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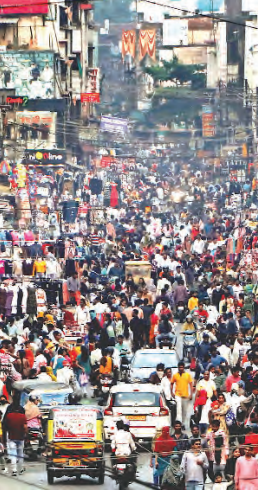
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RECORD HOLDER

BRIEF



People shop at a market ahead of Diwali festival, in Nagpur, Friday.

Ban

Kochi: No crackers shall be burst in religious places at odd times as there are no commandments in any of the holy books that mandate the bursting of crackers to please God, the Kerala High Court said on Friday. Banning the use of crackers, Justice Amit Rawal directed the police chiefs of all districts of the state to conduct raids at religious places and seize the "illegally stored crackers."

Appeal

Aizawl: Churches, civil society groups and political parties in Mizoram have again requested the Election Commission to reschedule the date of counting. Elections to the 40-member assembly will take place on November 7 and counting will be held on December 3, which falls on a Sunday.

Clean chit

New Delhi: A high-level committee formed to look into the complaints against Delhi government IAS officer YVVJ Rajasekhar has given him a clean chit, calling the allegations "baseless" and "fabricated", officials said on Friday. Over half a dozen complaints were lodged against Rajasekhar with the authorities by several persons including suspended IAS officer Udit Prakash Rai and his wife Shilpi Rai, they said.

Apologise

Chandigarh: SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Friday asked Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to apologise for his "malicious statements" against his father Parkash Singh Badal during a "sham debate". The chief minister should tender his apology within 10 days or be ready to face a criminal defamation case, he said.

Weather

High 31 Low 21

MARKET

NIFTY 19,230.60

SENSEX 64,363.78

BULLION

GOLD 61,081

SILVER 72,282

CHH'GH POLL

BJP releases 'Modi ki guarantee'

■ Promises sops for married women, landless farm labourers, LPG cylinder at Rs 500

of the manifesto, Shah said, "An election manifesto is not just a manifesto for the BJP, but a 'Sankalp Patra' (document of resolution) for us."

Fulfilling our resolution, we (BJP-led central government) had formed Chhattisgarh state (in 2000), he said.

"Chhattisgarh was transformed into a good state, from being a BIMARU (laggard) state, during 15 years of the BJP rule (2003-2018). Now I assure you on behalf of the BJP that we will work with the aim of making it a developed state in the next five years," he added.

BIMARU is an acronym for Bihar, (undivided) Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, a grouping of states that historically lagged in economic and social indicators.

Briefing about the promises in the manifesto, Shah said, "If BJP is voted to power in the state, 'Krishi Unnati Scheme' will be launched, under which 21 quintal per acre paddy will be procured (from farmers) at Rs 3,100 per quintal."

The payment against paddy procurement will be



Union Minister and BJP leader Amit Shah releases the party manifesto for Chhattisgarh Assembly elections, in Raipur, Friday.

Salient resolutions...

Shah said, "If BJP is voted to power in the state, 'Krishi Unnati Scheme' will be launched, under which 21 quintal per acre paddy will be procured (from farmers) at Rs 3,100 per quintal." The payment against paddy procurement will be done in one time, he added. Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (Ayushman Bharat), the annual limit will be doubled and every family will get a health insurance of Rs 10 lakh in place of Rs 5 lakh. On the lines of Delhi National Capital Region (NCR), the State Capital Region will be established for the development of Raipur, Naya Raipur, Durg and Bilai, Shah said. Every citizen will be given pension under the Atal Pension Yojana and 50 per cent contribution under the scheme will be of the state government.

done in one time, he added.

The party-led government will also launch the 'Mahtari Vandan Scheme', under which married women will be given financial assistance of Rs 12,000 per year, he said.

Similarly, Deendayal Upadhyay Krishi Majdoor Yojana will be launched, under which landless agricultural labourers will be given Rs 10,000 per year, Shah said.

Women from poor fami-

lies will get cooking gas cylinders at Rs 500 each, while students will be given a monthly travel allowance for going to college through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), the Union minister said.

According to him, one lakh vacant government posts will be filled in two years if the BJP returns to power in the state.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, funds will be sanctioned in the first cabinet meeting

(if BJP elected to power) for the construction of 18 lakh houses, while every house will have tap water connection within two years under the 'Ghar Ghar Nirmal Jal Abhiyan', he said.

People of Chhattisgarh will be taken on a visit to Ram temple in Ayodhya, he said.

Tendu leaf collection will be done at Rs 5,500 per standard sacks and apart from this, a bonus of Rs 4,500 will also be given to tendu leaf collectors, he said.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (Ayushman Bharat), the annual limit will be doubled and every family will get a health insurance of Rs 10 lakh in place of Rs 5 lakh. Also, 500 new Jan Aushadhi Kendra will be set up to provide medicines at reasonable rates, he said.

Examinations conducted by the Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission (CGPSC) will be held in a transparent manner on the lines of the UPSC, he said, adding that a probe will be conducted into alleged CGPSC scam happened during incumbent Congress government.

Chhattisgarh Uddam (enterprise) Kranti Yojana will be launched, under which interest-free loans with 50 per cent subsidy will be given to youth, he said.

Shami-Finals!

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'BJP never opposed idea of caste census'

■ But appropriate decision on it to be taken after consulting everyone

Raipur, Nov 03 (PTI): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the BJP never opposed the idea of caste census, but it would take appropriate decision on it after consulting everyone, a statement that comes amid a strong demand by the Congress and some other parties to carry out the exercise at the national level. He was talking to reporters at the launch of the party's manifesto for this month's Chhattisgarh elections here at Kushabhau Thakre Parisar, the BJP's state office. When asked about the ruling Congress' 17 poll guarantees, including caste census in the state, Shah said, "We are a

national party and we don't do politics of votes on this issue. We will take the appropriate decision after consulting everyone and tell about it. But contesting polls on its basis is not correct." "BJP has never opposed this (caste census), but decisions have to be taken very thoughtfully. We will tell at the appropriate time," he said. The Congress has promised to carry out caste census in Chhattisgarh if it retains power in the state. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra have been targeting the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Centre during their rallies in the poll-bound state, asking if Prime Minister Narendra Modi can talk about the welfare of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs), why is he scared of OBC census.

'Mahadev App promoters gave Rs 508 cr to Baghel'

Alleges ED and says probe on

New Delhi, Nov 03 (PTI):

The Enforcement Directorate Friday claimed that a forensic analysis and a statement made by a 'cash courier' have led to "startling allegations" that Mahadev betting app promoters have paid about Rs 508 crore to Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel so far, and that "these are subject matter of investigation".

The alleged agent, Asim Das, has been arrested by the agency in Raipur after it recovered Rs 5.39 crore cash from him. He was allegedly sent by the app promoters from the UAE "especially, to deliver large amount of cash for electioneering expenses of the ruling Congress Party".

"Asim Das has admitted that the seized funds were arranged by the Mahadev app promoters to be delivered to one politician 'Baghel' for upcoming election expenses in state of



Probe reveals....

The courier, Asim Das, has been arrested by the agency after it recovered Rs 5.39 crore from him. "From the questioning of Asim Das, and from the forensic examination of the phone recovered from him, and examination of an email sent by Shubam Soni (one of the high ranking accused of Mahadev network) many startling allegations have come forth, namely, that regular payments have been made in the past and so far around Rs 508 crore have been paid by Mahadev APP promoters to Bhupesh Baghel, Chief Minister," the ED said in a statement.

Chhattisgarh," the agency alleged in a statement.

"From the questioning of Das and from forensic examination of the phone recovered from him apart from examination of an

Accused in 14 days custody...

Both Das and Yadav were produced before a special PMLA court in Raipur on Friday and the court sent them to seven days ED custody. A charge sheet was recently filed by the ED in the Mahadev app case where a total of 14 accused were named including main promoters Sourabh Chandrakar and Ravi Uppal.

email sent by Shubam Soni (one of the high ranking accused of Mahadev network) many startling allegations have come forth, namely, that regular payments have been made in the past and so far around Rs 508 crore have been paid by Mahadev app promoters to Bhupesh Baghel, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh," it said. "These are subject matter of investigation," the agency said.

'Don't want SC to become tareekh pe tareekh court'

New Delhi, Nov 03 (PTI): Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud urged lawyers on Friday to not seek adjournments in fresh matters, saying he does not want the Supreme Court to become a 'tarik-pek-tarik-pek' court as such deferment "defeats trust of citizens".

At the start of the day's proceedings, the CJI flagged the issue of lawyers seeking adjournment in fresh matters and said in the last two months of September and October, adjournment slips were moved in 3,688 cases by advocates. "Unless it is very, very necessary, please don't file the adjournment slips...I don't want this court to be a tarik-pek-tarik-pek court," the CJI,



CJI D Y Chandrachud

who was sharing the bench with justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said. "On one hand, the listing of matters are expedited and on the other hand, they are first mentioned seeking listing and then they are adjourned. I request the members of the bar to not seek adjournments unless really, really necessary.

Gyanvapi: SC dismisses mosque committee's plea

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee's plea challenging the Allahabad High Court chief justice's decision to withdraw the Gyanvapi case from a single-judge bench that was hearing it since 2021. The single-judge bench was hearing the plea of Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee (AIMC), which mages the affairs of the Gyanvapi mosque, challenging the maintainability of a lawsuit for restoration of a temple at the mosque site in Varanasi. "Dismissed," a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said after hearing the submissions of senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, who represented the mosque committee.

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Special

Observer holds meeting of political parties and candidates

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 03: Under the Assembly Elections-2023, a meeting of the candidates contesting the elections was organized on Friday in the presence of Returning Officer Room 39 Assembly Constituency 66 Vaishali Nagar by General Observer Dr Raj Krishna Pruthi.

In the meeting, information was given to all the candidates and parties regarding the model code of conduct as per the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India. They were asked to take permission before using vehicles, loudspeakers for holding rallies, meetings and processions. Under the General Code of Conduct, all the political parties and candidates were requested to follow Para 01 to 07 of the General Code. They were provided the guidance booklet on the Model Code of Conduct issued by the Election Commission of India for the guidance of political parties and



candidates.

Information was given that no publicity of any kind should be done on government properties, as well as no publicity should be done on private property without the consent of the property owner as action would be taken on any kind of complaint. Information was given about intimating the local police officers when meetings are organized by candidates and parties.

Use of loud speakers and vehicles in the processions, meetings and rallies should not be done without permission from the

competent authority. Action will be taken if used without permission. The candidates were informed about the counter established for granting permission under the assembly and the documents required for permission.

They were given information about the system of "first come, first served" and asked to ensure that the instructions are followed. Information was given about giving identity badges to authorized party workers on the voting day and the fact that the badge should not



contain the party name, symbol or name of the candidate.

It was informed that there should not be unnecessary crowds, display of posters, banners, flags, symbols or other publicity material at the camps (pandals) set up 100 meters away from the polling stations. For the polling day, a total of 03 vehicles will be allowed for the election agent including the candidate.

All the vehicle permissions currently granted will automatically expire 48 hours before the polling day. While making the

candidates aware about the polling stations and number of voters, they were informed about 254 polling stations including 10 Sangwari, 05 Model Polling Centers and 01 Divyang Managed Youth Managed Polling Centers under the Assembly.

People other than voters will be restricted from entering the polling stations. Only those holding admit cards issued by the authorized officer will be able to enter the polling stations. Candidates were given information about the control room established at the district level, contact

number of the observer, place and time of meeting the observer regarding complaints etc.

Online complaints can be made through 1950 and also through WhatsApp. In the meeting, the candidates were informed about the strong room prepared for Assembly Constituency No. 66 Vaishali Nagar and were also informed about the voting material distribution site and the voting material return point after voting along with the counting site.

In the meeting, Observer Dr Raj Krishna Pruthi appealed to all the candidates to act with confidence, transparency and as per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India. The candidates can meet the Observer at Bhilai Niwas Apartment-31 from 10 am to 11 am. During the meeting, the candidates along with Assistant Returning Officer Lavkesh Kumar Dhruv and Observer's Lodging Officer Lambodar Patel were present.

DAV IPS celebrates Vigilance Awareness Week



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 03: DAV Ispat Public School Sector 2 celebrated the Vigilance Awareness Week - 2023 from October 30 to November 05, 2023. The theme for this year's Vigilance Awareness Week was "Say No to Corruption; Commit to the Nation". The students of the school participated in the drawing competition organised by Bhilai Steel Plant in the open which was divided into two Groups- Group 1: Class VI to VIII, Group 2: Class IX to XII. The drawing/ painting competition was held in Maitri Baag. The students of our school participated in it very enthusiastically drawing and giving expression to their skills.

The main aim of this drawing/ painting competition was to sensitize the young students on issues such as prevention of corruption, importance of integrity and self reliance of India. In the

second phase of the Vigilance Awareness Week Celebration 2023, the Vigilance Department, BSP organised a Debate Competition for students of Class IX to XII. The topic was "Opposing Corruption is necessary for commitment to Nation". The competition was held on November 02, 2023 at English Medium Sr Secondary School, Sector -7, Bhilai. The debate was conducted in two categories Hindi (for & against the motion) and English (for & against the motion).

Accordingly, 04 students from the school participated and fared well by marking their presence. The winners of all events will be intimated in advance and felicitated on November 04 at the Prize Distribution Programme at Mahatma Gandhi Kala Mandir, Civic Centre, which will also mark the conclusion of the Vigilance Awareness Week Celebration 2023.

BSF organises walkathon under Vigilance Awareness Week



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 03: On the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week, a 05 kilometer walkathon was organized by BSF Headquarters, Risali on

Friday. The event was organized as per the instructions of Satish S Khandare, IG BSF, Frontier Headquarters, Risali. At the outset, Praveen Kumar Ranjan, Vigilance Officer BSF, explained the

purpose of organizing the walkathon. Balwant Singh Pangate, Deputy Inspector General BSF Frontier Headquarters, flagged off the walkathon.

About 152 officers, subordinate officers and per-

sonnel of BSF participated in the walkathon. The main objective of the event was to motivate the soldiers to perform their duties with honesty and dedication without any discrimination.

Speech Competition held at PG College of Nursing



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 03: As a part of ongoing Vigilance Awareness Week-2023 a Bilingual (Hindi & English) Speech Competition was organized for the students of PG College of Nursing, Hospital Sector, Bhilai. Himanshu Dave, AGM (Vigilance) was the Chief Guest on this occasion,

while DrAbhilekha Biswal, Principal, PG College of Nursing was the Special Guest. The programme was organised by the Vigilance Department of Bhilai Steel Plant.

Students, Geeta Patel, won first Prize in the competition under Hindi Category, while Bhumika and Riya Bhagat stood second and third respectively.

Student Divya Nair, stood first in the Speech Competition under English Category, while students Rincy T Babu and Diksha Yadav won the second and third prizes under this category respectively. Vanshika Dewangan was awarded the Consolation prize in Hindi Category whereas Ms Jessica Niju won the Consolation prize in

English Category. As many as 32 students expressed their views in form of an eloquent address on Corruption and delivered a message to increase public awareness about the perils of corruption. Simmy Goswami, GM (Instrumentation-BSP) adjudicated the participants and also shared her thoughts on the theme

Employees of CO & CCD felicitated with Pali & Karm Shiromani Awards

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 03: Employees of Coke Oven and Coal Chemical Department (CO & CCD) of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant were awarded 'Karm Shiromani' and 'Pali Shiromani' Awards for their exemplary work performance under the 'Shiromani Puraskar Yojana' by Bhilai Steel Plant. The Award Ceremony was organized at the CO & CCD Conference Hall. Samir Roychowdhury, Acting CGM (CO & CCD) was the Chief Guest on this occasion.

LN Chandrakar, Sr Mgr (CBC Operation), was awarded the 'Pali Shiromani' Award for his exemplary performance in the second quarter (July to September) of 2023, while Ishwar Prasad Pure, Master Operator, Battery



Operation and Shri Rajkumar Khandekar, Chargeman cum Senior Technician, Electrical Ment. were awarded the 'Karm Shiromani Award' for their commendable performance at the workplace. Mementoes and Certificates were presented to all the awardees, along with Letter of Appreciation to their respective Spouses.

Chief Guest Samir Roychowdhury, Acting CGM (CO & CCD) felicitated the awardees

appreciated them for their achievements and contributions at the workplace and encouraged all the employees of CO & CCD to work in future with the same spirit. PVVS Murty, Section Head, B Paswan, Jhagar Singh, Atul Goswami, DK Samantray, K Nand kumar, General Managers of CO & CCD were also present on this occasion along with, other Senior Officials of the Department. V Ramarao, Sr Mgr (Personnel) compered the program.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 03: His Holiness Baselios Marthoma Mathews III, the Supreme Head of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church of India, is on maiden visit to Chhattisgarh after being enthroned as the Catholicos of the East & Malankara Metropolitan. His Holiness is the ninth Catholicos of the East in India and the 92nd Primate on the Apostolic Throne of St Thomas.

His Holiness was warmly welcomed by a host of priests and faithful under the leadership of the Metropolitan of Calcutta Diocese, HG Alexios

Mar Eusebius at Raipur airport on November 03. The Primate also offered prayers at St Mary's Orthodox Church, Shankar Nagar, Raipur. In the evening Mar Theodosius Memorial state level Basketball tournament was inaugurated by HH Marthoma Mathews III at St Thomas College Ruabandha. Evening prayer and a grand reception was organised at MGM Sr Sec School, Sec 6.

The Holy Father would lead the 16th Memorial Feast Services of His Grace Arch Bishop Dr Stephanos Mar Theodosius at St Thomas Ashram Chapel, Kailash Nagar Bhilai on 4- 5



Marthoma Mathews

great visionary Bishop Dr Stephanos Mar Theodosius of Blessed Memory, the founder of MGM Group of institutions. Mar Theodosius has inspired many a personalities and still continues to do so through fruits of his great labour. His Grace Arch Bishop Dr Stephanos Mar Theodosius was the first Metropolitan of Calcutta Diocese established in the year 1979 and founder Director / President of St Thomas mission, Bhilai. He was called to eternal rest on November 5, 2007 at Muscat while visiting his flocks. His last remains were brought to Bhilai entombed in the special vault on the side of the Bhilai

Ashram Chapel as per his will. Today Mar Theodosius's resting place at the Ashram Chapel has become a source of blessing to many through intercession prayers. His Holiness would also inaugurate the 51st Anniversary of St Thomas Mission, Bhilai on November 04 at St Thomas Ashram premises, Kailash Nagar. On November 05, after the Memorial Feast, Mar Theodosius Memorial Mementos and Cash Awards would be conferred to the toppers of classes X and XII from various Schools under MGM Group of institutions affiliated to CBSE, ICSE and other State Boards.

