



BRIEF



Preparations at a polling booth on the eve of Chhattisgarh Assembly elections at Jagdalpur in Bastar district, Monday.

CIC

New Delhi: Former IAS officer Heralal Samariya was on Monday sworn in as the Chief Information Commissioner by President Droupadi Murmu. The post was lying vacant following the completion of Y K Sinha's tenure on October 3. Samariya, the first Dalit to have been appointed to the post, was working as information commissioner in the transparency panel Central Information Commission (CIC).

Reshuffle

New Delhi: Senior bureaucrat Hitesh Kumar S Makwana has been appointed as Surveyor General of India as part of a senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Centre on Monday. Makwana, a 1995-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, is currently an Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Fresh tension

Imphal: Fresh tension gripped the state capital and its adjoining areas on Monday after two teenaged boys went missing from Imphal West district in Manipur. The two, identified as 16-year-old Maibam Avinash and 19-year-old Ningthoujam Anthony, had gone towards Sekmai area in Imphal West district on a two-wheeler on Sunday morning to attend a function before they went missing, locals said.

Pre-poll pact

Hyderabad: In a pre-poll pact with CPI, the Congress on Monday agreed to offer one seat (Kothagudem) to the Left party for the November 30 assembly polls. Speaking to mediapersons, TPCC chief Revanth Reddy said both the parties concluded the discussions on seat sharing and the CPI agreed to contest from Kothagudem assembly segment.

Dismiss

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea filed by a juvenile, accused of killing a child at a private school in Gurugram in 2017, challenging the Punjab and Haryana High Court verdict which upheld an order for his trial as an adult. The high court had in May this year upheld the order passed by the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) which said the child-in-conflict with law be treated as an adult.

Weather
High 31 Low 18

MARKET
NIFTY 19411.75
SENSEX 64958.69

BULLION
GOLD 60858
SILVER 72143

Maoist-hit Bastar to vote today

- 60K forces deployed
- More than 25,000 poll staffers

Raipur, Nov 06:

Voting for the first phase of Assembly polls for 20 seats, several of them in Naxal-affected Bastar division, in Chhattisgarh will take place on Tuesday, with poll officials stating that 25,249 personnel have been deployed for the purpose.

Voting will be held between 7am and 3pm in 10 seats, namely Mohla-Manpur, Antagarh, Bhanupratappur, Kanker, Keshkal, Kondagaon, Narayanpur, Dantewada, Bijapur and Konta, they said.

Votes will be cast be-



Polling officials leave for poll duty from Dantewada ahead of the first phase of voting for Chhattisgarh Assembly elections, on Monday.

tween 8am and 5pm in Khairagarh, Dongargarh, Rajnandgaon, Dongargaon, Khujji, Pandariya and Kawardha Bastar, Jagdalpur and Chitrakot, the officials added.

In the first phase, the fate of 223 candidates, including 25 women, will be decided by an estimated 40,78,681 voters, compris-

ing 19,93,937 male, 20,84,675 female and 69 third-gender persons. As many as 5304 polling booths have been set up for the first phase.

A release issued from the office of the state's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) said 25,429 polling personnel have been deployed for the first phase of polls.

Three-layered security cover for over 600 polling booths

More than 600 polling booths in sensitive areas of Naxal-hit Bastar division, which will vote on Tuesday in the first phase of Chhattisgarh assembly elections, will be under three-layered security cover, police said. Around 60,000 security personnel, 40,000 of them belonging to the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and 20,000 from the state police, have been deployed for the smooth conduct of polls in Bastar division which has 12 assembly segments, they said.

Two polling staff, BSF jawan hurt in IED blast

Kanker: Two polling personnel and a Border Security Force (BSF) jawan were injured on Monday in an IED blast triggered by Naxalites in Kanker district a day ahead of the polling for the first phase of the assembly elections, police said.

"A total of 156 poll parties have been sent to Sukma, Bijapur, Dantewada, Kanker and Narayanpur districts on board helicopters, while 5,148 polling teams have been sent to respective booths by buses. Of the 5,304 booths, web casting facility will be available in 2431," the release said. A senior police official said 60,000 security personnel, including 40,000 from Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), have been deployed for smooth conduct of polls in 12 constituencies of Naxal-hit Bastar division.

SC stays proceedings in criminal defamation complaint

Against Bihar deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the proceedings in a criminal defamation complaint filed in Gujarat against RJD leader and Bihar deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav over his alleged "only Gujarat can be thugs" remark. A bench of Justices A S Oka and Pankaj Mishra agreed to hear Yadav's plea seeking transfer of the case pending before a magisterial court in Ahmedabad to a

place outside Gujarat, preferably Delhi. The bench issued notice and sought response from the Gujarat-based man, who has filed the defamation complaint against Yadav, on the RJD leader's plea. Yadav, through his lawyer Ajay Vikram Singh, has approached the apex court seeking transfer of the case. The top court has posted the matter for further hearing in January. A complaint was filed in a Gujarat court against Yadav under sections 499 and 500 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for alleged criminal defamation.

ED arrests Punjab AAP MLA

Chandigarh, Nov 06 (PTI): Punjab AAP MLA Jaswant Singh Gajjan Majra was on Monday arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with a money laundering investigation linked to a bank fraud case, official sources said.



Jaswant Singh Gajjan Majra

The legislator was taken into custody under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after he was detained by

agency officials from a public meeting he was holding in Malerkotla, they said. The sources alleged that Gajjan Majra, a legislator from the

Amargarh assembly constituency, had skipped multiple summons issued to him in the past and hence, was detained by the officials and then arrested after questioning. The Aam Aadmi Party's Punjab spokesperson Malvinder Singh Kang charged that the way Gajjan Majra was picked up from a public meeting by the ED shows the BJP's politics of defaming the party. He said the MLA has been facing a case since before he joined AAP.

'Cong means loot, corruption and dynastic politics'



BJP National President JP Nadda being welcomed upon his arrival in Raigarh, Monday.

Jashpur, Nov 06: Ahead of the Chhattisgarh assembly polls, Bharatiya Janata Party president JP Nadda on Monday accused the Congress of indulging in corruption, loot and dynastic politics. Addressing a rally in Pathalgaon constituency of Jashpur district in Chhattisgarh, he claimed the Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress government in the state was a

guarantee for "loot" and "deception". Highlighting the achievements of the central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Nadda said the BJP means development and growth. India will become the world's third largest economy by 2027-28, he said. "Congress party means loot, corruption, atrocity, deception, destructive policy, parivarvaad and vanshvaad. It is their identity that wherever there is Congress, there will be corruption," he alleged. "The BJP means development, growth, people's government, welfare of the people," Nadda added. "We care about you, but they care about corruption and loot...do you remember the submarine scam, helicopter scam, coal scam, Commonwealth scam, MNREGA scam?" he said. In the Bhupesh Baghel government, there is a guarantee of one thing, that is "corruption", Nadda claimed.

Nagpur man seeks help to ensure Israeli wife, son return to India

Nagpur, Nov 06 (PTI): A Nagpur resident has sought help from Indian authorities to ensure his wife, who holds an Israeli passport, and their three-and-half-year-old son can be brought back from the Jewish nation amid the war there. They had gone to Israel in January to meet relatives but have got stranded in Bnei Brak (in the east of Tel Aviv) after the war started on October 7, Ankush Jaiswal told PTI on Monday. "My wife and son could not be evacuated from Israel under the government's Operation Ajay since she holds a passport of that nation and these flights were meant for Indian citizens. She is an Overseas Citizen of India. While India does not recognise dual citizenship, Israel does," Jaiswal said.

