



## 'Cong didn't even spare Mahadev'

PM attacks Baghel over betting app row

Durg, Nov 04 (PTI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday attacked Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel over the alleged 'Mahadev' betting app scam, and said the Congress leader should tell what links he has with the accused in the case.

Modi was addressing a public meeting in Durg city of poll-bound Chhattisgarh, a day after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) claimed that a forensic analysis and a statement made by a 'cash courier' have led to "startling allegations" that Mahadev betting app promoters paid about Rs 508 crore to Chhattisgarh CM Baghel so far. Modi also announced that his government's free ration scheme Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana for 80 crore poor will be extended for next five years.

Accusing the Congress of abusing him and the entire Other Backward Classes (OBC) community, Modi said he was not scared of abuses. "Congress government in Chhattisgarh has not spared any chance to loot you. They have not



PM Modi addresses a public meeting.

### 'Why has Mahadev app not been shut'

Raipur: Amid allegations against him in connection with the Mahadev betting app, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday asked why the Centre was "not taking any action" against its promoters. Talking to reporters in Raipur, he described the ED's press note released on Friday over its money laundering probe into the betting app as the BJP's second election manifesto. "These (BJP) people cannot fight directly so they resorted to ED and I-T to contest elections. Yesterday, two BJP manifestos were released. The first one was in Hindi on the letterhead of the BJP, while the other one was in English on the letterhead of ED," he said responding to a query on the betting app case. Despite a lookout circular being issued against the promoters of the Mahadev betting app, they have not been arrested, said the Congress leader.



even spared the name of 'Mahadev'. Just two days ago, a major action was taken (by the Enforcement Directorate) in Raipur and a huge pile of cash was recovered. People are saying that this is the money belonging to 'sattabaj' (those involved in betting) and they have collected it by looting the poor and youth of Chhattisgarh. Congress leaders have been filling

their houses with the same money," Modi said.

In the media, it is being published that the money is linked to him, the PM said, apparently referring to CM Baghel. "The Congress government and the chief minister should tell the people of Chhattisgarh what link they have with the accused in this scam sitting in Dubai," he said.

## 'Why does PM Modi identify himself as OBC if claims poor is only caste'

Jagdalpur, Nov 04 (PTI)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking why he identifies himself as an Other Backward Class (OBC) member when he considers poor as the only caste in the country.

Addressing a public meeting in Jagdalpur of poll-bound Chhattisgarh, he accused the BJP of insulting tribals by referring to them as 'vanvasi'



instead of 'adivasi', and said his party will eliminate the term 'vanvasi'

from the country. "BJP leaders use vanvasi term for adivasi in their speeches. Narendra Modi and RSS have coined this new term vanvasi. There is a huge difference between vanvasi and adivasi terms. In Madhya Pradesh, a BJP leader urinated on a tribal youth and filmed the act then made it viral...This is the mindset of the BJP. They think that your place is in the forest like animals and they treat you like animals," he added.

## BJP leader hacked to death in Narayanpur

Narayanpur, Nov 04:

A Bharatiya Janata Party leader was killed on Saturday in Narayanpur district in poll-bound Chhattisgarh allegedly by Naxalites, a police official said.

Ratan Dubey, the BJP's Narayanpur district unit vice president and the area's Assembly convenor, was hacked to death with a sharp edged weapon in the market at Kaushalnagar village while he was campaigning for Assembly polls scheduled for November 7 and 17, he said.

A police team has rushed to the spot and efforts to nab those involved are underway, the official added. Condoling the inci-



Deceased Ratan Dubey

dent, BJP leader Om Mathur in a message on X said, "I am deeply saddened by the brutal murder of Chhattisgarh BJP's Narayanpur Assembly district vice president Ratan Dubey ji by Naxalites during the campaign. The entire party condemns this cowardly incident.

## 143 killed in Nepal quake

Kathmandu, Nov 04 (PTI):

At least 143 people were killed and over 150 others injured when a powerful 6.4 magnitude earthquake, the worst since 2015, struck Nepal and destroyed hundreds of houses in the Himalayan country's remote mountainous region, officials said Saturday. According to the National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Centre, the earthquake with an epicentre in Jajarkot district, about 500km west of Kathmandu, was recorded at 11:47 pm on Friday. Friday's earthquake is the most devastating one in the country since the 2015 earthquake that killed around 9,000 people in the country and injured more than 22,000 people.



## Cong fires 'rabid dogs' salvo at ED, its 'overlords'

Alleges raids aimed at tarnishing Baghel's image

New Delhi, Nov 04 (PTI)



The Congress alleged on Saturday that the imminent defeat of the BJP in the Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan Assembly polls has forced it to use its last weapon, the Enforcement Directorate (ED), to reverse its fortunes and said the claims made by the federal agency against Bhupesh Baghel are part of a "conspiracy" hatched by the saffron party to tarnish his image.

It also alleged that the ED and its "overlords" circled the aides of Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Baghel like "rabid dogs" in order to reach him and asserted that the people of the state would give a befitting reply to such tactics in the upcoming Assembly poll.

### Cong dubs BJP manifesto as 'copy-cat'

The Congress on Saturday dubbed the BJP's manifesto for the Chhattisgarh Assembly polls as a "copy-cat" and said those criticising its poll guarantees as "freebies" were now themselves pledging guarantees to win elections. The BJP released its manifesto on Friday, pledging annual financial assistance to married women and landless agricultural labourers, paddy procurement at Rs 3,100 per quintal and cooking gas cylinder at Rs 500 to poor families among other things. Speaking at a press conference at the AICC headquarters, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "Yesterday, the BJP came out with its manifesto (in Chhattisgarh).




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## BMC organises bike rally for voter awareness



Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Nov 04:** With the objective of ensuring that every citizen should exercise his franchise and cast his vote in the assembly elections to be held on 17th November, officers and employees of Corporation Municipal Bhilai took out a bike rally and conducted a voter awareness campaign in various localities of Vaishali Nagar and Bhilai Nagar assembly constituencies by moving about 10 kilometers. They motivated people for 100% voting.

The rally started from Corporation Headquarters Supela. Election songs and slogans prepared by SVEEP were played on the loudspeaker of the campaign chariot. The rally began around 15:00 hrs which moved across Central Avenue, Nehru Nagar, Smriti Nagar, Avanti Bai Chowk Kohka, Ram Nagar,



Gaurav Path, Nandini Road, Power House Flyover and reached Civic Center. All the bikes were parked in a sequence to write "17", the date of voting. Everyone took the oath to cast his vote and encourage others for the same.

The officers and employees of the Zones joined the rally from their respective zones. The rally was led by Zone Commissioner

Abhitabh Sharma, Khilendra Bhoi, Executive Engineer Sanjay Bagde, Basant Sahu, Ajay Shukla, Purushottam Athbhैया, Sanjay Sharma, Arpit Banjare, Amit Ekka, Balkrishna Naidu, Anil Mishra, JP Tiwari, SP Shore and RP Tiwari.

Dr. Vishwanath Panigrahi, social worker and SVEEP volunteer, equipped his Activa bike with SVEEP slogan and wearing costumes with SVEEP slogans, participated enthusiastically in the entire rally. He was the center of special attraction.

Anjani Singh, Kuldeep Roshan, Surendra, Krishna Kumar Sonboir, Devraj Singh Rajput, VK Samuel, Krishna Kumar Sharma, Narendra Sharma, Tameshwar Pawar, Lavkumar, Arvind Shukla, Lakshmi, Rajeshwari and other officers and employees participated in the rally.

## Women write voter awareness slogans with pulses and vegetables



Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Nov 04:** The women of Risali Municipal Corporation area displayed their skills to make the voters aware of the upcoming election. They wrote slogans with pulses, vegetables, rice and noodles. Some women made SVEEP mono from salad. The participants who prepared the dishes were given prizes.

The SVEEP program is being conducted under the guidance of Corporation

Rural ARO Mukesh Raote and Deputy Director Panchayat Kavya Jain.

More than 20 women participated in the competition. Those who prepared and demonstrated dishes with a special theme were also given prizes. Revati Tandi got a mixer from Bahurani

Risali. Raksha, who prepared cake from Ragi Kodo, got a cooker from Shamim Super Bazaar and Basanti Sahu, who prepared sweep mono from green vegetables, was given a dinner set by architect NK Sahu.

A cake with a voter awareness slogan written on it was the main attraction in the competition. After the competition, the cake was cut by the participants.

The women pledged that they would form teams and motivate women to vote in their respective wards.

Commissioner Ashish Dewangan. Under this programme, a cuisine competition was organized in the corporation of

The special aspect in the competition was that the women, who came from different wards, prepared dishes from the same grains and vegetables with which the awareness slogans were written.

The judges tasted the delicacies. The jury included Commissioner Ashish Dewangan, Durg

## Knowledge, Science and Arts exhibition held in Shakuntala Vidyalaya



Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Nov 04:** 'Jai Jawan, Jai Vigyan and Jai Anusandhan', personality development and nation building are the important goals of today's education process. Inspired by this goal, 'Science and Art Skills' exhibition was organized on Saturday in the premises of Shakuntala Vidyalaya, Ramnagar Bhilai.

The chief guest of the exhibition was Dr YR Katre (Director KISC, Bhilai), special guests were Yashpal Sharma (Principal DPS Durg) and Amitabh Das (Principal, Shri Shankaracharya Vidyalaya, HUDCO) and experts from various subjects. The guests accompanied by Shakuntala Group of Schools Director Sanjay Ojha and Principal Vipin Ojha lighted the lamps in front of the statue of Maa Sharda.

The guests started their inspection of the Art Skill exhibition from the 'Cave Room' in which a virtual image of the world outside the earth was created. Various types of projects were prepared by the faculty of all subjects. The center of energy in this exhibition pavilion was 'Chandrayaan-3' whose shape and speed became the center of attraction for the spectators.

In the same sequence, other models include 'Developing the average intelligence of mentally retarded children through various activities in Brain Disorders and Neuro Development', 'SVR Soap Industry', 'The Smart Farming, Roller Poster', School Size Model displaying Digital Angle Measurement', 'Robot talking on Wi-Fi', tableaux of 75-day Dussehra festival of Bastar Fair in the folk culture of Chhattisgarh, Rail Safety Alarm, Vande Mataram Express, 'Rasoi Rhythm', 'Youthcenter Emporium', chemical free eco-friendly products and packing, etc.

Sanjay Ojha, Director of Shakuntala Group of Schools, after witnessing the rainbow of energy displayed by the students, said that a glimpse of the physical world changing with daily new experiments was seen in this exhibition. In this exhibition, the students have shown how to take bookish knowledge from the steps of practical knowledge and apply it on the ground.

On this occasion, Principal Vipin Ojha, Manager Mamta Ojha (Sharda Vidyalaya Risali Sector), Principal Aarti Mehra (Shakuntala Vidyalaya No 2), V Dubey, Abhay Dubey, Vice Principal G Ranjana

Kumar, Anita Nair, Head Mistress Sunita Saxena, Senior Mistress Baljeet Kaur, in-charge Rajesh Verma, Subhash Paswan,

Prateek Ojha, Vanita Ojha and all the teachers made appreciable contributions in organising the programme

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Shri Tilokchand Bardia can be defined by his hard work and absolute commitment. Even at 66 years of age, he continues to work with the same energy and drive every day.



OUR VALUES

Late Madnabai Bardia ji  
Late Jasraj Bardia Ji

Shri Jasraj Bardia, the founder of AT Jewellers, established the AT Group in 1957. In 1977, Shri Tilokchand Bardia, along with his brothers Shri Ashok Bardia and Shri Shanti Bardia, ventured into the Sarafa market. By leveraging his brothers' dedication and his own farsightedness and broad perspective, he successfully established AT Jewellers as the most reputable and prosperous jewellery brand in Central India.

Mr. Tilokchand Bardia has actively participated in various social and welfare initiatives since his early years, starting with his membership in the Lions Club in 1987. Due to his forward-thinking and visionary approach, he assumed the role of Lions Club Charter President. It's understandable that during this phase of life, he had to prioritise his social responsibilities over other commitments.

Mr. Tilokchand Bardia achieved the position of zone president for the year 1996-97 due to his exceptional qualities



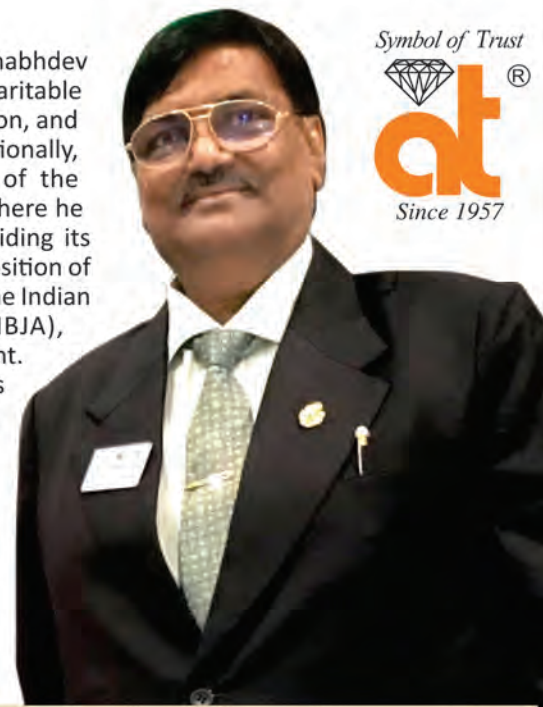
and unwavering commitment. Later, he became the president of the site for the year 1997-98 and was selected as the most successful regional chairman for the year 1998-99. In 2000-01, he assumed the position of elected vice-district governor. He consistently received constant encouragement from his family while performing all of these duties.

Throughout his lifetime, Shri Tilokchand Bardia received unwavering backing from his sons, Nitin and Nikesh, as well as his daughter, Nainsi Singhvi, at every step. Shri Bardia is widely recognised as a successful entrepreneur throughout the country. However, what truly sets him apart is his unrelenting

commitment to fulfilling his social responsibilities.

Today, his social conduct serves as a lasting legacy that will guide future generations. In addition to his involvement in the Lions Club, he has also been highly active within the Jain Social Group, which is a testament to his diverse interests and multifaceted personality. He has actively taken on various responsibilities and roles, making him a guiding light for organisations such as Adishwar Jain Education Society, Jain Education Society, Shri Arvind Research Centre, Chhattisgarh Club, and more. He has held the position of ex-chairman in

various organisations, including Rishabhdev Mandir, Jethmal Jasraj Bardia Charitable Trust, Chhattisgarh Sarafa Association, and Lion's Club District Governor. Additionally, he has served as the President of the Kaivalyadham Youth Committee, where he has played a significant role in guiding its activities. Currently, he holds the position of Regional Head for Chhattisgarh in the Indian Bullion Jewellery Association (IBJA), which is approved by the government. Despite being busy with his entrepreneurial duties, he is renowned for effectively balancing his social life and has earned many honours as a result. Shri Tilokchand Bardia has received numerous national and international awards in recognition of his exceptional social responsibilities and ownership.



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His achievements are so remarkable that even the most prestigious individuals from various industries and sectors seek his guidance. Currently, his next generation is effectively leading the group under his guidance. He is always available to offer his advice at his AT Palace, City Kotwali Showroom. Shri Tilokchand Bardia possesses a multitude of attributes that have earned him the reputation of being a master of his craft. Moreover, he is widely regarded as a personality who has made significant contributions to the social upliftment of those around him.