BSP's several departments mark best-ever production and dispatch records in October

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 03: Several new records of production were set by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant in various areas of production as well as productivity parameters in October 2023. Almost all the departments of the plant, along with finishing mills including Merchant Mill, Bard & Rod Mill, and Plate Mill, have recorded their best records, demonstrating excellence in production in their respective areas.

Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/C (Bhilai Steel Plant) and Anjali Kumar, ED (Works), Asit Saha, CGM I/C (M&U), respective HoDs of the Departments, and other Senior Officials of the Plant have congratulated the respective departments for their achievements and also encouraged the Plant personnel to work with the same spirit and achieve similar feats in future. This feat of substantially increased pro-



duction was made possible by continuous monitoring and hard work of the mill personnel and the full cooperation of the concerned departments, the senior management said. The total sinter production of BSP's Sinter Plant has also been recorded at 7,64,829 tonne in October 2023, which has surpassed the previous best record of 7,59,729 tonne achieved in March 2023. The Bar and Rod Mill of the plant has achieved its best-ever production and has crossed the limit of 1 lakh tonne production, which is 135 % of its measured production capacity. The Mill has also achieved a record of 1,01,111 tonne in October 2023, surpassing the record of 91,119 tonne made in March 2023. Plant's Merchant Mill (MM), which rolls out light structural, TMT bars, angles and channels, has set a new best-ever monthly dispatch record. Merchant Mill team has achieved a dispatch of 66,689 tonne in October

2023, surpassing the previous best of 65,327 tonne marked in June 2023. The plant's best ever TMT (Bar & Wire Rod) production in October 2023 was 1,63,621 tonne in against the previous record of 1,53,587 tonne achieved in March 2023. Bhilai Steel Plant recorded excellent production in October 2023 in the production of all three major products Hot Metal, Crude Steel and Saleable Steel. The plant recorded a total hot metal production of 5,00,242 tonne in October 2023, which surpassed the past record of 4,94,030 tonne made in October 2010. In Crude Steel production, the

plant accomplished a record production of 4,81,598 tonne in October 2023, leaving behind the record of 4,62,825 tonne made in October 2009. The plant has also achieved a production record of producing 4,50,634 tonne of Saleable steel and left behind the previous best production record of 4,22,788 tonne made in October, 2021. During October 2023 the Plant has also set forth notable records in the production of Finished Steel, by producing 4,14,275 tonne, surpassing the previous best record of 3,90,495 tonne recorded in October 2022. The plant aimed at 100% customer satisfac-

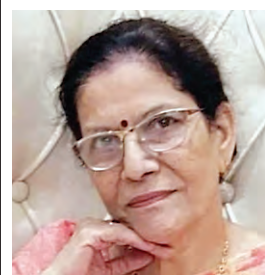
tion by giving top priority to product quality. BSP has always incorporated new initiatives in its working processes and system as per customer demand, to ensure the best quality products to its customers. With this, the best October 2023 production records have also been achieved in the field of dispatch of various products by the plant. The plant has also recorded a new dispatch record for the month of October 2023. Loading of high tensile plates for dispatch was recorded at 25,290 tonne in October 2023 as against 23,258 tonne marked in October 2013. The record loading of

4,32,726 tonne salable steel has been achieved in October 2023, surpassing the previous best of 4,22,444 tonne made in October 2021. The total production of Long Rail in the month of October 2023 was marked at 15,736 tonne, surpassing its previous best record of 14,832 tonne made in the month of October 2022. The Plate Mill has crossed the record of 1.2 lakh tonne, registering the best production of the total finished plate. The plate mill has recorded the ever-best production for the fourth consecutive month. A record of 1,21,675 tonne was achieved in October 2023, while the previous best record was 1,21,383 tonne made in October 2022. The ever-best production of total High Tensile Plates was 31,226 tonne in October 2023, while the previous best record was 22,380 tonne recorded in October 2013. With hard work and dedication, BSP's Team SMS-III team has

marked a record cast steel production in October 2023 by producing 3,00,878 tonne, thereby surpassing the record of 2,65,530 tonne achieved in October 2022. Billets production has also marked a record 1,95,755 tonne in October 2023 and surpassed its previous best of 1,57,235 tonne made in October 2023. The total production of Lime + CD in October 2023 was recorded at 54,550 tonne, surpassing its previous best record of 38,879 tonne made in the month of October 2022. The total production of dry BF coke in the month of October 2023 was recorded at 2,78,468 tonne, thereby surpassing its previous best record of 2,72,168 tonne made in October 2009. Plant's CO&CCD has also created its best oven-pushing record till date, by pushing 807 EQ per day in October 2023, thereby surpassing its previous best oven-pushing record of 783 EQ per day made in October 2009.

OBITUARY

Jasvir Kaur



Bhilai: Jasvir Kaur, wife of retired Executive Director (SAIL) Jagdeesh Singh, left for heavenly abode at the age of 74 years on Thursday. Funeral procession was taken out from her residence situated at D-20, Hospital Sector and last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Ramnagar Muktidham.

We are not asking for votes without doing anything: Kharge

Lashes out at BJP, says 'you are on chair because we saved the Constitution'



Raipur, Nov 03: Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge today lashed out at the BJP for its allegation that Congress did not do anything in 70 years. "They say that the Congress party has not done anything in 70 years. If we had not done anything in 70 years, PM Modi would not

have become the Prime Minister and Amit Shah would not have become the Home Minister. We saved the Constitution of this country and that's why you're sitting on that chair", said Kharge while addressing a public meeting in Abhanpur, Chhattisgarh.

"We are not asking for votes without doing anything", said Kharge. When Congress was at the Centre it brought MGNREGA scheme, food security law and worked on education of children, he said.

BJP people try to defame Congress by lying, he said, adding that they used to do something similar in Karnataka also. However, Congress removed the corrupt government there, he said. He also targeted the Central Government saying that it works to harass the opposition state governments.

Elderly cheated of Rs 5.83 lakh

Raipur, Nov 03: An elderly person was cheated of Rs 5.83 lakh after he downloaded AnyDesk app. According to information available Ravindra Nath Das (71), resident of Palash Vihar Mahavir Nagar, searched the customer care number of Google Phone App and found a fake number of fraudsters on Google. After calling him, the miscreants got AnyDesk app downloaded on his mobile and withdrew Rs 5 lakh 82 thousand 499 in five times. On receiving the message of withdrawal of money from the account, the victim lodged a report in the police station.

Victim told that an amount of Rs 30 thousand was stuck in his phone-pay

and to get the money out of this he was searching the helpline number of phone-pay on Google on October 5. He got two numbers from Google. In the meantime he received a call in which caller introduced himself as a phone-pay officer. Caller also told to help him get his money back with transfer directly into account.

After this, the victim was asked to download the AnyDesk app. The old man did the same and after this OTP was demanded. As soon as the old man gave the OTP, first Rs 13,500, then Rs 84 thousand, after which an overdraft loan of Rs 4 lakh 84 thousand 999 was withdrawn. A total of Rs 5 lakh 82 thousand 499 was defrauded.

SWACHHATA ACTION 2023



Students of Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition, Raipur organised Swachhata Action 2023 here on Wednesday.

NIT Raipur flags off Entrepreneurship Summit 2023

Raipur, Nov 03: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur's Entrepreneurship Cell (E-Cell) flagged off the Entrepreneurship Summit 2023 (E-Summit'23) on Friday. With a resolute objective, 'E-Summit' is all about fostering innovation and uniting the brightest young minds, providing them with a platform to unveil their entrepreneurial dreams.



Dr. (Mrs.) AB Soni, Director (I/C) in her address delved into the essence of entrepreneurship and events like E-Summit and shared valuable insights, igniting the entrepreneurial spirit in the audience.

Dr. Chandrakant Thakur highlighted E-Cell's mission to nurture entrepreneurship and innovation, emphasizing the importance of this event in providing students with knowledge and skills in

entrepreneurship. He acknowledged the team's dedication in overcoming challenges to make the event a reality. E-Summit features various activities, including an Entrepreneurship Startup Expo and opportunities for students to learn from industry experts. Dr. Thakur expressed confidence in the event's success and its potential to inspire and empower future entrepreneurs. Dr. Samir Bajpai, Head, Career Development Centre

stressed the significance of startups, urging the audience to channel their dedication and hard work into their passions.

He emphasized the key ingredients for a successful startup are unwavering passion, expertise in the field, effective communication, and a persuasive attitude, underlining the importance of these factors in the entrepreneurial and corporate journey. Dr. Shrish Verma, Dean (Academics) underscored the spirit of entrepre-

neurship through the storytelling of Panchatantra.

The Investor Pitching was a highlight on the schedule, featuring startups presenting their businesses to a distinguished panel of investors, including Namrata Tatiya, Startup mentor & ecosystem enabler, Tushar Vadera, Startup Enabler & Co-Founder at SetMyCart, Parminder Sahni, Co-Founder at Vsnapu and Arvind Agrawal, Founder of VNR Seeds.

EPFO to organise 'Pension Adalat' on Nov 10

Raipur, Nov 03: Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, Regional Office, Raipur, Chhattisgarh organises 'Pension Adalat' programme for redressal of the grievances received from pensioners by the Regional P.F. Commissioner. The time schedule of the programme scheduled for November 10th, 2023 is as EPF Pensioner - 11.00 am to 01.00 pm at Conference Hall, 1st Floor, Bhawisyanidhi Bhawan, Pandri, Raipur. The concerned pensioners are requested to send their specific grievance before November 10, 2023 positively through postal mode super scribing "Pension Adalat" on the envelope or by present on the date. It should also be noted that the complete PF Account number/ PPO number and other necessary and relevant service details/particulars along with available documentary evidences in support of the grievance should explicitly be mentioned/enclosed. All the concerned are requested to avail this opportunity.

Everyone should cooperate in peaceful election: Observer Ingti

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Nov 03: IW Ingti, the observer appointed by the Election Commission of India for the Raipur West Assembly constituency of the district, while addressing the candidates and representatives of political parties, said that all the candidates and political parties should give their full cooperation in conducting the smooth and peaceful election work in the district.

If they have any kind of complaint or suggestion related to the election, then they should put it before their respective observers and not take any step themselves, he said. Ingti

today held a meeting with the candidates contesting elections from Raipur West Assembly Constituency and representatives of political parties.

The Observer and Returning Officer gave answers to the queries and doubts raised by the candidates or their representatives during the meeting. Ingti urged the candidates and representatives to cooperate in maintaining peace and order in the district during the elections and not to take any such step which may adversely affect the peace and order. He said that if the candidate has any complaint against anyone then they can complain to the district ad-

ministration and police administration. Immediate action will be taken on the complaints received.

Assistant Expenditure Observer gave instructions to the candidates to submit the income and expenditure figures on 04th November, 08th November and 14th November either in person or through their election agent. Information was given by the Returning Officer regarding the randomization of EVMs, mock poll on the polling day, presence of representatives of the candidates at the time of release of control unit for collection and counting in the strong room.

Samples of chocolate, noodles collected for investigation



Food officials intensify quality checking of food items in festive season

Raipur, Nov 03: In the festive season, quality checking of food items has been intensified by food officials. The Food Department has formed a team to check the quality of food items in almost all the districts of the state. A state level flying squad consisting of food safety officers from different districts is being formed and conducting surprise checks. According to the information received from

the Controller Food and Drug Administration, a joint team in Rajnandgaon and Raipur districts conducted surprise inspection in hotels and took samples to check the quality of food items. Chocolate samples were collected from M/s Rajesh Confectionery of Rajnandgaon and samples of garam masala were taken from M/s Amar Shaheed Agro. A sample of lentils was taken from M/s Santosh Dal Mill, Mova Raipur. Joint team also took a sample of noodles from M/s Ashoka Biryani, and sent it to the State Food and Drug Testing Laboratory.

Cash of 9.5 lakh seized during checking



Raipur, Nov 03: Raipur Police have seized cash of Rs 9.5 lakh from the collection agent during checking. The money was seized from one Ram Verma, resident of Ekta Nagar Gudhiyari. The information was given to the Income Tax Department. Intensive checking is being conducted by the police in compliance with the Model Code of Conduct, keeping security and law and order in mind in view of the assembly elections. To this end police are continuously checking suspicious persons by keep-

ing a close eye on them.

On Thursday, two-wheeler and four-wheelers were checked by the Azad Chowk police team near Agrasen Chowk of Azad Chowk police station area. Meanwhile, the Activa vehicle was stopped by the team members and the bag was checked. On checking the bag, it was found to contain cash. During interrogation, the person revealed his name to be Ram Verma of Ekta Nagar Gudhiyari.

When the team members inquired about the cash amount and demanded valid documents, he was continuously misleading the team members by not presenting any kind of document regarding the cash amount. He was calling himself a recovery agent for the company. However, due to not giving correct information, the police seized the cash amount of Rs 9 lakh 50 thousand kept with him.

Brighton International School declared No. 1 day school in Chhattisgarh state

Raipur, Nov 03: Brighton International School Raipur has been ranked No. 1 in the state of Chhattisgarh in the Co-Educational School category by the prestigious publication Education World for 2023-24 in the recently held India School Ranking Awards at New Delhi. The annual EW India School Rankings (EWISR), which began in 2007, awards the best schools in the country and across states. "The India School Rankings' benchmarks over 1000 schools across the country. The ranking is based on 14 parameters of excellence. Brighton International School has scored exceptionally well in every parameter. These parameters include capacity of faculty, academic reputation, online education effectiveness, parent involvement, personal



attention to students, sports education among other parameters.

Brighton International School is reputed to provide the highest quality education in Raipur. In a short time the school has established its reputation in the city by becoming a school for more than 2000 children. "I think what sets us apart from other schools is the way we balance the focus on

academics and the emphasis on personality development of each student," said Jayashree Nair, Principal of Brighton International School. Neha Sethi, Vice Principal of Brighton International School, said, "Our students in both our locations, Raipur and Shahdol, are making their mark in all fields and the students studying in our school have been our

biggest ambassadors."

Since 2010, Brighton International School has consistently maintained the reputation as one of the best schools in Raipur and gradually the good work is now known throughout the state of Chhattisgarh, the number one ranking now reflects their penchant towards progressive education. Brighton International School places utmost emphasis on keeping its pedagogy contemporary by exposing its students to real problems along with interaction with professionals from all walks of life. Life skills form the foundation of education at Brighton International School, always exploring possibilities with hybrid learning, focused on curriculum mapped with NEP, providing cloud classrooms and STEM learning to students.

Uttarakhand eves into semis of T-20 tournament



Raipur, Nov 03: Uttarakhand eves defeated Karnataka by 34 runs to enter into semi-final of the Senior Women' T-20 Cricket tournament being organised under the aegis of BCCI at Naya Raipur-based Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium here on Friday. Put into bat first, Uttarakhand batters scored 157 runs for 6 wickets in 20 overs. Poonam Raut scored 55 runs



whereas Reena Jindal scored 43 runs to put up a good total. Sahana Pawar and Rameshwari claimed two wickets each for Karnataka. In reply, the Karnataka batters could manage to score just 123 runs before being bundled out. Amisha claimed maximum 4 wickets for Uttarakhand whereas Ekta Bhist and Manasi Joshi claimed two wickets each to ensure a 34 runs victory for the team.

Satish, Unnati advance to semis in CG India International Badminton tournament



Raipur, Nov 03: Satish Kumar Karunakaran from India defeated Ayush Shetty with the score of 21-19, 21-16 to enter into semi-final of the Chhattisgarh India International Challenge Badminton Tournament 2023 being organized under the aegis of Chhattisgarh Badminton Association at I-Sports

Arena Badminton here on Friday.

Earlier Chirag Sen defeated Aditya Joshi to enter into the semi-final.

Meanwhile, in the Women' Single event, Unnati Hudda defeated Stuti Agrawal with the score of 21-11, 21-11 to enter into the semi-final whereas Rakshita defeated Deepshikha to qualify for



the semi-final and Tasneem Mir defeated Meghna Reddy to enter into semi-final of the premier tournament.

In the Men's Double event, the pair of Narut Segkham and Pannavat Therapanitan from Thailand defeated the pair of Ayush Agrawal and Nitin Kumar to enter into semi-final whereas another

Thailand pair Shirivit Shothan and Natpat defeated the pair of Venkat Abhishek and Sujay Tamboli to enter into the semi-final. The pair of Dhruv Rawat and Chirag Sen defeated the pair of Thailand Vichiyapong and Naruset with the score of 21-19, 21-18 to enter into the semi-final of the tournament.

SVEEP 'Women Car Rally' on Sunday for voter awareness



Raipur, Nov 03: Under the guidance of Collector and District Election Officer Dr. Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure, BTI "SVEEP Car Rally" was organised for women at BTI Ground, Shankar Nagar, Chowk on November 05 to motivate local voters to vote. This rally will start at 8 am on Sunday and will pass

through the main road and will end at Science College Ground, G.E. Road. Local women will participate in the car rally. The cars participating in the rally will be decorated with voting awareness slogans, the women car drivers giving the best message will be rewarded by the district administration. Women wishing to participate in

the car rally can register by contacting 9300853074 and 7987198194. Officers and employees of all departments including State Election, District Election, Police, Municipal Corporation, Women and Child Development Department, Education, Health Department will also participate in the car rally.

Departure of acquired vehicles for election begins

● **More than 15 thousand vehicles to be needed**



Raipur, Nov 02: With the acquisition of passenger and school buses along with other vehicles for the assembly elections to be held in two phases in Chhattisgarh, the process of departure has started. This time, the Election Commission has said that more than 15 thousand vehicles are required for the elections. The process of making these vehicles available to the Transport Department is going on. Here, due to the acquisition of a large number of passenger buses, common passengers will have to face problem in going to their hometown during Diwali. At the same time, due to the use of school buses for election work, school and college students will also face problems for about a week. The entire administrative staff is busy in preparations for

the assembly elections to be held on November 7 and 17 in the state. According to Transport Department officials, about 7,000 passenger buses, 2,000 school buses, 3,000 trucks and 3,000 cars as well as government vehicles are to be acquired to transport security forces, polling staff and officials to and from the polling stations.

