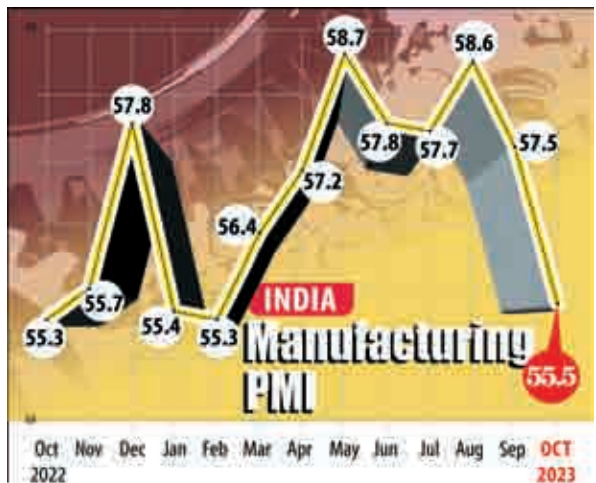


were hiked by Rs 5,779.84 per kl or 5.1 per cent. Prior to that ATF prices had gone up by the steepest-ever 14.1 per cent (Rs 13,911.07 per kl) on September 1, and 8.5 per cent or Rs 7,728.38 per kl on August 1.

India's manufacturing sector activity falls to 8-month low in Oct: PMI

New Delhi, Nov 01:

Manufacturing activities in India decelerated in October as new orders increased at the slowest pace in a year, triggering a softer rise in output and employment, a monthly survey said on Wednesday. The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) slipped from 57.5 in September to 55.5 in October, the slowest rate of expansion since February. The October PMI data pointed to an improvement in overall operating conditions for the 28th straight month. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score



below 50 indicates contraction. "The survey's new orders index slipped to a one-year low, as some firms raised concerns about the

current demand picture for their products," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global

Market Intelligence. According to the survey, there were substantial, albeit slower, increases in total new orders, production, exports, buying levels and stocks of purchases. Hiring activity faded, and business confidence slipped to a five-month low.

"October data signalled a deceleration in growth since September. Anecdotal evidence suggested that subdued demand for certain products and fierce competition stymied the upturn," the survey said. On the job front, less than 4 per cent of companies hired extra staff and 95 per cent left workforce numbers unchanged. The rate of job creation was slight and the slowest since April.

Rupee falls 9 paise to close at all-time low of 83.33 against US dollar

Mumbai, Nov 01:

The rupee depreciated 9 paise to close at an all-time low of 83.33 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, tracking a strong greenback against major rivals overseas and unabated foreign capital outflows. Besides, a negative trend in domestic equities and elevated crude oil prices amid geopolitical uncertainty in the Middle East weighed on investor sentiments, according to forex traders. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 83.26 against the dollar. During the trading session, it touched an intraday low of 83.35 and a high of 83.26 against the American currency.

Shakti Pumps receives 7th patent for waste water pump

Pithampur, Nov 01:



Shakti Pumps (India) Limited, India's leading manufacturer of energy-efficient pumps and motors has received a patent for inventing "Grinder Pump Assembly with Adjustable Impeller". The Patent Office, Government of India, has awarded Shakti Pumps this patent, fully adhering to the provisions set forth in the Patents Act of 1970.

This patent is set to maintain its validity for duration of 20 years, commencing from the date of filing. This is the 7th Patent that the company has secured. The benefits of this innovation encompass various aspects. Firstly, it in-

volves the use of cutter arrangements in conjunction with an adjustable impeller, providing an efficient and dependable method for grinding and processing solid waste in wastewater. This reduction in the size of solid materials is critical for their manageability in subsequent treatment processes. Furthermore, by cutting and grinding, this technology produces smaller particles that are more receptive to treatment in downstream processes like as sedimentation, biological treatment, filtration and transportation. This improves the total efficiency of wastewater treatment and industrial processes greatly. Shakti Pumps Chairman Dinesh Patidar underlines another essential advantage provided by new patented technology: "The obstructions and blockages in wastewater lines primarily caused by solid waste. These blockages can disrupt operations and result in substantial maintenance costs.