Delhi chokes on pollution

Odd-even scheme makes a comeback



A bird flies over the Red Fort amid smog, in New Delhi, Monday.

New Delhi, Nov 06 (PTI): First implemented in 2016 by the AAP dispensation in Delhi, this will be the fourth time the odd-even car rationing scheme will be enforced in the city in view of the rising pollution levels, even as studies and experts have mixed views on its efficacy. Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai announced on Monday that the odd-even car rationing scheme will be enforced in

the city from November 13 to 20 as a measure to combat air pollution. The odd-even scheme permits cars to operate on alternate days based on their odd or even number plates. The scheme was first implemented in 2016 by the Arvind Kejriwal government in January and then in April the same year. Emergency and police vehicles, two-wheelers, women-driven cars were exempted under the

scheme. In 2019, when the scheme was implemented in November, two-wheelers and electric vehicles were exempted along with medical emergency vehicles and those carrying school children in uniform. Vehicles carrying VIPs, only women and those occupied by differently-disabled persons were also exempted. Environmentalists, however, called the latest enforcement of the rule a knee-jerk reaction to the rising pollution levels, rather than a long-term one. Speaking to PTI, Jyoti Pande Lavakare, author of 'Breathing Here is Injurious to Your Health: The Human Cost of Air Pollution', said the same "band-aid solutions" are implemented every year whenever the deteriorating air quality rings an alarm bell.

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RECORD HOLDER

'BJP, ED trying to save Mahadev betting app promoters'



Raipur, Nov 06 (PTI):

A day after the Centre blocked the controversial Mahadev betting app, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday alleged the BJP and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) were trying to save its promoters and said the Information Technology ministry has banned an online betting platform that was already unavailable on the Indian server. Talking to reporters in Raipur, Baghel said the Centre should identify fake bank accounts being used for online betting in the country and freeze them immediately. "I have already said the BJP, anticipating its defeat in the Chhattisgarh polls, has put the ED and I-T in the front.

The person (referring to 'cash courier' Asim Das) who has been arrested (by ED) is said to be close to the BJP and the vehicle (from where cash linked to Mahadev betting app was seized) also belongs to some BJP leader. So, the person and the vehicle belong to them, while the ED which has taken action (in app case) functions as a BJP wing," the Congress leader alleged. Baghel, who has been linked to the app row by the ED, said the Mahadev betting platform, promoted by two Chhattisgarh residents who are now in Dubai, was unavailable on the Indian server long before it was banned by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on Sunday. "Investigation (into Mahadev app case) is underway since the last two years. They (Centre) have blocked an app which is already unavailable in the Playstore on the Indian server.

CM campaigns for Tamradhwaj in Durg Rural constituency

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 06: On Monday, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel campaigned for Durg Rural constituency candidate and Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu. A public rally was organized at Ram Leela Maidan of village Kuthrel.

Durg Rural Assembly candidate Tamradhwaj Sahu said that the people gave their blessings five years ago and helped him in the development of this area. He assured to continue working as a family member in future as well.

He added that development continued even during the Corona period of two years. Formation of new Risali Municipal



Corporation and various development works worth crores of rupees have been conducted in all the wards.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that Bharatiya Janata Party is using central investigating agencies to defame the

Congress leaders in Chhattisgarh.

He urged the voters to stay careful as the BJP leaders disappear after making false allegations. They talk about scams, but when asked for proof, they start creating ruckus.

CM Bhupesh Baghel said

that his government has worked for the interest, development and progress of the state. The government here waived off the loans of farmers and halved the electricity bill, made women self dependent, introduced schemes for the development of tribals, fair price for tendu leaves, etc.

CM said that we have fulfilled all the promises we made in the last elections. CM Baghel claimed that at present there is tremendous enthusiasm about Congress among the voters of the entire state.

This time there will be a bigger victory than before. No matter how many raids ED and IT conducted, last time we had won 68 seats, this time we will cross 75, he said.

Security personnel of banks deprived of basic facilities: Mishra

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 06: The caretaker agencies are not providing facilities to the security guards as per the provisions of the agreement. HS Mishra (General Secretary of Chhattisgarh Security Guard Care Taker Employees Organization affiliated to HMS Union) said that the repeated theft attempts at ATM kiosks of nationalized banks are the result of negligence of the bank management. He said that many security personnel have been retrenched without any prior notice and the security of the ATM kiosks has been left to the mercy of God.

HS Mishra said that till a few years ago, all the nationalized banks used to deploy security personnel at their ATM kiosks. But now due to

lack of security personnel, incidents of vandalism at ATM kiosks with the intention of theft are happening every day. Recently, such incidents occurred at Om Shanti Chowk on Gaurav Path in Chhawani and ATM booths in Mohan Nagar. Earlier, thefts occurred at ATM kiosks in HUDCO Colony and the kiosks were set on fire. Many security personnel deployed at the ATM kiosks were retrenched without any prior notice about five to six years ago. Such security personnel have not received the final payment till date. Other security personnel



HS Mishra

have not been deployed in their place.

Mishra said that security personnel are deployed at some ATM kiosks in second shift and night shift but the number of such booths is very less. Due to the absence of security personnel in the first and general shifts, those withdrawing money feel unsafe. Cameras have definitely been installed at ATM booths but by the time the police reach, it is too late. He said that there is a flood of security agencies but almost 90 percent of the security agencies do not have ESI, Provident Fund, Labour License, Trade

License, etc.

Mishra said that such agencies are making the security personnel work for the full 30 or 31 days of the month without giving them 12 hours of duty and no holiday even on Sundays. In return, the security personnel are being paid a salary of Rs 6000 - 7000 or a maximum of Rs 8000 per month. Salary slip, bank payment, employee card, ID card, annual bonus, minimum wage, overtime, leave and other facilities including safety equipment are not given by the agencies to the security personnel. The agencies are not following the rules and regulations of the government. The caretaker agency of the leading banks does not give the final payment and gratuity amount to the security personnel laid off from work.

Brahmin Mitra Mandal organises Diwali Milan

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 06: Brahmin Mitra Mandal Bhilai Durg organized Diwali Milan function on Sunday at Mangal Vatika in Kohka Road, Kurud. The programme was conducted by Gauklesh Tiwari. Dr Ram Kishore Mishra 'Vedic' was present as the keynote speaker. Amarnath Tyagi, Dr Somnath Divedi, Prabhu Nath Mishra (President, Sarayupareen Brahmin Samaj), Bhavana Pandey (President, New Press Club of Bhilai), Ajit Singh (Kshatriya Kalyan Sabha Bhilai) and Ram Achal Pandey were present on the dais.

The program commenced with lighting lamps and offering prayers to Maa Bharti. The map of India was cre-

ated with rangoli around which 301 lamps were lit by the guests and members amidst chanting of ved mantras and slokas by the learned Pandits. All the guests were welcomed with garlands.

Program coordinator Ram Milan Dubey delivered the presidential address and congratulated everyone on Diwali. He said that the festival of lights gives us the message that we all should work together, keep away discrimination, bitterness and promote brotherhood and peace. On this occasion, Prabhu Nath Mishra, Rajmani Dubey, Rambihari Mishra, Somnath Divedi also addressed the gathering.

Chief Guest Dr Ram Kishore Mishra urged the people to follow Brahmin religion and study the



Vedas and Shastras. It is necessary to give a befitting reply to those who oppose Sanatan Dharma. Share the knowledge with those who believe and want to protect Sanatan Dharma. He urged all to recite Geeta at home.