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Jewellery has always held a significant place in our country's cultural heritage, often making appearances during joyous occasions. People of all budgets indulge in buying it, and one aspect that stands out is how appealing it is as an investment option. In our country, jewellery and ornaments hold significant value, not just for their visual appeal but also as a potential investment that can offer financial security during challenging times. In recent years, the process of buying gold has become significantly more streamlined and reliable, in contrast to previous times. The Government of India has implemented a hallmark pattern to ensure that gold ornaments are pure and free from any adulteration. Hallmark jewellery is known for its exceptional quality and purity, leaving no room for doubt. AnopchandTilokchand Jewellers is a well-known jewellery brand in Central India that has earned the trust and loyalty of customers over the years. They have become an integral part of celebrations, weddings, and other important occasions. Customers prefer them due to their reputation for purity and trust. The Apnawala AT Palace in Raipur is a magnificent five-storey showroom situated at City Kotwali Chowk. Our dedication lies in

exceeding customer expectations and catering to their preferences.

As per the directors of AT Jewellers, they have always prioritised trust, purity, quality, and customer delight rather than relying on the practice of providing offers to its customers. Their skilled artisans have set high standards in the industry, leaving no stone unturned in creating exceptionally unique and unmatched jewellery designs. Customers are often drawn to showrooms that offer a wide variety of jewellery concepts and designs. In such cases, they are less concerned about any promotional offers and are more likely to visit the showroom on their own accord.

AT offers a wide range of unique, high-end, and exclusive designs. These reasons ensure that customers come to us without any hesitation or alternative offers.

It is important to note that diamond jewellery has become a significant attraction in the modern age. Similar to gold, purchasing diamond jewellery is also considered equally auspicious. Not only does it possess sparkle and purity, but it is also affordable for anyone's budget. Whether it's a small ring, earrings, or pendants, even the Laxmi at home cannot conceal her joy upon receiving them. Therefore, it is an ideal element to ensure that prosperity enters your household.



Be it festivities or wedding celebrations, the **5-STOURED AT PALACE, City Kotwali, Sadar Bazaar showroom** is up for it.

With a great selection of fine and luxurious jewellery in gold, silver, and diamonds, all conveniently located in one location, AT Palace is probably the biggest jewellery showroom in Central India. According to Shri Nikesh Bardia, the brand AT caters to every customer segment by offering a wide range of options, including nose rings and complete bridal sets. The experience of purchasing jewellery from AT is truly exceptional, as customers embark on an unparalleled journey. Our wide range of jewellery serves individuals of all ages, ensuring that there is something for everyone, regardless of whether they belong to a younger generation



or not. We offer a wide selection of jewellery, ranging from ultra-modern and luxurious designer pieces to more traditional patterns. Furthermore, we possess a vast assortment of one-of-a-kind gemstones that are not available anywhere else. A wide range of gemstones, including Moonga, Neelam, Pukhraj, Gomed, Lahasuniya, Panna, Moti, Heera, and Manik, are available in various sizes, starting from 2 carats and going up to 20 carats.

Although it may initially seem difficult to grasp the magnificence of the Apnawala AT showroom, a visit in person is all it takes to truly appreciate this exceptional destination for jewellery shopping. By doing so, you can ensure that your celebrations are truly radiant and magnificent.

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## AN IDEAL WEDDING MATCH MAY COME FROM ANYWHERE, BUT JEWELLERY HAS TO COME FROM AT.

The Bridal Collection: A match made in heaven

Relationships require a delicate balance of being gentle and resilient all at once. The practice of buying jewellery and priceless ornaments has become increasingly common as a way to celebrate weddings and other special occasions and as a way of showing mutual respect and appreciation.

Taking this into consideration, AT Palace, located at City Kotwali Chowk, offers a wide range of jewellery and ornaments. It should come as no surprise when we say that AT Jewellers has always made weddings more special and elaborate with its range of unmatched designs. Whether it's the jewellery for the bride or the groom, Apna Wala AT offers a wide range of dazzling pieces in their

bridal collection. The collection here is widely renowned throughout the country, attracting visitors from other cities who come to purchase their favourite pieces.

Trust is a crucial factor when talking about both jewellery and weddings. It is this trust that strengthens the connection between jewellery and relationships. From the bride's maangteeka to the kamarband and mangalsutra, there is a wide array of lavish designs and extravagant pieces available here. There are a wide variety of options available for everyone, not just the bride and groom. Furthermore, the showroom also offers a diverse range of traditional Chhattisgarhi ornaments.

## Today's fashion trends encompass a wide range of exquisite diamond and Rajwada jewellery.

Wearing gold has become increasingly common in modern times. However, wearing Diamond and Rajwada jewellery during festivals enhances the excitement of the occasion.

It is often said that diamonds are forever, just like the enduring bond of a relationship. To ensure the continual growth of this bond, it can make a significant difference to give gifts such as priceless gold and other ornaments.

In the contemporary fashion industry, diamond jewellery has become increasingly prominent and popular. This is primarily due to its lightweight nature, affordability, and availability in a wide range of luxurious designs. The tiny diamonds, when set in jewellery, have an ethereal appearance that is truly captivating.

Newlyweds and young people should

definitely visit the City Kotwali showroom to personally witness an exquisite and lively collection of diamond jewellery.

During the auspicious occasions of Dhanteras & Diwali, consider investing in diamond jewellery as a means to invite prosperity into your life. It is believed that purchasing jewellery and ornaments during these days is considered highly auspicious and signifies the start of joyful times.

**AMRIT SIDDHI YOG**

Dhanteras

Friday, 10th November, 2023

## Three arrested in connection with robbery incident



**Raipur, Nov 04:** Three youth have been arrested in connection with the incident of robbery in Byron Bazar, Kotwali area. They allegedly robbed a bike rider of Rs 70000 in the incident six days ago.

Complainant Devesh Sharma, resident of Saddu works as a manager in Milk Powder Agency 'Palak Traders' in Gudiary. After doing accounting work of agency he was handing over the cash to agency owner at his residence in Shailendra Nakar. On

October 30 night at around 8:30 he downed shutter of Palak Traders and left for his owner House in Shailendra Nagar, carrying bag containing cash of Rs 70,000 on his bike CG 04 CJ 1611. When he reached in front of Byron Bazar water tank three youth on a bike hit his bike while overtaking him.

Devesh fell on the road after being hit by bike-born youth. In the meanwhile two youth came near Devesh and tried to snatch his cash-containing bag while threatening

him of life. When Devesh resisted, they attacked him with blade, snatched his bag and fled.

After registering of-fence police looked at footages of CCTV cameras installed nearby besides taking help of informers. Police initially arrested one Ritik Keswani, resident of Tikrapara who had earlier gone to jail in incident of robbery on the basis of information. During strict interrogation Ritik confessed of his involvement in the robbery incident along with his accomplices Anup Biswas and Samir alias Mukhtar Khan. Police also arrested Anup Biswas and Samir alias Mukhtar Khan and recovered cash of Rs 14,700 along with tiffin box, bag, agency office key, Activa vehicle (CG 04 NG 1923) and a blade from their possession.

## Congress should seek resignation from Baghel: BJP

**Raipur, Nov 04:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday said that the Congress high command sought immediately seek resignation from Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel after the ED allegations against him on alleged kickbacks from the online gaming app.

Addressing a press conference at party office situated at Ekatma Parishar, the senior BJP Legislator Brijmohan Agrawal said that Election Commission should also take cognizance on the use of fund received as kickbacks by the Congress in the ongoing Legislative Assembly polls. He added that EC should take stern action against the accused involved in political fund.

Agrawal further said that the involvement of the Congress high command could not be ruled out in receiving money as political funding for the elections.

## IIM Raipur hosts 7th Leadership Summit with Industry experts

**Raipur, Nov 04:** Indian Institute of Management Raipur commenced its 7th Leadership Summit on November 04th, 2023 with the theme "Enhancing Identity for Indian Business and Leadership." The summit strives to provide a one-of-a-kind platform for industry leaders and students to exchange key ideas about technological integration, entrepreneurship, sustainable practices, global collaborations, and skill development. The summit witnessed the presence of Chief Guest S P Ranjan, India Head, Telstra; Guest of Honor, Probal Dasgupta, Founder, Birdstone Consulting; and Prof. Ram Kumar Kakani, Director, IIM Raipur.

The inaugural session started with an opening note by Prof. Rashmi Shukla, Chairperson - Placements. She expressed



her gratitude towards all the dignitaries and introduced the umbrella theme for the panel discussions. The welcome note for the summit was presented by Prof. Ram Kumar Kakani, Director, IIM Raipur. He believes that the collaboration between industries and the institute will be instrumental in facilitating the growth of the institute.

Chief Guest S.P. Ranjan, India Head, Telstra, conveyed his profound sense of apprecia-

tion for the distinguished summit. He underscored the tremendous potential in India and stressed that the responsibility of taking the country forward largely rests with the youth. He underlined the need to produce products and services that are affordable to the population, as this is where genuine progress lies.

He shared a story highlighting the attributes of personal leadership. Guest of Honor, Shri

Probal Dasgupta, Founder, Birdstone Consulting, encouraged students to consider broader global issues as they prepare to enter the world. He reiterated the importance of considering the geopolitical and socioeconomic factors in decision-making processes.

The Fireside Chat began with Prof. Ram Kumar Kakani, Director, IIM Raipur, inviting the distinguished guests to reflect on their college experiences and how their formative years influenced their future paths. S.P. Ranjan expounded on how his collegiate journey had been a motivating factor in pursuing his interests and fostering a commitment to continuous learning. Probal Dasgupta delved into the essential components of effective leadership in the contemporary era.

## Strict action to be taken against vehicles parked in no parking zone

**Raipur, Nov 04:** Amid ongoing festive season in Raipur, the traffic police are now taking steps to improve the deteriorating traffic system caused by vehicles being parked in no parking zones at various places including major market Sadar, Kotwali, Malviya Road, Bajinathpara Road, Golbazar, MG Road, Pandari. In fact, despite availability of parking slots at many places in the city, people are not desisting from parking their vehicles in no parking zones. Vehicles parked at no parking zones often create problem of traffic jam at various places. Traffic police have started issuing e-challans on the spot to vehicles parked at no parking

zones. Not only this, the police and Municipal Corporation staff have also started taking strict action against the shopkeepers who keep goods in front of their shops in the main markets. In view of Diwali festival, the crowd of people is continuously increasing in the markets. People have now started leaving their homes and reaching the shops to purchase the items of their choice, but due to the traffic chaos in the markets, people are getting troubled. On the one hand, people are facing difficulty in commuting due to shopkeepers' goods kept on the roads, on the other hand, due to two-wheelers and four-wheelers

parked haphazardly anywhere, it has become difficult to go to markets. Traffic police officials said that in the last two months alone, the police have issued more than 1.5 thousand e-challans and collected a fine worth lakhs for parking vehicles in no parking zone. Traffic police officials said that photographs of vehicles parked in no parking zones are taken and sent to ITMS and subsequently e-challan is generated and sent to the home address of the vehicle owner. Despite availability of multilevel parking and other parking spaces located at the Collectorate, people are not parking their vehicles there.

## Holiday on the days of polling in Chhattisgarh

**Raipur, Nov 04:** General holiday has been declared for polling in Chhattisgarh in the two phases for the Assembly General Election-2023. Under the order issued by Chhattisgarh General Administration Department, a general holiday has been declared in all government offices and institutions on 7 November 2023 in the respective 20 assembly constituencies for the first phase and on 17 November 2023 in 70 assembly constituencies of the second phase. It also includes those offices or institutions which are included under the Negotiable Instruments Act 1881. Apart from this, instructions have been issued to

give paid leave to officers and employees in private institutions, industrial and commercial establishments.

As per the instructions of the Election Commission, the Labor Department has issued an order to give paid leave on polling day to all employees working in industrial, commercial and other establishments for the Assembly elections. It has been said in the order that under Section 135 (B) of the Public Representation Act 151, industrial, commercial and other establishments operating in every constituency should ensure that paid leave is given to the employees on the voting day.

## Jewellery worth 52 lakh seized from passenger in Shalimar Express

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Nov 04:** The Railway Protection Force (RPF) seized 590 gram jewellery items worth around Rs 52 lakh from a passenger in AC Coach of Shalimar Express, during night checking drive.

According to information available the RPF Post officers along with jawans were checking platforms and trains at Railway Station Raipur at around 21:40 pm on Friday. Meanwhile on sus-



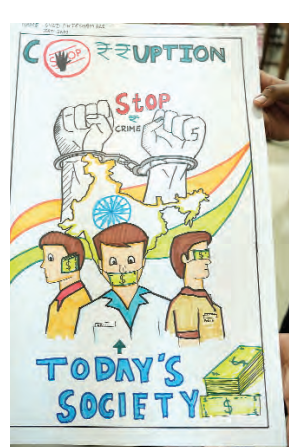
Police checked luggage of one Avinash Agrawal (41), son of Bhagirathi Agrawal in Coach-2 of 18029 Kurla Shalimar Express.

According to information Avinash, resident of Sakti (Chhattisgarh) was carrying jewellery items including gold necklace, locket, ring, bracelet, ear ring and silver ornaments and coins in his luggage. He could not produce any paper pertaining to the jewellery items. The value of seized items is estimated to be around Rs 52.76 lakh 660.

## Vigilance Awareness Week concludes

**Raipur, Nov 04:** National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur observed the Vigilance Awareness Week themed 'Say no to corruption; commit to the Nation' from 30th October to 4th November.

Topics for debate Competition were 'Educational vs Ethical bindings' (for UG students) and 'Political System vs Legal System' (for PG and Ph.D. students). Judges for the debate competition were Dr. Moksha Singh, DHSS and Dr. SK. Tarai, DHSS. In the



UG/PG category, Isita secured 1st position; Anjneya was 2nd; and Mahima and Mr. Yuvraj stood 3rd. In the Ph.D. category, Sayan Das bagged 1st place; Prasant the 2nd; and Abi Sarkar and Tulika Ghosh the 3rd positions respectively.

Poster making competition was coordinated for students on the theme 'Say No to Corruption; commit to the Nation'. Judge for the poster making competition was Dr. Abir Bandyopadhyay, Head of Department, DoA. Vishal Murmu, 7th Semester, DoA stood 1st; 2nd was Pragya Sahare, 3rd Semester, DoA; and 3rd place was secured by Vaishnavpriya M., 1st semester, DoA.

Abhinay-The Dramatics Club, NIT Raipur organized a Nukkad Natak on the theme 'Bhrashtachar pe vichar' which portrayed the importance of corruption free state and depicted the losses of corruption signifying how difficult it was for the good and honest people to get by financially without bribing.

## Unnati, Tasneem into finals of Women' Single event



**CG India International Challenge Badminton tournament**

**Raipur, Nov 04:** Unnati Hudda on Saturday defeated Rakshita Shreesantosh Ramraj with the score of

21-17, 21-16 to enter into the final of the Women' Single of the Chhattisgarh India International Challenge Badminton tournament being organized under the aegis of Chhattisgarh Badminton Association (CBA) here. Similarly, Tasneem Mir defeated



Ira Sharma with the score of 21-16, 21-17 in the second semi final to enter into the final of the tournament.

Earlier, Satish Kumar defeated Chirag Sen with the score of 21-17, 21-14 to enter into the final of Men' Single event.

Meanwhile, the Indian pair of Ashwini Bhatt and Sikha Gautam defeated the Thailand pair of Migchua and Theerapantrun with the score of 21-13m 21-11 to enter into final of Women' Double event whereas the Thailand pair of T Kleebyeusun and N Laisuan defeated the Indian pair of Priya Kinjengbam and Shruti Mishra with the score of 21-17, 21-07 to enter into the final of the tournament.