SECR modernizes tracks for enhanced travel experience

- Over 70 track machines deployed for efficient maintenance
- Strengthening rail track operations for safer journeys

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Nov 01: India's vast railway network, operated by Indian Railways, stands as the world's third-largest rail system under single management, covering over 66,000 kilometers. This extensive network serves a staggering number of passengers daily, equivalent to the entire population of Australia, traversing distances exceeding 2.5 times the Earth-Moon span. In a steadfast commitment to meeting passenger and national transportation needs, South East Central Railway is continuously

enhancing train operations and maintenance practices, particularly focusing on rail track modernization.

Railway track maintenance is paramount for ensuring the safe journey of passengers. South East Central Railway has harnessed modern machinery to meet these growing demands efficiently. These advanced machines streamline various aspects of track maintenance, improving efficiency, safety, and cost-effectiveness. They simplify heavy construction work on railway tracks, guaranteeing the well-being of track workers.

South East Central Railway has adopted modern machines, alongside a skilled workforce and high-tech equipment, for



the construction of third and fourth lines, as well as the maintenance and repair of existing lines. Notably, the Nagpur to Bilaspur mainline now achieves speeds of 130 kilometers per hour, with tests underway to further increase speeds in the Bilaspur to Jharsuguda section. This progress underscores the vital role

played by these modern machines in meeting increased demands.

With a fleet of 74 track machines dedicated to maintenance and preservation, including CSM, WST, MPT, Unimat, BCM, FRM, BRM, PQRS, T28, and more, South East Central Railway is well-equipped to ensure the reliability of its tracks.

These machines handle various tasks, from tamping and ballast cleaning to turnout renewal and shoulder ballast cleaning.

Supporting the team of more than 700 employees operating these machines, camping coaches have been provided, complete with cooking, sleeping, and resting facilities. This infrastructure ensures that track maintenance teams can carry out their work effectively while maintaining their well-being.

The reliability and robustness of railway tracks directly impact train speed and the overall comfort of passengers. South East Central Railway's commitment to modernizing tracks highlights its dedication to providing a safe and enhanced travel experience for millions of rail passengers across India.

Agricultural University to research every aspect of crop Amrit

- Collaboration between IGAU and Manohar Goshala aims to advance crop Amrit knowledge

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Nov 01: In a promising development for agriculture enthusiasts, Akhil Jain, the Managing Trustee of Manohar Goshala, held a productive meeting with Girish Chandel, the Vice-Chancellor of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, on Monday. The focus of this meeting was the extensive research being conducted on Crop Amrit, a unique agricultural innovation developed by Goshala.

During the meeting, valuable insights into the ongoing research on Crop Amrit were shared from the uni-



versity's perspective. Akhil Jain, representing Manohar Goshala, provided information about the innovative farming technique and its potential to revolutionize crop cultivation.

Notably, Vice-Chancellor Girish Chandel pledged the university's commitment to research every aspect of Crop Amrit. This collaboration aims to deepen the understanding of Crop Amrit's benefits and applications in modern agriculture.

In addition to discus-

sions, Vice-Chancellor Chandel expressed his keen interest in visiting Kamadhenu Gomata Soumya at Manohar Goshala in Khairagarh. The visit is expected to facilitate further interactions and knowledge exchange between the university and the research team at Goshala. During the visit, Research Director of Crop Amrit, Vivek Tripathi, will also be present to share insights and progress on the research.

Youth commits suicide by hanging



suresh gupta

Central Chronicle News

were underway.

According to information received, his mother had passed away just two months ago, and Suresh had a close bond with her. According to information from the family, he was the youngest and unmarried among three brothers.

After his mother's death, he used to help his father in the grocery business. On Tuesday morning, between 5 and 8 am, Suresh ended his life by hanging himself in his residence using a nylon rope. The Dongargaon police have registered a case and are investigating the matter.

As of now, the cause of death is unknown. The youth's body was handed over to the relatives after post-mortem, and the final rites were performed in the presence of a large number of villagers and family members at Muktidham in the village.

Cleanliness drive marks Unity and Sacrifice Day

- Pipala Welfare Foundation leads efforts at Muktidham

Central Chronicle News

Arang, Nov 01: In commemoration of Unity and Sacrifice Day, members of the Pipala Welfare Foundation initiated a dedicated cleanliness campaign at Muktidham. As a symbol of their commitment to this day, foundation members assembled at Muktidham, situated alongside a newly constructed pond, and actively engaged in cleaning activities. They seized the opportunity to call upon the public to uphold cleanliness standards within Muktidham while promoting the importance of maintaining a clean environment. The occasion also provided an opportunity to pay homage to two significant figures, the Iron Man, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and the former Prime Minister, Iron Lady Indira Gandhi.