On the instructions of the Election Commission, RTO teams in all the districts are acquiring long distance sleeper and AC buses and other vehicles and making them available to the police. The acquired vehicles are being kept parked at the police parade ground in Raipur. From here, security forces

are leaving in buses, trucks etc. for the first phase of voting. Polling parties will be sent to different places from November 5. Officials said that so far around 3,000 vehicles have been acquired and handed over to the local district and police administration for the first phase of voting to be held on November 7. The Transport Department has issued a notice to bus owners and transporters for providing vehicles for the second phase of voting to be held on November 17. Due to a large number of passenger buses being taken over for election work, passengers going to their home villages during Diwali may have to face

problems. In such circumstances, the only option is passenger bus. It is noteworthy that natives of states like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Delhi etc. reside here in large numbers. During Diwali, they go to their home village. Chhattisgarh Traffic Federation, President, Anwar Ali said that even after taking over the passenger buses for election work, common passengers will not face any problem because the bus operators have sufficient number of passenger buses.

Officials said that 70 vehicles have been acquired from various government departments for the monitoring teams in Raipur district for the elections.

This also includes vehicles carrying VST (videography). 417 passenger buses, 180 cars and 100 other vehicles will be acquired from Raipur district for the movement of polling parties and security forces.



Rajesh Kumar Singh

CMAS meeting today

Raipur, Nov 03: An important meeting of Chhath Mahaparva Aayojan Samiti (CMAS) Mahadev Ghat Raipur will be organized in the office of the Samiti located at Babylon Tower on Saturday. The meeting will be held under the chairmanship of CMAS Mahadev Ghat President Rajesh Kumar Singh. The preparations for Chhath Puja-2023 will be discussed in the meeting. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 4 pm. It will be decided in the meeting to celebrate Chhath Puja-2023 with religious and traditional fervour. And a plan will be chalked out for the event. Chhath Puja will begin from November 17 this year. Rajesh Kumar Singh has requested all the members of the committee to attend the meeting on priority.

Nominations of 1,066 candidates are valid after scrutiny

● **Maximum 36 candidates to contest in Raipur South Assembly constituency**



Raipur, Nov 02: After scrutiny of nomination papers for 70 assembly constituencies of the second phase under the Assembly Elections-2023, nominations of a total of 1,066 candidates have been found correct. According to the information received from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, maximum 12 nomination papers were found invalid in Bhatgaon and Sitapur assembly constituencies. With this, maximum 36 candidates will be in the electoral fray in Raipur City South Assembly Constituency. Earlier, till October 30, the last day of nomination, a total of 1,219 candidates had filed 1,985 nomination papers. On Monday, the last day of nomination, a maximum of 1245 nomination papers were filed. Under the Assembly Elections 2023, a total of 70 assembly constituencies of Raipur, Bilaspur,

Durg and Surguja divisions are included in the second phase. Candidates can withdraw their names till November 2. For this phase, a total of one crore 63 lakh 14 thousand 479 voters will be able to exercise their franchise on November 17. These include 81 lakh 41 thousand 624 men, 81 lakh 72 thousand 171 women and 684 third gender voters. Elections to be held in the second phase on November 17 at

Bharatpur-Sonhat, Mandragarh, Baikunthpur, Premnagar, Bhatgaon, Pratappur, Ramanujganj, Samri, Lundra, Ambikapur, Sitapur, Jashpur, Kunkuri, Pathalgaon, Lailunga, Raigarh, Sarangarh, Kharsia, Dharamjaigarh, Rampur, Korba, Katghora, Pali, Tanakhar, Marwahi, Kota, Lormi, Mungeli, Takhatpur, Bilha, Bilaspur, Beltara, Masturi, Akaltara, Janjgir-Champa, Sakti, Chandrapur, Jaijaipur, Pamgarh, Saraipali, Basna, Khallari, Mahasamund, Bilaigarh, Kasdol, Balodabazar, Bhatapara, Dharsinwa, Raipur Rural, Raipur Nagar West, Raipur Nagar North, Raipur Nagar South, Arang, Abhanpur, Rajim, Bindranwagarh, Sihawa, Kurud, Dhamtari, Sanjari, Balod, Dondilohara, Gunderdehi, Patan, Durg Rural, Durg City, Bhilai Nagar, Vaishali Nagar, Ahiwara, Saja, Bemetara and Navagarh assembly constituencies. Counting of votes for both the first and second phases will take place on December 3, 2023.

Exam preparations are getting affected due to election noise

● **Students distracted due to the noise of DJ and loudspeakers**



Raipur, Nov 02: Be it assembly or Lok Sabha elections, this is the biggest national festival of democracy. It decides the theme of government and governance. In the coming times, we should get a good government. Conscious residents are worried about whom they choose a capable government through a capable candidate, but at present the election campaign is proving to be a problem for the college students. Actually, CA Intermediate examination is being held in the city from November 2. For this, examination centers have been set up in some colleges in the city. The students preparing for this are facing problems

due to loudspeakers playing at various places during the election campaign.

It is noteworthy that keeping in mind the problems of the candidates during the annual examination, the administration has imposed a ban on noise pollution, but these days the ban on loudspeakers is not being implemented due to election campaign. Students are getting distracted due to noise pollution throughout the day. Now the problem before the candidates is that to which officer of the administration they should complain. On one

hand, the candidates and leaders of various political parties are trying to build their political career by winning the elections, while on the other hand, the students appearing in very important examinations like CA are getting affected by the election noise. The situation of noise pollution is such that many candidates, being disturbed, have started taking shelter in libraries. Despite having their own residence, candidates are forced to pay money to go to the library, where the environment is relatively calm.



Swati Agrawal gets PhD

Raipur, Nov 03: Assistant Professor in Civil Engineering Department of Kalinga University, Naya Raipur has been conferred PhD for her thesis on "Evaluation of Ground Water Contamination in and Around Raipur Municipal Solid Waste Dump Site". She completed her thesis under direction of Kalinga University Professor Dr PS Charpe.

NYK organizes HIV AIDS awareness programme



● **In Raipur and Baloda Bazar districts**

Raipur, Nov 03: Nehru Yuva Kendra, Raipur Chhattisgarh, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India in collaboration with Chhattisgarh State AIDS Control Committee, Raipur organised awareness generation workshops on HIV AIDS and its prevention in Raipur and Balodabazar districts. More than 600 youth and 60 youth clubs were sensitised about the HIV AIDS. Youths were apprised about HIV AIDS its causes,

symptoms and prevention measures along with other sexually transmitted diseases. Youth were informed that that having unprotected sex led to infection of HIV others means could be transfusion of infected blood, injection of infected person and pregnant mother to their unborn children through their womb. Given the rise in cases in Chhattisgarh, it is imperative that youth must be sensitised about important issues of HIV AIDS. The services provided by the central and state government for the people suffering from this disease

were also discussed. Youth were apprised about the ICTC centre for testing and checking at district and block level. In addition, safety clinic has been established in the district hospital for the diagnosis and information of sexually transmitted infections and other genital problems.

Furthermore, youth were informed about the National Helpline Number 1097 wherein the functioning and operation Mobile Application 1097 for disseminating information among the masses were also discussed. Apart from this, the

youth were sensitised with the help of educational short films and power point presentation. Information was disseminated through pamphlets and booklets. Furthermore, youths were encouraged to take part in Rangoli and Painting competition, so as to create awareness among the masses and also to mitigate the social taboos attached to the same.

NYK National Youth Volunteers and Youth club members actively take part in the program and played a significant role in the success of the program.

Royal scions slug it out in Chh'garh's electoral battle

Tikeshwar Patel

Raipur, Oct 31 (PTI): After being in exile for around 15 years from electoral politics, the erstwhile Royal family of Ambagarh Chowki in Chhattisgarh has once again got a chance to try its luck in this month's assembly polls.

Sanjeev Shah, a scion of the erstwhile Nagvanshi Gond royal family from Ambagarh Chowki, is among at least seven members of princely families who are in the fray in the state assembly elections this time.

While the Congress and the BJP each have given tickets to three royal scions, one such nominee has been fielded by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

A two-term former MLA, Shah is the BJP nominee from Mohla-Manpur (ST), located in the Naxalite-hit Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki district. The Mohla-Manpur segment, which was earlier part of the Chowki constituency, came into existence after delimitation ahead of the 2008 assembly elections in Chhattisgarh and since then BJP has never won in this constituency.

The palace in Ambagarh Chowki which has lost its political sheen is once again decked up with BJP flags, posters and banners, Shah said.

"Our family had been associated with politics since the country got independence. My grandmother Kanak Kumari Devi was elected as an MLA from Chowki (ST) assembly seat as a Congress candidate in 1957 assembly polls in undivided Madhya Pradesh," Shah told PTI. In the 1977 assembly elec-

tions, Bhopendra Shah, popularly known as Manjila Kumar, younger brother of his grandfather, won Chowki as a Janata Party candidate, he said.

Shah said his father contested from Chowki as an independent candidate with the BJP's support in 1980 but lost by around 1,000 votes.

"We are close relatives of Rani Durgavati's descendants. Our Rajmahal (palace) in Ambagarh Chowki was built in 1740. Earlier, our family lived in other places," the BJP leader said.

According to locals, the Ambagarh Chowki royal family was close to the Congress.

The saffron party gave an opportunity to Sanjeev Shah from Chowki constituency for the first time in the 1998 Madhya Pradesh assembly elections. He defeated Congress' Goverdhan Netam.

Shah won the seat for the second time in 2003 when the first assembly elections were held in Chhattisgarh, which was carved out of Madhya Pradesh in 2000.

After delimitation in 2008, Mohla-Manpur was created covering the maximum part of Chowki, while Ambagarh Chowki became part of the Khujji assembly segment.

In 2008, BJP denied a ticket to Shah and tried different candidates in 2008, 2013 and 2018 polls but none of them could taste success despite BJP winning state elections twice. The BJP has now turned towards its old faces on many seats and Mohla-Manpur is one among them. The Congress has fielded its sitting MLA Indrashah Mandavi from this seat.

Kaushal Janghel, a resident of Manpur town, said the Ambagarh Chowki royal family does not hold sway over the locals anymore but Sanjeev Shah may have an advantage due to his humble, polite and accessible nature.

The BJP has also fielded two members of the influential Judev royal family of Jashpur in the Surguja division (north Chhattisgarh) to which senior party leader late Dilip Singh Judev belonged.

Dilip Singh Judev's father Vijay Bhushan Judev, who was the king of Jashpur princely state, had also served as a Lok Sabha MP.

Dilip Singh Judev had served as the minister of state for environment and forests in the then Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government at the Centre.

His son Yudhveer Singh Judev had been a two-time legislator from Chandrapur seat which falls in the adjoining Bilaspur division. BJP has nominated the late Yudhveer's wife Sanyogita Singh for the second time from Chandrapur seat.

In the 2018 assembly elections, Sanyogita had unsuccessfully contested elections from this constituency. Congress has fielded its sitting MLA Ram Kumar Yadav from here.

Dilip Singh Judev's other son Prabal Pratap Singh Judev has been fielded from Kota seat in Bilaspur district.

Prabal is known for carrying forward his father's legacy of 'ghar-wapsi' (homecoming) programme against the alleged conversion of tribals in northern Chhattisgarh.

In a reel shared on his social

media handle recently, Prabal was termed Chhattisgarh ke Yogi' (referring to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath).

Kota seat is currently held by Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J) MLA Renu Jogi, the wife of former chief minister late Ajit Jogi. Chairman of Chhattisgarh Tourism Board Atal Shrivastav is the Congress nominee from Kota where a triangular contest is on cards.

Congress has renominated three sitting MLAs, including Deputy Chief Minister TS Singh Deo, who are members of erstwhile royal families.

Singh Deo, a three-term MLA, who belongs to the erstwhile royal family of Surguja, is seeking his fourth straight term from his traditional Ambikapur seat.

His family is said to have considerable influence in Surguja division, north Chhattisgarh which has 14 assembly segments.

Singh Deo was among the contenders from Congress for the chief ministerial post after his party was elected to power in 2018. BJP has fielded a fresh face, Rajesh Agrawal, against Singh Deo. Agrawal had joined the BJP after quitting Congress ahead of 2018 assembly polls.

Royal scions of Koriya is another family in the Surguja region which has been active in state politics.

Ramchandra Singhdeo from this family had served as the first finance minister of Chhattisgarh. After his demise in July 2018, his niece, Ambika Singh Deo, was fielded by Congress from Baikunthpur

seat. She defeated the then state minister and BJP's Bhaiyyalal Rajwade. Once again, the two are pitted against each other from Baikunthpur in this month's polls.

Devendra Bahadur Singh (63), who hails from the erstwhile Gond royal family of Phuljhar (now in Mahasamund district), is the Congress nominee from his incumbent seat Basna.

Singh, a four-term MLA, has served as minister of state in the Ajit Jogi-led Congress government in Chhattisgarh (2000-2003).

Talking to PTI, Devendra Bahadur said his family has been active in politics since independence with his father serving as an MLA and uncle as legislator and Rajya Sabha MP.

He said the royal family factor does not influence poll outcomes anymore now as people see how their representatives work for their development and the area.

BJP has fielded Sampat Agrawal from Basna seat.

AAP has fielded Khadgraj Singh, who hails from erstwhile Lohara princely state (Kabirdham district), from Kawardha seat.

He was earlier associated with BJP and Gondwana Gantantra Party.

Congress' sitting MLA and state minister Mohammad Akbar is the party nominee from Kawardha, while the BJP has fielded a new face, Vijay Sharma. Polling to the 90-member Chhattisgarh assembly will be held in two phases on November 7 and 17. Votes will be counted on December 3.

Four Raipur athletes selected for 37th National Games in Goa



● **Representing the State in Kalaripayattu**

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Nov 03: Raipur proudly sends four exceptional athletes to the 37th National Games in Goa. These athletes will be competing in the ancient martial art of Kalaripayattu, marking a significant milestone in the city's sports legacy.

The talented quartet from Raipur consists of Vinay Kumar Yadav, Aryan Patel, Hansa Sahu, and Divya Agrawal, who have been selected to represent the city on a national stage.

A special event held on November 2 at the Vivekananda Martial Arts Fitness Club in Raipur to honouring the

athletes. The event was organized under the vigilant guidance of the Raipur Kalaripayattu Association.

The occasion was graced by the presence of Chhattisgarh's pride, international athlete Rustam Sarang, who has received accolades from the state government. The event was presided over by Lakhan Kumar Sahu, President of the State Kalaripayattu Association. The gathering also saw the participation of esteemed guests, including social worker Aditya Mundra, Anis Memon, President of the Raipur Kalaripayattu Association, and Aman Yadav, Secretary of the Raipur Kalaripayattu Association, and Aman Yadav, Director of the Vivekananda Martial Arts Fitness Club.

Adding to the excitement, Subhash Lahare, the silver medalist in weightlifting at the 37th National Games in Goa, graced the occasion to boost the spirits of the athletes. Six players and two officials from Balod district's Kalaripayattu team were also honoured during the event. The Chhattisgarh Kalaripayattu team departed on November 3 aboard the Shalimar-Lokmanya Tilak Express, ready to showcase their talent and compete in the 37th National Games. The event was expertly conducted by Aman Yadav, Secretary of the Raipur Kalaripayattu Association, and Aman Yadav, Director of the Vivekananda Martial Arts Fitness Club.

Bid worth Rs 6.35 lakh profited from 51 firecracker shops

Sale of fireworks will start after November 7

Khairagarh, Nov 03:

The sale of Diwali fireworks will start after November 7 in the city's only Fateh Maidan and for the operation of firecracker shops, the municipality conducted auction of the shops. Traders doing business of fireworks bid aggressively in the auction process of their shops and the municipality has started making arrangements for the operation of the shops with the permission of the Collector and the District Election Officer. Strict arrangements will be made for the security of shops in Fateh Maidan and the municipality has started making arrangements to deal with fire and other emergency problems. The municipality will get Rs 6 lakh 35 thousand from the auction and every year, after the auction, the firecracker



traders do not deposit the full amount, due to which the municipality administration has to struggle every time, but this year the amount was deposited before the auction this year. The municipal administration has taken strict action regarding this loss-making tradition contrary to the rules and CMO Shri Shukla has said that traders who do not deposit the full amount of the auction will not be allowed to

operate their shops. Due to increase in the number of firecracker licensees after the formation of the district, this time the number of shops and the map of shops has also been changed according to the district, while different rates for front and back side shops have been decided in the auction bid. Among the shops being built at the west end, the first shop was sold for Rs 75 thousand 200, the second shop was sold for Rs 56

What Official says..

"After completion of the auction process of firecracker shops, the municipality has received an amount of more than Rs 6 lakh 35 thousand. Traders will have to deposit the full amount before operating the shop. Arrangements are being made in the remaining grounds as per rules." **Pramod Shukla, CMO Municipality Khairagarh**

thousand, the third shop was bought for Rs 23 thousand 300, and the fourth shop was bought for Rs 18 thousand 400. Similarly, among the shops being built on the south end, the first shop was purchased for Rs 60 thousand 800, the second shop for Rs 32 thousand 300, the third shop for Rs 30 thousand 800 and the fourth shop for Rs 24 thousand 300.

Tomato and onion price hike spoils budget

Kharora: Once again the price of tomato and onion has increased the daily expenses and has spoiled the daily budget of homemakers and salary takers alike. Within a span of 15-20 days the price of tomato has gone up from Rs 20 to Rs 55 and tomato from Rs 10 to Rs 40 per kg. Due to this, tomatoes, onion salad and vegetables and dishes made from them are disappearing from the food plate and the prices are having a huge impact on the pockets of the common consumer. The rising price of onion has left consumers in tears, as till about 15 days ago, onion was being sold at the rate of Rs 20 per kg, but now being sold at Rs 55-60 per kg. The general public is troubled by the rising price of onion and despite warnings to the government and administration, onion prices are not falling. In this regard local vegetable vendors say that due to less arrival of onion consignments coming from other states and empty cold storage, there is a boom in the onion market rate.

National Unity Day celebrated

Guarela Pendra Marwahi: National Unity Day on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was celebrated here in the region by Youth Branch Divine Group Diya on 31st October in Ward No. 03 Devi Chaura under Nagar Panchayat Pendra. On this auspicious occasion, a huge lamp donation program was organized and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was remembered on this occasion of National Unity Day. The program started with the lighting of the lamp by social worker Mathura Soni and Gayatri Mandir Trustee Marwahi Suman Yadav. After this, Vishwa Hindu Parishad President Harsh Chhabria, Bajrang Dal District President Sagar Patel, Matrushakti District Convenor Preeti Trivedi, Co-Convenor Meenu Pandey, Prakash reached the program as prominent guest. Patron Diya District Mandal Mathura Soni said that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel gave the formula of unity to all of us and by living



this formula of unity, we all should make our important contribution in the reconstruction of India and there is a need to work selflessly for the nation and for the society. On this occasion, Vishwa Hindu Parishad District President Harsh Chhabria, while wishing National Unity Day to all the workers of religious social organizations present in the program, said that there is a need for all

of us to donate time for religion and society and for the awakening of the nation. On this occasion, a special program was also organized in which collective recitation of Hanuman Chalisa was also done at the venue by Vishwa Hindu Parishad Bajrang Dal Pendra Guarela Marwahi. The National Unity Day program concluded with the pledge to rebuild the nation.