The Brahmins must ensure that Sundar Kand and Gayatri Mantra are recited and every caste and creed of the society should be made aware of the Rishis and Munis who

worked in the direction of social welfare and religion. There is a message hidden behind every festival.

The festivals being all people together. One must give respect to everyone, irrespective of caste, creed and religion. Veda Shastra also says the same in the line 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah, Sarve Santu, Niramay'. Supreme Father God has also sent us on this earth



to do good deeds.

Litterateur Amarnath Tyagi explained in detail that in the four caste system, everyone has their own area of work. All are pearls of one rosary, everyone has needs from each other, it inspires that pearls strung together in a rosary look beautiful, there is no beauty when scattered, and hence we must stay united.

He spoke about vedas, shastra, religion, knowl-

edge and about the importance of lamps, social consciousness, and extended best wishes for the festival of light. He appreciated Brahmin Mitra Mandal for organizing a beautiful event.

On this occasion, former Legislative Assembly Speaker and BJP candidate Prem Prakash Pandey also exchanged festive greetings with everyone. Mahesh Tiwari, co-convenor pro-

posed the vote of thanks.

Shankar Charan Pandey, Chandra Shekhar Pandey, Ram Bihari Mishra, Umesh Shukla, Raj Mani Dubey, Guru Prasad Tiwari, Sudesh Mishra, Raghu Nath Upadhyay, DP Mishra, Subhash Chandra Pandey, JN Tiwari, Urmila Upadhyay, Babu Lal Sharma, Ishwar Chandra Tripathi, Rajesh Tripathi, Anju Tripathi, Vimala Pandey, Ramesh Sharma, Saroj Chaubey, Rita Shukla, Ragni Jha, Poonam Mishra Pooja Tiwari, IP Mishra, Awadhesh Pandey, SS Tiwari, Somesh Trivedi, Vivek Sharma, Pandit Rishi Tripathi, Mayank Chaturvedi, Ajay Shankar Tiwari, Yash Tiwari, Laxmi Kant Tiwari, Mridula Shukla, Richa Shukla, Prema Mishra, Praveen Pandey, Vijay Tiwari, Sanjay Mishra, Kamal Shukla, Nitesh Mishra, Akhilesh Tiwari, Kunal Shukla, Ashok Upadhyay, Ravi Kant Upadhyay, Shashank Mishra, Prabhakar Mishra, Arvind Tiwari, Aarti Mishra, Savita Shukla, Amit Kumar Dubey, Anand Mishra, Anjan Divedi, Vinod Pandey Atul Mishra, Paramhans Tiwari, Seema Mishra, Gudiya Tiwari, Ram Kinkar Mishra, Ragini Pandey, Abhishek Pandey, Abhi Tiwari, Bablu Pandey, Dinesh Sharma, Vinay Pandey, Pradeep Pandey, Sweety Kaushik, Pramila Dubey, Chetan Sharma, Saroj Singh, Abhishek Shukla, DP Singh, Surendra Sharma, Papu Sharma, Sameer Pathak, Sejal Pandey and others were present.

RT Ramchandran Memorial Inter-School Cricket Tournament-concludes

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 06: The closing ceremony of 2 nd RT Ramchandran Memorial Inter School Cricket Tournament 2023-24 was held on November 05, 2023 at Sri Sankara Vidyalaya, Sector-X. The Programme commenced with the arrival of the Chief Guest Dr Navin Ram Daruka (An eminent Urologist of Chhattisgarh) and Medical Director of Aarogyan Super Speciality Hospital.

This was followed by the lighting of the lamp and garlanding of the portraits of Goddess Saraswati, His Holiness Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Swamikal of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam and Late RT Ramchandran, Former President, SSES by the Chief Guest Dr Naveen Ram Daruka, Bipin Deshmukh (Principal SSV), V Ramchandran (President, SSES), TR Venkatraman (Treasurer- SSES) and other dignitaries. The Chief Guest

was warmly welcomed with a bouquet. The school choir sang welcome song guided by Vandana Mishra. Bipin Deshmukh, warmly extended his greetings to the esteemed dignitaries and provided them with a comprehensive overview of the tournament and congratulated all the participating teams for their sportsmanship spirit. He quoted that a winner can never be a quitter and a quitter can never be a winner. Thirteen teams representing different schools from the twin city of Durg-Bhilai participated in this tournament. The tournaments were played from Nov 01-05, 2023. The Final match was played between Krishna Public School Nehru Nagar and Shri Shankracharya Vidyalaya, Hudco. KPS, Nehru Nagar won the toss and chose to field first. SSV Hudco won the match. The prize distribution began with the award giving ceremony. 12 players were honoured with the title of 'Man of the



Match'. The twelve recipients of the award were- Ayush Yadav (KH Memorial School), Prince Singh (KPS Sundar Nagar), Mayank Verma (MGM, Sector-VI), Jatin Doulatani (Viswadeep School, Durg), Mridul Pinda (Sharda Vidyalaya, Risali), Jigyashu Sahu (KPS Nehru Nagar), Abhinav Singh (MGM, Sector-VI), Prasun Singh Rajput (SSV, Sector-X), Shivendra Tiwari (SSAV, Hudco, Bhilai), Ansh Dubey (KPS Nehru Nagar), Ritvik Thakur (SSAV Hudco, Bhilai). Individual Tournament Prizes- Batsman of the Series-

Jigyashu Sahu (KPS Nehru Nagar), Best Bowler of the Series - Prasun Singh Rajput (SSV Sector-X), Best Fielder of the Series- Abhinav Singh (MGM, Sector-VI), Man of the Series- Ritvik Kumar of SSV - Hudco, Bhilai. Tamradhwaj of SSV- Hudco was awarded 'Man of the Match' in the final match. A memento of appreciation was presented to the Chief Guest commemorating his presence in this event. V Ramchandran (President SSES) conveyed his heartfelt felicitations to the accomplished teams in the light of their remarkable victory at

the inter-School Cricket Tournament. Chief Guest, Dr Daruka advised the students to set a target in life and work hard to achieve it. Mahendra Chelak and Chinmay dominated this tournament as reigning Umpires. Nikhilesh Sharma along with the students Neeraj Khandwe and Parth Sahani were the scorers of the tournament. A student of SSV Bhilai, Mehul Dhandore & Vedang Sharma were the commentators of the tournament. S Swaminathan, (Secretary of SSES), extended his warmest congratulations and expressed his profound admiration for the unwavering dedication exhibited by the PTIs and the staff who are expertly nurtured under the guidance of Bipin Deshmukh (Principal SSV). A vote of thanks was proposed by Shobha Nair (Headmistress, SSV). The programme was ably completed by Ponmani Satyanarayan, V Harshita and Bhumika Joshi.

BSP employees form Human Chain to create Voting Awareness



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 06: As many as 1,500 members of the SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant Collective formed a long Human Chain as part of the voter awareness campaign in the evening of November 06 2023. The Human Chain Formation stretched from the Equipment Square to the BSNL Square Sector-1.

Several senior officials, including AK Chakraborty, ED (MM), Dr AK Panda, ED (F&A), Pawan Kumar, ED (P & A), Dr Ravindranath M, CMO I/c (M&HS), along with CGM I/cs, CGMs, GMS, NK Banchhor, SEFI Chairman & OA President, along with

other office bearers of SEFI and OA took active part in the event. Along with the BSP employees and contractual workers, various other organisations such as the BSP SC/ST Employees Association, Diploma Engineers' Association, major Workers' Unions including BSP-Non-Executive Employees Union, BMS, INTUC, Bhilai Workers Union, Ispat Shramik Manch, CITU, AITUC, ACTU, HMS, LOIMU and a large number of members of the steel fraternity also took an active part. An oath to strengthen democracy by massive participation in the forthcoming elections was also adminis-

tered to the individuals present on this occasion.