SECR celebrates Sardar Patel's vision of unity

'Run for Unity' event marks National Unity Day

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Nov 01: The indomitable spirit of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's "Iron Man," in unifying the nation post-independence remains unparalleled. After gaining independence, Sardar Patel played a pivotal role in knitting together the diverse princely states, laying the foundation for a unified India.

His unwavering determination and remarkable leadership skills turned the dream of a united India into a reality. Sardar Patel's crucial role in India's history is commemorated every year on October 31st as 'National Unity Day'.

In observance of this occasion, Alok Kumar,

General Manager of South East Central Railway, administered the oath of national unity to railway officials and employees at P.P. Yard, Bhalai, on October 31. In Bilaspur, the South East Central Railway Headquarters, Vijay Kumar Sahu, Additional General Manager of South East Central Railway, led officers and employees in taking the oath of national unity. Similar oaths were administered in railway zones, field offices, workshops, and stations across the region.

To further promote the message of national unity within the railway sector, a "Run for Unity" event was organized from the South East Central Railway Headquarters. Participants, including



railway officials, RPF personnel, athletes, employees, Scouts and Guides, and students from the Railway School, journeyed together in the spirit of unity. The event culminated at the North East Institute.

A National Unity Day parade program took

place at the North East Institute, where Alok Kumar, General Manager of South East Central Railway, took the salute. The parade featured RPF personnel, female force members, Civil Defense, NCC platoons, and more.

Addressing the gathering, Alok Kumar high-

lighted Sardar Patel's indispensable role in fostering national unity and integrity. He emphasized that Sardar Patel's dedication, determination, and patriotism served as an enduring source of inspiration. Indian Railways, he noted, stands as a unique symbol of national unity, constantly working to strengthen the bonds of unity among the people.

During the program, Alok Kumar administered the oath of national unity to all officials and employees. The event featured impressive displays, including a rifle mastery demonstration by RPF personnel, a daredevil motorcycle show, and a disciplined performance by RPF's German Shepherd members in a dog show.

Mungeli police crackdown on offenders under motor vehicle act

- Fines totaling Rs. 3,30,600 issued for traffic offenses

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Nov 01: The Mungeli police have taken proactive steps to enforce traffic discipline and maintain law and order in the district. As part of their efforts, they conducted a rigorous campaign under the Motor Vehicle Act, addressing traffic violations and ensuring road safety. From October 9 to 29, a total of 1,018 cases were processed under various sections of the Motor Vehicle Act, resulting in fines amounting to Rs. 3,30,600.



were aimed at curbing road accidents and promoting responsible driving behavior. Notable violations included 22 cases of individuals riding without helmets, leading to fines totaling Rs. 11,000. Additionally, 28 cases of not wearing seat belts resulted in penalties of Rs. 14,000, while 5 cases of triple riding incurred fines of Rs. 2,500.

The enforcement actions

Motorists caught speeding faced fines totaling Rs. 4,000, and those driving without a valid license were penalized Rs. 5,000. Additionally, 3 cases of using mobile phones while driving resulted in fines of Rs. 3,000. A substantial number of violations were related to the failure to produce necessary documents, with 378 cases leading to penalties of Rs. 1,13,400.

Enforcement actions

were also taken against 127 cases of not following traffic rules, with fines totaling Rs. 38,100. Moreover, 27 cases of illegal parking resulted in penalties of Rs. 8,100, and 68 cases of vehicles lacking reflector tape incurred fines of Rs. 20,400.

Cases of passenger transport in goods vehicles led to fines of Rs. 7,800, and 29 cases of signal jumping incurred penalties of Rs. 8,700. Additionally, 12 cases of disobeying police orders resulted in fines totaling Rs. 6,000.

Furthermore, 282 other cases, where enforcement actions were taken, amounted to penalties of Rs. 86,600. One case was presented in court, leading to a significant penalty of Rs. 10,000.

BJP's Thakur Ram Meravi disputes false claims

- Clarifies misleading political ploy by Congress

Central Chronicle News

Kawardha, Nov 01: Thakur Ram Meravi, the Mandal President of the BJP in Rengakhar, strongly denied the Congress party's recent claims that he had joined their ranks.