Eight candidates withdraw their nominations



Bilaspur, Nov 03:

According to the election schedule announced by the Election Commission for the Assembly elections, for withdrawal of nominations, 8 candidates have withdrawn their nominations. These include Vikas Kumar Chaturvedi and Manoj Thakur from Bilha Assembly Constituency,

Javed Khan, Netram Sahu and Ramesh Yadav from Kota Assembly Constituency, Lavkush Kumar Sahu and Jethu Sahu from Beltara Assembly Constituency, Shyam Murat Kaushik from Takhatpur Assembly Constituency. After the withdrawal of nominations, now a total of 108 candidates will contest elections from 6 assembly

constituencies of the district, which includes Bilaspur, Bilha, Masturi, Kota, Takhatpur and Beltara.

These include 21 candidates from Bilaspur Assembly Constituency, 23 from Bilha Assembly Constituency, 22 from Beltara Assembly Constituency, 15 from Kota Assembly Constituency, 14 from Takhatpur Assembly Constituency and 13 from Masturi Assembly Constituency.

Election symbols have also been allotted to the contesting candidates. Let it be known that voting will be held in the district on 17th November and counting of votes will take place on 3rd December.

Minister Dahria confident of victory



Arang, Nov 02: State's Urban Administration and Labor Minister and Congress candidate from Arang Assembly, Dr. Shivkumar Dahria has filed his nomination and is confident of his victory. He said that we will go to seek blessings from the public for the work that Congress has done in the entire state in the last 5 years. He further

said that in comparison to the last 15 years of BJP, we have done better work in these 5 years and during the two years of Corona period and this time too, Congress government will be formed in the state and our MLAs will win more than 75 seats. During the nomination, his wife Shakun Dahria, Congress District President Udhoraam Verma, Block

Congress Committee Arang President Komal Sahu, Municipality President Chandrashekar Chandrakar, Dwarika Sahu, Murari Yadav Khilesh Devgan Dinesh Thakur Om Prakash Yadav Ramdhani Verma Kesari Mohan Sahu Anita Than Sing Makhan Kure, Sanjay Chelak, Pintu Kure Shekhar Sahu Pintu Nirmalkar City President Bharti Dewangan, Shiv Sahu Lakshminarayan Sunil Bandhe Rekhram Patre Bhagwati Dhurandhar Joidha Sahu Ishwar Joglekar Dhanna Sahu Chandraprakash Sahu Saurabh Chandrakar Abdul Qadir, all the councilors, and a large number of Congress officials and workers were present.

Devvrat emerges as a strong independent candidate



Dongargaon, Nov 03: Devvrat Khobragade, who is contesting as an independent candidate from Khujji assembly constituency, sought votes and support for himself by doing an intensive campaigning in the region. In his campaign, he held the major political parties responsible for the public problems of the area and said that after becoming MLA, both the parties never paid any attention to the problems of the common people. He met the rural voters in

small shops, paan stalls, grocery shops, chaupals etc. in the villages and while introducing himself he sought cooperation and support from the people. During this, he said that he is a resident of rural area and understands the problems and problems of the people very closely and has entered the electoral fray only with the votes and support of the common people and is not going to back down due to any greed or temptation.

Municipality to impose fine on stray advertisements



Mahasamund, Nov 03:

Putting up advertisement boards in the city without permission will now be costly and the municipality has made arrangements to impose fine on this. There will be a fine for putting up ad-

vertising boards without permission and if any person, despite giving notice, does not remove the board without permission, then action will be taken to determine the rate per day per square meter and impose a fine. Chief Municipal Officer

Tomson Ratre has said that till now action was taken only on putting up advertisement boards in government buildings or on land, as advertisement boards are installed in the private buildings as well as government buildings and in return, the municipi-

pality does not get anything in the way of income. Chief Municipal Officer Tomson Ratre has instructed the Municipal Encroachment Department and the Revenue Department to prepare a proposal in this regard.

46 candidates ready to vie for three assembly seats in Bemetra

Maximum 18 candidates in Bemetra Assembly

Bemetara, Nov 02:

The stage is set for a vibrant display of democracy as Bemetra district prepares for the 2023 Assembly General Election. After meticulous scrutiny and withdrawal of nominations, a total of 46 candidates are all geared up to contest the election in the district's three assembly constituencies.

Today marked the deadline for the withdrawal of nomination papers, and four candidates took this opportunity to withdraw their nominations. Omprakash

Chaturvedi from Assembly Constituency No. 68 Saja, along with B u d h a r u r a m Gandharva, Anjor Das Dhritalhare, and Naindas Gaikwad from Assembly Constituency No. 70, decided to step back, leaving the remaining candidates with their sights firmly set on victory.

Among these 46 candidates, 14 will compete in Assembly Constituency Number 68 Saja, 18 in Assembly Constituency Number 69 Bemetra, and another 14 in Assembly Constituency Number 70 Navagarh.

The Returning Officer for each constituency has also allocated symbols to the candidates, adding a touch of uniqueness to the electoral process.

In Assembly Constituency 68 Saja, candidates from National and State political parties have received symbols such as the lotus, the farmer plowing the square, a hand, and a broom, among others. Similarly, in Assembly Constituency No. 69 Bemetra, candidates have been allocated symbols like a plow farmer, a saw, a bicycle, and a gas cylinder. Assembly

Constituency No. 70 Navagarh candidates have symbols including an elephant, a lotus, a hand, and a farmer plowing the square.

The people of Bemetra district are eagerly awaiting the second phase of the assembly elections scheduled for November 17. With an array of candidates and diverse symbols, the district's democratic spirit is alive and well. The final verdict will be revealed on December 3, as the counting of votes takes place, determining the future leadership of the region.

Municipality to take action against shops on roadside



Officials asking to remove shops from roadside.

Mahasamund, Nov 03: The Municipality of the region has decided to take action against shops being set on road sides and outside various business establishments located in the city, as these are causing traffic congestion and frequent accidents. On the instructions of Collector Prabhat Malik, Chief Municipal Officer Tomson Ratre held a meeting of the Encroachment Department of the Municipality and gave instructions to take action by running a campaign on

this. It should be noted that the Municipality has been giving regular advice to those doing business on the main road, but seeing that it has no effect on those doing roadside business, the Chief Municipal Officer has directed the encroachment squad to take action. Chief Municipal Officer Tomson Ratre has told those doing roadside business that they should remove their business from the roadside and the business will be regulated by the Municipality.

Mega voter awareness rally organized under SVEEP program

Jagdalpur, Nov 02:

In a remarkable initiative under the SVEEP program, the district administration of Jagdalpur organized a mega voter awareness rally, setting the stage for an ambitious goal of achieving 100% voter turnout. Collector and District Election Officer Vijay Dayaram K led the rally, emphasizing the importance of active voter participation in realizing this objective.

The mega rally, which commenced from various squares across the city, witnessed the enthusiastic participation of a diverse cross-section of the community. From seasoned voters and women



voters to the third gender, disabled individuals, athletes, and students from various educational institutions, thousands of citizens joined hands in this impressive display of civic engagement.

Prominent figures including Senior Superintendent of Police

Jitendra Meena, Director Kanger Masheel Ganveer, and Deputy District Election Officer Hitesh Baghel, among others, graced different segments of the rally. Additional Collector CP Baghel, District Panchayat CEO Prakash Survey, and



Municipal Corporation Commissioner Haresh Mandavi led their respective contingents, adding to the rally's grandeur. The culmination of this vibrant procession occurred at Chandni Chowk, where participants took a solemn oath to exercise their right to

vote on November 7th. A captivating cultural program, presented by Christ College and Badal Academy, highlighted the significance of voting through artistic expression. Balloons were released into the sky as a symbol of the rising enthusiasm for voter aware-

ness. Padmashree Dharampal Saini, along with assembly observers Subrata Gupta, RH Thackeray, and Sudesh Kumar Mokhta, and police observer Klay Khongsai, lent their support to the cause, making this rally a resounding success.

Pak, IMF commence negotiations for release of \$710 mn second tranche of \$3 bn loan

Islamabad, Nov 03 (PTI):

Cash-strapped Pakistan and the IMF have kicked off the much-awaited loan review talks for the release of the USD 710 million second tranche of a USD 3 billion bailout package on a generally positive note.

Caretaker Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar and the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) mission chief for Pakistan, Nathan Porter, led their sides to the opening round of two-week-long negotiations to discuss the next tranche based on Pakistan's performance in the first quarter that started in July.

Porter "appreciated the government's commitment" to meeting the first-quarter targets, the

Ministry of Finance said in a statement after the meeting, which has set the stage for a deep dive into forward-looking reforms under a nine-month bailout package, slated to be completed in March next year.

He also "commended the government's efforts and measures taken in some critical areas" and underscored the importance of continuing these efforts to stay on track for ensuring the country's economic stability, the ministry said.

According to The Express Tribune newspaper, Porter inquired the Pakistani authorities about the next general elections and the functioning of the Special Investment Facilitation

Council — the two most crucial issues that affected the country's political and economic landscapes.

Hours after the IMF-Pakistan opening session on Thursday, it was announced that Pakistan's general elections will be held on February 8, ending uncertainty over the much-awaited polls in the cash-strapped country.

The announcement came after the election commission officials met President Arif Alvi at the directives of the Supreme Court.

The clarity on the election date will strengthen the hands of the Ministry of Finance during the negotiations, although the IMF has not explicitly attached any such condition.

The meeting was attended by IMF's resident representative in Islamabad, Esther Perez Ruiz, State Bank Governor Jameel Ahmed, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Amjed Zubair Tiwana, Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan Chairman Akif Saeed, Finance Secretary Imdadullah Bosal, senior finance ministry officials and several IMF delegates.

Akhtar reported Pakistan's official position on the progress made so far on the USD 3 billion short-term loan agreement called the Standby Arrangement (SBA) and explained the fiscal measures being taken to improve the economic situation, according to the Dawn newspaper.

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY



Union Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi visits the National Museum of Fine Arts and Antiques of Paraguay, in Asuncion.

UK PM Rishi Sunak, Elon Musk discuss AI job threats, robotic 'friends'



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, left, attends an in-conversation event with Tesla and SpaceX's CEO Elon Musk in London. Sunak discussed AI with Elon Musk in a conversation that is played on the social network X, which Musk owns.

London, Nov 03 (PTI):

In a much-hyped conversation between Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Tesla CEO Elon Musk at the conclusion of the AI Safety Summit hosted by the UK government, the duo discussed a range of issues from job threats posed by artificial intelligence to how AI-enabled robots could make good "friends" in the future.

In a recording of his discussion at Lancaster House in London on Thursday evening shared on Musk-owned X, Sunak is seen playing chat show host as he throws questions at the tech billionaire about the risks associ-

ated with the fast-developing and "transformative" new technology.

Musk, the world's richest man, described AI as "a magic genie" that could grant limitless wishes and agreed with the need for a "referee" to monitor the development of supercomputers of the future.

"We are seeing the most destructive force in history here. There will come a point where no job is needed you can have a job if you want one for personal satisfaction, but AI will do everything," said Musk in response to a question about AI rendering certain jobs obsolete.

"It's both good and bad one of the challenges in

the future will be how do we find meaning in life," he said, on a philosophical note.

On balance, however, the founder of xAI said he believed that artificial intelligence would "be a force for good" and used a reference to his son, who struggled to make friends in the real world who would benefit from such smart tech with robotic "friends".

"A humanoid robot can basically chase you anywhere; it's something we should be quite concerned about. If a robot can follow you anywhere, what if they get a software update one day, and they're not so friendly any more," he pondered, highlighting the importance of humans being able to override AI with "some kind of off switch". Sunak agreed and referenced sci-fi films about robots that end with the machines being switched off. "We've learnt over the years that having a referee is a good thing," said Musk, with reference to announcements at the AI Safety Summit about new safety institutes that would test future AI models before they are released into the public domain.

Biden will host Americas summit

● That focuses on supply chains, migration and new investment

Washington, Nov 03 (AP):

President Joe Biden is gathering leaders from countries across the Americas on Friday in the US capital to discuss the tightening of supply chains and addressing migration issues.

In a preview of the first Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity Summit, White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters Thursday that the two-day event would be a "once in a generation opportunity" to shift more of the global supply chains to the Western Hemisphere.

Kirby said the summit would also involve the "shared migration challenge" and the building of "meaningful economic opportunity" among the countries in the region.

Friday's event was announced last year at the Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles. The focus on trade comes as competition has intensified between the United States and China,

the world's two largest economies. Biden has provided government incentives to build US infrastructure and for companies to construct new factories. But after the pandemic disrupted manufacturing and global shipping, there has also been an effort to diversify trade and reduce dependence on Chinese manufacturing. In 2022, the US exported USD 1.2 trillion worth of goods and services to other countries in the Western Hemisphere, according to the US Trade Representative. It also imported USD 1.2 trillion in goods and services from those countries. But the majority of that trade was with Canada and Mexico.

By contrast, the US imported USD 562.9 billion worth of goods and services from China last year.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen outlined the Biden administration's goals in a Thursday speech at the Inter-American Development Bank. The US wants to diversify supply chains with "trusted partners and allies," a strategy that she said had "tremendous potential benefits for fuelling growth in Latin America and the Caribbean."

Pressure rises on Israel to pause fighting

Deir-Al-Balah, Gaza Strip, Nov 03 (AP): Israeli troops battling Hamas militants encircled Gaza City on Thursday, the military said, as the Palestinian death toll rose above 9,000 US and Arab leaders raised pressure on Israel to ease its siege of Gaza and at least briefly halt its attacks in order to aid civilians.

Nearly four weeks after Hamas' deadly rampage in Israel sparked the war, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was heading to the region for talks Friday in Israel and Jordan following President Joe Biden's suggestion for a humanitarian "pause" in the fighting. The aim would be to let in aid for Palestinians and let out more foreign nationals and wounded. Around 800 people left over the past two days.

Israel did not immediately respond to Biden's suggestion. But Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has previously ruled out a ceasefire, said Thursday: "We are advancing. Nothing will stop us." He vowed to destroy Hamas rule in the Gaza Strip.

An airstrike Thursday smashed a residential building to rubble in the Bureij refugee camp several miles south of Gaza



In this undated photo provided by the Israeli military, Israeli troops are seen during a ground operation in the Gaza Strip. Israeli ground forces have been operating in Gaza in recent days as Israel presses ahead with its war against Hamas militants.

City. One boy, his face covered in blood, cried as workers dug him out of the dirt and wreckage. Others rushed wounded men and women, covered in dust, away on stretchers or wrapped in blankets. At a nearby hospital, doctors tried to stanch the flow of blood from the head of a child laid out on the floor.

At least 15 people were killed, Gaza's Civil Defense spokesperson said, and residents said dozens more were believed buried. The strike took place in the southern zone where Israel has told residents of the north to flee.

Blinken's visit will unfold as Arab countries, including those allied with the US and at peace with Israel, have expressed

mounting unease with the war. Jordan recalled its ambassador from Israel and told Israel's envoy to remain out of the country until there's a halt to the war and the "humanitarian catastrophe" it is causing. A flurry of heavy explosions raised clouds of smoke over Gaza City on Thursday. Al Jazeera television, which continues to broadcast from the city, said Israeli airstrikes were hitting an area of apartment towers in the Tel al-Hawa neighbourhood.

The barrage hit around 100 metres (yards) from Al-Quds Hospital, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society said in post on X. It said there were deaths and injuries but gave no more details.

China and ASEAN nations accelerate South China sea pact

Manila, Nov 03 (AP):

Chinese and Southeast Asian diplomats renewed a vow to finalise a nonaggression pact for the South China Sea in three years, two regional diplomats said Thursday. The pledge came during a meeting last week in Beijing, where they expressed alarm over recent confrontations in the disputed waters.

The Philippines has protested what it says are increasingly dangerous and provocative maneuvers by China's coast guard and navy ships in recent months. On Oct. 22, two Chinese ships blocked and separately collided with two Philippine vessels near the disputed Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea.

Following the collisions, the United States renewed a warning that it's obligated to defend the Philippines, a longtime treaty ally, if Filipino forces come under an armed attack anywhere in the contested waters. The Philippine government summoned a Chinese diplomat in Manila for a strongly worded protest.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations diplomats separately expressed their concerns

over the recent confrontations in the three days of talks hosted by Beijing.

China and the Philippines provided contrasting versions of the high seas encounters in a "tense exchange" and separately showed videos of the standoffs, the two diplomats told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the issue.

The Beijing talks were the latest round of negotiations by China and ASEAN to forge a "code of conduct" to prevent a larger armed conflict in the South China Sea that could pit China against the United States.

A July meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers with their Chinese counterpart in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta said the talks, which have dragged on for years and faced delays, could be concluded in three years' time, the two diplomats said.

China and four of ASEAN's member states - Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam - along with self-ruled Taiwan have been locked in a decades-long territorial standoff in the disputed waterway, a key passageway

for global trade that is believed to be sitting atop

vast undersea deposits of oil and gas.

कोकन बँक Canara Bank

E-Auction Sale Notice For Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rules 8(i) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

E-Auction Date: 05.12.2023

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the secured creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the authorised officer the Canara Bank (secured creditor) will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" & "WHAT EVER THERE IS" on 05.12.2023 from 12.30 Noon to 2.30 pm for recovery of bank dues to the Canara Bank (secured creditor).