Pawan Kumar, ED (P & A) appreciated the event and said that the SAIL-BSP Collective has shown a great dedication and willpower by creating this Human Chain Formation, which in itself is an inspiring message and an appeal to the society that every individual must step forward to duly exercise their vote in the coming November 17 Assembly Elections. A cultural evening program and a street play themed on Voting Awareness was also organized at the Pioneer Monument located at Civic Centre.

MVN celebrates annual day 'Aspire, Achieve & Progress' with gaiety

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 06: Maitri Vidya Niketan celebrated its 35th Annual Day with the theme "Aspire, Achieve and Progress" at the campus. The day when students, teachers, and parents all come together again to witness the seven vivid colours of human emotion.

President MECA, Rajam Sudhakaran, Directors S Sajeev, and S Sajan, Director MECA and Principal Dr Sajitha Thambi, Principal Bhilai Maitri College Dr Surekha Patil, Principal MVN Patan S Ambli, Vice Principal Dr Beena Sajeev, Headmistress Nishi Sajan presided over the Resplendent Evening.

Dr RN Singh, Principal, Govt VYTPG Autonomous College,

Durg (CG) was the Chief Guest for the function and Dr LS Nigam Ex-Vice Chancellor, Shri Shankaracharya Professional University, and Retd Prof & Head (History) Pt Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Raipur (CG) was the Special Guest. The event began with the lighting of the lamp by the hands of the Chief Guest and Special Guest to solicit the blessings of the Goddess Saraswati.

MECA Director S Sajeev welcomed the august gathering and remembered the Founder President, Late Sudhakaran on this occasion. He also reminded all about the difficult days during the pandemic. He also gave away the sequence of the program.

Director and School Principal Dr Sajitha Thambi



presented the Annual report and gave away names of all the students who have excelled in various categories. She also applauded the students for their hard work whose academic contribution will set new benchmarks for themselves and also spur their peers to aim for heights. The school magazine MAITRI for

the year 2022-23 was released on this occasion by the dignitaries.

Later the awards were conferred to the students under multifarious categories which included academic excellence, co-scholastic and the most disciplined student award. X & XII students who excelled in boards were awarded with



Founder President Scholarship award also financially weaker students who have excelled in academics were given Late Shri Gangadharan and Late Shri Bhaskaran scholarship. The award function was organised and coordinated by the Vice-Principal Dr Beena Sajeev. Chief Guest Dr RN Singh in

his address applauded MVN for reaching heights. He urged parents not to push their children and let them be free to choose their fields. He emphasised that we must raise them with values. Special Guest Dr LS Nigam emphasised that education without values is not worth it hence we must imbibe values in students which

will help them to become good human beings.

The Extravaganza of Cultural began next wherein a variety of items were presented by the various wings which included themes like colourful India, save tiger, "Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharath", "Incredible India", "Hope For Gender Equality" and so on.

The students gave an excellent display of art in the form of song and dance. The Vote of thanks was proposed by the Headmistress Nishi Sajan. The program was elegantly and efficiently anchored by Srilata Dhavala, Tanisha Dewangan, Tomeshwari, Roshni Anushka, Mrityunjay Tiwari, Abhishek Singh and Dushyant. The program concluded with the National Anthem.

OBITUARY

Savita Pandey



Bhilai: Ispat Nagar Risali resident Savita Pandey left for heavenly abode on Sunday. Last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Risali Muktidham. She was the wife of senior journalist Ajay Pandey.

BJP, ED conspired together to tarnish CM's image: Congress



Raipur, Nov 06: The central government of BJP, the leaders of BJP of Chhattisgarh and the ED have conspired together to tarnish the image of the Chief Minister of the state by diverting public attention from the Chhattisgarh elections, PCC Communication chief Sushil Anand Shukla. ED makes allegations on the statement of BJP worker, Shukla said while addressing a press conference at PCC headquarters Rajiv Bhavan here today.

"Cash is seized from the car of BJP leader's brother and BJP releases video from its office. What is this relationship called?" he asked. Explaining chronol-

ogy he said 'ED arrests a driver (cash courier) and on the basis of his statement issues a press note accusing Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel of taking Rs 508 crore from Mahadev App. ED confirms this allegation by citing a supporting mail from Shubham Soni, an employee of Mahadev App. The next day, a video is released from the BJP office in which a person named Shubham Soni declares himself the owner of Mahadev App and calls Saurabh Chandrakar, Ravi Uppal, the famous owner of Mahadev App, as his employees'.

'Why did Bharatiya Janata Party release this

video of Shubham Soni? Where did it come to BJP? If Shubham Soni has sent this video to BJP then why did he send it to BJP only, what is their connection? ED should investigate this, where did BJP get this from?' Shukla asked. According to him if ED has evidence then it should first confirm it before trying to tarnish someone's image by making it public without investigating it.

He said that ED issued a press note without investigating the statement of driver Aseem Das with the aim of tarnishing the image of the Chief Minister. All this was done to help the BJP which was badly defeated in the elec-

Cash seized from BJP leader's vehicle

Raipur, Nov 06: ED had seized cash from a black colored Innova car which was parked in the basement of a hotel. The number of this black car is CG 12 AR 6300 and its registration is from Korba district. This car is registered in the RTO in the name of Sunflower Housing Private Limited, owned by Brijmohan Agarwal, who is the brother of Amar Agarwal, former MLA of Bilaspur and minister in the BJP government', PCC Communication chief Sushil Anand Shukla said.

He said that ED had not yet given the details of this vehicle. Information has been received from sources that this car belongs to a big builder who is said to be a relative of the BJP leader, he said. Although the registration of the vehicle is of Korba district, questions are being

raised that for whom was the cash seized from the car of the builder, a relative of the BJP leader, and where and to whom was this amount to be distributed? Shukla said.

But in this entire case, ED has made the car driver Asim an accused but the car owner has not been interrogated in the matter yet, said Shukla. 'The question is also that how can the driver bring such a huge amount without the knowledge of the owner? After all, what is the role of the car owner in this matter? Who is the real owner of the car?', he said.

While money is seized from BJP worker Aseem Das, and money is seized from the car of a relative of a BJP leader, the blame is put on Congress, Shukla said, adding that it simply means that all this is an election conspiracy.

he said, adding that the fact that ED is publicizing it shows their intentions.

BJP will say anything by making a video of a bookie,

he said, adding that the fact that ED is publicizing it shows their intentions.

HYACINTH REMOVAL



The municipal authorities are cleaning Water Hyacinth from a pond and left the entire debris of it by the road-side near, posing problems to passerby.

Dry day declared from 5 pm on Nov15

● Till end of voting on Nov 17

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Nov 06: Collector and District Returning Officer Dr Sarveshwar Bhure has declared a dry day in the district from 48 hours before the end of vot-

ing till the end of voting. On the occasion of voting to be held on 17th November, the Collector has ordered all country liquor and foreign liquor retail shops, restaurants, bars, hotels, clubs etc. located in the district to remain closed from 5 pm on 15th November till the end of voting on 17th November.

Instructions have been given to all the excise centers of the respective counting areas to remain completely closed for the entire day on 03 December. Dr. Bhure has asked to strictly follow all the instructions during the dry period and has given instructions to take action as per rules in case of violation.