The news had made its way into various media outlets, causing confusion. Minister Md Akbar was pictured facilitating the supposed entrance, with Meravi wearing a traditional gamchha (scarf).

In response to the false claims, Thakur Ram Meravi promptly visited the BJP office in Kawardha to clarify the situation. He stated firmly, "I



am a dedicated worker of the Rengakhar Mandal within the BJP. I met Md Akbar near Pipariya for my election campaign, where someone introduced me to him. They handed me a gamchha to wear. Subsequently, they circulated a photograph, falsely suggesting that I was switching allegiance to the Congress. I want to

make it clear that this is a baseless and condemnable political ploy."

Former District BJP President Anil Singh weighed in on the matter, saying, "The recent political shifts are causing evident discomfort among those who have joined the Congress in the last five years. It is inappropriate to depict anyone who met

Akbar, regardless of their influence, as having joined the Congress. Neither Akbar nor the Congress can sway individuals through misleading claims." Meravi, who has served as a dedicated BJP worker for two decades, stressed that the notion of joining a party like the Congress is out of the question.

Warm farewell given to Additional Chief Executive Officer

- District Panchayat honours Harishchandra Verma on retirement

Central Chronicle News

Arang, Nov 01: A heartfelt farewell was extended to Additional Chief Executive Officer Harishchandra Verma during the district panchayat meeting held on Tuesday.

The farewell, organized under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer Kumar Singh Lahre, marked the culmination of Verma's dedicated service as he reached his superannuation milestone.

With a career that commenced in 1983, Verma served in various capacities



before being transferred to Arang from Mainpur in 2019. His remarkable journey in public service concluded on October 31, 2023, amid a backdrop of appreciation and well-wishes.

The occasion was further graced by the presentation of honours in the form of 'Shal' and 'Shreefal' to Additional CEO Verma. Colleagues and fellow employees joined in acknowledging his long-standing

commitment and contribution to the district. SVEEP Incharge Teachers Mahendra Patel and Arvind Vaishnav took the opportunity to extend their heartfelt best wishes to the retiring officer.

The farewell gathering saw the presence of many distinguished individuals who came together to celebrate the retirement of a valued member of the district's administrative team.

Irregularities in road construction near Swami Atmanand Vidyalaya

- Subpar materials and practices jeopardize road durability
- Allegations of corruption surround PWD involvement

Central Chronicle News

Dallirajhara, Nov 01: Troubling irregularities have come to light in the construction of CC roads near Swami Atmanand Vidyalaya, raising significant concerns about the durability and quality of these vital infrastructure projects. It appears that established standards for material measurements are being blatantly disregarded, jeopardizing the integrity of the roads being built within the

school premises.

In the construction of cement concrete roads, contractors are typically compensated based on the cubic meter of material used, with a cost of Rs 5,000 per cubic meter. Tender contracts are awarded based on this pricing structure. However despite the current rates being twice as much as Rs 2,400 per cubic meter, the Public Works Department (PWD) engineers and contractors are not adhering to the prescribed measurements, resulting in subpar construction. Another alarming case emerges in Ward No. 26 of Dallirajhara, where a road repair project estimated at Rs 1.27 crores is underway. Here, a CC road with a thickness of merely four inches is being constructed



instead of the recommended 6 to 8 inches, and the road's width falls short of the specified 3.5 meters. Furthermore, an excessive mix of coarse sand and gravel is being used, significantly deviating from the prescribed material ratios. Crucially, the mandatory use of polythene to

prevent water seepage and safeguard material quality is allegedly being neglected in the construction of cement concrete roads near Swami Atmanand Vidyalaya. Furthermore, the essential vibrator machine, crucial for ensuring the structural integrity of

the roads, is reportedly absent from the construction process, raising concerns about the durability of the roads.

The inappropriate mixing of soil with sand further compounds the situation, diminishing the overall quality of the construction material. Additionally, the use of a larger vibrator machine, which could efficiently address these issues, is allegedly being disregarded. These irregularities have prompted suspicions of corruption, with allegations suggesting that certain PWD engineers may be complicit in these practices. Repeated attempts to contact Chandra Shekhar Patel, the head engineer of the Public Works Department, have reportedly gone unanswered, adding fuel to these concerns.