In the Men' Double semi-final match, the Thailand pair of C Charoenkitamorn and T Madae defeated the pair of Narut Saengkham and P Theerapanitnun to enter into final of the tournament.

## Hip Replacement of 118 KG patient successfully performed by Dr. Ankur Singhal

**Through Innovative Minimum Cut Technique at Ramkrishna Care Hospital**



**Dr Ankur Agarwal, Joint Replacement Surgeon**

**Raipur, Nov 04:** Recently Dr. Ankur Singhal performed Hip Replacement of patient who was weighing 118 KG. by his innovative Minimum Cut Technique. The significant feature of this surgery was, patient increased weight and BMI 45, because of increase weight and complexity patient was refused by leading hospital of Raipur. After facing refusal from every where, patient met Dr. Singhal at Ramkrishna Care Hospital, where he counselled the patient about the risk factors and complexity of the surgery. Dr. Singhal performed reconstruction of his Hip by innovative Minimum Cut Technique.

Now the patient is walking 4-5 km daily with his painless Hip joint. Doing daily activities effortlessly and patient has lost weight due to painless walking. Dr.Singhal explained that Hip replacement with such weight is a complex procedure because of risk factors involved. Dr. Singhal has been trained in UK & Germany to perform this kind of surgeries.

Minimum cut technique is innovative surgical technique which is a boon for patient affected from joint arthritis requiring surgery. In this technique patient is made to walk on same day. Patient returns to active painless life very fast.

## Rajiv Pandey accords warm welcome to PM



**Raipur, Nov 04:** President of Brahma Rishi Bhumihar Samaj, Raipur, Rajiv Pandey welcomed the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi at Raipur airport. Rajeev Pandey met the Prime Minister and discussed about Bhumihar community and there was an in-

depth discussion on political issues as well. Giving information, Rajiv Pandey said that he received many congratulations and best wishes for Chhath Puja from the Prime Minister to the Bhumihar community. Today, the number of Bhumihar community in the entire Chhattisgarh is in large numbers and they are giving more contribution to the economic growth of Chhattisgarh, be it industry or job. Bhumihar community has always been at the forefront in providing employment to the youth. In addition to this the Sathi drug de-addiction campaign continues continuously among the youth.

## High School and Higher Secondary Open School examination results declared

**Raipur, Nov 04:** The result of the High School and Higher Secondary Certificate Examination September-October 2023 conducted by Chhattisgarh State Open School has been declared. The result of high school examination was 24.47 percent and the result of higher secondary examination was 32.52 percent. A total of 16,923 students were registered in the high school examination, out of which 15,587 candidates appeared in the examination. The results of seven candidates have been withheld due to various reasons. The examination results of 15,580 candidates were released. A total of 3813 candidates passed and the result was 24.47 percent. Similarly, 18983 candidates had registered for the Higher Secondary examination, out of which 17841 appeared in the examination. Out of which 2073 students participated under RTD scheme.

## Chh'garh gets 5 medals in Mini Golf in 37th National Games



**Raipur, Nov 04:** Chhattisgarh on Friday won five medals including gold medal in the Mini Golf event under the 37th National Games underway at Goa.

According to the information received, the pair of Neel Sagar and Mehul Sahu won gold medal in the Men' Double event of Mini Golf whereas the pair of Vandana Minj and Jayesh Tiwari won silver medal in the mixed double event.

Apart from them, the Chhattisgarh team won bronze medal in the

Women' team event in which Shivani Soni, Chainkumari, Seema Yadav and Ranjeeta Khalko were the members. In the Women' single event, Prerna Singh won bronze medal whereas Sanjeev Nayak won bronze medal in the Men' Single event.

With the above victories, the tally of medal of Chhattisgarh has reached to 12 in the mega event.

Apart from them, Awdhesh Yadav won bronze medal in the Grecko Roman Wrestling event in the 87 Kg category.

## Ch'garh Archery team wins bronze medal in 37th National Games



Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Nov 04:** Chhattisgarh on Saturday won bronze medal in the Archery team even in Indian category of the 37th National Games being underway at Goa.

According to the information received, the mixed team of Chhattisgarh Archery with Vikas Kumar Kuber and Nukul Kumar secured bronze medal after losing the match against Maharashtra with a close margin.

## Pradeep Sharma's efforts to strengthen congress ties

Internal disagreements pose challenges for Congress

**Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Nov 04:** Pradeep Sharma, an advisor to the Chief Minister, is strategically fostering alliances within Chhattisgarh's political landscape, with a focus on uniting the Jogi community in favour of the Congress party. Leveraging his extensive connections in the GPM district of the Kota Vidhan Sabha, Sharma employs a diplomatic approach, reflecting the essence of "shaam daam dand bhed" political tactics.

As the election season unfolds, Pradeep Sharma's engagement in building bridges and consolidating support highlights the Congress party's determination to overcome internal divisions. The success of this endeavour will be closely watched during the electoral process. However, the Congress, despite its claim of a strong foothold in Chhattisgarh, faces internal challenges that it strives to address seamlessly. Notably, incumbent MLA Renu Jogi is competing in the Kota Vidhan Sabha, further intensifying the electoral dynamics.

While internal disputes persist within the party, the BJP maintains a united front. While members and workers within the BJP may voice their discontent, they refrain from open rebellion. On the other hand, the Congress is grappling with a more overt display of internal strife. Atal Srivastava's public outreach in the GPM district of Kota Vidhan Sabha reveals the stark divide within the party. Congress veterans are notably absent from these interactions, signaling a growing schism.

The internal discord in Kota stems from the apparent sidelining of dedicated and loyal Congress workers in favour of newcomers who have joined from Chhattisgarh Jogi Congress (CJC).

Throughout the election preparations, newcomers have assumed prominent roles, which has left loyal Congress members disheartened. The absence of senior Congress members from key events has further exacerbated tensions.

As the election looms, local Congress workers in Kota Vidhan Sabha are grappling with uncertainty regarding their political future. The disenchantment with the Congress leadership's choices has led them to seek alternative avenues, potentially impacting the party's prospects in Kota. The forthcoming election will be a test of resilience and adaptability for all political stakeholders involved.

## Farmers prepare for rice harvest ahead of Diwali

Labour shortages pose challenges for rural farmers

**Mungeli, Nov 04:** The arrival of Diwali marks the onset of the rice harvest season, with farmers actively preparing for the rice harvest as the paddy crop ripens. Farmers are making arrangements for labor and grain storage, and the harvest is expected to gain momentum post-Diwali. The early-maturing Haruna rice variety is already ripe for the picking, with farming families engaged in the harvest process.

In some villages, reports suggest a shortage of labourers available for rice harvesting. Favorable weather conditions, including ample sunshine in recent days, have facilitated the rice harvest by drying the fields and reducing moisture content, creating an optimal environment for



harvesting.

Most rice varieties in the district have reached maturity and are ready for harvesting. In certain areas, rice harvesting has already commenced. In anticipation of the upcoming Diwali festival, many farmers have made arrangements to start harvesting after the celebrations. In the coming days, rice harvesting is expected to gain momentum across the region, and government procurement centers will

witness increased arrivals of rice at support prices.

The cost of labour for harvesting has also seen an uptick. Some farmers, with the means to do so, are opting for mechanized rice harvesting using harvesters after their fields have dried due to water scarcity. Farmers have arranged for grain storage, and there is a heightened demand for paddy in the market.

In the vicinity of the district headquarters, as in

rural areas, finding labourers for rice harvesting is becoming increasingly challenging. Due to labour shortages, farmers are compelled to involve their entire families in the harvest process. The younger generation in rural areas is gradually moving away from farming, as mobile technology and alternative opportunities divert them from traditional agricultural work. Rising farming costs are further discouraging their engagement in agricultural activities.

Candidates contesting in elections are visiting villages for votes but are often met with empty households. This is primarily because rural villagers are already in the fields by 8 am every morning, actively participating in the rice harvest. As the rice harvesting season kicks into full gear, candidates are discovering that rural voters are typically absent from their homes during this period.

## Election officials equip candidates with election insights

Candidates receive valuable guidance on election processes

**Mungeli, Nov 04:** Election observers appointed for the upcoming assembly elections in the district convened a meeting with candidates and their representatives today at the Maniyari Sabha Hall within the district collectorate. The meeting was instrumental in providing comprehensive information on various aspects of the election process, including expenditure accounting, C-Vigil app, Suvidha App, Model Code of Conduct (MCC), EVM functioning, randomization, and commissioning.

Expenditure observer Rajkumar R. Makwana elucidated the expenditure

communication process with candidates, highlighting the importance of adhering to the expenditure limit of Rs 40 lakhs, as stipulated by the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961. Candidates were advised to open separate bank accounts for their campaign-related expenses and were briefed on the distinction between legitimate and illegitimate expenditures. Makwana stressed the necessity of meticulous daily accounting, cash and bank registers, and funds deposition and withdrawal procedures. He also announced the scheduled expenditure inspections on November 07, 11, and 15. Police observer Ram Singh appealed to all candidates to contribute to the conduct of free, fair, and peaceful elections within the district. He emphasized the role of the C-Vigil app in promptly reporting any disruptions to the election process and encouraged strict compliance with the Model Code of Conduct to ensure voters' fearless participation.

General observer Gangadharan D. offered candidates insights into the election process and demonstrated how the Suvidha app can streamline their nomination and permission status checks. The app allows candidates or their supporters to seek authorization for public meetings, rallies, and campaigns directly from the relevant authorities. Gangadharan urged candidates to actively engage and support the election process in accordance with Election Commission regulations. Collector and District Election Officer Rahul

Dev affirmed that the district has made all necessary arrangements to conduct elections per Election Commission guidelines. He introduced the C-Vigil app's feature enabling home voting for senior citizens above 80 and differently-abled voters, emphasizing the commitment to ensure free and fair elections. Rahul Dev provided contact numbers (94062-75513 and 86410-02203) for election-related complaints.

The meeting was attended by Police Superintendent Chandramohan Singh, Additional Collector Vijendra Singh Patle, Chief Executive Officer of the District Panchayat Prabhakar Pandey, Deputy District Election Officer Praveen Tiwari, and other pertinent officials.

Khairagarh, Nov 04: As the elections are approaching, the District Election Officer held a joint meeting of all election related officers and nodal including police administration in the Collectorate meeting room here and giving clear instructions, said that to complete the preparations for peaceful and safe voting in the district there should not be any mistake anywhere in the preparations. While talking to the election officials including human resources, management, training management, material management, computerization, law and order, expenditure monitoring, MCMC, communication plan, excise and other nodal officers, the officer said that every problem will be resolved appropriately, if in-

## Voters of the district should vote fearlessly: Collector

formed on time. The Collector also instructed that all the sector officers will make preparations for the return of the team soon after the voting and said that there will be no delay in the return. Collector Gopal Verma, in the presence of Superintendent of Police Ankita Sharma, took information from the police officers about the preparations for FST and SST



and information was taken about how much force would be deployed along the route and at polling booth wise. In the meeting, Superintendent of Police Ankita Sharma told that the route of Thandar, Bazaar Ataria and Jalbandha is sensitive, more force has been deployed. In the meeting, Additional Collector and Deputy District Election Officer DS Rajput,

Returning Officer Prakash Rajput, Joint Collector Abha Tiwari, Project Director Jitendra Sahu, SDOP Lalchand Mohle, Prashant Khande, Police Station Officer Rajesh Devdas, EE Lalit Tirkey, District Education Officer FR Kosaria, Nodal Raghuraj.Singh, Health Officer Vivek Bisen and other officials of administration and police were present.

## CMAS takes decision to celebrate 'Chhath Puja-2023'



**Raipur, Nov 04:** An important meeting of Chhath Mahaparva Aayojan Samiti (CMAS) Mahadev Ghat Raipur was held in the office of the Samiti located at Babylon Tower, near VIP Chowk in the state capital on Saturday evening.

CMAS Mahadev Ghat President Rajesh Kumar Singh presided over the meeting. The preparations for Chhath Puja-2023 were discussed in detail at the meeting. It was decided in the meeting to celebrate Chhath Puja-2023 with religious and traditional fer-

vour. Chhath Puja will begin from November 17 this year.

Sunil Singh, Ravindra Singh, Kanhaiya Singh, Shashi Singh, Ranjit Maharaj, Parmanand Singh, Ramkumar Singh, Jayant Singh, Muktinath Pandey, Brajesh Singh, Amarjeet Singh, Satyendra Singh Gautam, Mukul Srivastava, Ved Narayan Singh, Sanjay Singh, Santosh Singh, Ajay Sharma, Shiv Shankar Singh, and other members were present in the meeting.

## Voters flocking to listen to Vikrant Singh

**Khairagarh, Nov 04:** An atmosphere of tremendous enthusiasm is being seen in the city and rural areas regarding the assembly elections, as on one hand, farmers are busy in harvesting paddy, on the other hand, voters of K h a i r a g a r h - Chhuikhadan-Gandai district seem very excited to elect their MLAs. It is noteworthy that ever since the BJP candidates have been declared in the area, there is a lot of excitement and enthusiasm among the BJP workers and the general public due to which discussions are going on that due to the popularity and simple behavior of the BJP candidate Vikrant Singh and For the last 18 years, he has been reaching out to every village in Khairagarh Assembly Constituency in every happiness and sorrow. To do



public relations, BJP candidate Vikrant Singh visited the villages of Sahaspur, Navagaon, Golardih, Sarodhi, Rajabar, Samnapur, Khadi, Salhewara, Podi, Bhajidogri, Nachaniya, in Vananchal area. Lalpur, Saraiptera, Basbhira, Gopalola, Devpura, Rengakhar and villages

under Khairagarh rural division, Bhimpuri, Dullapur, Sonpuri, Kalarakhapuri, Keshala, Badgaha and village Panduka, Saliha, Kaudiya, Muteda, Navagaonkala, Madrakuhi, Dewaribhath under Khairagarh city division and addressing the villagers, he said that BJP is always a party that

cares about every section of the society. As soon as the BJP government is formed in Chhattisgarh, paddy will be purchased at Rs 3100 and 21 quintals of paddy will be purchased per acre. Also, farmers will get the money for paddy in lump sum, the same Rs 500 gas cylinders will also be available in rupees, besides, the BJP government will also give 12 thousand rupees annually to married women, he said, adding that apart from this, landless farmers will also be given 10 thousand rupees annually. Election Director Sachin Singh Baghel, Ghamman Sahu, Vinay Dewangan, Avadh Verma, Keshav Chandel, District Backward Front President Harprasad Verma, Mandal General Secretary Dev Kumar Sen, and many others were present.

## Exit Poll restrictions enhance electoral integrity

Election Commission's move aims to ensure fairness in elections

Bijapur, Nov 04:

In a commendable step towards upholding the integrity of the electoral process, the Election Commission of India has implemented a temporary ban on organizing and broadcasting exit polls from November 7 to December 30. This crucial decision comes in light of the upcoming assembly general elections in five states, including Chhattisgarh, and is aimed at preventing any undue influence on voters. The Election Commission's notification, issued to enforce the ban, falls in line with the provisions of the Representation of the People Act 1951. During the specified period, starting at 7 am on November 7 and concluding at 6.30 pm on November 30, all forms of exit polls will be prohibited. This includes the organization, publication, or broadcasting of exit polls through print or electronic

media, as well as any other means of dissemination. Furthermore, the Commission has made it clear in the notification that Section 126 (1) (b) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, will be strictly enforced during the 48 days following the end of voting in the respective polling constituencies. This means that any election-related content, including the results of opinion polls or survey polls, will be banned from electronic media during these crucial hours. This move by the Election Commission of India is being celebrated as a vital step to maintain the sanctity of the electoral process, ensuring that voters can make informed decisions without any external influence. It reflects the Commission's commitment to conducting free and fair elections, safeguarding the democratic principles upon which the nation thrives.