BJP leaders meet CEO, demand adequate security arrangements

For voting in Bastar

Raipur, Nov 06: BJP MP Sunil Soni and former minister Chandrashekhar Sahu met the Chief Electoral Officer and demanded adequate security arrangements in the first phase of polling in Bastar in the wake of recent incident of killing of BJP Vice President of Narayanpur district inside the market by Naxalites. Considering threat by Naxalites it is necessary to make strict arrangements for polling so that everyone can vote, the BJP leaders said.

Cong demands removal of sketches of Gods, temple

● In BJP's election manifesto; submits complaint to CEO's office



Lord Shri Hanuman without any eyes.

Raipur, Nov 06: Congress in its complaint to the Election Commission has asked to issue order to remove the sketches of Lord Shri Ram, Shri Laxman and Mata Sita and Lord Shri Hanuman from its election manifesto. In the complaint it has been mentioned that with the election code of conduct already introduced and in such conditions BJP in its article dedicated to Atal Bihari Vajpayee in its election manifesto, with title 'Chhattisgarh ke liye, Modi ki guarantee 2023' on page 3, has displayed sketches of Lord Shri Ram, Shri Laxman, Mata Sita and

Apart from this the Congress in its complaint has pointed out that in the 33rd page of the election manifesto, the BJP has displayed a sketch of a temple and on which INC has raised strong objections. Congress leaders said that the Lord Shri Ram is symbol of faith and devotion and he is also known as 'Kamal Nayan'. In such conditions BJP has showed Lord Shri Ram without eyes and which is against everybody's faith and is sheer violation of model code of conduct.

On this the Chief Election Officer (CEO) needs to issue order for its removal at the earliest. INC has urged CEO state election commission to remove the sketches of Lord Shri Ram, Shri Laxman, Mata Sita and others from page-3 of BJP's election manifesto and also the photo of temple on page -33 and due action be taken against BJP for violating model code of conduct.

Among those who submitted memorandum to CEO in state election office included State President PCC Legal Cell Dr Deva Dewangan, Nand Kumar Patel, Kahkaha Dani, Manendra Dewangan, Ram Shankar Sonkar, Ramesh Sharma, Lalit Kumar Soni, Salim Khan, Sadiq Ali, Manoj Sonkar, AK Mishra, VK Rathore, Bunt Patel and others.

Two arrested for allegedly lifting bike



Raipur, Nov 06: Two persons have been arrested in connection with the incident of lifting bike in Devendra Nagar area of Raipur. They had allegedly sold parts of the stolen bike to Mahendra Auto Parts in Paras Nagar. Police have also arrested Mahendra Auto Parts owner and seized the bike. Devendra Nagar Sector-1 resident Sahil had parked his bike KTM (HR 51 BZ 4650) at porch of his house at around 9 pm on

November 1. Next morning when he came to work at 8 am he saw his bike missing. He lodged complaint with Devendra Nagar Police against unidentified bike lifter. The police lodged offence under Sections 457, 380, 34 IPC.

After search, police got information about one Pappu Gopal (21), resident of Trimurty Nagar behind Community Building in Devendra Nagar. Accordingly the police arrested him. During interrogation he confessed his crime. He also revealed that he had sold the parts of stolen bike to Mahendra Auto Parts. On this police arrested owner of Mahendra Auto Mahendra Mogre (19), resident of Trimurty Nagar.



Voter awareness programme organized

Raipur, Nov 06: Voter awareness programme on the theme of 'Empowered Women Empowered Democracy' was organized by women at Shaheed Smarak Bhavan. Observers Amrita Jothi and R Vimala were present on this occasion. Rangoli, Mehndi, Chhattisgarhi traditional ramp walk, Sua Nritya, poetry recitation, selfie, etc. were organized on the theme of Empowered Women, Empowered Democracy. The women present on the occasion appealed to the common people to vote.

Baghel will become govt 'guest': Sarma

● Says Cong loves Akbar and Aurangzeb

Bilaspur, Nov 06: Amid the betting app row, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday accused Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel of looting money in the name of Lord Mahadev and said he would become a "guest" of the government.

Alleging that Congress loves "Akbar, Babar, and Aurangzeb", Sarma said he would keep speaking against them till his last breath as he is a Sanatani Hindu.

Addressing rallies in

Takhatpur and Bhatapara assembly segments of poll-bound Chhattisgarh, Sarma slammed Congress for allegedly failing to fulfil its poll promises and said PM Modi ji's guarantee is as real as the Sun and the Moon.

"No one can even imagine that someone would loot money in the name of Mahadev (another name of Lord Shiv). Maa Kamakhya Devi is another form of Maa Parvati. Mother Parvati is also the wife of Lord Mahadev. Maa Kamakhya is in pain with such news (of betting app scam). Baghel has looted money in the name of Mahadev," Sarma said in Takhatpur. No one can

even imagine that someone would create an app in the name of Mahadev and commit fraud and corruption. He (Baghel) could have made the app with some other name. But he created an app in the name of Mahadev and looted not just one or two rupees but Rs 508 crore, the BJP leader said.

"Mahadev consumed poison for the welfare of the world but you have created poison in the name of Mahadev. This will be the reason for your departure from politics. You are definitely going to become a guest of the government (apparently indicating about his arrest)," he said.

Addressing another rally in Bhatapara, Sarma claimed Baghel had promised to ban liquor by swearing on Maa Ganga (river) but instead of fulfilling it, he started home delivery of liquor.

"When I speak against Akbar, Babar and Aurangzeb, Congress complains against me in the Election Commission and a notice has also been sent to me. But when I speak about Bhupesh Baghel, Congress does not do anything because Congress loves Akbar, Babar, and Aurangzeb".

"I am a Sanatani Hindu. I will keep speaking against them as long as I am alive," he added.

Second training of polling parties on Nov 8, 9

Raipur, Nov 06: In view of the Assembly elections-2023, the second training of polling parties will be held on 8th and 9th November. This training program will be held at NIT Raipur and Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University. There will be training in two shifts every day. The timing of the first shift has been fixed at 9:30 am and the second shift at 1:30 pm. Instructions have been given to the concerned officers and employees to remain present compulsorily. It is noteworthy that facility centers have been set up in both the trainings, where those coming for the training will cast their vote through postal ballot.

MAHADEV APP CASE

BJP releases video of accused who claims to have 'proof' against Baghel

Raipur, Nov 06: The BJP on Sunday released a video of Shubham Soni, an accused in the Mahadev Book betting app case, saying he is its owner and had the "proof" of paying Rs 508 crore so far to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.

The video was released by BJP's central media convener Siddharth Singh at a press conference here.

The ruling Congress in Chhattisgarh, which is locked in an electoral battle with the BJP, said the video is a conspiracy by the BJP.

"Accused Shubham Soni sitting in Dubai has narrated the entire story of the Mahadev app in this video about who is connected to this betting app. He has clearly said that CM Baghel, his son Bittu, his political advisor Vinod Verma and an IPS officer were involved in this syndicate. Baghel has no moral right to re-

main on the post even for a minute," said Singh, an MLA from Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is investigating the illegal betting app syndicate and raided Mahadev Book in Chhattisgarh.

In the video, a man identifies himself as Shubham Soni and claims he is the owner of the Mahadev Book betting app.