SA juggernaut flattens NZ

De Kock, Van der Dussen hit centuries

Pune, Nov 01 (PTI):

South Africa demolished New Zealand by a staggering 190 runs in a one-sided World Cup encounter, here on Wednesday. The outcome hardly came as a surprise, as South Africa's batting juggernaut was firing on all cylinders. New Zealand's pursuit of South Africa's imposing total of 357 for 4 began poorly, with Jansen and Ngidi making early breakthroughs in the powerplay. Coetzee added to the Kiwi woes by dismissing Young, who had shown promise, and Maharaj spun a web to claim four crucial wickets. Despite Neesham and Henry's brave efforts while batting through injuries, New Zealand managed only 167 before being bowled out. The highlight of the match was the scintillating centuries by Quinton de Kock (114 off 116 balls) and Rassie Van der Dussen (133 off 118 balls). Their partnership of 200 runs in just over 30 overs laid the foundation for South Africa's commanding total. De Kock's fourth century of the tournament put him in an elite club, matching Kumar Sangakkara's 2015 World Cup feat. Van der Dussen, too, played a pivotal role in the onslaught, benefiting from a bit of luck on his way to his century.

Despite New Zealand's injury woes and the dew factor, the South African duo of De Kock and Van der Dussen showcased their class and determination. David Miller's late onslaught added to New Zealand's misery, with South Africa comfortably setting a target of 358.

Temba Bavuma: Clinical display with bat. Handled the challenge with the ball nipping around. We applied pressure with the ball. We tried to pounce on bad balls, Quinny started slowly, hung in there and cashed in at the end. More than the score, we were trying to stay in till 30 and go big later on. We were always looking to dominate with the new ball and middle overs. Knew they'd come hard at us and we'd get opportunities. Gotta hear the permutations about making the semi. After tomorrow, it's back to business, gotta prepare for the next game.



Red-hot India take on Sri Lanka

Mumbai, Nov 01 (PTI):

Twelve years on from that dream April 2011 night when a country of billions landed in a frenzy of delight, India take on Sri Lanka in another World Cup clash here on Sunday, albeit one that is poles apart from being termed an encore. If that World Cup final was truly a battle of titans in every sense, the impending contest is more or less a battle of the unequals. India have hitherto marched on immaculately in pursuit of a third title and Sri Lanka have lost more than what they have won.

India's confidence is irrefutably high but greater is their self-belief and trust on skills witnessed in the mini-storm created by Australia in Chennai when reduced to 5/3 or when England limited them to a modest 229/9 in Lucknow, but they face concerns about the form of young talents like Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer. Gill, despite a consistent one-day performance history, has struggled in the tournament. Iyer, too, has underperformed, with just one fifty in six outings. Both will be eager to



India's captain Rohit Sharma (R) and coach Rahul Dravid speak during a practice session.

make a strong impact in this game. The Indian team is man-

aging the absence of Hardik Pandya by including Mohammed Shami,

Time: 2:00PM IST.

who has delivered nine wickets in just two appearances. However, they must preserve Shami for the challenges ahead, relying on Jasprit Bumrah to lead the bowling attack.

Rohit Sharma, India's leading run-scorer in the World Cup, will aim to create more memories at his home ground. Meanwhile, the local boys—Suryakumar Yadav and Shardul Thakur—will also be motivated to perform in front of their passionate home crowd.

Sri Lanka, although not to be underestimated, has struggled in this World Cup due to injuries and unavailability of key players.

Sadeera Samarawickrama and Pathum Nissanka have been bright spots, with impressive batting performances. Captain Kusal Mendis and the return of Angelo Mathews add depth to their lineup.

Sri Lanka's bowlers have held their own, given the lack of experienced resources, but they face a stern challenge against the formidable Indian batting lineup in favorable conditions.

Satwik-Chirag slips 4 spots to 5th; Sindhu stays at 10th

New Delhi, Nov 01 (PTI):

Asian Games men's doubles champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have slipped to fifth position in the latest BWF world rankings released here on Tuesday.

The Indian pair, who had reached the numero uno status after their Asian Games triumph, slumped four places after failing to defend their crown at the French Open last week in Rennes.

Satwik and Chirag lost 23-25 21-19 19-21 to former world champions Hendra Setiawan and Mohammad Ahsan in the second round. Among other top Indian shuttlers, PV Sindhu, HS Prannoy, Lakshya Sen, and Kidambi Srikanth all remained static in their current rankings.