## WhatsApp's Guide on how users can prevent the spread of misinformation

Safety is at the core of everything we do at WhatsApp and have devoted efforts to empower users with resources and tools that equip them to spot misinformation and prevent its spread further.

While there is no single action that can help prevent the spread of misinformation and fake news online, there are some simple steps you can follow on WhatsApp to stay safe while communicating with your friends and family.

**1. Understand when a message is forwarded**

WhatsApp has created a label for all forwarded messages and limits the number of times you can forward messages as a

way to encourage users to reconsider before sharing. Paying careful attention to messages with "forward labels" also helps slow down the spread of rumours, viral messages, and fake news. For example, if a message has already been forwarded, you can forward it to up to five chats and if a message has a "forwarded many times" label, it can only be forwarded to one chat at a time. We have also introduced new group forwarding limits where messages that have the "forwarded label" can only be forwarded to one group at a time.

**2. Block and report suspicious accounts**

WhatsApp provides a simple way for users to

block accounts and make reports to WhatsApp if they encounter problematic messages. Instances might include people sending you messages because they want to spread misinformation or trick you into giving them money. If you receive a message from an unknown sender, WhatsApp will provide users the option to block them, with additional details such as groups in common, along with safety tools if you need to take action.

**3. Fact-check the information you're not sure about**

WhatsApp encourages users to double-check information that sounds suspicious or inaccurate -

this is key to preventing the spread of misinformation. WhatsApp has partnered with 10 independent fact-checking organizations that help users to identify, review, and verify the information. With the launch of WhatsApp Channels, our aim is to help people find information that is important to them. To date, there are many fact-checking organizations that now have a significant following and are able to help provide people with accurate information. Enable group privacy settings

WhatsApp's privacy setting and group invite system allow users to decide who can add them to groups, increasing user

privacy and preventing people from adding you to groups you don't want to be a part of. If you find yourself in a group chat that seems suspicious, you can choose to exit the group and report it.

**4. Be careful with believing everything you see**

Fake news often goes viral, and photos, audio recordings, and videos can be edited to mislead you. Even if a message is shared many times, this doesn't make it true. As a best practice, if you aren't sure whether something is true or don't know who wrote the message you received, don't forward it. Always fact-check information with credible sources.

## Jemmimah scores century for Mumbai in T-20 tournament

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Nov 04:** Mumbai defeated Andhra Pradesh by 93 runs in the Women's T-20 Cricket match being organised under the aegis of BCCI at Naya Raipur-based Veer Naryan Singh International Cricket Stadium here on Saturday.

Batting first, the Mumbai eves scored 188 runs losing just 2 wickets. Team India star Jemmimah Rodrigues scored 112 runs from just 66 balls to ensure a strong total for the team. Simran Seikh also scored 34 runs from just 21 balls. In reply, the Andhra Pradesh were could manage to score just 96 runs. P Naik claimed maximum 3 wickets for Mumbai whereas Jahnavi also claimed 2 wickets for her team.

## SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

### Tender Notice for Conventional Brake Rigging Arrangement

Tender Notice No. TRS-BSP-2023-24/01, Date : 30.10.2023. Tender No: TRS-BSP-23-24-IRSP-CBR-1  
Name of Work : Conventional Brake Rigging arrangement in 25 KV AC 3 Phase Electric Locomotive type WAG 9 for High Speed Operation.  
Tender Value : ₹ 1,95,94,476.76/-  
EMD : ₹ 2,48,000/- Submission of Tender : Upto 15:00 hrs. on dtd. 07.12.2023. Opening of Tender : 15:30 hrs. on dtd. 07.12.2023.

For further details, eligibility criteria and the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Sr. DEE (TRS)/BSP, S.E.C. Railway or refer/ download tender document which is available on our website: www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divil. Elect. Engineer (TRS) CPR/10289 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur; South East Central Railway @seccrail

## AFFIDAVIT

I, MONALISA DASGUPTA D/o SUBRATA DASGUPTA, R/o 64, LAXMI NAGAR, NEAR PACHPEDI, NAKA, RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH, 492001

Do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under

- That my name has been recorded as MONALISA DASGUPTA MAHAJAN (OLD NAME) in the marriage certificate, divorce certificate and passport.
- After divorce on date 25-01-2020, I want to change my name as MONALISA DASGUPTA (NEW NAME) in place of the old name.
- That in future, I will be known by new name i.e. MONALISA DASGUPTA for all the purposes.
- That my statement is true and correct.

## VERIFICATION

Verified at Raipur notary on 3 day of November 2023 (03/11/2023) that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Raipur C.G. Date : 3-Nov-2023 Deponent MONALISA DASGUPTA

# Police arrest accused in knife attacks

Kawardha, Nov 04:

In a commendable display of law enforcement efficiency, the Kotwali police swiftly apprehended suspect involved in two separate knife attack incidents that occurred at different locations, guaranteeing the city's safety and tranquility.

The Kotwali police acted promptly upon receiving information from an informant about a stabbing incident near Prakash Enterprises, where three individuals on a motorcycle had attacked a person with a sharp knife. The victim was immediately rushed to the hospital for treatment. On the report of applicant Vijay Yadav, father Lallu Yadav, age 40 years, resident of Ram Sagar Para Shiv Chowk Dhamtari, section 324 of Indian Penal Code was registered against the ac-



cused.

In a second incident, Prakash Nuruti, aged 50 and residing in Itwari Bazar, Dhamtari, reported to the police station that he had been stabbed in the back near Baniapara. The Kotwali police swiftly registered a case under section 307 of the Indian Penal Code and ensured the victim received medical attention, transporting him to Mekahara

Raipur in a 108 vehicle.

Superintendent of Police Prashant Thakur, taking immediate action, issued instructions for the arrest of the accused. Additional Superintendent of Police Mrs. Madhulika Singh, under the guidance and leadership of DSP Ms. Neha Pawar, along with police station incharge Inspector Brijesh Tiwari, formed separate teams

that succeeded in apprehending Chandan Sharma, the accused, within a few hours.

During the interrogation, the accused provided insights into the modus operandi behind both attacks, which were later reenacted for clarity. Today, the accused recreated the crime scene to demonstrate how he had committed both incidents.

The accused has been apprehended and is now in custody, awaiting legal proceedings. DSP Ms. Neha Pawar, Kotwali incharge Inspector Niri. Brijesh Tiwari, Cyber Incharge Uni. Ramesh Sahu, Kamil Chand Sori, Pr. Devendra Rajput, R. Vikas Dwivedi, Anand Katkar, Bhuarya, R. Akunsh Nanda, Anurag Pandey all played instrumental roles in this successful operation.

# Training given to candidate agents for expenditure accounts

■ Instructions given by Collector and Expenditure Observers

Mahasamund, Nov 04:



Training was given to candidates and their agents in the presence of District Collector and District Election Officer Prabhakar Malik for the candidates and their election agents of the four assemblies of Mahasamund district for the Assembly Elections 2023 regarding the expenses incurred by them and maintenance of expense accounts. On this occasion, expenditure observers Yogesh Kumar Sharma and Nilesh Rautkar told that it is necessary for all the candidates to maintain the expenses incurred by them in the prescribed forms as per the rules and if there is any mistake in maintaining the expenditure account or if they do not get their account register checked within the stipulated dates, then it is considered a serious error from the election point of view, on

which action can be taken as per rules. In the training, District Panchayat CEO S. Alok, Additional Collector and Deputy Election Officer Nirbhay Sahu, Additional Collector Durgesh Verma, SDM and Returning Officer Umesh Sahu, Ankareshwar Singh, Srishti Chandrakar were present. On this occasion, District Master Trainer Toshan Giri Goswami, while giving training, told that every candidate has been provided with an expenditure accounting register, in the first part (white colour) all the daily expenses will have to be written date wise and similarly, information about cash transactions is to be written in the second part (pink color) and information

about bank transactions is to be written in the third part (green color). Every candidate will have to submit his expenditure register for checking three times before the polling date and the final and proper report will have to be submitted within 25 days of the counting of votes, he said. He also said that a candidate cannot pay more than Rs 10,000 in cash to any one person or firm and the amount exceeding this will be paid through account check or online banking. He said that all the expenses of the candidates are being monitored, therefore, for free fair and fear-free elections, spend within the prescribed limit as per the instructions of the Commission.

# Bharat Verma campaigning in Vanachal area

Dongargaon, Nov 04:

BJP candidate Bharat Verma is doing intensive campaigning from village to village and in the last two days, he did door to door public relations in many villages of Vanachal area, where he was enthusiastically welcomed by the villagers in every village, and at many places women performed aarti for him and blessed him for his victory. Addressing the villagers BJP candidate Bharat Verma, said that the misery that has been done to the state in the last five years is not hidden from anyone, as only corruption has been carried out in the name of



development work. He further said that public money was embezzled by committing many scams like Gauthan scam, cow dung scam, liquor scam, coal scam, PSC scam. Verma also alleged that

today entire Chhattisgarh is suffering from the mis-governance of Congress, and it is necessary to overthrow such government in this election and for this he appealed to vote more and more in favor of BJP.

# Liquor shops to remain closed 48 hours before voting

Bilaspur, Nov 04:

In order to conduct the Assembly General Elections 2023 smoothly and fairly in the district, 15th November to 17th November till the end of voting has been declared as dry day in the district. During this period, the Collector and District Election Officer have given orders to keep all the liquor shops in the district closed. Collector and District Election Officer Bilaspur Avnish Sharan, using the powers granted in sub-section (1) of

Section 24 of the Chhattisgarh Excise Act 1915, ordered the sale of all country liquor and foreign liquor in all the retail shops, restaurants, bars, clubs etc. located in the district, banned and has been declared as dry period/dry day 48 hours before the end of voting i.e. from 5 pm on 15th November 2023 till the end of voting on 17th November 2023. Instructions have been given by the Collector to the Police Department and Excise Department to strictly follow the above order.

# Coordination meeting of inter-district/inter-state police held

Gaurela Pendra Marwahi, Nov 04:

Coordination meeting of inter-district or inter-state police and excise officials regarding the upcoming assembly election was held to ensure law and order as well as peaceful voting in view of the upcoming assembly elections, which is to be held on 17/11/2023 in the entire Madhya Pradesh and northern part of Chhattisgarh. Additional Superintendent of Police of Raigarh, Korba, Bilaspur, Janjgir, Sakti, sub-divisional police officers and station in-charges of border police stations were present in the online coordination meeting where action against goondas, warrant serving, bor-



der check post and other election topics were discussed. Similarly, in the same sequence, on 02.11.2023, an online inter-state (Chhattisgarh-Madhya Pradesh) coordination meeting was organized in which the Superintendents of Police of Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi and

Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur districts of Chhattisgarh, police of Shahdol, Didori, Anuppur of Madhya Pradesh, took part. In the meeting detailed discussions were held in view of the security arrangements regarding excise, execution of warrants and strengthening of law and order.

## Assembly General Election 2023

# Observers hold meeting of political parties and candidates

Manendragarh, Nov 04:

Observers appointed by the Election Commission of India for the assembly elections in the district here held a meeting of candidates and political party representatives. In the meeting, detailed information regarding expenditure account maintenance, C Vigil, Suvidha App, MCC, MCMC, functioning of EVM, randomization, commissioning etc were given. Expenditure Observer Saurabh Narayan Nayak asked the candidates regarding the process of maintaining expenditure accounts and said that according to the Election Conduct Rules 1961, the limit of election expenditure for an assembly candidate has been kept at Rs 40 lakh and for this, each candidate will have to open a separate bank account and all expenses will be incurred from this account. He gave detailed



information regarding legal and illegal expenditure, daily accounts, cash register, bank register, amount deposited in the account through various means and its withdrawal.

Along with this, he gave instructions to the officers to prepare accounting related shadow register. Police Observer K.V. Mohanrao wished all the candidates

good luck for the assembly elections and appealed for cooperation in conducting free, fair and peaceful elections in the district and said that through the C Vigil app, the concerned authorities can be immediately informed about those creating obstruction in the election work. He asked to ensure 100% adherence to the code of conduct, so that voters can participate in this great festival of democracy with full confidence and without fear. General Observer Lalit Mohan Rayal, while giving detailed information regarding the elections to the candidates, said that the candidates have been provided a convenience app to check the status of their nominations and permissions. Through this app, candidates or their supporters can take permission to hold election meetings or campaign materials sitting at home. He said that this

time as per the instructions of the Election Commission, the facility of voting sitting at home is being provided to the disabled and voters above 80 years of age. Giving information regarding the randomization and commissioning of EVMs, Collector Narendra Kumar Dugga said that the second randomization of EVMs will be done on 04th November and it will be commissioned on 06th November. He said that candidates will have to take permission from the concerned Returning Officer for use of vehicle, loudspeaker, street corner, rally and meeting. The Collector appealed to all the people for 100% participation in this great festival of democracy. For any type of complaint related to elections, complaint cell, control room and call center have been established in the District Election Office, whose contact number is as follows.

Complaint Room 6261911131, Control Room 07771-299046, Mobile Number 6261911141, Election Expenditure Room 07771-299256. In the meeting, Superintendent of Police Siddharth Tiwari, Deputy District Election Officer Anil Sidar, Additional Superintendent of Police Nimesh Baraiya, RO Abhilaisha Paikra, Moolchand Chopra, Deputy Collector Praveen Bhagat, Pritesh Rajput including political party candidates and representatives of Gana Suraksha Party were present. Aruna Panika from BJP, Shyam Bihari Jaiswal, Rajendra Kumar Das, Manoj Shukla, Ramnaresh Rai, Saurabh Mishra from Congress, Kuleshwar Sahu, Aju Kumar Ravi, Amar Singh, Aditya Raj David from JCCJ, Ayodhya Prasad Birganth, Santoshi from Chhattisgarh Party and various others were present.

# BJP releases marathon manifesto 'Modi's Guarantee 2023'

Dongargaon, Nov 04:

BJP has released its marathon manifesto in the name of Modi's Guarantee 2023 for Chhattisgarh. In this manifesto, an effort has been made to reach out to the farmers of prosperous and self-reliant Chhattisgarh as well as all the people including the youth and women. Dongargaon assembly constituency BJP joint convener Laxminarayan Gupta said that in this letter issued in fifty-six pages, a large number of promises have been made and PM Modi has given a guarantee to fulfil these promises. Prosperous farmer-prosperous state, tribal upliftment, thinking of universal welfare, strong prosperous women, labor welfare, developed villages, good health, better education,



Laxminarayan Gupta

committed good governance, strong foundation, glorious heritage, energetic youth, and maintenance of natural resources along with business growth, has been given priority in the manifesto. Regarding this, BJP has tried to woo all sections and among the main promises in this guarantee letter, farmers have been promised the purchase of 21 quintals of paddy per acre at Rs 3100 and full payment in a single instalment.

# Use 'UTS Ticketing Mobile App' to save time

Bilaspur, Nov 04:

With the objective of encouraging digital ticketing mode, promoting self-ticketing and enabling passengers to purchase tickets without facing the hassle of queues, the Railway Administration has provided the facility of UTS Mobile App for booking unreserved tickets sitting at home.