He claimed Rs 508 crore has been given to "Baghel saheb" and others so far. "Despite giving money, my work is not getting done. I don't understand what to do with this system. ED has started action against me. My last request to our Indian government is to help me. I am trapped in this political system. I want to get out of it. I have evidence regarding the money I have given. Please help me. I want to go back to India. I am scared", he says. Notably, the Centre has issued

Conspiracy: Cong

Congress state communication wing president Sushil Anand Shukla termed the video as a conspiracy by the BJP "which has stooped so low because it is scared of Congress". "The BJP has failed to take on Congress in the state and therefore it has resorted to such conspiracies. Anyone can release a video and claim himself to be the owner of Mahadev app while Saurabh Chandrakar is said to be the main accused in the case. People of Chhattisgarh will teach a lesson to BJP in the elections," Shukla said.

blocking orders against 22 illegal betting platforms, including the Mahadev app, at the request of ED, an official statement said on Sunday.

Rajrishi, Nikhlesh, Chanana, Chalacy won championship in CBSE Athletics Meet

Raipur, Nov 06: The second day of the CBSE National Athletics Meet proved to be just as thrilling and energetic as the Athletes from all across the country showcased their exceptional skills, determination, and competitive spirit.

The track events took center stage, captivating the audience with their explosive speed and intense competition. The athletes exhibited tremendous skill and showcased their agility and athleticism, making it a truly remarkable day for athletes.

First Position Proud Winners for the 2nd Day of the event held at NH Goel World School Raipur includes



Rajrishi Barma, Boys Under-17, Triple Jump from Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya Nabari who won the championship with a jump of 13.40m in his category. Similarly Nikhlesh, Boys Under-19, won the

Shot-put from Partap School, Kharkhda, Chahana R Ram, Girls Under-19 Shot-put from Velammal Vidyalaya Melayanambakkam excelled in his category. Chalacy, Girls Under-17, High Jump from Modern

Sr. Sec. School Panchkula won the championship with a jump of 1.48m whereas Jyoti Kumari, Girls Under-17, High Jump from Modern Public School B BLK Shalimar Bagh won with a jump of 1.48m. Shafali Girls Under-17 High Jump from True Education Glowing School Modi Sirsa with a jump of 1.48m, Harshita Goswami Girls Under-19 High Jump from Modern Public School B BLK Shalimar Bagh with a jump of 1.51m, Yash Chhikara Boys Under-17 Boys from Modern Public School B BLK Shalimar Bagh with a throw of 17.16m, Kharanishwar, Boys Under-17, 400m Dash from Everwin

Vidhyashram Kolathur Chennai Tamilnadu in the first position with a total of 51.14. Meanwhile Nethra M Murugadass E Girls Under-17 400m Dash from Velammal Vidyalaya Mogappair west Chennai TN won the event a total of 57.63 whereas Jayachandran S Boys Under-19 400m Dash secured the first position with a total of 50.34, Waris Sharif Boys Under-17 High Jump from Pathseekers Beas Baba Bakala Amritsar PB in the first position with a jump of 1.91m and Ansh Bittu, his political advisor Vinod Verma and an IPS officer were involved in this syndicate. Baghel has no moral right to re-

Chh'garh Shooting selection trials today

Raipur, Nov 06: Chhattisgarh Pradesh Rifle Association (CPRA) is organizing a day-long selection trials on November 7 at Raipur Mana-based Shooting Range.

A press release issued here informed that 61 shooters from Chhattisgarh would be attending the selection trials in various categories including Men, Women, Junior section to represent Chhattisgarh in the National Rifle Tournament to be held on November 15 at New Delhi and at National Pistol competition to be held at Bhopal from November 19. According to the information received, 3 shooting players would be part of every team in various categories. Accordingly, the selections would be held on Tuesday trials.

State level mega jail Lok Adalat organized

● 94 prisoners released from Raipur district

Raipur, Nov 06: State level mega jail lok adalat was organised at Raipur Central Jail by the District Legal Services Authority Raipur under the direction of Chhattisgarh High Court Bilaspur and Executive Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority Justice Goutam Bhaduri. The lok adalat was inaugurated by Abdul Zahid Qureshi, District and Sessions Judge and Chairman of District Legal Services Authority Raipur.

Under the Under Trial Review Committee 2023, the Supreme Court, the High Court and the District Court are making efforts for speedy disposal of the cases of prisoners who have been detained in custody for a longer period in Central Jail Raipur and Sub Jail Gariaband, said Abdul Zahid Qureshi. The



District Court and the District Legal Services Authority are continuously working to protect the fundamental rights and legal rights of the detained prisoners, he added.

There are many prisoners who are not able to arrange the bail amount due to appointment of a lawyer to represent their case, weak financial condition or poverty and in such a situation, the District Legal Services Authority is ready to help them in their cases. He said, adding that the Authority will provide free legal assistance to settle the case through simple and easy process. Due to

provides free service in such cases, he said.

Jail Superintendent SS Tigga in his address said that efforts were being made in the best interest of the prisoners in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority and the appeals of the prisoners will be taken from the district level to the Supreme Court free of cost through the District Legal Services Authority.

Abdul Zahid Qureshi, District and Sessions Judge, Raipur inspected the life-saving facilities provided to the prisoners in the Central District Jail, including health facilities, and also appreciated the handicrafts and artefacts made by the prisoners. He also inspected the cleanliness and quality of the snack center being run by the jail administration for the general public. A total of 142 cases were presented in the state level mega jail Lok Adalat held in district Raipur, out of which 94 cases were resolved and 94 prisoners were released today.

which, in order to reduce the overcrowding of prisoners in jails, Jail Lok Adalat is organized from time to time to settle the cases by identifying the cases with lesser punishment period.

Chief Judicial Magistrate District Raipur Digvijay Singh said that Jail Lok Adalat is organized on every working Saturday in which any prisoner can get his case resolved and this is also done through the District Legal Services Authority. The application for redressal can be sent to the District Legal Services Authority through this medium and the District Legal Services Authority

Little Millennium holds successful sports meet

Raipur, Oct 06: Little Millennium exciting and well-attended sports meet took place, showcasing the significance of sports and physical development in preschoolers. The event was graced by several esteemed guests, including Dr. Sangeeta Nagraj, Director of Ekta Children Hospital; Chitra Sen Sahu, the famed Mountaineer and 'Half Human, Half Robo'; Arya Sir, Director of Dronacharya Public School; Bhishan Sir, a renowned athlete; Mona Mussadi, Chief Learning Officer, Tatibandh; Anubhuti Srivastava, CLO at Little Millennium Priyadarshani Nagar; and Sanjay Kadam, a passionate badminton player.

Children enthusiasm and energy was contagious making the audience spell-bound with their outstanding performances and races. Children aged 2 to 3 sorted the balls according to their colors, balanced the balls on disposable glasses and ran to feed the cow. Kids aged 3 to 4 raced to form pyramid, matched alphabet



with pictures and packed their school bag. It was delightful to watch children aged 4 to 5 balancing lemon on spoon, balancing the books and performing hulla hoop race. The children from 5 to 6 crawled under the table, jumped over the rope and hopped on the tyre to perform hurdle race, balance bottle and sack race.

The sports meet was organized with the objective of emphasizing the pivotal role sports play in the holistic development of preschoolers, aligning with the principles of the Panch

Kosha outlined in the National Education Policy. The Panch Kosha, an integral component of the National Education Policy, focuses on nurturing children across five dimensions, ensuring their well-rounded growth:

Chitra Sen Sahu, the 'Half Human, Half Robo' mountaineer, shared inspirational stories of his journey and encouraged the children to embrace challenges.