Sindhu, who had suffered a knee injury during her French Open campaign, held on to the 10th spot in women's singles after regaining the top 10 position last week. In men's singles, Prannoy, Lakshya and Srikanth are ranked eighth, 17th and 22nd, respectively.

In women's doubles, India's top pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand stayed at the 18th position.

Indian women beat Japan 2-1, assure semifinal berth

In Asian Champions Trophy hockey

Ranchi, Oct 31 (PTI):

An in-form India eked out a narrow 2-1 win over Japan to register their fourth straight win and storm into the semifinals of the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Tuesday.

After two goalless quarters, Navneet Kaur (31st minute) and Sangita Kumari (47th) scored for India, while Japan's lone goal came from the stick of Kana Urata (37th).

It was a match between two undefeated sides in the tournament and it lived up to the billing.

India had earlier defeated Thailand 7-1 in their opener before getting the better of Malaysia and China 5-0 and 2-1 respectively. The Japanese too were undefeated coming into the match, having registered wins over Malaysia 3-0, South Korea 4-0 and Thailand 4-0 respectively.

It was a battle between Indian attack and Japan's defence in the first quarter as the hosts relentlessly



put pressure on the opposition citadel but failed to produce any result.

The Japanese mostly relied on counter attacks to unsettle the Indians but failed to breach their defence. Both the teams failed to create any clear cut scoring opportunities from field effort in the first quarter. However, it was Japan who had the brightest of chances in the form of penalty corner in the 13th minute but Ishika

Chaudhary was upto the task to keep the ball away from the net as the first quarter ended goalless.

The Japanese put pressure in the opening moments of the second quarter and created a couple of attacks but all those went in vain. The story was the same as it was in the first quarter as both the teams failed to create any real scoring opportunity.

In the last 4 minutes, the Indians came close to scor-

ing at least thrice but were unable to finish the scoring shots.

The deadlock was finally broken a minute after the change of ends through Navneet.

A deceptive pass from Salima Tete in the circle area found Navneet, who turned around and fired a powerful backhand shot into the Japanese net. It took Japan just six minutes to draw level from their third penalty corner.

Urata brought her side back into the match, perfectly converting the set piece with a high flick to the top right corner of the Indian goal.

In the 39th minute, India secured another penalty corner, only to be denied by the Japanese goalkeeper.

It was an electrifying performance from both the sides in the fourth and final quarter, which witnessed end-to-end hockey. But it was India, who were the dominant side on display.

Two minutes into the final quarter, India secured a penalty corner and Deepika's low dragflick was deflected in by Sangita to hand the hosts a 2-1 lead.

Jessica Pegula beats No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka at the WTA Finals



Cancun (Mexico), Nov 01 (AP):

As match point after match point came and went there were six in all she didn't convert Jessica Pegula made sure she stayed calm and didn't, as she put it, "freak out" against No. 1-ranked Aryna Sabalenka at the WTA Finals.

When her seventh chance to end things arrived, Pegula finally was able to complete a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Sabalenka in round-robin action at the season-ending championship for the top eight players in women's tennis on Tuesday.

"We all, as tennis players,

have experienced that to some extent on both sides. So, I mean, I try to use my match experience as best I can," said Pegula, a 29-year-old American who is now guaranteed to finish atop her group and reach the semifinals in Cancun. "Every match, you're always going to feel different. But I think the more you put yourself in those situations, the better you feel when they come up again. It doesn't feel like you have to panic as much."

In Tuesday's other singles match, 2022 Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina beat Maria Sakkari 6-0, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (2). That eliminated Sakkari from semifinal contention and means Sabalenka will face Rybakina on Thursday for their group's second berth in the final four; that's a rematch of the Australian Open title match in January, won by Sabalenka. Pegula has won both matches and all four sets she's played so far at these WTA Finals, a year after going 0-3 at the competition.

She had lost four times in a row to Sabalenka, who was the runner-up to Coco Gauff at the U.S. Open in September.

Aishwary Tomar wins 50m rifle 3P gold in Asian Shooting C'ships



New Delhi, Nov 01 (PTI):

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar won the gold medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions individual event and helped India grab a team silver at the Asian Shooting Championship in Changwon, Korea on Wednesday. The 22-year-old Tomar shot 463.5 in the final to win the gold. China's Tian Jiaming took the silver with a score of 462.7. Another Chinese, Du Linshu picked up the bronze with 450.3. Tomar had finished fifth in the qualification round with 591. The Indian trio of Tomar, Swapnil Kusale and Akhil Sheoran won the team silver with a total score of 1764, behind China (1777). India has already got maximum two possible Olympic quota places in this event through Kusale and Sheoran. Kusale had won the Paris Games quota during the World Championships in Cairo last year. Sheoran did the same in this year's World Championships in Baku.