Name and address of the Borrower & Guarantors	Description of Properties & Name of Property Owner	Demand Notice Dt.	Reserve Price	Branch Name
		Possession Dt. / Out Standing Amt.	EMD Amt. / Bid Increment Amt.	Account No. & IFSC Code
M/s Hardik Enterprises, Flat No. 101, Block-B, Empressia Apartment Near Rajendra Nagar, Raipur, C.G.	1. Plot no. 93, Kh. No. 550/3 (part), PH No 109/39, Saddu Kushabhau Ward no. 26, RIC- Raipur-1, Tehsil & Dist.- Raipur, C.G to the extent of area 1650sq ft. Boundaries of the Property- East- Plot No. 80, West-Road, North-Plot No. 92, South-Plot no. 94.	21.08.2023	₹ 16,83,000/-	Mr. Ritesh Kumar Kawale (Mo. 9326911967)
Partner-1. Mr. Suresh Nihichalani S/o Mr. Idandas Nihichalani, Nihichalani bhawan ward no 10, Opposite Basant Rice Mill, Tilda, Raipur, C.G. 2. Mr. Vijay Kumar Nihichalani S/o Mr. Idandas Nihichalani, Flat No103, Block-A, Empressia Apartment, New Rajendra Nagar, Raipur, C.G.,	2. Land Kh No. 405/3, after mutation Kh. No changed to 405/5, Ph No 109/39/41 situated at Daldai seoni (4407238), Kushabhau Thakre Ward No. 26, R.I.C. Raipur, Tehsil and district Raipur (CG) to the extent of area 9150 sqft. Boundaries of the property- East- Land of Smt. Lata Burad & Smt Namrata Jain, North- Land of Anil Dubey Kh No. 405/1, South- Sellers Balance Land Kh. No. 405/3.	23.10.2023	₹ 1,68,300/-	GE Road, Raipur Branch A/c No. 209272434 IFSC CODE: CNRB0005146 Email: cb2555@canarabank.com
1. Ms. Nikhil Mobile Shop & Equipment, Prop. Mr. Pyare Lal Kapse S/o. Radhelal Kapse, Main Road, Mamta Nagar, Rajnandgaon-491441.	Khasra No. 312/22/1ख (including 313/11, 314/12, 315/20, 316/11), Gram- Motlipur, R.N.M.- Motlipur, P.H. No. -34, Tah. & Dist.- Rajnandgaon (C.G.) Area- 0.006 Hect. Boundaries: North: Road, South: House of Tandiyia, East: Road, West: Land of Gopal.	26.07.2023	₹ 45,00,000/-	Mr. Shiv Shakti Sanker (Mo. 9425502146) Rajnandgaon-1 Branch A/c No. 209272434 IFSC CODE: CNRB0005146 Email: cb5146@canarabank.com
2. Mr. Pyare Lal Kapse S/o. Radhelal Kapse, H.No. 18, Panchsil Nagar Colony, Mamta Nagar, Ward No. 17, Rajnandgaon-491441.	2. Flat No. 602, 6th Floor, I Block, Green Glory, Part of Talab, Raipur CG- 492001 (Co-Borrower)	06.10.2023	₹ 4,50,000/-	Mr. Umesh Kumar Gupta (Mo. 7904062571) Raipur-II Branch A/c No. 209272434 IFSC CODE: CNRB0017855 Email: cb7855@canarabank.com
Mr. Rahul Dodeja S/o Anoop Kumar Dodeja, MIG-5 Shankar Niwas NPHB Colony Katora Talab, Raipur CG 492001 (Borrower) and Mrs. Kajal Dodeja S/o Anoop Dodeja, MIG-5 Shankar Niwas NPHB, Colony Katora Talab, Raipur CG- 492001 (Co-Borrower)	1. Flat no. 906, 9th floor, Rajat Centrum, Part of Khasara 637/01, P. H. No. 105/47, Village- Bhatagaon, Main Road, R.I.C. - Raipur-1, Shyam Prasad Mukherjee Ward no. 63 Tah/Dist Raipur CG. Super Built up Area- 1666 Sqft. Boundaries of the property- East- Open Area, West- Duct & Flat No. 907, North- Flat No. 905, South- Open Area.	30.08.2023	₹ 40,31,000/-	
	2. Flat No. 602, 6th Floor, I Block, Green Glory, Part of Talab, Raipur CG- 492001 (Co-Borrower)	01.11.2023	₹ 4,03,100/-	
	1218/32, P.H. No. 63, situated Shankar Nagar, Mahharshi Valmiki Ward No. 28, R.I.C. -Raipur-1, Tah and Dist Raipur, CG. Boundaries of the Property- East- Colony Road, West- Colony Road, North- Flat I, 601, South- Open Space.	₹ 1,32,02,381.67 as on 30.08.2023 + future interest + costs, expenses etc.	₹ 23,36,000/-	
		₹ 10,000/-	₹ 2,33,600/-	

Terms and Conditions: A. Auction / bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website www.indianbankseaction.com. Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings. B. The property can be inspected, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer Date on 04.12.2023 at 10.30am. C. EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited by way of Demand draft in favour of Authorized Officer of above mentioned branches respectively OR shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer to credit of account of of above mentioned branches respectively on or before 04.12.2023, 5:00 pm. D. The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid), immediately on declaring him/her as the successful bidder and the balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. If the successful bidder fails to pay the sale price within the period stated above, the deposit made by him shall be forfeited by the Authorised Officer without any notice and property shall forthwith be put up for sale again. E. For further details contact Branch Manager of respective branches OR Authorised Officer OR the service provider M/s Canbank Computer Service Ltd., Help Line E-mail ID :- eaction@ccsl.co.in or www.canarabank.com.

Date: 03.11.2023, Place: Raipur (C.G.) Authorized Officer, Canara Bank

कोकन बँक UCO BANK

Zonal Office, Chhattisgarh Eye Hospital Campus, 1st Floor, Telibandha, Raipur (C.G.) 492006

Notice- II/2023-24 Invitation of bids for For Hiring Cash Van Services in the Bank

Sealed Bids are invited from reputed private security agencies for hiring of cash vans with armed guards for cash remittance among branches of UCO Bank under Zonal Office, Raipur. Tender documents & detailed information is available on bank's website www.ucobank.com. Bids will have to be submitted to UCO Bank Zonal office, Chhattisgarh Eye Hospital Campus, First Floor, Telibandha, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, PIN- 492006 on or before 28.11.2023 by hand/ through Post. For more information, please contact on 9494612722.

Zonal Manager

एनएमडीसी NMDC Limited

(A Government of India Enterprise)

Bailadila Iron Ore Mine (BIOM), Kirandul Complex, CG - 494 556 Corporate Identity Number (CIN) - L13100TG1958GO1001674

NMDC WORKS KIRANDUL e-tender notification

Tender Enquiry No: Works-Kirandul/SP-III/Sand Supply/2023/124/02, Date: 04.11.2023 MSTC Ref. No.: NMDC /KDL/19523-24/ET/1552 Estimated cost including GST is Rs 739.20 Lakhs

NMDC Limited, A "NAVARATNA" Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites online bids from prospective bidders for the work of "Supply of River Sand at SP-III Project, Kirandul".

The detailed NIT and Bid documents can be viewed and / or downloaded from 04.11.2023 to 18.11.2023/15:00hrs from following website links;

- NMDC website - https://www.nmdc.co.in/nmcdctender/default.aspx
- Central Public Procurement Portal - https://www.eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app and search tender through tender enquiry number
- MSTC portal - https://www.mstccommerce.com/eprochome/nmdbcuyer_login.jsp For further help refer to 'vendor guide' given in MSTC website.

The bidders are requested to submit their bids online through MSTC Limited website. The details of submission of bid through online are given in NIT. The Bidders on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC's website / CPP Portal / MSTC website for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.

For further clarification, the following can be contacted -
CPM-III, NMDC Works Kirandul, NMDC Limited, behind BIOP School, BIOM Kirandul Complex, Kirandul, PIN-494 556, email: gnaresh@nmdc.co.in

For and on behalf of NMDC Ltd. HOP, NMDC WORKS KIRANDUL

हर एक काम देश के नाम इयाती इरादा



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Burning Questions

Air Pollution Crisis Demands Immediate Action

The call by the Supreme Court of India, summoning affidavits from the governments of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, and Rajasthan, is a stark reminder of the suffocating issue that continues to plague our national capital – air pollution. Despite the commendable efforts of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), a statutory body established in 2021 with the noble aim of ensuring breathable air in Delhi-NCR during the crucial months of October and November, the ominous gray shroud of pollution still hangs heavy over the city. The air quality crisis in Delhi is a multifaceted conundrum, rooted in various contributing factors, but it is not an isolated predicament. As we raise our voices against Delhi's toxic air, we must also turn our gaze to the heartland of agriculture, Punjab, where an alarming deterioration in air quality is taking place, owing to the prevalent farm fires during the paddy harvesting season. Punjab, known as the "Granary of India," stands as one of the major paddy-growing states and currently holds the unenviable record of the highest number of farm fires this season, closely followed by poll-bound Madhya Pradesh. With the looming Lok Sabha elections a mere six months away, the state governments are caught in a web of political calculations. They are reluctant to incur the ire of the farming community by imposing penalties for stubble burning, all while environmental and health concerns are relegated to the background. Regrettably, electoral considerations are taking precedence over the well-being of the environment and the health of the citizens. Efforts to incentivize farmers to discontinue stubble burning have been feeble at best, leaving our citizens at the mercy of polluted air and its dire consequences. The CAQM's assertion that the number of stubble burning incidents in Punjab and Haryana has decreased by approximately 56 percent and 40 percent, respectively, during a 45-day period from September 15 to October 29, compared to the previous year, offers little comfort. These statistics fail to provide solace when lakhs of people, including our hardworking farmers, are continually exposed to the hazards of polluted air. The gravity of the situation cannot be understated. The International Agency for Research on Cancer, a specialized agency of the World Health Organization (WHO), has categorically identified air pollution as carcinogenic to humans. It has emerged as a leading environmental cause of cancer deaths. In Punjab's Malwa region, the burden of cancer cases is already unacceptably high. To rely on favorable weather conditions as a temporary respite from the choking air is tantamount to a dereliction of duty. We must confront this issue head-on, treating it as the crisis it undoubtedly is. The time for action is now, and it requires concerted efforts from all stakeholders. The government, the farming community, civil society, and the citizens must come together as one to tackle this menace. Pointing fingers and assigning blame will not clear the air. What is needed is a united front, a collaborative approach that transcends political considerations. First and foremost, it is imperative that our governments recognize the urgency of the situation. Environmental degradation and the health of the people should never be sacrificed at the altar of political expediency. Instead of shying away from imposing penalties on stubble burning, governments must take a firm stance and provide support to farmers for adopting eco-friendly alternatives. Investing in technology and machinery that can effectively manage crop residue is a long-term solution that will benefit both the environment and the agricultural sector. Furthermore, public awareness campaigns should be intensified to educate citizens about the detrimental effects of air pollution on health and well-being. The issue of air quality must become a collective concern, with every individual making conscious choices to reduce their carbon footprint. In addition, industrial emissions and vehicular pollution, two other significant contributors to air pollution, should not be overlooked. Stringent regulations, stringent enforcement, and incentives for cleaner technologies should be part of the solution. Lastly, we must look beyond short-term fixes and embrace sustainable practices in agriculture, energy, and transportation. Investments in renewable energy sources, electric mobility, and green infrastructure are critical steps towards a cleaner and healthier future.

Economic Concerns

Amidst Declining Savings

The report published by the Reserve Bank of India rings alarm bells for the nation's economy. It reveals a troubling trend – a significant decline in domestic savings. According to the report, net domestic financial savings are projected to stand at a mere 5.1 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) for the fiscal year 2022-23, marking the lowest level in several decades, down from 7.2 percent in the previous year. This decline in financial savings raises several concerns and demands a closer examination of the underlying factors. One plausible explanation for this downturn could be that the income of households, particularly those hit hardest during the pandemic, has not fully rebounded. In such a scenario, the apparent economic recovery may primarily be attributed to the robust profits of corporations, which have been on an upward trajectory for several quarters. Another contributing factor may be the relentless rise in inflation, which has eroded the ability of families to save. The Retail Price Index-based inflation rate has remained persistently high since the onset of the pandemic. Notably, the Reserve Bank has fallen short of its inflation target for 2022, and the current inflation rate once again surpasses the range set by the Central Bank. In tandem with declining savings, the financial liabilities of households have also surged, reaching 5.8 percent of GDP in 2022-23, a significant leap from the 3.8 percent reported in the previous fiscal year. This increase in financial liabilities suggests that people may have resorted to borrowing to meet their consumption needs, given that their incomes were inadequate. Alternatively, some may have chosen to borrow to invest in immovable assets such as real estate properties. Furthermore, the statistics on loan uptake point to an accelerated pace of borrowing by individuals. The data paints a picture of an economy in which people are borrowing more to sustain their consumption patterns and, to some extent, to fuel investments. The rise in domestic debt, from 36.9 percent of GDP in 2021-22 to 37.6 percent in 2022-23, reflects this growing trend. If indeed, consumption demand is being propped up by debt, it raises concerns about the financial health of households. This trend of increased borrowing for consumption can have dire consequences for the broader economy, particularly when it comes to economic growth. A fundamental aspect of economic growth hinges on robust consumption, private investment, and exports. While private investment is expected to play a crucial role in driving growth, weak private consumption could act as a deterrent. Without a sustained increase in private consumption, corporations may hesitate to expand their capacity. Additionally, given the anticipated sluggishness in global demand, businesses may exhibit reluctance towards significant new investments. In such a scenario, where both private consumption and investment face headwinds from a macroeconomic perspective, the onus falls on the government to bridge the gap. The government has been pursuing this path by ramping up capital expenditure. However, given the mounting fiscal constraints, this may not be a sustainable solution in the long run. The decline in household financial savings also has implications for interest rates and overall investment. Notably, government borrowing exceeds the supply of financial savings from the household sector. If the corporate sector starts borrowing more for investment, it could put further upward pressure on interest rates. A scenario where investment increases while domestic savings remain low might necessitate India to seek external capital, potentially introducing a host of challenges. It is evident that the aftershocks of the pandemic continue to reverberate through our economy. While the recovery has been erratic and is expected to take time to stabilize, policymakers face a daunting challenge. This challenge looms large at a time when global economic growth is anticipated to remain sluggish, and fiscal constraints could tighten. The paramount question that confronts us is how to rekindle economic growth. However, one thing is clear – every conceivable effort must be exerted to rejuvenate domestic savings. Without a significant boost in savings, we risk being tethered to the shocks of the pandemic and the uncertainty that accompanies them. In the face of these challenges, it is imperative that we collectively prioritize and strategize for a more financially secure and prosperous future.

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

HAZY WEATHER CONDITIONS

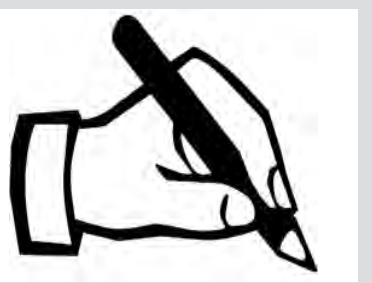


Vehicles on the Delhi-Gurugram Expressway amid hazy weather conditions, in Gurugram, Friday, Nov. 3.

Root of killing of migrants in Kashmir



ER. PRABHAT KISHORE



Migrant workers are those, who work away from their home, especially in other states or even abroad and earn for their livelihoods. They include not only the labourers engaged in various sectors, but also the bureaucrats & many other officials. Although these officials do not suffer as much pain as the labourers, who have to work without counting the hours. The term "Migrant worker" is not new in the global history and also in the multi-lingual lexicons. Old people recall, the "Kabuliwalas" from Kabul, residents of areas located thousands of mile away from India. They used to travel through the village streets to sell their dry-fruits and were much popular among the youngsters. These migrant people garnered love & affection according to the Indian culture & tradition of "AtithiDevoBhavah". Interestingly enough since ages, this perennial process of migration has been continuing at various levels across India. People often migrate from one place to another in search of livelihood; and, this is a positive sign for fostering integrity among diversity of cultures across our lovely India. The progress & prosperity of some States is a testimony to the diversified contributions of such migrant people. When the migrant workers returned to their native destinations during the pandemic Covid-19, this cycle of progress got stalled in many states and the organizers

eventually had to request their workers to return to the places of work. Similarly, the people of Bihar, irrespective of their castes, religions, faiths, cultures, languages, food habits among various other factors, have spread to different corners of the country and have intermingled with local people in the respective regions. Of course conversely, Bihar is also welcoming the migrant people from various other states. During the winter season, Kashmiri people often travel to sell their shawls & sweaters. The Lhasa markets of Tibetan refugees are famous places for woolen clothing in many towns. Once, Chinese dentists had a monopoly in the field of dental treatment across the Indian towns. Not only migrant workers or vendors, but Bihar has established several powerful politicians through its constituencies, notably George Fernandez, MadhuLimaye, M.J. Akbar, Syed Shahabuddin, I.K. Gujral, Sharad Yadav & others. Numerous bureaucrats & officials have also served in various states for their entire service tenure, but the masses of those respective States have never treat them as migrants. On the other hand, Bihar workers are often the soft targets whenever and wherever there is disturbance for local causes in any corner of the country. In this endless series, now the migrant labourers & street vendors, who are the poorest of the poor, are being

massacred in Kashmir without any fault. Old parents, life-partner wife and even young children were eagerly waiting for their kin to return home with new cloths for the Dipawali & the Chhath Puja; but the separatist forces dashed their dreams in the blink of an eye; and the hapless family found the dead bodies of their kin wrapped in shrouds. After the abrogation of article 370, it was ardently hoped that the Central Government will crush the separatist forces. But the recent events indicate that the roots of these foreign elements are deeper in the region. The intelligence system has completely failed. Although some foreign militants have been gunned down; their whereabouts are yet to be traced out and razed. More responsible for the latest killings of the Hindus & the Sikhs are the pro-Pakistan unemployed politicians, who are frequently praising Pakistan & China while provoking the militants. Such gun-men are just the branches & leaves of the "Anti-Indian" trees; the roots are those politicians, who ruled this beautiful State for their own petty reasons and never ever did anything for the State & the common masses. They were, of course, involved in brain-washing the public. The deceased migrant workers were not foreigners; but were breathing at their roots. All of them belonged to the "Maharishi Kashyapgotra", whose name Kashmir owns. They were engaged in the developmental works of roads, bridges, tunnels, telephone towers and other infrastructures of the Himalayan state; and in lieu of their variegated services at the ground level, they were supposed to be paid wages for the livelihood of their families. Any kind of development in the region is nothing short of a thorn for the masters of stone-pelters,

communalists and anti-peace forces. The Most ironic aspect is the continued appeasement politics of the political parties. For instance, there have been a series of political tourism of leaders during the aftermath of the brutal incident at LakhimpurKhiri. But no one has a word of condolences to the family of the unfortunate victims of the barbaric merchants of death of these innocent migrants. Is this not simply because they donot belong to a particular community and have not been gunned down by Hindu miscreants? Such selective attitude of the parties is supplying oxygen to the communal agenda of the militants. Those who believe and talk about the so-called "Two-nation Theory", have already parted ways with their share. Now not only the Biharis, but also each & every son of the soil has Constitutional as well as the very vital Spiritual Right to live, learn, work and earn in any part of the Bharat Mata and that too with respect & dignity. Though, the migrants in Kashmir have shifted for a moment, yet they will definitely return to work at the same spot very soon. If the Central Government wants the development of the natives across Jammu & Kashmir; then along with the gunning down of the terrorists & local criminals, the white-dressed provoking persons have to be penalized for their anti-national, anti-social and anti-people activities. In the name of democracy, pro-Pakistan leaders can not be left free to spread their poisonous messages, resulting in the massacre of the innocent sons of the soil. (The author is a technocrat & educationist. The views expressed above are the author's own. They do not necessarily reflect the views of Central Chronicle.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tragic Accident

The tragic demise of 30-year-old filmmaker Piyush Pal in Delhi has brought to light a heart-wrenching incident. Piyush lost his life in a road accident while onlookers shamefully recorded videos and took selfies instead of offering help. He lay injured for half an hour until a compassionate passerby named Pankaj Jain, along with a few others, finally stopped to assist. During this time, opportunistic thieves stole Piyush's laptop and mobile phone, further exacerbating the ordeal. The incident reflects a disturbing lack of empathy and self-centeredness among the city's residents. It's a stark reminder that our society often prioritizes social media gestures over genuine human compassion. We must reflect on whether we have become a society that only cares when tragedy strikes close to home. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Piyush's grieving parents.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

SC's deadline for Maharashtra Speaker

The Supreme Court has taken a significant step by setting a firm deadline for Maharashtra's speaker to render his decision by December 31 regarding the fate of 16 MLAs and the applicability of the anti-defection law. This assertive move by the judiciary underscores the importance of upholding the speaker's constitutional responsibilities. This isn't an isolated case, as similar issues have arisen in other state assemblies, leading to criticism of presiding officers. Despite repeated reminders, some speakers tend to prioritize political loyalties over their constitutional duty, causing delays in crucial decisions. It's essential for a common understanding to prevail on this vital issue, ensuring prompt and unbiased resolutions.

Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

Onion prices surge

Onion prices are surging nationwide, burdening common citizens with rising living costs. This isn't the first time onions have witnessed such steep price hikes. Experts attribute the recent increase to inadequate storage and limited availability of fresh harvests. Urgent government action against hoarders is necessary. Ironically, farmers often sell their produce at lower rates during times of surplus yield, while market prices skyrocket. The situation frustrates the common man, exemplified by Ibne Ali from Sitamarhi, as they grapple with the financial strain caused by these fluctuating onion prices.

Ibne Ali, Sitamarhi

NURTURE EMPATHY IN HEARTS

Kajal Chatterjee

With Australia winning the Ashes following the final Test in Hobart in January 2022, the cricketers were posing with the Ashes 'urn' in front of the camera amidst a champagne shower. As captain Pat Cummins noticed the absence of Usman Khawaja in the frame as the latter harbored reservations about alcohol due to religious sentiments, the former instructed others to put the bottle away and invited him to join the whole team in the celebrations!

And now the frame has no trace of champagne bottles, rather Khawaja is being seen to be embraced right in the middle of the front row just beside the captain with all heartily laughing and sharing the joy unitedly! Can there be any better picture of divinity, humanity and brotherhood in these communally-vitiated times where feelings

of hatred with dominant mindset have been turned into a synonym of "masculinity" and "nationalism". This heartrending gesture on the part of the Aussies reminds us of Ajaz Patel who has praised the ambience of New Zealand cricket team and of the country as a whole and described how his religious sentiments are taken special consideration in the dressing room and the larger Kiwi society where his right of offering Namaz is wholeheartedly respected by all. Perhaps it would also not be out of context if the comment of Eoin Morgan gets recalled. Following the 2019 historic World Cup win at Lords by edging out New Zealand in a nail-biting encounter, the English captain remarked "We had Allah with us as well" which was also a gesture of indebtedness to the contribution of Moeen Ali and Adil Rashid to the victory as well with a clear mes-

sage that heterogeneity forms part and parcel of British way of life. What a spectacle of rising above petty barriers of ethnicity, race, religion, color and country/continent of origin! The noble gestures of Aussies/Kiwis/English towards these Muslim cricketers of "alien" origin transmit a strong message that the society can turn happy through sincere nurturing of heterogeneity where irrespective of numerical strength, people of all demographic backgrounds can enjoy equality in all respects right from honour dignity work opportunity to pursuance of respective culture with head held high. Bhutan has also gifted the world an unique formula of attaining happiness. Perhaps no country in the history of the world has seen that an unchallenged monarch is voluntarily sacrificing his power and authority so that his sub-

jects are provided the taste of democracy and equality. Next, when the whole world measures its prosperity through materialistic wealth, economic growth or Gross Domestic Product; Bhutan has presented a new concept to the human civilization named Gross National Happiness which measures prosperity through non-economic aspects of well-being like health, education, ecology etc. And nearer home, we have witnessed excellent instances of bonhomie which get regularly witnessed during Durga Puja. If in Rampurhat, Birbhum, local promoter Mohammed Sirajuddin not only permits the conduct of Durga Puja upon his land, but also constructs a 350-sqft permanent temple for the Puja at his own expense of nearly Rs.3 lakh; in the village of Bamuha, Murshidabad, Zahirul Islam - the contractor from a near-

by town Suti donates Rs.11 lakh to complete the Durga temple whose construction had got stalled due to exhaustion of funds. It must also be mentioned that the indebted Hindu villagers saw to it that the Durga temple got inaugurated by Zahirul Islam on the auspicious day of Sasthi of that year; just like the indebted organisers of Rampurhat had felicitated Mohammed Sirajuddin on the Sasthi of the concerned year. Without the mindset of sharing the joy of others through nurture of empathy in hearts so as to attain the ultimate goal of collective happiness, these divine acts and gestures couldn't have made its soothing presence felt. (The views expressed above are the author's own. They do not necessarily reflect the views of Central Chronicle.)

BRIEF

Resignation



New Delhi: Mahesh Kumar Malik has resigned from IndiGo as Chief Commercial Officer for domestic cargo, according to a regulatory filing. Malik has resigned with effect from November 1 citing personal reasons. "We wish to inform that Mahesh Kumar Malik, Chief Commercial Officer Cargo (Domestic) has resigned from the Company w.e.f. November 1, 2023," InterGlobe Aviation, the parent of the country's largest airline IndiGo, said in the filing on Thursday.

Captive mines

New Delhi: NTPC has produced 19.117 million tonnes (MT) of coal from its captive mines during the April-October period of the ongoing fiscal, a year-on-year rise of 86 per cent. It had produced 10.282 MT in the nine-month period of the preceding 2022-23 financial year; the company said in a statement on Thursday. In addition, NTPC has also achieved a coal dispatch of 20.225 MT till October 31, FY24, up 94 per cent over the supplies made in the year-ago period.

MoU signing



Dehradun: Uttarakhand has signed MoUs worth nearly Rs 94,000 crore with various industrial houses so far ahead of the Global Investors Summit to be held in the state capital next month, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said on Thursday. A series of roadshows has been held in various cities across the country and abroad including Delhi, Chennai, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, London, Birmingham, Dubai and Abu Dhabi, to woo investors to the hill state, Dhami told the media in Delhi. In the coming days, a dialogue and road show with investors is to be organized in Mumbai also.

Sunrise food processing sector got Rs 50,000 cr worth FDI in last 9 years: PM Modi

New Delhi, Nov 03:

India's sunrise food processing sector has attracted Rs 50,000 crore FDI in the last nine years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday, as he stressed on reducing post-harvest losses and food wastage. He also said India's food processing capacity has witnessed significant growth in the last nine years leading to 150 per cent growth in exports of processed food. The capacity of the food processing sector too has increased from a meagre 12 lakh tonne to over 200 lakh tonne. He also spoke on benefits of consumption of millets, and pitched for diversification of the food basket in the public distribution system. Modi was addressing the second edition of World Food India at Bharat Mandapam in the national capital. The three-day event will conclude on November 5. More than 80 countries, 200 speakers and 12 part-



ner ministries, departments and commodity boards are scheduled to take part in the event.

The prime minister disbursed seed capital assistance to over one lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs) and inaugurated a 'food street' as part of 'World Food India 2023'. The event aims to showcase India as food basket of the world and celebrate 2023 as International Year of Millets. The first edition was held in 2017, but in consecutive years the international event could not be organised due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "In the last nine years, the sec-

tor has attracted FDI of Rs 50,000 crore. This happened because of the government's pro-industry and pro-farmer policies," Modi said. He highlighted some of the measures, like production linked incentive (PLI) scheme, and establishment of mega food parks, which his government has taken towards further development of the food processing sector.

Modi also said investments of about Rs 50,000 crore has been made to set up post-crop harvest related infrastructure projects under a central scheme (Agri Infra Fund). "Government's investor-friendly policies are taking India to new heights. In the last nine years, the share of export of processed foods in the total agriculture exports has increased from 13 per cent to 23 per cent," he said. The prime minister also said women in India have the natural ability to lead the food processing industry.

Services sector activity in India hits 7-month low in Oct: PMI

On softer increase in output, new business

New Delhi, Nov 03:

The services sector growth in India fell to a seven-month low in October on softer increase in output and new business, amid competitive conditions and price pressures, a monthly survey said on Friday. The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index fell to 58.4 in October, from a 13-year high of 61 in September, signalling the slowest rate of expansion since March. In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction. The survey is compiled from responses to questionnaires sent to a panel of around 400 service sector companies. "Several companies managed to secure new contracts, but some mentioned

subdued demand for their services and competitive conditions," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence. The October data highlighted the second-fastest upturn in international orders placed with Indian services companies since the series started in September 2014. Survey members noted gains from clients in Asia, Europe and the US. "Export was an area of particular strength in October, with new business gains from Asia, Europe and the US boosting growth to its second-highest in the series over its nine-year history," Lima added.

On the price front, services companies in India reported an increase in their expenses in October, which they attributed to higher food, fuel and staff costs.

Apple has low share in a large market, lot of headroom there: Tim Cook

New York, Nov 03:

Describing India as a "major focus" for Apple, CEO Tim Cook has said the tech giant has a "low share" in the country's large market and there is a "lot of headroom" and "positives" there for the company. "We had an all-time revenue record in India. We grew very strong double-digits.

It's an incredibly exciting market for us and a major focus of ours," Cook said Thursday during Apple's Q4 2023 earnings conference call. He added that Apple has a "low share in a large market, and so it would seem there's a lot of headroom there."

Cook was responding to a question on momentum in India and growth opportunity in hardware units. Cook underscored that Apple sees "an extraordinary market" in India, "a lot of people moving into the middle class, distribution is

JEWELLERY SHOWROOM INAUGURATION



Actor Daisy Shah during the inauguration of a new jewellery showroom, in Guwahati, Friday, Nov. 3.

Airtel launches Innovative Marketing Communications Platform 'Airtel IQ Reach'

Mumbai, Nov 03: Bharti Airtel, one of India's leading telecommunications service providers, announced the launch of a first-of-its-kind marketing communications platform-Airtel IQ Reach, in Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh. Designed to enable emerging and small & medium businesses (SMBs) in enhancing their customer engagement strategy with tailor-made communications, the platform will enable businesses in the city to reach out to their target customers in a cost-effective manner. Businesses in Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh across all sectors like tourism, real estate, textile, pharmaceuticals and others, can now simply log on to the one stop destination at [https:// www.airtel.in /business/b2b/airtel-](https://www.airtel.in/business/b2b/airtel-)

iq/dashboard/#/, to easily manage and fully control their marketing campaign starting from designing customised messages, to uploading or selecting their target audiences, to scheduling their messages, and finally, tracking campaign effectiveness, all in just a few clicks. The platform will also offer real time insights and comprehensive analytics on a centralized dashboard with the aim of enabling businesses to measure their campaign effectiveness. The portal is now live for communications via WhatsApp & SMS and will be rolled out on voice and other channels shortly. Abhishek Biswal, Head - Digital Products & Services, Airtel Business, said, "Customers are at the heart of everything we do at Airtel.



getting better, lots of positives." The company has set up two retail stores in Mumbai and Delhi and Cook said "they're doing better than we anticipated. It's still early going, but they're off to a good start and I couldn't be happier with how things are going at the moment."

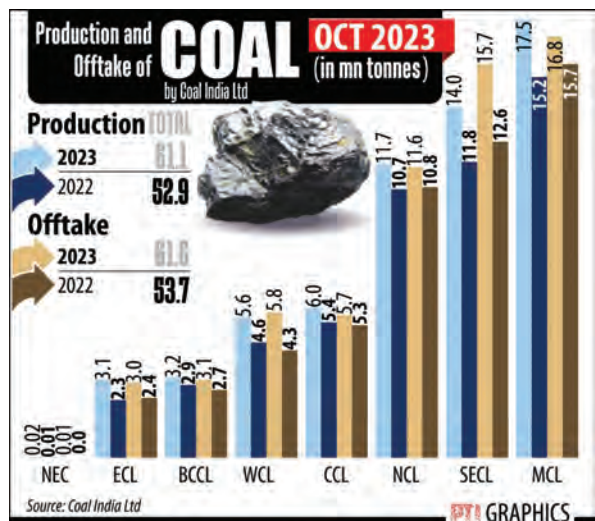
Apple announced financial results for its fiscal 2023 fourth quarter ended September 30, 2023. The company posted

quarterly revenue of USD 89.5 billion, down one per cent year over year from USD 90.1 billion. Cook noted that Apple achieved "an all-time revenue record" in India, as well as September quarter records in several countries, including Brazil, Canada, France, Indonesia, Mexico, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the UAE and Vietnam among others.

iPhone revenue came in ahead of the company's expectations, setting a September quarter record, as well as quarterly records in many markets, including China mainland, Latin America, the Middle East, South Asia and an all-time record in India, he said. Responding to a question on a comparison between Apple's growth momentum in India and China over the years, Cook said "each country has its own journey" and he "wouldn't want to play the comparison game."

India's coal production rises 19% to 78.65 MT in Oct

New Delhi, Nov 03: India's coal output increased 18.59 per cent to 78.65 million tonne (MT) in October. The country produced 66.32 MT in the corresponding month of previous fiscal year. Coal output by state-owned CIL increased 15.36 per cent to 61.07 MT in October this year as compared to 52.94 MT in the year-ago period, the coal ministry said in a statement. Coal India Ltd (CIL) accounts for over 80 per cent of the domestic coal output. The production during April-October FY24 increased to 507.02 MT as compared to 448.49 MT during the same period in FY23. The dispatch of coal increased to 79.30 MT last month against 67.13 MT in October FY23. The surge "in both coal production and dispatch under-



scores the nation's advancing energy self-sufficiency and reinforces our determination to meet forthcoming energy demands," the ministry said. Ministry of Coal remains

resolute in its commitment to ensuring continuous coal production and distribution, thereby securing a dependable energy supply that bolsters the nation's ongoing development.

India continues to work closely with Sri Lanka on debt restructuring discussions: Nirmala

Colombo, Nov 03:

India assured Sri Lanka that it will continue to work very closely with the island nation on debt restructuring discussions and extend support for the economic recovery. Speaking at the 'NAAM 200' organised by the Government of Sri Lanka to commemorate the 200th anniversary of arrival of India-Origin Tamils (IOTs), Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said India rendered an unprecedented financial assistance of over USD 4 billion last year when the island nation faced the financial crisis. "When Sri Lanka faced its unprecedented economic crisis a year back, we felt it was our duty to stand by with our friends in Sri Lanka. We could not bear the difficulties our friends in Sri



Lanka had to face. Our government and the people of India acted collectively and came to your assistance in record time," she said. Sitharaman also said that India was the first bilateral creditor to convey financing assurance to the International Monetary Fund that paved the way for others to provide similar assurances that formalised the IMF programme for Sri Lanka. "As a true friend, India continues to work closely with the Government of

Sri Lanka on debt restructuring discussions as well as on its path of economic recovery," she said. Sitharaman said that "our leaders have released a vision document for economic partnership in July this year, outlining specific areas of cooperation for a sustainable economic development and prosperity for our people." India will work closely with the Sri Lankan government in realising the vision provided by the leadership of both the countries and thereby further deepening civilisational ties with connectivity as a new focus area, she said. "While some of the connectivity projects have already made progress, notably the recent commencement of passenger ferry services... and UPI-based digital payments, which will be launched very soon.

India mulling domestic tax options to deal with EU's carbon tax

New Delhi Nov 03: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal indicated that India is mulling a domestic tax option on certain sectors and using that levy to support the green energy transition to deal with the European Union's carbon tax. He also said the European Union's decision to impose carbon tax on certain sectors like steel is "ill-conceived" and it would impact the manufacturing sector of the EU. "I think in one of those days they (EU) will themselves realise and they will have to drop this CBAM... it is ill-conceived and has not addressed the entire issue correctly and fairly," Goyal said here at a function. They will have to give different values to the less-developed and developing countries and try to level the playing field in smarter ways than trying to hurt us or our exports, the minister said. The EU has decided to impose Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), or carbon tax, which will come into effect from January 1, 2026, but from October this year, domestic companies from seven carbon-intensive sectors, including steel, cement, fertiliser, aluminium and hydrocarbon products, will have to share data with regard to carbon emissions with the EU. India has strongly criticised the move and is in dialogue with the EU on the issue. "We will find a solution around a domestic tax to take care of equating with European taxes on carbon emissions "So, if we collect the tax in India itself and use it for our green energy transition, which will indirectly help the same companies that are exporters as they transition to cleaner energies and bring down their carbon footprint, there will be no additional CBAM," Goyal said.

Worked 15 hrs a day, slept on office table after long work days at L&T: A M Naik

Mumbai, Nov 03:

L&T chairman emeritus A M Naik on Friday said he worked 15 hours a day and slept on the office table after long days at work, as he built the engineering giant in over five decades. In remarks that came amid an uproar caused by N R Narayana Murthy's suggestion asking youngsters to put in 70 hours of work per week to build the nation, Naik said after putting in 15 hours a day at work, he used to go back home and think about L&T for another one hour. Naik credited former Defence Minister George Fernandes for helping

save L&T during a corporate takeover battle mounted by the Birlas, and added that the politician's socialist leanings made him a big believer in not letting a company go into the hands of a big business house. During his career, he has met many Prime Ministers, Naik said and claimed without elaborating that sometimes the Prime Ministers have been able to retain their jobs because of L&T. Reminiscing about his career, starting from how he joined the company, Naik said he travelled through the night for early morning meetings and spoke about one such meeting in

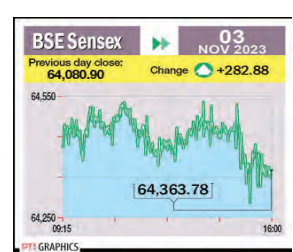


Germany for which he travelled through the night from neighbouring Poland in a car as a 34-year-old. "When I was a student, I was looking at joining a company which of course gives me an opportunity for technology innovation and engineering excellence, but in parallel, it gives me a platform

on a wider scale to help build our nation," Naik said, speaking at an event here. Naik, who stepped down from being the executive chairman of L&T in 2017, also mentioned about certain long days at work which ended well past midnight and his preference to sleep on the office tables on such nights. In the 20 years that he was at the helm, the market capitalization of L&T shot up by 130 times to over Rs 5 lakh crore from Rs 4,000 crore, Naik said. Naik said young executives ought to have devotion, passion, conviction and commitment to succeed in life. He also stressed on the impor-

tance of self-learning saying he relied a lot on it. He rued that B-school graduates lack focus "practical application of what society wants" and added that management institutes need to send their students to the villages for three months as part of the curriculum to make them understand the country better. L&T is into businesses like defence manufacturing, Naik said, stressing that not a single management graduate signs-up with it for sloggling in the Himalayas to learn. L&T staffers go for testing howitzers in the desert, and not a single person is from the IIMs, he said.