Anubhuti Srivastava, CLO at Little Millennium Priyadarshani Nagar stated, "sports are an integral

part of our curriculum, helping children grow physically and emotionally. We believe that a strong start in sports paves the way for future success."

The sports meet was a resounding success, underscoring the importance of sports in early childhood education and promoting holistic development in alignment with the Panch Kosha of the National Education Policy. It served as a testament to the commitment of educators, parents, and community leaders in nurturing the future generation.

Plantation done by First Lady of State

Raipur, Nov 06: The First Lady of the State, Suprabha Harichandan on Wednesday planted the fruit tree Mango in the Raj Bhavan premises.

She has requested the people to plant as many saplings as possible from time to time to promote the environment and to keep special occasions memorable. Officials and employees of Raj Bhavan were present on this occasion.



More than 93,000 passengers boarded flights from Raipur in 15 days

● Impact of festival and election season

Raipur, Nov 06: While the festive season started from October 15 last month, the election season started from the first week of October as soon as the model code of conduct was imposed. The election season was more popular in air travel sector than the festive season. In just 15 days, more than 93,000 thousand passengers flew and 690 flights were operated. According to aviation officials, the maximum traffic in this also was from Raipur to Delhi flight.

In these 15 days, more



than 10 thousand air passengers from the state made the journey from Raipur to Delhi. According to the information, between October 16 and 29, 93,215 air passengers traveled from Raipur, while 690 flights were operated. A month before this, in September, there was movement of about 85,000 passengers in 15 days. Meanwhile, the number of flights stood at

around 675.

It is being told that after Delhi and Indore, the highest movement of air passengers was from Bengaluru to Raipur. Travel traders said that many people from Raipur live in Bengaluru for studies and jobs. There were a lot of people coming to Raipur from there during the festive season. Travel Agent Kirti Vyas said that the movement of air passengers has increased significantly. Raipur has direct flights to 13 cities and connecting flights to many more cities. By the end of this year, 13 flights will be able to stop simultaneously at Raipur airport. For this, four separate parking

ways are being constructed at the airport. At present there are nine parking ways in Raipur airport and after the construction of four new parking ways, there will be 13 parking ways. In the 10 months from January to October this year, more than 20 lakh air passengers moved through Raipur airport. Compared to last year, the movement of air passengers is approximately three and a half lakh more. Aviation officials said that in the coming days, air services to some new cities will also start from Raipur. Compared to normal days, air fares have also increased by up to 10 percent these days.

Model polling station and mascot becomes center of attraction



● Under 'Chunai Tihar 2023' Voter Awareness Program, Shubhankar appealed to the voters for 100 percent voting

Bijapur, Nov 06: To encourage 100 percent voting, 'Chunai Duval Subhankar' in the district appealed to the voters of the district for 100 percent voting. 5 model polling centers have been made in the district, out of which a glimpse of Bijapur area can be seen in

Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Bijapur. The welcome gate made of bamboo art and tree leaves is the center of attraction. The voters will like the charming tableau of wild animals. Selfie zones and play areas for children have also been prepared. Election observers including Collector and District Election Officer inspected and gave necessary instructions to the officers in charge.

Assembly elections, silent voters and no shine in the campaign

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Nov 06: Voters are seen silent in all the four assemblies of the city, while there is no shine in the campaign either. Flags of both the parties are definitely visible in some settlements, but they are not visible in the same brightness. The silence of the voters definitely means that it is pointing towards some big change, but it is not so, no big change is going to happen.

During the discussion with the voters, one thing has definitely emerged that the public wants to see a strong representative. Some voters may not say anything, but the implication from the conversation is that elections are a game of money and money will prevail. Especially in slum areas, people living in posh colonies also take money. Although they consider it foolish to stand in the queue to vote, they definitely take money.

Some people discussed the development openly. Why is



there lack of development in a district like Korba where there is no shortage of money? While people are angry at the Central Government for the problems of trains, on the streets, the section of people who are always connected with trains are expressing their displeasure at the Central Government. The number of such people is more in Korba city.

This is a class which does not come among the silent voters and discusses openly. Therefore, it will be difficult for the local public representatives to say which way they are headed for the road. Korba city has more slum set-

Communists also in the field

Korba: Communist Party is also in the fray. Their hold among the workers remains strong. In this era of privatization, labor unions are being crushed, this is not hidden from anyone. In such a situation, their voters are residents of the township. For which communists always keep fighting. Sometimes Navranglal also used to contest elections. He may not have won the elections, but his influence was no less than that of any MLA. Presently Sunil Singh is contesting from BJP from Korba. Being a resident of Balco and being educated there, he is in the field with strength. In such a situation, a different image of him is visible among the employees.

lements and the vote there remains decisive. Because

AAP also showing strength

Korba: This time Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is also showing strength in the election field. Its influence is definitely there in some areas. Vishal Kelkar has been fielded from AAP party. This is not a new name. Kelkar had contested the last election as an independent candidate. Due to the clean image, people are talking about it. If they get the benefit of their government in Delhi and Punjab, they can get more votes than last time.

whether those who discuss openly will stand in the queue to vote or not because the people of slum areas will also stand in the same line and those who discuss openly blame the slum dwellers in every case. Therefore, only the vote of slum settlements will be decisive. This time too it depends on who has control over them.

Vigilance Awareness Week 2023 concludes at NTPC Lara

Bilaspur (Lara), Nov 06: The week long Vigilance Awareness Week, 2023 started from 30th October 2023 comes to an end with distribution of prizes to the successful candidates of all competitions on 5th November 2023 by Chief Guest Diwakar Kaushik, Executive Director (NTPC Lara) at Tarang auditorium inside Maitree Nagar Township. As per the guidelines received from central vigilance commission, Vigilance Awareness Week is organised to sensitize people against ill effects of corruption in our society and to create a corruption free society. During the celebration of Vigilance Awareness Week various awareness generating activities like competition, lecture, seminar, public meeting, street play etc were organised among employees, associates, members of Prerita Mahila Samiti, vendors and villagers. Besides appeal by Head of NTPC Lara project was aired through radio message in local FM channel. Banners



and posters with messages against corruption were displayed at various locations of plant, township and villages.

Among employees slogan writing, essay, speech competitions were organised. For members of Prerita Mahila Samiti essay writing, quiz, collage making were organised.

For children of Gurukul International School, poem recitation, essay writing, quiz, and speech competitions were organised. Vendor meet was organised for the vendors

working at NTPC Lara. A lecture by Adil Superintendent of Police, Raigarh, Suresha Choubey on 1st November 2023 on women empowerment and women atrocities.

Employees and associates administered integrity pledge. Street plays were performed by members of Prerita Mahila Samiti and students of Gurukul School.

On closing ceremony all winning participants were awarded with memento and certificate by chief guest, Diwakar Kaushik,

Executive Director (NTPC Lara) in the presence of other General Managers and head of departments.

Among others Akhilesh Singh, GM (Operation & Maintenance), Rajeev Ranjan, GM (Maintenance), SK Roy, GM (Operation), SK Swain, GM (Fuel Management), Pankaj Sekhar, AGM (Vigilance), Kanhaiya Das, AGM (HR), Head of departments, office bearers of Prerita Mahila Samiti, Principal and lectures of Gurul School and children were present on this occasion.