Alcaraz loses at Paris Masters, Zverev and Hurkacz advance

Paris, Nov 01 (AP):

Carlos Alcaraz's hopes of finishing the season as the top-ranked player took a hit after a 6-3, 6-4 loss to qualifier Roman Safiullin in the second round of the Paris Masters.

In his return from injury, Alcaraz dropped serve four times and made 27 unforced errors to 21 for Safiullin, a former world No. 2 junior: "I didn't feel well, you know, in the game," Alcaraz told a news conference on Tuesday.

"I think I didn't move well. In the shots, I think I had a good quality of shots. But, you know, physically, in the part of movement, I have to improve a lot." The Spaniard was knocked out in the fourth round of the Shanghai Masters nearly three weeks ago and withdrew from the Swiss Indoors in Basel because of a left foot injury and muscle fatigue to his lower back. Alcaraz leads the ATP Tour with six titles this year but hasn't lifted any trophy since Wimbledon. He seems to be running on fumes lately because of his demanding style of play. "Probably the season has been so, so long," Alcaraz said. "Probably that affects



Roman Safiullin plays a forehand return to Spain's Carlos Alcaraz during their men's singles match of the Paris ATP Masters 1000 tennis tournament.

my game." Meanwhile, Alexander Zverev and Hubert Hurkacz stayed in contention for the three remaining spots at the ATP Finals by advancing to the second round.

The 10th-seeded Zverev rallied past qualifier Marton Fucsovics 4-6, 7-5, 6-4, while Hurkacz overcame Sebastian Korda 6-3, 6-7 (6), 6-3. Felix Auger-Aliassime, Francisco Cerundolo, Ugo Humbert, Tomas Martin Etcheverry, Mackenzie McDonald and Dusan

Lajovic also won their first-round matches. Etcheverry outlasted Miomir Kecmanovic 4-6, 7-6 (6), 6-4 by saving a match point to set up a meeting with top-seeded Djokovic.

Djokovic warmed up by playing in doubles with Kecmanovic on Tuesday. The Serbian pair beat Gonzalo Escobar and Aleksandr Nedovyesov 6-4, 6-2 in the first round. Cerundolo also saved a match point to edge Gael Monfils 4-6, 7-6 (2), 7-5.

Shaheen Afridi becomes No.1 ODI bowler for first time



Kolkata, Nov 01 (PTI):

Pakistan's lead pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi on Wednesday became the new number one bowler in ODIs, achieving the feat for the first time in his eventful career that has been a mix of many highs and few lows.

He jumped seven places to displace Australian fast bowler Josh Hazlewood from the top in the latest ICC rankings.

Afridi's rise to the top comes a day after his team's victory over Bangladesh in the World Cup in which he captured three wickets for 23 runs. The match also saw him

Wiley to retire from international cricket after World Cup

Bengaluru, Nov 01 (PTI):

England all-rounder David Wiley on Wednesday announced that he will retire from international cricket after the end of the ongoing World Cup and insisted that his team's underwhelming performance in the showpiece has not influenced his decision.

Wiley's decision has come a week after England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) excluded him from the list of cricketers who were offered central contracts for the 2023-24 season. "I never wanted this day to come. From a young boy, I've only ever dreamed of playing cricket for England," Wiley wrote in an Instagram post.

"So, with careful thought and consideration, it is with great regret that I feel the time has come for me to retire from all forms of international cricket at the end of the World Cup."

England have endured a forgettable campaign so far as the defending champions are languishing at the bottom of the 10-team table, managing just one victory from their six matches. "I have worn the shirt with immense pride and given my absolute everything to the badge on my chest," the 33-year-old southpaw wrote. "I've been very lucky to be a part of such an incredible white-ball team with some of the best players in the world. I've made some special memories and great friends along the way and been through some very difficult times."

"I feel I still have a lot more to give on and off the field while I am still playing my best cricket, and my decision has nothing to do with our performance during the World Cup."