Equity benchmarks stay on upward track for 2nd day on positive global trends



Mumbai, Nov 03: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty sustained their upward movement for the 2nd straight day and ended with gains on Friday in line with positive trends in global markets. Extending its previous day's rally, the

30-share BSE Sensex climbed 282.88 points or 0.44 per cent to settle at 64,363.78. During the day, it jumped 454.29 points or 0.70 per cent to 64,535.19. The Nifty went up by 97.35 points or 0.51 per cent to close at 19,230.60. Among the Sensex firms, Titan, Tech Mahindra, Tata Motors, JSW Steel, ICICI Bank, Infosys, State Bank of India, and Sun Pharma were the major gainers. Bajaj Finserv, IndusInd Bank, Nestle, Tata Steel and Bajaj Finance Bank were the major laggards.

BSP's GM attends Polytechnic Orientation program

Justice Kashyap advises students on legal awareness

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Nov 03: Polytechnic College, the district's sole technical institution, recently conducted an orientation program for its freshly enrolled students for the upcoming academic session 2023-24. The event aimed to foster an ideal learning environment and equip students with essential information about their technical courses.

Vikas Nashine, the General Manager of Bhilai Steel Plant, took the stage to address the students. He emphasized the significance of setting ambitious goals, maintaining a positive mindset, and putting in continuous hard work to achieve them. Nashine also delivered a thought-provoking

lecture on instilling human values in one's life.

In the second session, Chandrakumar Kashyap, Additional Sessions Judge of Khairagarh, provided valuable insights into topics such as ragging, the POCSO Act, and cybercrime. Recognizing the pervasive influence of social media on students, he guided them on staying focused on their careers and avoiding involvement in antisocial and criminal activities. Open discussions on legal procedures and consequences for such



activities heightened students' awareness of the legal aspects involved. The third session featured guest speaker Dr. Ajay Pandey, who stressed

the importance of maintaining physical and mental well-being through a balanced diet, physical activities, and the practice of yoga. He highlighted the role of yoga in sharpening concentration for academic pursuits and achieving career aspirations. Dr. Pandey emphasized that yoga not only promotes physical health but also nurtures a healthy and focused mind, making it an invaluable tool for reaching life goals.

The orientation program covered diverse top-

ics, including educational activities, scholarships, anti-ragging regulations, examination-related guidelines, and various opportunities offered by the National Service Scheme in five different departments.

The entire program was meticulously coordinated under the guidance of Institute Director Shankar Varathe and executed by Program Coordinator Dr. Apurva Kumar Das, Seema Delhiwala, and Anshu Preeti Kujur. Eminent speakers such as Balvant Singh Korram, Janak Kumar, Mahesh Kumar Devangan, and others actively contributed to the program. Dr. Das expressed his heartfelt gratitude for their valuable contributions to the event.

SECR Bilaspur Div launches extensive dengue prevention campaign

Cleanliness drive targets mosquito breeding grounds

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Nov 03: In a move to combat the threat of Dengue, a mosquito-borne disease, the Divisional Railway Manager, Praveen Pandey, has initiated a comprehensive cleanliness and awareness campaign across the region.

Dengue is a mosquito-borne disease caused by the bite of the Aedes aegypti mosquito. Maintaining cleanliness and raising awareness are essential for preventing dengue. Keeping living spaces clean and promoting awareness about dengue can help prevent the disease. Stagnant water has long been a breeding ground for disease-carrying mosquitoes. As a result, a



10-day special cleanliness campaign is underway at railway stations, waiting rooms, railway colonies, and residential areas. This initiative includes fumigation and regular mosquito-repelling spraying in railway colonies. Residents are receiving pamphlets containing vital information on dengue prevention, control, and treatment. They are encouraged to eliminate stagnant water around their homes, use mosquito nets, wear protective clothing,

and maintain better hygiene indoors. Additionally, symptoms of the disease are being communicated, urging individuals to seek immediate medical attention if they experience any.

Passengers travelling through railway stations are not left out, as they receive dengue prevention information through the announcement system. With a united effort, the region is striving to safeguard its residents from the threat of Dengue.

Brake failure leads to bus-truck collision, injuring passengers

Perilous state of private buses raises safety concerns

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Nov 03: Passenger buses plying along State Highway No. 24, which traverses the city, have become a cause for concern due to their precarious condition, posing a continuous threat to the safety of commuters. With the closure of state transport and city buses, passengers are now reliant on private bus services. However, the lack of routine inspections of these private buses has led to an uptick in accident reports.

In a recent incident that



underscores this issue, a bus operated by Bharat Travels experienced a harrowing brake failure on Thursday morning at 8:50 am near Dongargaon Patta Godam, resulting in a head-on collision with a truck. The collision caused serious injuries to three female passengers, with the bus's front windshield completely shattered.

The ill-fated Bharat Travels bus, bearing registration number CG 08 AM 0539, was en route from Korachatola to Rajnandgaon, while the truck, registered as CG 08 AK 4829 and laden with iron ore, was travelling from Aaramori to Durg. The accident left the bus's front section severely damaged, with shattered glass, and some

other passengers on board also sustained injuries.

Champa Komare (45 years), travelling from Chouki to Rajnandgaon, had her tooth broken and suffered mouth injuries. Her daughter Roshni Komare (16 years) sustained internal injuries. Additionally, Ramtula Bai, wife of Brijlal Kunjam (54 years), was journeying from Thakurbanda to Arjuni and suffered injuries to her eyes and nose. All injured passengers were promptly transported to the Dongargaon Community Health Center for immediate medical care, while the truck involved was taken to the local police station for investigation.

Police action on illicit liquor results in seizure of 24 liters of liquor

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Nov 03: In a determined effort against the illicit liquor trade, law enforcement authorities have successfully confiscated a total of 24 liters of illegal liquor. A targeted operation conducted by Fastarpur police station resulted in the seizure of 14 liters of illicit Mahua liquor valued at Rs 2,800, along with the confiscation of a mobile phone worth Rs 10,000 from the possession of the accused.

Under section 34(2) of the Excise Act, a case has been registered at Fastarpur police station, and the accused,



Shankar Joshi, has been apprehended and presented in court.

In addition to this operation, police raids were carried out based on information provided by informants. The Mungeli police executed a raid in Padav Chouki, leading to the discovery of 3.6 liters of illicit country-made liquor in the possession of accused Chandraprakash Yadav.

Nearby, at Rewar Chowk, another operation resulted in the arrest of Arun Sahu, who was found with 4.6 liters of illicit country-made liquor, which he was allegedly involved in selling. In a separate operation, the Saragaon police confiscated 2.5 liters of illicit country-made liquor from Tejeshwar Goswami in the village of Chunchunia. Legal actions have been initiated against all the suspects under the Prohibition Act.

Second randomization of polling teams conducted

Central Chronicle News

Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Nov 03: In preparation for the Vidhan Sabha General Elections 2023, the second round of randomization for polling teams was carried out under the watchful eye of General Observers Shantanu Saha, overseeing the Marwahi Vidhan Sabha Constituency, and Naylita, responsible for the Kota Vidhan Sabha Constituency.

The event unfolded at the Arpa Conference Hall within the Collectorate, with the participation of Collector and District Election Officer Priyanka Rishi Mahobia, ensuring a transparent and fair selection process. Utilizing the Election



Commission of India's PPRS software, the randomization process encompassed a total of 225 polling stations within the Marwahi Vidhan Sabha area and 58 polling stations in the Kota Vidhan Sabha region.

Present during this significant event were Additional District

Officer Anandrup Tiwari, Assistant Collector Namrata Anand Dongre, Returning Officer Amit Beck, Project Director (DRDA) K.P. Tendulkar, District Nodal Officer for Polling Team Training Dr. Lalit Shukla, and District Information Science Officer Shri Arvind Yadav.

City of Music hosts historic music event

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Nov 03: The City of Music, Khairagarh, witnessed an unprecedented musical extravaganza as it hosted its first-ever 'Autumn Jam' event. Renowned musical groups from various cities graced the occasion, treating art enthusiasts to a memorable evening of music and culinary delights.

Held at the Raja Lal Bahadur Singh Sporting Club and organized by Sevan Sages (Sapt Rishi), the event also featured a mesmerizing painting exhibition by students from the Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya.

Sevan Sages, known as Sapt Rishis in the City of Music, took a pioneering step by providing a platform for emerging local artists. This initiative, akin to the Seven Sages



who laid the foundation of spirituality, allowed budding talents in Khairagarh to shine brightly. The 'Autumn Jam' event, which coincided with the arrival of autumn and the emergence of new leaves, is set to etch its place in Khairagarh's history.

The success of the event was made possible through the generous support of local businesses, including Kaahan Jewellers, City Dhaba, Vardhman Jewellers, Manav Mandir, and Events Café, who con-

tributed both financially and technically. CrossOver Studio, Arya DJ, Kishan Flex, Art-e-Door, and Singers Adda also played pivotal roles in making the event a grand success.

The enthusiasm of the audience was palpable as they witnessed remark-

able performances by renowned bands such as 'The Riddim Pulse' from Bhilai and acclaimed Sufi singers from Bilaspur, Sajan Collective, alongside artists from Sevan Sages. Anchors Raghuvir Gupta, Sonal Jain, Tanmay Sharma, and Rohit entertained the crowd with humorous skits, poems, and engaging interactions.

The 'Autumn Jam' event symbolizes a new beginning for Khairagarh, with emerging artists like Brijbhushan Singh Parihar, Divyanshu Yadav, Rohan Malviya, Ayush Bhalavi, Shreyash Nemad, Vashim Memon, Mohit Kumar, Chandan Sahu, and many more contributing tirelessly to its success.

The event garnered attention from senior citizens, music enthusiasts, business owners, and administrative officials from the region.

Ghorda villagers stand firm in election boycott

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Nov 03: In a unique turn of events, Ghorda village remains candidate-free as no contender has ventured into the village since the announcement of an election boycott by its residents.

Election banners, posters, and pamphlets related to the boycott, which were prominently displayed by the villagers, have been taken down by election authorities and the administration while election preparations continue.

On November 2, A.K. Pusam, the SDM of

Dongargaon, made a visit to Ghorda village to evaluate preparations for the upcoming gram panchayat and assembly elections and gather insights into the ongoing arrangements.

The villagers of Ghorda are expressing their dissatisfaction over various issues, including the closure of stone mines, and despite multiple efforts by government and administrative officials to address their concerns, they remain resolute in their decision to boycott the elections.

Amidst the announcement of the election boy-

cott, the administration is continuing with its electoral groundwork, distributing election-related materials, even as villagers abstain from active participation.

Some experts argue that the periodic elections, occurring every five years, offer a unique opportunity for the electorate to exercise their rights and demonstrate their collective power. Therefore, the villagers' decision to refrain from voting may be viewed as unconventional.

In the absence of preferred candidates, voters can utilize the NOTA (None of the Above) op-

tion to express their dissatisfaction.

The fight for their demands and rights can be pursued over the next five years with the support of chosen candidates. However, the failure to exercise voting rights may inadvertently divert attention away from Ghorda village, potentially diminishing its relevance in the eyes of officials and representatives.

In this challenging situation, it is suggested that villagers consider utilizing their votes as a means to assert their influence and advocate for their interests.

Border residents spread awareness with candle march

Central Chronicle News

Arang, Nov 03: Border residents, guided by Dr. Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure, the District Collector, and Avinash Mishra, CEO of the District Panchayat, Arang, embarked on a distinctive initiative.

Their goal was to craft a beautiful message on the canvas of Chhattisgarh using the warm glow of candles. This event, known as the "Mor Vote Mor Raipur and Mor Vote Mor Arang" candle march, not only conveyed a message of unity but also ignited fervent awareness among the villagers.

The Chief Executive Officer of Arang Janpad Panchayat, Kumar Singh Lahre, lauded the villagers' enthusiasm on this occasion, emphasizing the principles upheld by the Election Commission of India. He noted that their collective endeavour would fortify democracy, not only in Arang and Raipur but also serve as an inspiration to the entire state of Chhattisgarh.

During the event, Lahre administered an oath for impartial and equitable voting to over a thousand participants. Villagers, clutching candles from their homes, exhibited their unwavering commit-



ment to the democratic process. Dr. Atul Vishwakarma, the Returning Officer, along with a SVEEP team, including Mahendra Patel, Arvind Vaishnav, and Seema Bhandekar, who de-

livered a running commentary on the proceedings and chanted awareness slogans.

The event witnessed the presence of prominent individuals, including Sarpanch Umashankar Chandrakar, Deputy Sarpanch Uttara Khute, social worker Rajkumar Dehriya, senior citizen Dinesh Jangde, teacher Ghanshyam Ghritlahare, Panch Ashok Chandrakar, Ranjita Dhritlahare, Mogra Narang, and 25 members of the Self-Help Group Mini Mata, among others. The event showcased the remarkable presence of women power and active village participation.

New Zealand, Pakistan seek victory to remain in the race to semifinals

Bengaluru, Nov 03 (PTI):

An injury-tormented New Zealand will seek resurgence while Pakistan need a continuation of their recent resurrection, and that subtext of desperation could turn their crucial World Cup match into a classic here on Saturday.

New Zealand began with four consecutive wins, seemingly on track for the semifinals. However, they've since suffered three straight losses against India, Australia, and South Africa. With eight points from seven matches, they face challenges not only on the field but also with a growing injury list. Matt Henry, James Neesham, Kane Williamson, and Mark Chapman are dealing with various injuries, although Lockie Ferguson has recovered to bolster the bowling unit.

Their bowlers, especially Trent Boult and Mitchell Santner, need to be at their best to contain Pakistan's batting. However, the M Chinnaswamy Stadium's unforgiving pitch and short, quick outfield make it a tough venue for bowlers. New Zealand's



New Zealand's Glenn Phillips bats during a practice session.

batting, which faltered against South Africa, relies on Rachin Ravindra, Devon Conway, Daryl

Mitchell, and Glenn Phillips to deliver. Ravindra, in particular, has been in excellent form.

Pakistan, coming off a crucial win against Bangladesh, still have concerns. Captain Babar Azam is yet to score a century despite consistent fifties. Mohammad Rizwan and Abdullah Shafique have been dependable, while Fakhar Zaman's return adds to their batting strength.

However, Pakistan's middle-order, including Saud Shakeel and Iftikhar Ahmed, needs to step up. The bowling department, led by Shaheen Shah Afridi, looks promising, but the spinners have been underwhelming. This match could be a turning point for both teams in their quest for a spot in the semifinals. New Zealand needs to recover their form, while Pakistan aims to maintain their momentum. It promises to be a thrilling encounter with high stakes. As both teams fight for survival in the World Cup, all eyes will be on this clash, which could shape the tournament's semifinal race.

Match starts at 10.30 AM.

Clinical Afghan secure big win over Netherlands

Lucknow, Nov 03 (PTI):

Captain Hashmatullah Shahidi and Rahmat Shah made well-compiled fifties and veteran Mohammad Nabi produced a stifling spell as Afghanistan continued their dream run in the World Cup, registering a smooth seven-wicket victory over Netherlands to keep their semifinals hopes alive here on Friday.

In the battle between two giant-killers of this showpiece, Afghanistan rode on their spinners and brilliant fielding to restrict the Dutch to 179 all out and then chased down the target in 31.3 overs.

The win, their fourth in seven games, swelled Afghanistan's tally to eight points and also lifted them to the fifth spot ahead of Pakistan.

The Afghans, who defeated defending champions England, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in this tournament, however, have two tough matches left against Australia and South Africa and their fate relies on the results of them.

Netherlands, who surprised the world with wins over South Africa and Bangladesh, are all but out



Afghanistan's wicket-keeper Ikram Ali Khil celebrates the wicket of Netherlands' batter Scott Edwards.

of the tournament with a cakewalk for two games left. They have Afghanistan despite losing four points. The chase was both their openers --

Rahmanullah Gurbaz (10) and Ibrahim Zadran (20) -- inside the 11th over for 55.

Rahmat's (52 off 54 balls) sparkling form continued as he hit his third consecutive fifty and with skipper Shahidi (56 not out off 64 balls) shared 74 runs for the third wicket to set the base for Afghanistan's comfortable win.

Rahmat finally departed when the team was on 129, handing a simple return catch to Saqib Zulfiqar while trying to go over his head. He struck nine delightful boundaries during his knock.

Shahidi, who is also in red hot form, made yet another half-century to lead his side from the front.

Along with Azmatullah Omarzai (31 not out), Shahidi stitched 52 runs for the unbroken fifth wicket stand to ensure a comfortable win for his side.

Zulfiqar (1/25), Roelof van der Merwe (1/27) and Logan van Beek (1/30) picked up a wicket each for the Dutch.

Earlier, Sybrand Engelbrecht struck a gritty half-century but failed to push the Netherlands to a competitive total.

We need to play Black Caps style of cricket: Daryl Mitchell

Bengaluru, Nov 03 (PTI):

Three defeats on the trot have pegged New Zealand back, but middle-order batsman Daryl Mitchell said on Friday that they need to pursue the Black Caps way of cricket to find their feet again in the World Cup.

After winning their first four matches, the Kiwis went down against India, Australia and South Africa making their games against Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Bengaluru must-win affairs. "For us, it's just showing up and playing the Black Cap style of cricket that we want to play. I'm sure if we can control those little things and do them for long periods of time, then we'll go a long way to getting some outcomes which we want."

"Hopefully, it means we're in the mix coming into the tournament," said Mitchell. "We're a small country, down the bottom of the Earth, and for us it's fighting for every ball,



chasing every ball to the boundary, and doing the little things that we can control. The big stuff will look after itself if we're clear on our roles," he added.