Passengers travelling on unreserved tickets can book unreserved tickets sitting at home to travel in the desired train by downloading this app on their mobile. This app was specially designed for booking unreserved tickets, renewal of monthly season tickets and booking of platform tickets for all stations sitting at home without standing in line. This



Railway officials informing about the use of 'UTS Ticketing Mobile App'.

app works up to a distance of 25 km from the station premises and a facility of additional bonus of 03 percent is also available on R-Wallet recharge for ticket payment. For wide publicity of this app, a special campaign is being run by the teams of supervisors and employees of the

Commerce Department under the guidance of Divisional Commercial Manager Vikas Kumar Kashyap. Provision of help-desk has been made in trains and all stations, where detailed information about UTS on Mobile App is being given to the passengers by the ticket

checking staff and detailed information is also being disseminated through banners, pamphlets and announcement system, so that passengers can easily use this facility and take advantage of it. Apart from this, seminars are being organized by teams of supervisors and employees in all major government offices including schools, colleges, universities, and the provisions of unreserved tickets and its benefits are being explained in detail through the UTS app. This facility provided by Railways is also being appreciated and a large number of people are using this mobile app, due to which there has been a significant increase in rail ticket sales through this app.

# Central school hosts vibrant Indian language festival

■ Students showcase cultural richness and life values through diverse languages

Kawardha, Nov 04:

Central School, in accordance with the Ministry of Education's directives, has been hosting a weekly Indian Language Festival since September 28th, offering a unique platform for students to celebrate linguistic diversity and cultural richness. In its sixth week, students came together on Saturday to express their thoughts and values through a myriad of Indian languages.

The festival provided a delightful exhibition where students shared life-oriented and culturally enriching aphorisms in languages such as Gujarati, Maithili, Punjabi, Marathi, Bengali, Telugu, Tamil, and Sanskrit. It became a lively



forum for discussions on how these culturally enriched words take on unique meanings in different linguistic contexts. Principal Sushil Kumar graced the occasion with an address that underscored the significance of acquiring knowledge about Indian languages and comprehending the deep-rooted values they encapsulate. Dr. Barun Kumar

Mishra, the program's coordinator, extended heartfelt gratitude to all the participants for their enthusiastic involvement in the Indian Language Festival. Additionally, Upendra Devangan, Sunil Kumar Sahu, and Hemanath Singour played pivotal roles in the successful organization of this enriching event.

## Militants attack Pak Air Force training base in Punjab province

● 3 aircraft damaged

Islamabad, Nov 04 (PTI):

Heavily-armed militants attacked a Pakistan Air Force training base in Punjab province early Saturday, damaging three grounded aircraft, the army said, a day after 15 soldiers were killed in two separate terror strikes.

In a statement, the Pakistan Army said that the Mianwali Training Air Base of Pakistan Air Force was attacked by terrorists but soldiers foiled it by killing three of the attackers and cornering three others.

"However, during the attack, some damage to

three already grounded aircraft and a fuel bowser also occurred," the statement said.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

The army said that three terrorists were "neutralised while entering the base while the remaining three terrorists have been cornered/isolated due to timely and effective response by the troops".

A comprehensive joint clearance and combing operation is in the final stages to completely clear the area, it said.

"Pakistan Armed Forces remain committed to eliminating the menace of terrorism from the country at all costs," the

army said.

The attack comes hours after a series of terror strikes killed at least 15 soldiers in the restive Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces.

Fourteen Pakistani soldiers were killed on Friday when militants ambushed two vehicles carrying security forces from Pasni to the Ormara area of Gwadar district in the restive south-western Balochistan province.

Friday's toll is the heaviest suffered by the military in Balochistan province this year where separatists and militants have stepped up their attacks since a ceasefire deal between the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)

and the Pakistan government ended in November 2022. Hours before the Gwadar attack, a series of bomb blasts targeting convoys of police and security forces killed six people, including a soldier, and wounded 24 others in the Dera Ismail Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Throughout the year, terrorists and separatists have been targeting security forces in Pakistan, mainly troubled Balochistan province. Two soldiers were killed in the Khorra area of Awaran district last Sunday.

In July, 12 soldiers were killed in separate military operations in the Zhob and Sui areas of Balochistan.

## AFGHAN REFUGEES



Afghan refugees follow a truck to receive aid in a camp near the Torkham Pakistan-Afghanistan border, in Torkham, Afghanistan. A huge number of Afghan refugees entered the Torkham border to return home hours before the expiration of a Pakistani government deadline for those who are in the country illegally to leave or face deportation.

## EAM Jaishankar meets Italian President Mattarella

● Discusses ways to advance strategic partnership

Rome, Nov 04 (PTI):

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has met Italian President Sergio Mattarella and other senior leaders here and discussed ways to further develop the bilateral strategic partnership in areas like defence, cyber security and counter-terrorism.

Jaishankar, who was in Rome at the invitation of his Italian counterpart Antonio Tajani, concluded his four-day visit to Portugal and Italy on Friday.

During their meeting, the Italian president reiterated his strong support for advancing bilateral

ties and deepening India-Italy and India-EU linkages, the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi said in a Saturday press release.

Taking to social media site X on Friday, Jaishankar said, "Valued his (Mattarella) guidance for the further development of our strategic partnership. In a volatile and uncertain world, the India-Italy relationship is a factor of stability."

The minister also held a meeting with the Italian Defence Minister, Guido Crosetto, which focused on deepening strategic co-operation, including industrial collaboration in defence manufacturing and areas of counter-terrorism, cyber security and maritime domain, the release said.

The minister's Italy visit further consolidated

the long-standing historical ties between the two countries and pushed bilateral cooperation in diverse areas of the Strategic Partnership, including on contemporary global issues and challenges, the press release said.

He also met the Italian Minister of Enterprise, Adolfo Urso, discussing ways to promote bilateral trade and investment, with a focus on areas of agro-tech, engineering, digital infrastructure, innovation and space.

"An insightful conversation this morning with the Minister of Enterprise @adolfo\_urso. Exchanged the experiences of Made in Italy and Made in India. Confident that our discussion today will expand the scope of our economic partnership," he said in a post on X.

## 2 killed as flooding hits Kenya

● Sweeping away homes and destroying roads

Nairobi (Kenya), Nov 03 (AP):

Heavy rains and flooding ravaged parts of Kenya on Friday, sweeping away homes and livestock and destroying roads and electric transmission lines, authorities said. At least two people were killed and at least one was missing.

One of the victims died after a house collapsed under heavy rains in the coastal city of Mombasa, police said, while the second was swept away by floods in Meru County in central Kenya. Emergency workers were searching for a third person believed to have drowned in Isiolo, in the country's north.

Kenya's Meteorological Department had earlier warned of above average

rainfall until Monday.

"Flood waters may appear in places where it has not rained heavily especially downstream. Residents are advised to avoid driving through, or walking in moving water or open fields and not to shelter under trees and near gridded windows when raining to minimise exposure to lightning strikes," read the alert.

In Mombasa, heavy rains caused flash floods, which swept away homes and businesses. Videos showed cars submerged in flooded roads, while in the northeast, a major road linking Wajir and Mandera counties was completely cut off leaving motorists stranded.

Dramatic footage also emerged Thursday of a wildlife conservancy chopper crew rescuing eight people who were in a truck that was being swept away by raging floodwaters in Samburu county.

## Israel resists US pressure to pause the war to allow more aid to Gaza

Tel Aviv, Nov 04 (AP):

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday pushed back against growing US pressure for a "humanitarian pause" in the nearly month-old war to protect civilians and allow more aid into Gaza, insisting there would be no temporary cease-fire until the roughly 240 hostages held by Hamas are released.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken made his third trip to Israel since the war began, reiterating American support for Israel's campaign to crush Hamas after its brutal Oct. 7 attack in southern Israel. He also echoed President Joe Biden's calls for a brief halt in the fighting to address a worsening humanitarian crisis.

Alarm has grown over spiralling Palestinian deaths and deepening mis-

ery for civilians from weeks of Israeli bombardment and a widening ground assault that risks even greater casualties. Overwhelmed hospitals say they are nearing collapse, with medicine and fuel running low under the Israeli siege. About 1.5 million people in Gaza, or 70% of the population, have fled their homes, the UN said Friday. Palestinians are increasingly desperate for the most basic supplies.

The average Gaza resident is now surviving on two pieces of bread per day, much of it made from stockpiled U.N. flour, said Thomas White, Gaza director for the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees. Demands for drinking water are also growing.

"People are beyond looking for bread," he told U.N. diplomats in a video briefing from Gaza. "It's looking for water."

After talks with Netanyahu, Blinken said a temporary halt was needed to boost aid deliveries and help win the release of the hostages Hamas took during its brutal incursion nearly a month ago.

But Netanyahu said he told Blinken that Israel was "going with full steam ahead," unless hostages are released.

U.S. officials initially said they were not seeking a cease-fire, but short pauses in specific areas to allow aid deliveries or other humanitarian activity, after which Israeli operations would resume. Netanyahu has not publicly addressed the idea and has instead repeatedly ruled out a cease-fire. On Friday, however, a senior U.S. administration official said policymakers believe a "fairly significant pause" in fighting will be needed to allow for releases.

## Average Gazan living on two pieces of bread a day, scarce water: UN

United Nations, Nov 04 (AP):

The average Gazan is living on two pieces of Arabic bread made from flour the UN had stockpiled in the region, yet the main refrain now being heard in the street is "Water, water," the Gaza director for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees said Friday.

Thomas White, who said he travelled "the length and breadth of Gaza in the last few weeks," described the place as a "scene of death and destruction." No place is safe now, he said, and people fear for their lives, their future and their ability to feed their families.

The Palestinian refugee agency, known as UNRWA, is supporting about 89 bak-



Indonesian soldier prepares for loading relief supplies for Palestinians in Gaza, before its departure at Najib Mikati Indonesia, Saturday, Nov. 4. Indonesian government on Saturday dispatched its first batch of humanitarian aid for the people in Gaza, the first assistance by the country since Israel-Hamas war began.

eries across Gaza, aiming to get bread to 1.7 million people, White told diplomats from the UN's 193 member nations in a video

briefing from Gaza. But, he said, "now people are beyond looking for bread. It's looking for water."

UN deputy Mideast coordinator Lynn Hastings, who is also the humanitarian coordinator for the Palestinian territories, said only one of three water supply lines from Israel is operational.

"Many people are relying on brackish or saline ground water, if at all," she said.

In the briefing, UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths also said intense negotiations are taking place among authorities from Israel, Egypt, the United States and United Nations on allowing fuel to enter Gaza. Fuel, he said, is essential for the functioning of institutions, hospitals and the distribution of water and electricity. "We must allow these supplies reliably, repeti-

tively and dependently into Gaza." Backup generators, which have been essential to keep hospitals, water desalination plants, food production facilities and other essential services operating "are one by one grinding to a halt as fuel supplies run out," Hastings said. White pointed to other major problems.

Sewage is not being treated and instead is being pumped into the sea, he said. "But when you speak to municipal workers, the reality is once their fuel runs out, that sewage will flow in the streets." In addition, he said, cooking gas that was brought into Gaza from Egypt by the private sector before the war is increasingly in short supply.

## Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina appears on Time Cover

Washington, Nov 04 (PTI):

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who has appeared on the cover page of Time magazine, in an interview asserted it is difficult to overthrow her government through a democratic system. Elections in Bangladesh are scheduled in January 2024.

"I am confident that my people are with me. They're my main strength. It's not that easy to overthrow me through a democratic system. The only option is just to eliminate me. And I am ready to die for my people," Hasina told Time magazine, according to the excerpts of the interview released by



the news outlet. The November 20 edition of the magazine, which featured Hasina on cover page, will hit the stands on November 10, the New York-based outlet said. "At 76 Bangladesh's Prime

Minister is a political phenomenon who has guided the rise of this nation of 170 million from rustic jute producer into the Asia-Pacific's fastest-expanding economy over the past decade.

"In office since 2009, after an earlier term from 1996 to 2001, she is the world's longest-serving female head of government and credited with subduing both resurgent Islamists and a once meddlesome military," read TIME's Charlie Campbell cover story. "Having already won more elections than Margaret Thatcher or Indira Gandhi, Hasina is determined to extend that run at the ballot box in January," Campbell wrote.

## FLOOD IN ITALY



This picture released by the Italian firefighters shows an aerial view of the Prato area after floods hit Toscana region, central Italy.

## Why does western Nepal face threat of a bigger earthquake?

Kathmandu, Nov 04 (PTI):

Situated on the precarious Himalayan seismic zone, Nepal is a highly earthquake-prone country and its quake-battered western mountainous region is likely to face a threat of a bigger earthquake, a seismologist says.

According to the government's post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA) report, Nepal is the 11th most earthquake-prone country in the world.

So, when a powerful 6.4 magnitude earthquake hit Nepal's remote western mountainous region late on Friday night, it was not the first one for the day or for this month. The earthquake in western Nepal just before midnight on Friday was the latest in a long list of over 70 quakes in the country in 2023, official data showed.

At least 140 people died



This handout photo provided by Nepal Prime Minister's Office shows an earthquake-affected area in northwestern Nepal Saturday, Nov. 4. Helicopters and ground troops rushed to help people hurt in a strong earthquake that shook northwestern Nepal districts just before midnight Friday, killing more than 100 people and injuring dozens more, officials said Saturday.

in the powerful temblor with its epicentre in Jajarkot district, about 500 km northwest of Kathmandu, invoking the painful memories of the devastating 2015 earthquake.

"There has been a collision between Indian and

Eurasian plates going on underground for a long time which has accumulated tremendous energy," Bharat Koirala, senior seismologist at the National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Centre, Nepal, told PTI. Nepal is located at the

boundary of these two plates and therefore lies in a highly active seismic region. Therefore, earthquakes are common in Nepal.

"Western Nepal is under the threat of bigger earthquakes," Koirala says and adds, "There has not been a big earthquake in Western Nepal for the last 520 years. So a lot of energy has been accumulated and earthquakes are the only medium to release that energy."

"From Gorkha (district) in western Nepal to Dehradun of India, lots of energy has been accumulated due to the tectonic movement. Therefore, small or big earthquakes are taking place in these areas to release the energy, which is normal," Koirala said.

The youngest mountain ranges in the world, the Himalayas have risen up as a result of the collision of the Eurasian plate,

with Tibet at its southern edge, and the Indian continental plate and over the centuries have continued to evolve tectonically, which the seismologists said, advance two metres closer every century resulting in sudden release of elastic energy stored in the active geological faults inside the earth causing movement in the crust. Data from the Earthquake Monitoring and Research Centre shows that since January 1, 2023, till date, there have been a total of 70 earthquakes of magnitude 4.0 and above in Nepal. Of these, as many as 13 were between magnitude 5 and 6 while three were above magnitude 6.0. Every day two or more magnitude earthquakes have been happening for centuries to release the energy accumulated through the tectonic plate movement, he adds.



## CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 49 No. 35

### Strengthening India-US Ties

#### Diplomatic Prudence Prevails

The upcoming 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue between the United States and India presents a significant opportunity for both nations to strengthen their diplomatic and strategic partnership. As US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin prepare to visit New Delhi next week and meet with their Indian counterparts, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, it's crucial to recognize the importance of this engagement and the mutual interests that bind these two democracies. This high-level dialogue comes on the heels of Secretary Blinken's tour of five nations, with India as the final destination. It underscores the enduring commitment of both nations to enhance their bilateral relationship and address critical regional and global issues. The visit signals a concerted effort to harness the potential of this partnership for the betterment of the Indo-Pacific region and beyond. One of the key objectives of this dialogue, as articulated by US Assistant Secretary for Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu, is to prevent the Israel-Hamas conflict from spreading. Both Washington and New Delhi share this goal, recognizing the destabilizing impact of conflicts in the Middle East on the broader international landscape. Their collective commitment to preserving stability in West Asia is a commendable stance that aligns with the principles of peace and cooperation. Furthermore, the pursuit of a two-state solution in the Israel-Palestine conflict underscores their shared commitment to promoting peace and resolving longstanding disputes. India's role in abstaining from a recent UN General Assembly resolution, which called for a humanitarian truce in Gaza, demonstrates its willingness to engage constructively on complex international issues. By standing alongside the US and other nations, India exhibited pragmatism and a diplomatic approach rooted in the pursuit of global peace. While the visit of Secretary Blinken and Secretary Austin holds great promise for India-US relations, it is equally important to address recent diplomatic tensions involving India and Canada. The US has urged India to cooperate with Canada in the investigation into allegations of Indian involvement in the murder of designated terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan underscored that no country should receive special exemptions for actions of this nature. India's steadfast position in this matter has been a point of contention, leading to a downgrading of Canada's diplomatic presence in India. However, it's essential to recognize that the onus lies on Canada to provide concrete evidence and engage in a transparent dialogue with India regarding the Nijjar case. Diplomatic prudence dictates that allegations of such magnitude must be substantiated through credible evidence, and India's insistence on due process is entirely justified. As India and the United States engage in their 2+2 dialogue, the evolving dynamics of this relationship should not be overshadowed by these diplomatic challenges. Both nations have a significant stake in enhancing their partnership, especially in the strategic and defense domains. The strategic convergence between India and the US has grown steadily over the years, bolstered by shared values and a commitment to democratic principles. As China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region expands, the importance of a robust India-US partnership cannot be overstated. It serves as a stabilizing force and a bulwark against any attempts to alter the regional status quo. In the realm of defense cooperation, both countries have made significant strides. The signing of foundational agreements, such as the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) and the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA), has paved the way for enhanced interoperability and information sharing between their armed forces. These agreements are a testament to the growing trust and alignment of strategic interests. Additionally, economic and trade relations hold immense potential. The United States is one of India's largest trading partners, and there is ample room for expansion in areas such as technology, renewable energy, and defense manufacturing. Collaborations in these sectors can drive economic growth and job creation in both countries. The visit of Secretary Blinken and Secretary Austin provides an opportune moment to reaffirm their commitment to a robust, forward-looking partnership that benefits not only their nations but also the broader international community.

### AI Bolsters Tsunami Early Warnings

Dr. Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

Tsunamis, while infrequent, are an ever-present threat that looms over coastal communities worldwide. These catastrophic events have the potential to claim countless lives and cause billions of dollars in economic losses. As we commemorate World Tsunami Awareness Day on November 5, it is essential to reflect on the persistent menace of tsunamis and the innovative solutions that hold the promise of saving lives and mitigating their destructive impact. Over the past century, tsunamis have claimed the lives of more than 260,000 people, with an average of 4,600 deaths per incident. This staggering toll surpasses that of many other natural disasters, underscoring the urgent need for preparedness and proactive measures. The theme for World Tsunami Awareness Day in 2023, "Fighting Inequality for a Resilient Future," aligns with the International Day for Disaster Reduction, emphasizing the disproportionate impact of tsunamis on vulnerable communities and their devastating effects on post-disaster poverty. Early warning systems are pivotal in mitigating the consequences of tsunamis. These systems provide crucial time for coastal communities to evacuate and seek safety. They are the difference between life and death. The primary objective of World Tsunami Awareness Day is to promote preparedness, including the development and enhancement of early warning systems, evacuation drills, and the construction of resilient infrastructure. In the face of such a formidable threat, international collaboration and knowledge-sharing play a crucial role in safeguarding lives and property. One of the remarkable developments in tsunami early warning systems is the Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre, established following the catastrophic 2004 tsunami. This state-of-the-art facility employs a real-time network of seismic stations, pressure recorders, tide gauges, and a 24/7 tsunami warning center. Covering 25 countries in the Indian Ocean region, this system swiftly detects significant earthquakes and the resulting tsunamis, providing timely alerts to at-risk communities. In this age of rapid technological advancement, artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as a powerful tool to further strengthen tsunami early warning systems. AI algorithms can identify atmospheric disturbances that signal the formation of destructive waves. By analyzing vast datasets and monitoring changes in atmospheric conditions, AI has the potential to provide advanced notifications to coastal communities well in advance of the arrival of tsunamis. The implications of this technological innovation are profound. Imagine receiving a warning hours, or even days, before a tsunami strikes. Such early alerts could provide ample time for evacuations, the safeguarding of critical infrastructure, and the preservation of lives. AI-powered early warning systems represent a transformative step in disaster preparedness and response. As experts worldwide acknowledge the global tsunami risk, it becomes evident that we must implement inventive strategies for risk reduction. Collaboration between private businesses and governments within the thriving blue economy holds promise for enhancing responses to this formidable threat. The blue economy encompasses marine industries, technologies, and resources, and it is ripe for innovative solutions to address tsunami risk. By investing in early warning systems and fostering international collaboration, we can reduce the devastating impact of tsunamis on vulnerable communities. Together, we can build a more resilient future and protect lives from the wrath of these natural menaces.

(Writer is a Professor &amp; Principal (Retd.) Newspaper Columnist).

### WEATHER SMOG



People during morning walk amid low visibility due to smog, at a park in Gurugram, Saturday, Nov. 4.

## Diwali lights and the quest for electrical pylons

ER. JAYESH RANE



Diwali and electricity-powered lighting are equated. Every year new types of electric pylons, lights are coming in the market to attract the customers. Consumers also take it. This means they have access to a good market. That is why every year new products running on electricity appear in the market. Every state celebrates some big festival. Like Shree Ganeshotsav in Maharashtra. Navratri in Bengal and Gujarat. During the festive period, there is a lot of lightning. It can be said that all this starts from the period of Shree Ganeshotsav in Maharashtra. Lord Ganesha arrives at the village, city houses. At that time, the arrangement of electric pylons, as well as other electric colored bulbs are preferred. For that, they are purchased in large quantities from urban areas. Such a picture is seen everywhere in the state.

As Diwali approaches, where are the electrical pylons in the house, are they in good condition? It is verified and if any defects are found, a new pylon is purchased directly. With the excitement of Diwali, shopkeepers are looking at how they can get few more money through pylons and customers are insisting on reducing rates. But since the shopkeepers have a crowd of customers, they are firm on the price fixed by them. So, if the pylon can be purchased at the stated price, then it is stopped there, otherwise, where else do you get pylon at a low price? A few more shops are visited for this.

No warranty is given on any electrical pylon. There is a different fear in the mind that the pylon running in the shop should not be closed after going home. Because the shopkeeper has already warned "This item is not guaranteed." Still the pylon is purchased at the risk of financial loss. If it works, it

works otherwise it doesn't. The money spent on it was considered wasted. This is the understanding given to the mind. In some cases these pylons last for 4 - 5 years. But all this is not reliable.

Now is the age of instant. It has a cute name called Modern Age. Everything should be controlled at the fingertips without waking up. AC turns on when the remote button is pressed. Also, pressing the button turns on any electrical device. But it would be good if such devices are available that one does not have to move even to press the button. Such a mentality has happened. China outsmarted Indians in the early days with small electronic devices. Many people fell into this trap and eventually got used to it and could not live without these 'use and throw away' products made in China. Especially on Diwali, the impression of this is clearly visible. 365 days Chinese food is consumed with taste. Chinese dishes appeared in events like weddings, birthdays etc. China, with its expansionist stance, began to intrude into Indian border areas. Deadly attacks on soldiers. But the Indian soldiers gave them a tight fight and beat up those 'one and a half feet'. China has remained where it is and continues to make Indians dance to its own tune through the marketplace. He has had good success in that. The negative effect of the formula of boycott on Chinese goods had to be suffered by China in the form of economic loss. However, China's dominance in the Indian market has not completely disappeared.

Diwali is a festival celebrated in India on a grand scale. But China has got hold of it. Doesn't it hurt? Why are we so obsessed with China? Today, it has become such a situation that Chinese electric pylons are placed on the doors of houses during Diwali. They have electric lights on the threshold. Where has our pylon made of wool gone? Where are the earthen lamps? The marigold flowers and the mango leaf garlands on the woolen pylons of the door disappeared. Instead of wool pylons, pylons with plastic marigold flowers became desirable. This is called giving 100% importance to the uses of artificial objects over natural ones. In Mumbai, marigold i.e. gende flowers in Hindi. It did not get

good price on the occasion of Dussehra. The price was 80-100 rupees per kg in the retail market. Other time during festival it goes up to Rs 150 per kg. Some farmers had to throw away the flowers as the goods did not take off as expected, while some had to bear the loss considering the travel expenses of the tempo, food, toll charges. Tell me, does anyone care? On one side there were pylons of marigold flowers and on the other side there were plastic garlands of marigold flowers in the shop. The intrusion of China in the festival also killing the farmers here.

After a product is rejected, how to introduce another new product in the market and bring it down the throat of the customers? China has mastered the technique and is doing so. India is making progress. But the people here are failing to beat China back from the market here. So we are not a hindrance in the progress of India? It should be looked seriously. My country should always be on the path of progress. This is the welfare of me and the country. Economic blockade of China is possible only if it is felt like this. Otherwise, the dragon named China will become stronger on the money of Indians. Which happened so far.

The use of earthen lamps on Diwali has remained a mere formality. More emphasis is on electrical flashing. Therefore, electric lamps are installed even though there are no earthen lamps. Let's honestly ask ourselves a question 'Do I really want to celebrate the festival traditionally? If the answer is no, then it is very serious. Because it needs to be answered. Diwali is the festival of lights. Why I am running behind artificial happiness instead of enjoying the festival of lights by bringing something artificial from the market? Artificial always lives up to its name and will never come close to natural satisfaction.

When there is no electricity, there is anxiety. During Diwali, the electricity consumption is more than usual due to the lighting of houses. As this load cannot be borne, when the electricity suddenly goes off, darkness spreads everywhere. In such a case, only those earthen lamps who shine on the oil are useful. They keep the darkness away and make the area free from darkness.

Then it is entirely in our hands to follow the runner or to light up the Diwali by using the earthen lamps that give light in a steady and calm manner.

Leaders do not miss the opportunity to shine on the festive occasion. If not, how can they be political leaders? Some offer packets of ubton (Used during Diwali Abhyangasnaan) There are photos of many leaders on it. Should we do the Diwali Abhyangasnaan with the same ubton? At other times, the faces seen on the hoardings in the areas also appear on the packets of the ubton. It is not required. Even if these packets are not received, people still take abhyangasnaan. It is not at all possible to take Abhyangasnaan using the ubton given by them. The political gimmicks on the occasion of festivals are shocking.

Deepotsav is celebrated in many places during Diwali. Many earthen lamps are used. A lot of photographs are taken by attending the place to witness the Deepotsav. The mind feels extremely satisfied by looking at the lights, so the mind is attracted to such places. A boycott of Chinese goods is a must. Also, it is important that I celebrate Diwali according to Diwali. Points are mainly involved in this festival like procession of relatives, sweets, new clothes, lighting of the area with oil used earthen lamps, construction of forts etc. Let's keep this in mind and enjoy Diwali.

Diwali means the lighting of the lights. Lamps are made by placing a cotton wick in an earthen lamp and lighting it with oil. But to do this, one has to do simple work to turn the wick and who will do this simple work for a few seconds? Put oil in the lamp. Put a wick in it every day. wick is also available ready made in the market. But they feel unwanted. Wax lamps are applied. There is also artificiality. Why are we so lazy? When the button is pressed, the electric pylon turns on. It is considered satisfactory. The real Diwali is celebrated only with the help of earthen lamps. It is neglected out of laziness.

(The writer is an analyst on various subjects like social, educational, technical, political, economic, revenue, religious, arts, international affairs, defence, agriculture etc. Mail ID: jayeshrane1@gmail.com)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### State-Sponsored Alerts

Opposition leaders and journalists received alert notifications from Apple, suggesting they may be targets of "state-sponsored attackers," echoing the Pegasus snooping scandal of 2021. Immediate parliamentary and judicial investigations are imperative to identify culprits. Much like the myth of Pegasus and Bellerophon, attempting unwarranted actions could lead to a government's downfall.

Sujit De, Kolkata

#### Shami and Siraj

In a stellar performance, India secured victory against Sri Lanka, advancing to the semi-finals. India set a formidable target of 357 runs without a single century, a rare feat at Wankhede Stadium known for high scores. The Lankan team was dismissed for a mere 55 runs, courtesy of Siraj's magical bowling and Shami's record-breaking wicket-taking prowess. Shami now stands as India's second bowler in ODI history with three consecutive 4-plus wicket hauls, instilling fear in opponents. With this bowling dominance, India appears poised for victory in the tournament.

Mohammad Taukir, West Champaran

#### Precautions In Advance

Delhi's government and private primary schools will shut down for the next two days as pollution levels surge, announced Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. In response to deteriorating air quality entering the 'severe' category, the central pollution control panel has ordered a halt to non-essential construction in Delhi-NCR and the entry of diesel-heavy trucks into the capital. This season's first 'severe' pollution reading raises concerns of a worsening situation over the next two weeks. Neighboring states may also encounter similar challenges, urging them to proactively take precautions.

TKR.Noori, Mumbai

#### Dwindling Coral Reefs

Coral reefs, akin to sprawling joint families beneath the ocean's surface, provide invaluable services to our civilization. Unfortunately, they are now a cause for concern as they vanish at a rate of 2 percent annually due to coral bleaching. Warmer waters and increased human activities have severely impacted this ecosystem, housing a quarter of all marine species. Genetic engineering offers hope for cultivating more heat-resistant corals, while stringent regulations around coastal areas can avert impending challenges.

Arka Goswami, Durgapur, West Bengal

## Say no to corruption for a prosperous nation

### Vigilance Awareness Week 2023



Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

Vigilance Awareness Week 2023 is being observed from 30th October, 2023 to 5th November, 2023, with the theme "Say no to corruption; commit to the Nation" Vigilance awareness Week is observed as an outreach measure to create greater awareness about the importance of integrity and ethics in public life. Bringing trans-

parency and accountability in governance remains one of the primary means to achieve all round development of the country.

In a world grappling with the perennial menace of corruption, there are few clarion calls as compelling and urgent as "Say no to corruption; commit to the Nation." Vigilance Awareness Week 2023, observed from October 30th to November 5th, underscores the paramount importance of this theme. Saying no to corruption is not just a moral obligation; it is an essential step towards building a just, prosperous, and equitable society.

On this occasion of Vigilance awareness week celebration, Bank of India & Union Bank of India jointly conducted a series of activities to commemorate 148th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The activity involves Walkathon, Bike rally, Gram Sabha, Customer meet etc. starting from 30th October 2023 till 1st November 2023.

The flag off ceremony of the program was done by BOI & UBI's CVO Vishnu Kumar Gupta.