Wiley made his international debut in 2015 against Ireland in Dublin and has played 70 ODIs (94 wickets) and 43 T20Is (51 wicket) so far. The left-hander has scored 627 ODI runs at an average of 26.12 with two fifties.

reach his 100th ODI wicket, which came in his 51st game, making him the third fastest to achieve the landmark in the format to date, besides being the fastest pacer to do so.

He is now the joint highest wicket-taker of the competition along with Adam Zampa of Australia, having taken 16 wickets in seven matches at an average of 19.93 and an economy of 5.22, including a five-wicket haul.

Meanwhile, Indian pacer Mohammed Siraj and left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav were placed third and seventh respectively.

As for the batters, Pakistan skipper Babar Adam led the chart. India's Shubman Gill, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were ranked second, fifth and seventh respectively.

Among all-rounders, the list is headed by Shakib Al Hasan of Bangladesh. While India's Hardik Pandya dropped a place to 11th, Ravindra Jadeja stayed in 13th position, while Pakistan's Shadab Khan was down a couple of slots to 20.



MP POLLS

Nath alleges '50 per cent commission' rule in state

Narsinghpur (MP), Nov 01 (PTI): Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath on Wednesday alleged that a "50 per cent commission" rule prevails in the state and accused Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan of "ruining" the state and putting a lock on its future.

opens only when you pay a 50 per cent commission. He has put a lock on the income of farmers, pension of employees, and on school uniforms of children," Nath alleged.

Notably, in the run-up to the assembly elections in Karnataka, the Congress, which was in opposition at that time, had blamed the outgoing BJP administration for being a "40 per cent commission" government.

Vedanta Aluminium

recommits to delivering superior product quality and excellence

New Delhi, Nov 01: On the occasion of World Standards Day, Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, reaffirms its dedication to bolstering the quality and sustainability standards of its extensive product range. The company is the first in the Indian aluminium industry to secure the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification for several of its aluminium products as per the available BIS quality standards.

SONIA'S APPEAL TO MIZO VOTERS

'Vote for Cong to ensure peace, prosperity

New Delhi, Nov 01 (PTI): Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Wednesday appealed to the people of Mizoram to elect her party in the November 7 assembly polls, saying this is no time for experiments and a vote for the Congress is for peace, progress and prosperity in the northeastern state.

In a video message, she made a personal appeal especially to the youth and the women, saying the Congress is the hand of experience and security. She said the Congress is the only party that can guarantee the development of Mizoram, empowerment for its people,

In remote Raj village, candidates' connect with voters to decide their fate

Pratapgarh (Rajasthan), Nov 01 (PTI): Ploughing his farm in remote Varmandal village here, 55-year-old Kailash says he is well aware of the Congress government's welfare initiatives for farmers but that does not guarantee that he will vote for the party in the upcoming Rajasthan assembly polls.

"The candidate should be approachable. This is the first thing I look for in a candidate before casting my vote," he told PTI. The Congress government gave mobile phones to women but not everyone got one and those who did not are disappointed. However, initiatives like the Chiranjeevi scheme, which provides a health insurance cover of Rs 25 lakh, have benefitted people,

he claimed. "It is difficult for people in this region to afford expensive treatment in private hospitals. In such a scenario, the Congress government's work in the health sector is commendable," he added. Kailash isn't the only one who thinks so in Varmandal, which comes under Pratapgarh assembly constituency. Other people PTI spoke to also insisted that candidates' connection with voters will decide who gets their votes.

Latest treatment launched for Type 2 diabetic patients

Mumbai, Nov 01: Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Limited (Glenmark Pharma), a research-led, global pharmaceutical company, has launched in India the first triple-drug fixed-dose combination (FDC) of the widely used Teneligliptin with Dapagliflozin and Metformin. This FDC has been launched

under the brand name ZitaDM, and it contains the DPP4 inhibitor, Teneligliptin (20mg), the SGLT2 inhibitor, Dapagliflozin, (10mg), and Metformin SR (500mg/1000mg) in a fixed dose. It must be taken once daily, under prescription, to improve glycaemic control in patients with Type 2 diabetes.

Rahul taunts BJP's promise of making backward class leader as CM

Hyderabad, Nov 01 (PTI): Taunting the BJP over its promise to make a backward caste leader as chief minister in Telangana, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday asked how can the saffron party do so when it is going to get only a meagre

percentage of votes.

Addressing a poll rally at Kalwakurthy in Telangana, he said BJP leaders used to swagger about their chances in the state.

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