There are a number of injury concerns in the New Zealand camp as Kane Williamson, James Neesham and Mark Chapman have been recuperating while Matt Henry has been ruled out of the tournament. However, Mitchell hoped that all of

them would pull through in the most opportune moments.

"A number of guys have got to get through fitness tests and pass that and we probably won't know till tonight and tomorrow morning how they pull up from that."

"But yeah for us, we back everyone within our squad to have success and do a job for the team."

New Zealand will now stay back in Bengaluru for their last two league matches, and Mitchell said adapting to the conditions will play a big role in deciding the outcome.

"We know what this ground's like, we know the dimensions and what the wicket can be like, but we also know within tournament, pitches can vary from time to time, depending preparation and things like that."

"So, for us, it's just adapting as quick as we can and making sure we communicate that with each other. Hopefully we do it quicker than the opposition and it gives us a good chance," he added.

Injured Henry ruled out of World Cup



New Delhi, Nov 03 (PTI):

New Zealand pace spearhead Matt Henry was on Friday ruled out of the World Cup with a torn right hamstring and has been replaced by Kyle Jamieson.

The 31-year-old sustained the injury during New Zealand's match against South Africa in Pune on Wednesday and an MRI scan confirming that he had a grade two lower tear, which will require a minimum of two to four weeks of recovery time. "We're gutted for him," head coach Gary Stead said in Bengaluru.

"Matt's been a crucial part of our One-day side for a long time and to see him ruled out as we reach

India looked the best team by a country mile: Atherton

Mumbai, Nov 03 (PTI):

Former England captain Michael Atherton feels in-form India are the "best team by a country mile" in the ongoing World Cup.

India on Thursday thrashed Sri Lanka by 302 runs to record their seventh straight win and become the first team to qualify for the semifinals.

India first piled up a mammoth 357 for 8 in 50 overs and then bundled out a hapless Sri Lanka for a paltry 55 in 19.4 overs to register their biggest victory by margin of runs in the 48-year history of the tournament.

"They've looked the best team by a country mile. They've got the best bowling attack. That's really the thing that has stood out for me," Atherton said on ICC's Review Podcast. "They're a very good all-round side, obviously, but to watch them tonight (Thursday) against Sri Lanka here in Mumbai, and then the way they bowled against



England in Lucknow, those seamers are making early in-roads and then, making life much easier for the spinners." Mohammed Shami continued his impressive form, picking up his second five-wicket haul in the tournament to take his tally to 14 in just three matches. With 45 World Cup wickets under his belt, a record for India, Shami overtook for-

mer pacer Zaheer Khan's feat of 44.

Mohammed Siraj supported him with a three-wicket burst, along with fellow speedster Jasprit Bumrah.

Among spinners, Ravindra Jadeja scalped a victim, while Kuldeep Yadav turned out to be highly economical.

Atherton said the current Indian pace battery makes the team look invincible.

"It's a fantastic attack. I think the quality and depth of the Indian pace bowling is the thing that's changed dramatically, really, since I played here," Atherton said.

"I'm not sure I've seen a better pace attack than the one India are putting out right now. (Javagal Srinath and (Venkatesh) Prasad, when I played, were very good, Zaheer Khan obviously."

"They've had very, very good bowlers, but this three, backed up by the two spinners, it's a really top quality all-round attack right now."

World Cup not a stage to focus on individual milestones: Iyer



Individual milestones don't take precedence in a stage like World Cup, said Shreyas Iyer, hoping to get a hundred for India in the coming matches after smashing a 56-ball 82 against Sri Lanka here.

India's huge total of 357 for 8 against Sri Lanka did not feature a single century as three of the key batters -- Shubman Gill (92), Virat Kohli (88) and Iyer (82) -- missed their personal milestones of getting hundreds.

India's brilliant approach with the bat after being asked to bat first was overshadowed by a sensational bowling show by Mohammed Shami (5-1-18-5), Mohammed Siraj (7-2-16-3)

Vidit draws with Nakamura; Vaishali held by Sophie Millet

Isle of Man, Nov 03 (PTI): Overnight sole leader Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi played out a quick draw with Hikaru Nakamura of USA while R Vaishali missed out on opportunities to split a point with French Sophie Millet in the FIDE Grand Swiss now underway here.

Top seed Fabiano Caruana of the United States, Andrey Esipenko of Russia and Deac Bogdan-Daniel of Romania joined Gujrathi in the lead on six points and it looks like a photo-finish is on the cards with just three rounds remaining in the USD 460000 prize money tournament.

The other Indian in close contention in the open section, Arjun Erigaisi, drew with Yuri Kuzubov of Ukraine and is in a wolf-pack of nine players on 5.5 points looking to seal a berth in the top two that guarantees a place in the next candidates tournament.

Vidit played out one of the shortest games of the event. Playing the white side of a Sicilian Alapin, the Indian did not face much complication on board and Nakamura equalized easily.

Women's ACT: India thrash Korea 5-0 to remain on top

Ranchi, Nov 02 (PTI):

Already through to the semifinals, India thrashed South Korea 5-0 with Salima Tete scoring a brace in their last league match to maintain their unbeaten run and top the table in the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Thursday.

Salima scored in the sixth and 36th minutes while Navneet Kaur struck from a penalty corner -- also in the 36th minute. Vandana Katariya (49th) and Neha (60th) were the other goal scorers for India.

With 15 points from an all-win league campaign, India topped the six-team table and face South Korea again in the semifinals on Saturday. South Korea ended at fourth spot with seven points.

Under the tournament format, the top team after the round-robin league plays the fourth-place finisher in the semifinals while the teams finishing second and third face each



other. China ended at second spot after beating Japan 1-0 in another match of the day. Both China and Japan ended on same nine points. The two sides could not be separated on the basis of goal difference (+9 each) and goals scored (12 each). China finished second on the basis

Jessica Pegula beats Maria Sakkari

In WTA Finals round-robin play

Cancun (Mexico), Nov 03 (AP): Jessica Pegula finished round-robin singles play at the WTA Finals with a 3-0 record a year after going 0-3 at the season-ending championship, heading to the semifinals with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Maria Sakkari.

The fifth-seeded Pegula extended her overall winning streak to eight matches, including a title at the Korean Open last month.

The 29-year-old American has won all six sets she's played in Cancun so far and will play in the semifinals on Saturday. Sakkari, who is ranked No. 9 but got into the eight-player field when No. 8 Karolina Muchova withdrew with an injured right wrist, went 0-3 and dropped every set.

Pegula had fewer winners than Sakkari, 12-7, but also made roughly half as many unforced errors, 35-18, on a windy evening with some brief rain. The



other semifinalist from their group was to be determined later Thursday, when No. 1-ranked Aryna Sabalenka was scheduled to face Elena Rybakina in a rematch of this year's Australian Open final. Sabalenka won that matchup in January for her first Grand Slam title.

Pegula already had clinched first place in the four-player group by virtue of earlier straight-set victories against Sabalenka and Rybakina on the outdoor hard court built for the event.



'BJP should be taught a lesson in T'gana in Assembly polls'

Bhainsa / Armoor (Telangana), Nov 03 (PTI): BRS chief and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Friday said the BJP should be taught a lesson in the November 30 Assembly polls, as it has not sanctioned even a single medical college or Navodaya schools to the state.



K Chandrasekhar Rao

At a poll rally here, Rao, also known as KCR, hitting out at the Congress party said, its leaders including Rahul Gandhi say that if voted to power they will remove Dharani, an integrated land management portal, which may pave the way for the "middlemen regime" again. He also said the BRS government has spent Rs 12,000 crore towards minorities welfare against the Rs 900 crore by the earlier Congress government in ten years. "We have been asking

the Centre to set up Navodaya Schools in each and every district. Not even one was sanctioned. They did not even give a single medical college to the state. There is a need to teach them a lesson otherwise, they will ride on us," he charged. He asked the people to assess which party has benefited them and think before they vote in the polls. "The Congress has ruled this country for 50

years and the state too. In between there was the Telugu Desam Party for some period. The BRS has been ruling for the past 10 years. The history of development is before you. I want you to decide based on the facts," he appealed. Noting that when the state was newly formed, it was utterly chaotic without adequate power and drinking water facilities, Rao said now Telangana is the only state in the country which provides free power for 24 hours to farmers. Allying that there used to be a shortage of fertilisers during the Congress regime, KCR said today they are available in abundance besides unadulterated seeds resulting in progress of the agriculture sector in the state. Rao said there has not been curfew for even a single day during the past 10 years in Telangana due to

communal harmony. "As long as KCR is alive, Telangana will remain as a secular state," he said. He said Dalits in this country were treated as a vote-bank by the Congress. Keeping in view the large number of beedi workers in the region, Rao said the new members also will get pension, after BRS is elected again. He said as Telangana is an agri-based state, the BRS Government has decided to stabilise the agriculture sector and brought Rythu Bandhu. Allying that the NDA government has asked the state to fix meters to agriculture pumpsets, KCR said his government has not implemented it despite the loss of Rs 5,000 crore per annum financial assistance from the centre. Amounts under social pensions would be increased gradually, he assured.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN



A car, similar to the election symbol of BRS, being used for campaign by Congress leaders for Telangana Assembly elections, in Hyderabad, Friday.

'Nath's comments show Cong had equal role in Babri demolition'

Hyderabad, Nov 03 (PTI)



AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi addresses a press conference.

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Friday claimed that Congress leader Kamal Nath's reported comments on Ayodhya Ram temple issue show that Congress had an equal role in the demolition of Babri Masjid as that of BJP-RSS. He was responding to Kamal Nath's reported comments that the BJP cannot claim credit for the Ram temple at Ayodhya and that Rajiv Gandhi's role should not be forgotten. "Kamal Nath has once again proved my point as well as that of thousands and lakhs of others that Congress had an equal role in the demolition of Babri Masjid," he told reporters here. Owaisi said Congress was in power in Uttar Pradesh when idols were kept inside the Babri mosque. Congress was in power

both at the Centre and in UP when puja was permitted, he added. It is true that the locks of Babri Mosque were opened "by cheating" during Rajiv Gandhi's regime, he alleged. "Kamal Nath has proved that Congress had an equal role in snatching Babri Masjid along with BJP-RSS. From (19)48-49 to December 6, 1992, Congress had equal role in

demolition etc," Owaisi said, adding that he would like to ask Congress leaders why they always presented a "fake secular face" before people. He said he would also like to ask Rahul Gandhi whether his father got the locks of Babri Masjid opened when he was Prime Minister or not. What Kamal Nath is saying is the real face of Congress, he claimed. In view of what Kamal Nath has said, Owaisi said he "hopes" that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would take Rahul Gandhi along when he goes to Ayodhya in January 2024. "Because, the work his (Rahul Gandhi) father started, Modi ji is completing. So, the Prime Minister should take Rahul Gandhi along with him. It will be a 'Ram-Shyam' pair," he quipped. "Rahul Gandhi, who says 'Bharat Jodo', why are you lying," he asked.

Premchand Guddu quits Cong for second time



Does not withdraw nomination from Alot seat

Indore, Nov 03 (PTI)

Former MP and MLA Premchand Guddu who has filed a nomination from Alot assembly constituency in Madhya Pradesh as an independent resigned from the Congress on Friday. He did not pull out of the contest on Thursday, the last day of withdrawal of nominations.

MP POLLS

The constituency, located in Ratlam district, is reserved for Scheduled Castes. Guddu's main rivals in the November 17 elections are Congress's Manoj Chawla and the Bharatiya Janata Party's Chintamani Malviya. "I was forced to resign," he told PTI. State Congress chief Kamal Nath and senior party leader Digvijaya Singh were both focused on promoting their sons and their acolytes, he alleged. Guddu had represented Alot in the assembly and also the Lok Sabha constituency of Ujjain-Alot earlier. Ahead of the 2018 assembly polls, he and his son Ajit Bourasi parted ways with the Congress and joined the BJP. After the Congress government led by Kamal Nath collapsed in March 2020, he returned to the Grand Old Party.

Gehlot challenges Raje to debate on Congress '7' guarantees'

Jaipur, Nov 03 (PTI)

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday challenged former chief minister Vasundhara Raje to debate on the seven 'guarantees' of the Congress. Gehlot said the seven challenges are the key issue of the Congress Party for the Assembly elections. "The key issue of Rajasthan elections 2023 is the seven guarantees being given by the Congress party. I challenge opposition party leader Vasundhara Raje to have a debate with me on this," Gehlot said on X. Voting for all 200 seats in the state will be held on November 25, while counting of votes will take place on December 3. Nominations can be made till November 6. While launching BJP's campaign at places like Bali, Bilara and Pali on Thursday, Raje had said people are not fools to fall prey to the false promises of the Congress.

Centre using investigating agencies to settle 'political enmity': Gehlot

Jaipur, Nov 03 (PTI)



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday accused the Central government of using central investigative agencies like ED and the Income Tax department to settle "political enmity". While talking to reporters during the nomination of Congress MLA Ramesh Meena in Sapotra, Gehlot said, "CBI, Income Tax and ED are important for the country. You (Centre) should use these agencies to catch criminals but instead, they are being used to settle political enmity." "You are harassing political leaders across the country and toppling governments by intimidation. This is not fair," he said. While addressing the 'Congress Guarantee Samvad' programme from Deeg, Gehlot said "fascist forces" are trying to destroy the democratic system. "The act of toppling elected governments by the BJP is condemnable," the chief minister said.

"Elected governments were toppled in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Goa and Madhya Pradesh but they could not succeed in Rajasthan, hence an atmosphere of fear is being created by misusing ED and Income Tax," he said. Gehlot said in the last five years in Rajasthan, commendable work has been done in various fields including education and health. Due to this, today Rajasthan has become a topic of discussion across the country. Today, every resident of the state is benefiting from the schemes of the Congress government and now they will again form their government in 2023 with seven new guarantees.

'Nath, Gehlot, Baghel not leaders but fund collectors for Cong's high command'

Rewa, Nov 03 (PTI)



BJP National President JP Nadda with BJP State President VD Sharma during a roadshow ahead of the upcoming Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, at Tyonthar in Rewa district, Friday.

Bharatiya Janata Party president JP Nadda on Friday claimed Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel were "collectors" who raise money from their states and hand it over to "Delhi Darbar", an apparent reference to the Congress' high command. Addressing an election rally in Teonthar

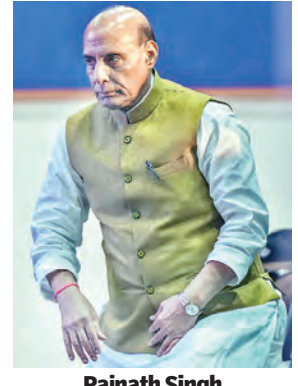
Assembly seat in Rewa in MP, where polls will be held on

November 17, Nadda urged people to vote for the BJP to ensure the country's development. "Be it Kamal Nath, Bhupesh Baghel or Ashok Gehlot, they are neither leaders nor chief ministers. They are collectors. Not from districts but from their states, they collect money and offer it to Delhi Darbar," Nadda claimed. Attacking Nath, the BJP chief alleged the former, as MP CM between December 2018 and March 2020, presided over a regime of scams,

adding that money was recovered during raids on premises connected to the senior Congress leader's relative and officer on special duty. "This is the same Kamal Nath who returned funds (allotted to MP) under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. This is the same Kamal Nath who did not carry out works under the Jal Jivan Mission (in MP) and returned Rs 240 crore (utilized money) to the Central government," Nadda said.

'Crisis of trust in Indian politics deepened because of Cong'

Jaipur, Nov 03 (PTI)



Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh alleged on Friday that the crisis of trust in Indian politics has deepened due to the Congress. He said due to the difference in the words and deeds of political leaders, the public's trust in the country's politics as well as its leaders has gradually eroded. "Due to the difference in the words and deeds of leaders, the public's trust in Indian politics and its

trust in Indian politics has deepened due to the Congress," Singh said, addressing a public meeting in Rajsamand district of Rajasthan in support of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Deepthi Maheshwari in the upcoming state Assembly polls. Singh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP have taken the crisis of trust in Indian politics as a challenge. The veteran BJP leader said everyone knows

about the promises made by the ruling Congress in Rajasthan ahead of the 2018 Assembly polls and whether those were honoured or not. He said whether it is an individual or an organisation, everyone should honour the promises they make and there should be no difference in their words and deeds. The 200-member Rajasthan Assembly will go to polls on November 25 and the counting of votes will be taken up on December 3.

CHOUHAN CAMPAIGNS



MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan during a public meeting ahead of the State Assembly elections, at Murwara in Katni district, Friday.

'INDIA a 'purely opportunistic' alliance, bound to wither away'

Bhopal, Nov 03 (PTI)

Senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad on Friday dubbed the opposition INDIA bloc as a "purely opportunistic" alliance that is bound to disintegrate, a day after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar blamed the Congress' pre-occupation with assembly polls in five states for coalition's inability to build on the momentum it had gained in recent months. He claimed Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath was on a sticky wicket in his home turf Chhindwara from where he is in the fray for the November 17 assembly polls. "Nitish Kumar has given a big statement admitting that there is a problem in the INDIA alliance nowa-

days. Nitish has said (Congress leader) Rahul (Gandhi) does not have time (for INDIA bloc) due to elections," the former Union minister told a press conference here. "Here (in Madhya Pradesh), the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Janata Dal (U), the Samajwadi Party (all constituents of the opposition bloc) have jumped into the poll fray," he said. Prasad accused leaders of the Congress, the biggest party in the INDIA grouping, of playing drama in the name of opposition unity. "I was reading an interview of Kamal Nath in which he said INDIA alliance partners have virtually no stake in Madhya Pradesh, where there is a direct fight between the



Ravi Shankar Prasad

BJP and the Congress. Kamal Nathji and Rahul Gandhiji, if the fight is direct then why you all were playing out a drama for the last six months for the INDIA alliance," he quipped. Prasad claimed the alliance consisting of more than two dozen anti-BJP parties is getting scattered before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. "Patna meeting, Bengaluru meeting,

Mumbai meeting, the general elections have not been announced and you are getting scattered," the lawyer-politician said, taking a jibe at the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc. "This is a purely opportunistic alliance so it was bound to disintegrate. Yesterday, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav announced that if there is an alliance for 80 (Lok Sabha) seats (in Uttar Pradesh), his party will contest elections on 65 of them. He has said adjustments should be made for rest of the (15) seats," the senior BJP leader said. Prasad claimed Congress leader Nath, a former CM, is facing tough time in the Chhindwara assembly

seat. "I went to Chhindwara yesterday and I want to tell you all that Kamal Nathji is in deep trouble in Chhindwara. Don't be surprised if he loses elections. This was my observation during the visit," he added.

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