The 148 Kms Rally will started from Nadiad - the birth place of Sardar Patel to the Statue of Unity which included Walkathon & Bike rally spreading vigilance awareness amongst the citizens. The programme was organized by BOI & UBI under the guidance of Chief Vigilance Officer, Vishnu Kumar Gupta who addressed the Gramsabha where the participants discussed various practices, ideas and innovative measures, aimed at strengthening vigilance administration as stressed upon by the Central Vigilance Commission. On this occasion, to commemorate 148th birthday of Shri Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, BOI & UBI launched 148 kms rally from Nadiad to Statue of Unity. The rally was flagged off by Top Management of both the Banks through VC. Along with that a Cartoon Book on PDDPI, Book on The Art of Fraud Prevention, Banking with

Integrity and Vigilance Vanguard were also unveiled by the Executive Directors along with Senior Executives of the Bank. Movies and Jingles with specific focus on Fight against Corruption were released during the ceremony.

The Integrity Pledge was administered in English & Hindi to all employees in Bank of India & Union Bank of India. The message of President, Vice-President, & Central Vigilance Commissioner on Vigilance Awareness Week-2023 was converted to all the attendees PAN India. A short skit was performed at Rajpipla arranged by Union Bank of India to sensitize the public and employees on the importance of transparency and integrity in our life. The event was attended by Suwendu Kumar Behera - General Manager of Bank of India (NBG-Gujarat) and other Executives from Bank of India and Union Bank of India & Police Representatives in his address

CVO Vishnu Kumar Gupta stated that the theme for this year's Vigilance Awareness Week, "Say no to corruption: commit to the Nation," reflects our guiding principle, and we are committed to make relentless efforts in that direction.

There is no doubt that the fight against corruption can only be successful when public awareness is coupled with anti-corruption efforts. The primary objective of creating public awareness is to sensitize the public about the consequences of corruption and to educate the people about the improvements needed to create a corruption free society. Dalai Lama - a spiritual leader that rightly quoted that "Happiness is not something ready-made. It comes from our own actions." One must remember that vigilance begins with you, let us all together create a united India. Anti corruption also starts from you, so let us create Vigilant India, Prosperous India.



**BRIEF**

**Resignation**



**New Delhi:** Airtel Digital head Adarsh Nair has resigned from the company after a five-year stint, according to a regulatory filing. Nair joined Airtel five years ago and was elevated to the position of Director of Airtel Digital about four months back. "We wish to inform you that Mr Adarsh Nair, Chief Product Officer of the company has resigned and accordingly, ceases to be a Senior Management Personnel. His resignation has been accepted on November 3, 2023 and will be relieved from his duties upon closure of business hours on February 15," the filing said on Friday.

**New flights**

**New Delhi:** SpiceJet said it is adding 44 flights in the winter schedule that will serve new and existing routes. The struggle carrier has inducted eight Boeing 737s, including four 737 MAX. "Shillong will be connected with Kolkata for the first time on SpiceJet's network with daily flights," it said in a release. Among others, the carrier is enhancing connectivity between Chennai and Pune, Hyderabad and Kolkata, and Jaipur and Delhi.

**Regio Italia**

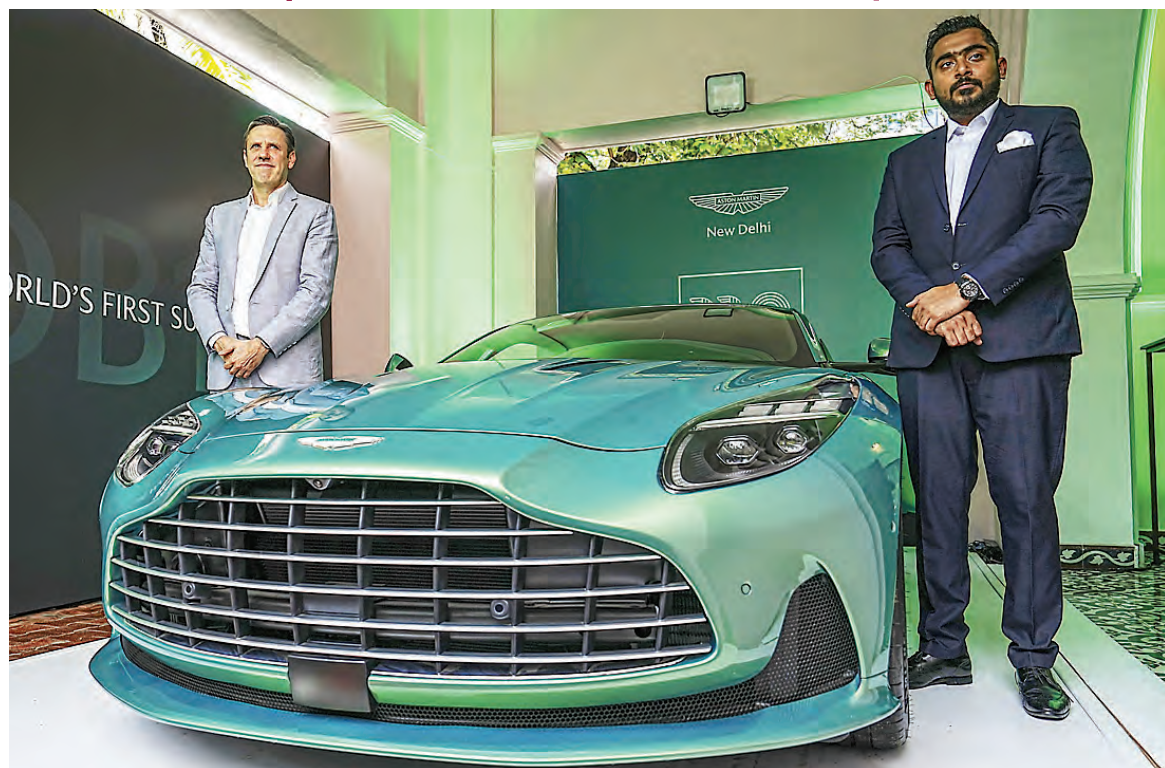


**New Delhi:** Leading fabric and garmenting company Raymond introduced Regio Italia, enhancing its play into the growing segment of global luxury suiting fabrics market in the country said Raymond CEO, Lifestyle Business Sunil Kataria. Regio Italia collection, whose price starts from Rs 10,000 per meter and goes up to Rs 80,000 per meter onwards will be available at The Raymond Shop and leading multi-brand outlets across India.

**Huge potential**

**New Delhi:** Chemicals and Petrochemicals Secretary Nivedita Shukla Verma said there is a huge potential for expansion in the chemicals sector to meet local as well as export demand and asked the industry to be competitive and cost effective. Addressing a conference organised by Indian Chemical Council (ICC), she also asked the manufacturers to adopt the latest sustainable technologies available globally. Verma said the chemicals industry plays a pivotal role in the economic development of the country as it provides necessary input material for various manufacturing sectors.

## NEW LAUNCH



**Oliver Ballhatchet MBE (L), British Deputy High Commissioner for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, with Tushar Anand, Vice President, Aston Martin New Delhi, during the launch of the new Aston Martin car at British Deputy High Commission, in Chennai.**

### GST: FinMin launches amnesty scheme for filing appeals against demand orders

New Delhi, Nov 04:

The finance ministry has come out with an amnesty scheme for filing appeals against Goods and Services Tax (GST) demand orders. The scheme, which will be open till January 31, 2024, will be available for entities that were unable to submit their appeals against orders issued by the tax officer on or before March 31, 2023, according to the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). The CBIC issued a notification with respect to the scheme on Thursday. So far, the GST law allowed an assessee to file an appeal against an assessment order seeking taxes within three months of the tax officer passing such a demand order.

This can be extended by one more month. In its last meeting on October 7, the GST Council had approved this amnesty scheme for fil-

ing appeals. The entities willing to avail of the scheme will have to pre-deposit 12.5 per cent of the tax demand, against 10 per cent currently. The move will facilitate a large number of taxpayers, who could not file an appeal in the past within the specified time period.

AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said the scheme would be a lifeline for those who might have missed the appeal deadline due to administrative errors or unforeseen circumstances.

This initiative can also promote enhanced compliance among taxpayers. By offering a fair and lenient approach to appeal filing, it encourages better cooperation with tax authorities and a willingness to resolve disputes or clarify tax matters. "Additionally, by allowing disputes to be resolved more efficiently, the scheme may reduce the burden on the legal system.

### Sonowal flags off international cruise liner Costa Serena

Mumbai, Nov 04:

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off the maiden voyage of Costa Serena, the first international cruise liner in India, in Mumbai. Costa is presently looking at having approximately 45,000 passengers on the short sailing from November 4 to January 12. The launch of Costa Cruises' domestic sailing has been made possible by a series of initiatives taken by the government to promote and revitalize the cruise tourism industry in India, the minister for ports, shipping and waterways said after the launch.

"The launch thus is a momentous occasion that signifies the dawn of a new era in cruising and tourism," Sonowal said. This initiative has been driven by the "Dekho Apna Desh" initiative of the central government, he said.

An increasing number of international cruise liners is demonstrating a growing interest in the Indian cruising industry, and numerous new services are in the pipeline and



expected to start soon, promising a vibrant future for this burgeoning sector, Sonowal said. The launch of domestic cruising of an international cruise liner is also a giant step towards achieving the goal of 5-million cruise passengers in India by 2047, the government said.

"India has enhanced its focus on the cruise sector with the ministry of ports, shipping and waterways actively promoting cruise tourism for its vast economic positive impact, the potential for job creation, for earning foreign exchange, amongst many other benefits,"

### Govt making efforts to ensure consumers get out of mindset of 2 standards: Goyal

**New Delhi, Nov 04:** Agreeing that quality standards are a passport for trade, Commerce and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday said India is making policy efforts to ensure consumers get out of the good-old day's mindset of two standards - local and export quality - of products. Goyal, while addressing the G-20 Standards Dialogue here, recalled that in the good old days, every product had a mark for 'export quality' and consumers who could afford used to pick up export quality goods. "Our effort is to move out of that mindset. Our effort is that every product that is made in India will be a high-quality product. When a consumer picks up a product will be reassured of high quality and will not have to look at other products for 'x' quality. Policymaking in India is



moving in that direction," he said. He also said that standards are like patents and he cannot but agree with what the chief of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Pramod Kumar Tiwari looks at standards as a passport to trade. Those who control standards and have the ability to maintain high standards are the ones who will control the markets, prices and processes and become manufacturers and innovators of tomorrow, he added. The

minister mentioned that India is making rapid strides to encourage more consumers to become demanding consumers, asking for high-quality goods and services. At the same time, a reasonable time is being given for producers to adopt the new quality standards and ensure India is recognised as a provider of good quality products. "We in government only desire to act as a facilitator, not as a disruptor of your process. We don't want to be a cause of any pain or agony, but we want to handhold and support your efforts. We want India to compete with the rest of the world on equal terms," he noted. Further, the minister said that quality is not something that comes out of pressure or from quality control order. "It should come out of the personal conviction of each and every stakeholder," he said.

### FM Sitharaman inaugurates SBI branch in Jaffna

Colombo, Nov 04:

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the second State Bank of India branch in Jaffna, which will cater to emerging business potential in the Northern Provinces of Sri Lanka. The finance minister had inaugurated another SBI branch in Trincomalee on Thursday. "The Finance Minister appreciated that SBI became the first foreign bank in Sri Lanka to successfully launch path-breaking direct LKR-INR trade. This initiative has gained momentum and found currency among local corporates, besides giving vital support to the Sri Lankan economy by giving an option to importers of Sri Lanka without dependency on the US Dollar," the finance ministry said in a post on X. Being the oldest bank in Sri Lanka, SBI is steadily scaling up its remittance services by leveraging a



strong digital platform, which includes the SBI Sri Lanka YONO app and online banking, alongside its traditional in-branch operations, it said. During her last day of the three-day visit to Sri Lanka, Sitharaman also visited Jaffna Cultural Centre and Jaffna Public Library. "The foundation stone of the Jaffna Cultural Centre building was laid by Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi in March 2015, during the first such visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Jaffna," another post said.

### Zed Black Agarbatti, MS Dhoni join hands to celebrate Viral Prayers

New Delhi, Nov 04:

Indore/Delhi.- In an exciting collaboration yet again, Zed Black Agarbatti, the renowned manufacturer of premium incense products, and former cricketing legend MS Dhoni have come together to celebrate the spirit of collective prayers and the power of viral prayers during the ongoing ICC Cricket World Cup 2023. The partnership between MS Dhoni and Zed Black Incense Sticks is truly iconic, symbolizing unity and the spirit of collective

goodwill. Zed Black has always churned out quirky, radical and feel-good campaigns that resonate with the masses, be it the game changer TVC with M S Dhoni in a retro jersey look or the maiden campaign 'Prarthna Hogi Sweekar' that encouraged individuals to give their all in pursuit of their aspirations, these campaigns have exemplified the notion of embracing the strength of prayers. As the World Cup unfolds with India putting forth an exceptional performance, Zed Black has launched a

heartwarming TVC campaign that captures the essence of friendship, unity, and collective prayers. In the TV commercial MS Dhoni can be seen enjoying a thrilling match with a group of friends. While the group shares a nail-biting moment in the game, the Captain Cool speaks about the spirit of viral prayers in tough times. It beautifully portrays how a simple moment shared with friends can turn into a heartfelt collective blessing for our beloved cricket team.

### Bank of India reports Q2FY24 net profit of Rs.1,458 crores

An increase of 52% YoY

**Mumbai, Nov 04:** Bank of India, a leading PublicSector Bank reports a net profit of Rs.1,458 cr in Q2FY24 against Rs.960 crores in Q2FY23. Operating Profit improved by 11% YoY and stood at Rs.3,756 crores in Q2FY24 against Rs.3,374 crore in Q2FY23.

Net Interest Income (NII) improved by 13% YoY and stood at Rs.5,740 crores in Q2FY24 against Rs.5,083 crore for Q2FY23. Non-Interest Income improved by 19% YoY and stood at Rs.1,688 crores in Q2FY24 against Rs.1,417 cr in Q2FY23. NIM (Global) improved by 4 bps YoY to 3.08% in Q2FY24 against 3.04% in Q2FY23. Global Business increased by 9.25% YoY from

Rs.11,41,356 Cr in Sep'22 to Rs.12,46,879 Cr in Sep'23. Domestic Deposits increased by 8.61% YoY from Rs. 5,51,401 cr in Sep'22 to Rs.5,98,850 cr in Sep'23.

Gross NPA declined by 8.28% QoQ from Rs.34,582 cr in Jun'23 to Rs.31,719 Cr in Sep'23. Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) stood at 89.58% in Sep'23 against 89.52% in Jun'23. On Capital Adequacy front, as on 30.09.2023, Bank's total Capital Adequacy Ratio (CRAR) was at 15.63% against 15.60% in Jun'23.

The bank has created end to end digital products, viz. saving bank accounts on the deposit side and Mudra/KCC/Personal loan/pensioner loan on the loan segment.

### Forex reserves rise by USD 2.58 billion to USD 586.11 billion

**Mumbai, Nov 04:** India's foreign exchange reserves increased by USD 2.579 billion to USD 586.111 billion in the week ended on October 27, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had dropped by USD 2.363 billion to USD 583.532 billion. In October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves took a hit as the central bank deployed the foreign currency reserve to defend rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments since last year. For the week ended October 27, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by USD 2.303 billion to USD 514.504 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI.

**अग्रवाल**

**वर चाहिये**

**वर चाहिए**

जन्मतिथि 12.04.1996, 5'3", सुंदर छत्तीसगढ़ी अग्रवाल कन्या आर्किटेक्ट एवं वेल्यूर हेतु, सजातीय वर चाहिए। बिलासपुर में प्रोफेशनल प्रेक्टिस वकील, सी.ए., डॉक्टर, आर्किटेक्ट या इंजीनियर वर चाहिए। संपर्क 9300416538 9244082366

**वर चाहिए**

राय (कलार) 29 वर्षीय, पद-सिविल जज (छ.ग.) सुन्दर कन्या हेतु, समकक्ष सुयोग्य स्वजातीय वर चाहिए। केवल छ.ग. निवासी ही सम्पर्क करें

मो. 9424160064 9424160063

वधु 53/5'2", एम. कॉम, गवर्नमेंट बैंक, 15 एकड़ खेती, घर गाड़ी स्वयं का है. जाति व शिक्षण को अट नहीं. घर जवाई मान्य तुरंत संपर्क करें- मो.-9146613256, 8669787089.

वधु 35, शिक्षा 12वीं ब्यूटी पार्लर, रंग गौर, सुंदर, सुशील हेतु योग्य वर चाहिये. विद्वर मान्य. संपर्क करें- मो.-9823216582, 8407998238.

**बंगाली**

**वधु चाहिये**

वधु चाहिए- बंगाली क्षत्रिय 5'6" (5 फुट 6 इंच) 33 वर्षीय सर्वगुण एम.बी.ए. प्राइवेट जाँच योग्य हेतु शिक्षित वधु चाहिए-70698170, 8718056672. (55212)

**आवश्यक सूचना**

पाठकों को परामर्श दिया जाता है कि वे किसी भी विज्ञापन के अनुसार, कार्य करने से पूर्व समुचित जांच कर लें. वर-वधु के स्तर, आयु, आय संबंधी विवरण के संबंध में विज्ञापनदाताओं द्वारा किये गये दावों और वर्णनों के लिये यह समाचार पत्र समर्थक अथवा उत्तरदायी नहीं है.

**नवभारत मैट्रीमोनियल**

**जोड़ीयां स्वर्ग में बनाई जाती है...**

**अब इनको हुंढना और भी आसान नवभारत मैट्रीमोनियल के साथ...**

NAVABHARAT METRIMONIAL Rate Card				
	One Sunday	Two Sunday	Three Sunday	Four Sunday
All C.G. + Odisha	1100	1800	2400	3000
All C.G. + Odisha + MP + MH	1320	2200	2800	3500

**Contact : Raipur : 91311-98609, 94242-39395 Bhilai : 0788-2294181, 98934-00617**

## 'C-Vigil' App for swift resolution of code violation reports

Swift action ensured, complaints investigated in 100 minutes

Central Chronicle News

Balrampur, Nov 04: The Election Commission of India, New Delhi, has implemented the Model Code of Conduct in the district, emphasizing strict adherence. To tackle violations and promptly address complaints, the Election Commission has harnessed technology, with the "C-Vigil" app emerging as a powerful tool.

Now, ordinary citizens can report violations of the Model Code of Conduct via this user-friendly app, available for download on both the Play Store and App Store.

### Swift resolution for complaints

Should anyone use the



"C-Vigil" app to report a Code of Conduct breach, the election-related team commits to investigating and resolving the matter within a remarkable 100-minute window. Rest assured, the identity of the

informer will be kept confidential, and updates on the complaint's progress will be communicated through the Returning Officer (RO).

**Streamlined election logistics**  
As the nomination

process kicks off in the district, political parties and candidates can conveniently apply for rallies, meetings, processions, vehicle permits, and even helicopter permits online through the Election Commission of India's Suvidha app. Candidates can also avail themselves of online services for election-related matters.

The Suvidha Portal or the Election Commission's website via the Suvidha link at <https://suvidha.eci.gov.in> facilitates hassle-free applications for permits related to candidate meetings, loudspeakers, vehicles, processions, rallies, and much more.

## Voter awareness campaign conducted for 100% voting

Civic leaders unite for a vibrant democracy

Dongargaon, Nov 04: Nagar Panchayat Dongargaon is spearheading a voter awareness campaign for the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Election 2023, aiming for 100% voter turnout. As part of this initiative, a voter awareness event illuminated the Old Bus Stand Flag Chowk on November 2.

Chief Municipal Officer Dadu Singh Pal, along with officials, employees, and cleanliness sisters, created a human chain. They conveyed a resounding SVEEP message of 100% voting on November 7 through candle-light decorations, taking a solemn oath to actively participate in the celebration of democracy.



Civic leaders pledge 100% participation

During the voter awareness campaign, Chief Municipal Officer Pal underscored the importance of reaching 100% voter turnout in Constituency No. 76 of the Dongargaon Assembly area for the

Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Election 2023.

He emphasized that while the right to vote was initially limited to the educated and literate, it has since expanded to include all men and women above the age of 18. With this expanded franchise, citizens now enthusiastically participate in elections to exercise their democratic rights. Achieving 100% voter turnout is crucial, and all civic leaders are encouraged to use their voting rights, strengthen democracy, and inspire others to cast their votes without fear or temptation.

## Police informer's father brutally murdered by suspected Naxals

Fear grips region as Naxals issue warnings

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Nov 04: On the night of November 2, a gruesome incident unfolded in the village of Bhakutola in the Lanji police station area, situated on the border of Khairagarh district.

Four armed Naxals, including a female member, allegedly killed Shankarlal Pandre, suspecting him of being a police informer. The incident has raised concerns about security in the Lanji-Balaghat region, with both local and border police forces on high alert.

Around 10 pm on November 2, four armed Naxals arrived at



Shankarlal Pandre's residence, demanding his mobile phone. When they couldn't find it, they searched the house and subsequently took him away. Approximately an hour later, gunshots echoed through the night.

The Naxals had brutally murdered Shankarlal near the village school, leaving behind pamphlets warning police informers.

Shankarlal and his son had been working as police informers, leading to an atmosphere of fear in

the area. Naxals had reportedly been searching for Shankarlal for some time before carrying out the fatal attack.

The victim, Shankarlal, was not the only target of this horrific incident; his son had also been a police informer. Sources reveal that due to their assistance to the police, the son of the deceased secured a job within the MP police force. The Naxals had been actively searching for Shankarlal, and tragically, they executed this brutal attack.

Following the incident, an atmosphere of fear prevails throughout the region. Residents are apprehensive about their safety, and the incident has highlighted the persistent threat posed by Naxal activities in the Lanji-Balaghat region.

Balaghat SP Sameer Saurabh confirmed the killing, indicating that four armed Naxals had shot and killed Shankarlal Pandre. As a response to this tragic incident, search operations have been intensified in the region.

The police force is on high alert, and special surveillance measures are being implemented in the border areas. With legislative assembly elections fast approaching, the police presence is particularly crucial to ensuring the safety and security of the region.

## Fingeshwar gears up for exciting Diwali Fair

Enthusiastic women organize inaugural Diwali extravaganza

Central Chronicle News

Fingeshwar, Nov 04: The vibrant city of Fingeshwar is all set to host its first-ever Diwali fair, scheduled for Sunday, November 5, thanks to the passionate efforts of a group of women deeply engaged in the city's energetic and creative pursuits.

Spearheaded by organizer Santoshi Shrivastav, the event aims to bring the joy of Diwali to rural areas, providing an opportunity for residents to revel in the festivities that are often associated with urban centers. Sweets, puja materials, decorative items, clothing, and more will be conveniently available in



one location at the Samata Club Ground, fostering an atmosphere of unity and enthusiasm.

The Diwali Fair, an initiative by dedicated women including Richa Ratre, Padma Yadu, Shanti Kosare, Bhuneshvari Sahu, Anita Sharma, and Jyoti Rajput, is poised to offer a day filled with entertainment and fun. Running from 10 am to 9 pm, the fair will feature a range of captivating activities, including rangoli

competitions, fancy dress contests, and chair races.

Local businesses, esteemed citizens, and regional organizations have rallied behind this exciting endeavor, providing substantial support. The organizing committee of the Diwali Fair warmly invites city residents and those from the surrounding areas to participate in large numbers, enhancing the spirit of celebration and community togetherness.

## General Observer holds first meeting with candidates

Central Chronicle News

Arang, Nov 04: Following the withdrawal of nominations, a pivotal meeting was held at the Arang District Panchayat premises, gathering the final candidates for the forthcoming Assembly election in Constituency 52 Arang. General observer IAS Mir Tarik Ali presided over the event, which proved crucial in informing candidates about the electoral process.

During the meeting, Returning Officer SDM Arang Dr. Atul Vishwakarma offered comprehensive insights into the election process. He outlined details regarding the 247 polling centers and two auxiliary polling centers, numbered 181 and 237. Additionally, he announced the distribution of BLO voter slips, scheduled just five days before the election.

Dr. Vishwakarma emphasized strict adherence to the Model Code of Conduct, highlighting the importance of including the printer's name and address on campaign materials. He also discussed the avail-



ability of a single-window facility for permissions related to meetings and rallies. Furthermore, he introduced the 24-hour online service portal for candidates' convenience.

Assistant Expenditure Observer DD Malaviya addressed election-related complaints and grievance redressal mechanisms, which include the NGRS portal, the call center, the C-Vigil app, and the Arang Control Room. He underscored that the maximum expenditure limit for the election is Rs 40 lakh, emphasizing the importance of meticulous expense accounting.

Returning Officer SDM Dr. Atul

Vishwakarma explained the meaning of ASD list as absent, transferred and death and highlighted the important responsibility of BLO, and also mentioned the disciplinary and penal sections on corrupt conduct related to elections. Did. On this occasion, all 11 candidates or representatives including Naib Tehsildar Srijal Sahu and the Election Control Room and SVEEP team were present.

The meeting saw the presence of all 11 candidates or their representatives, Deputy Tehsildar Srijal Sahu, the Election Control Room team, and Naib Tehsildar Srijal Sahu.

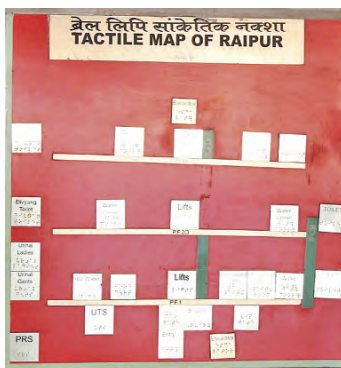
## SECR introduces many disabled friendly passenger facilities

At stations and on trains

Central Chronicle News

Raipur/Bilaspur, Nov 04: Ensuring the convenience, safety, and smooth travel experience of railway passengers remains the top priority for South East Central Railway. The railway is dedicated to enhancing passenger facilities continually, and utmost efforts are made to meet the criteria at all stations.

As part of its social responsibility and commitment to the welfare of disabled individuals, South East Central Railway has introduced a range of disabled-friendly passenger facilities at stations and on trains, aimed at making the travel experience more convenient for passengers with disabilities.



These efforts have made it possible for disabled passengers to be more self-reliant and independent while using the railway services.

### Key Features of the Facilities:

\* Ramps for Easy Access: Specially designed ramps have been installed at 78 stations, allowing disabled passengers to access platforms with ease.



Additionally, seven stations, including Bilaspur, Akaltara, Sakti, Durg, Gondia, Dongargarh, and Chhindwara, have ramp facilities on foot over bridges, making it convenient to move between platforms. Ramps are also available at ticket counters, ensuring that disabled passengers can purchase tickets without

difficulty.  
\* Escalators and Lifts: To facilitate seamless movement between platforms, South East Central Railway has provided 12 escalators at five stations and 22 lifts at nine stations. Approval has also been granted for an additional 12 escalators at five stations and 17 lifts at 10 stations.  
\* Portable Ramps: For

the convenience of "Divyang" passengers (persons with disabilities), portable ramps have been made available at 19 major stations, enabling easy boarding onto trains.

\* Disabled-Friendly Toilets: "Divyang" passengers can access suitable toilet facilities at 203 stations across South East Central Railway's network.

\* Dedicated Coaches: Trains now include dedicated coaches for disabled passengers, equipped with features such as wide entrances, spacious berths, special toilets, wheelchair space, and additional grab rails. The latest LHB coaches, known as LSLRD coaches, are designed to be "Divyang" friendly.

## Weather fluctuations raise farmer concerns about pest infestation

Changing climate impacts vegetable and Rice cultivation

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Nov 04: Recent shifts in weather patterns, characterized by sudden cloud cover and varying sunshine, have triggered concerns among farmers regarding potential pest infestations in their crops. As the festive season approaches, these weather fluctuations cast a shadow over the hopes of vegetable-producing farmers, who had anticipated robust earnings.

The abrupt change in weather has prompted farmers to take proactive measures, including the application of pesticides, to safe-

guard their crops from potential pest damage. Vegetables such as cauliflower, cabbage, brinjal, and leafy greens have become susceptible to infestations due to the changing climatic conditions.

Experts point out that these weather variations create favorable conditions for pests, potentially jeopardizing vegetable yields. In recent reports, farmers have already noted signs of pest infestations in brinjal and red spinach. This year's concerns echo those of the previous season when heavy infestations wreaked havoc under similar weather conditions.

One of the significant challenges posed by these sudden weather changes is the rapid deterioration of cauliflower, where pests target the budding florets,



causing swift withering. Similarly, brinjal plants fall prey to sap-sucking pests, leading to crop damage. Cabbage cultivation now faces the same threat, heightening apprehensions among farmers about the fate of their harvest.

Vegetable production is concentrated in several villages along

the banks of Amaner, Pipariya, and Muska rivers, including Gopalpur, Ataria, Dania, Pandadah, Ghotia, Chuihadan, and Gandai. In response to the adverse climatic conditions, farmers have proactively started pesticide applications as a preventive measure.

The fluctuating weather patterns have also cast a shadow over rice cultivation. Although the paddy harvest has concluded, the sudden changes have made rice crops susceptible to pest attacks. To mitigate potential losses, farmers are hastening the harvesting of rice in the region.

### What farmers are saying

Cauliflower is at risk of pest infestation. We are applying pesticides due to this concern, as pests can significantly impact vegetable production. - Hitesh Sahu, Farmer from Ghotia

'Pest infestation affects vegetable production. Seeing the adverse weather conditions, we are harvesting vegetables and providing them to local traders. - Lukman Ali, Progressive Farmer from Pandadah

## Quality oversight lacking in Mungeli construction projects

Concerns rise as sub-standard construction continues unchecked

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Nov 04: Despite persistent instances of subpar construction work in various government projects within the Water Resources Department, officials in charge appear to be neglecting these concerns. The district has witnessed several examples of substandard construction work, with the most recent case emerging from Patharia Vikaskhand, a village in Mungeli district.

The Water Resources Department has undertaken construction work in Gram Junwani, encompassing canal lining and pond renovation. Blatant irregu-

larities have surfaced in this project, yet authorities seem unperturbed by the matter. Consequently, ongoing construction projects in the district headquarters are also receiving insufficient attention.

Contractors involved in these projects appear to be sidestepping established departmental standards, proceeding with construction work in an arbitrary manner. Government regulations dictate the creation of a work plan, including project details, estimated costs, contractor names and numbers, and contact information for relevant engineers and the Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) before any work commences. However, no such work plan exists for these projects, hindering access to crucial information for both officials and the general

public, including work details, costs, and contractor identities.

Instead, contractors engage in haphazard construction activities, disregarding established norms. During canal lining, high-quality LDP film is supposed to be placed under the concrete, but standard foil is being used instead, leading to ruptures in various places. AER Mishra, who has been overseeing the work for several years, states that the work has already been completed and any flaws will be addressed after inspection.

Officials seem disinterested in addressing these concerns, as no corrective measures have been taken. The question now remains whether higher authorities will take note of these discrepancies and initiate the necessary improvements.



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