Second day of Leadership Summit continued with the same grandeur

Raipur, Nov 06: On the second day of the Leadership Summit at IIM Raipur Mr. Girish Pahadiya, Corporate Relations Officer, IIM Raipur, extended a warm reception to the esteemed corporate leaders. The day featured three panel discussions on "Enhancing Identity for Indian Business and Leadership." The event began by setting the stage for the first panel discussion of the day, moderated by Prof. Sanjeev Prashar, Professor - Marketing. The topic of the discussion was "Globalising Indian Business through the Local Workforce." The development of India's economy both before and after the epidemic, as well as an examination of Indian sociology,

was among the major topics discussed.

Chetan Hingu, Country Head (Inside Sales), AMD, emphasized that India, though a rapidly growing economy, contributes only 4% to global exports, while China exports 15%. He underscored the importance of internalizing different cultures in India and worldwide. Shri Pankaj Jain, Director, PwC, highlighted the demographic composition of India and underlined the value of learning new techniques and abilities. Pawan Kumar, Executive Director, P&A, SAIL, discussed India's emergence on the global stage, noting that most multinational corporations have CEOs of Indian origin. He



stressed the significance of broadening India's export base by shifting away from exporting raw materials and focusing more

on exporting machinery. Shri Chhitz Kumar, Vice President of Health Systems, Philips, referred to Michael Porter's five forces,

emphasizing strategic thinking, leadership, and soft skills as crucial elements of success for Indian CEOs. He mentioned the

need for soft skills and embracing diversity while acknowledging the significance of women in management.

The second panel of the day, moderated by Prof. Parthasarathi Banerjee, Distinguished Professor - Strategic Management, IIM Raipur, delved into "Understanding the Indian Competitive Advantage for the Future." Anand Subbiah, CMO, Qualcomm India, emphasized the necessity of future leaders' self-sufficiency and the government's incentives for manufacturing in India. Ms. Deepali Naair, CMO, CK Birla Group, talked about India's advantages and disadvantages in several

areas, highlighting the country's superiority in manufacturing and automotive sectors. Shri Sreenivas V, COO, Collabera Digital, lauded India's achievements, pointing to the IT sector and liberalization as models for prosperity. He emphasized the value of execution and the virtue of pursuing one's skills. Prashant Dhariwal,

Managing Director, Vaamaa Dairy, highlighted India's resilience and adaptability, citing how Indians have used the concept of 'jugaad' to their advantage. He acknowledged how differently Indians approach problems and how receptive they are to new ideas and fashions.

Akshit Lamba conferred with PhD



Raipur, Nov 06: Kalinga University Raipur has awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) to Akshit Lamba for his thesis titled 'Seismic Analysis and Design of Intze Water Tank. Lamba, who is resident of Kurud completed his thesis under guidance of Dr PS Charpe, Professor in Civil Engineering Department, Kalinga University.

EXERCISING RIGHTS



MP government employees on poll duty wait in a queue to cast their votes for the State Assembly elections, in Bhopal, Monday.

'GST, demonetisation caused severe problems to small traders'

Dhar, Nov 06 (PTI):

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday said GST and demonetisation had severely distressed small traders and other citizens and urged them to raise their awareness levels about her party's promises and their implementation before voting in the upcoming Assembly polls.

Addressing a rally in Kukshi town in tribal-dominated Dhar in Madhya Pradesh, where Assembly polls will be held on November 17, she slammed the Narendra Modi government for its economic policies, including privatisation of state-run units to benefit industrialists.

"The (Union) govern-

ment has closed public sector industries, which resulted in high unemployment. They then introduced demonetisation and the Goods and Services Tax. GST has troubled everybody, including small traders. It has resulted in inflation," she said.

"GST is applicable on everything because of which small traders face a lot of problems. It has resulted in high inflation and unemployment. People have to pay GST on everything, even on small things during festivals, which results in inflation," she claimed.

Attacking the Centre, Gandhi alleged public sector firms were being given to industrialists free of cost, be it BHEL (power sector major Bharat



Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra arrives for a public rally.

Heavy Electricals Limited), railways, airports, ports etc, which was causing unemployment in the country.

Pointing out to the rising prices of onions, Gandhi told the crowd at one time Prime Minister

Modi would mock whether (battering legend) Sachin (Tendulkar) would score a century first or onions (scaling the Rs 100 per kilogram mark).

"Now both Virat (Kohli) who scored a ton in Sunday's World Cup game against South Africa) and onions have scored centuries. What do you have to say now," she said in a jibe at the PM.

Attacking the prime minister further, Gandhi claimed he uses two aircraft cumulatively worth Rs 16,000 crore for travel and wears expensive suits.

While farmers are earning just Rs 27 per day, industrialist Gautam Adani was making Rs 1,600 crore per day "with the help of the government", she alleged.

'Before PM comes campaigning, he sends ED, Income Tax and CBI'

Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Nov 06 (PTI):

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday derided the ED, CBI and the Income Tax Department as "Jawans" of Narendra Modi, and said before the prime minister hits the campaign trail he sends the central agencies to target the opposition.

Addressing a rally in Jodhpur in Rajasthan ahead of the November 25 assembly polls, the Congress president also said the prime minister is thinking of the poor now because it is election time.

His attack came days after the prime minister announced the extension of the free ration scheme for five years. Kharge accused the Modi gov-



Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge upon the latter's arrival in the state ahead of the State Assembly elections, in Jodhpur, Monday.

ernment of "troubling the poor and supporting his industrialist friends like Adani." In a swipe at Modi, Kharge said a

king, chief minister or prime minister usually helps the poor, but one man is helping the rich after getting votes of the poor.

"In his (Modi) era, the rich are becoming richer and the poor are becoming poorer," he said, adding Prime Minister Modi is thinking of the poor now because elections are approaching. Referring to the recent actions by central probe agencies against Congress leaders in poll-bound states, Kharge said that before Prime Minister Modi goes on poll campaign and delivers speeches, he sends the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Income Tax and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for campaigning.

Udaipur, Nov 06 (PTI):

While the Congress in Rajasthan is banking on its women-centric welfare schemes and "guarantees" to woo voters, the BJP is mobilising women leaders from other states to counter the ruling party.

Apart from the BJP state Mahila Morcha, women leaders from Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Delhi and Jammu Kashmir are campaigning in various constituencies of the poll-bound state to publicise the Modi government's schemes and programmes and reaching out to the

general public, especially women.

Assembly elections in the state will be held on November 25 and counting will be done on December 3. BJP Mahila Morcha national general secretary Deepthi Rawat Bharadwaj, who is in charge of the party's women's unit in Rajasthan during elections, said that a strategy has been made to ensure that women votes go to BJP.

Women constitute about 50 per cent of the total voters in Rajasthan, so the Gehlot-led Congress government in the state launched several schemes

for them.

The focus of the state government has been to reach out to the women through the Indra Gandhi Smartphone Yojna, Annapurna Food Packet Scheme, half fare in state roadways buses, gas cylinders for Rs 500 for Ujjawala scheme beneficiaries and free sanitary napkin scheme among others.

"The Mahila Morcha here is active but there is a lot of pressure in the elections, hence experienced women have come from other states too. They are moving to different assembly constituencies. Teams have been formed for the

home-to-home campaign," Bharadwaj told PTI in Udaipur.

According to the strategy, two teams will work in each mandal (circle), one in the morning and the other in the evening, she said. The sitting MLAs, former MLAs, senior office bearers, deputy mayor or mayor are among the women leaders who have been roped in for Rajasthan elections, she said.

"The elections in Rajasthan are more dependent on women. As they constitute half of the population in the state, it is important to reach out to

them. Women's votes have always gone to the BJP and Narendra Modi because he does what he says, he does not just talk but actually fulfils the promises. That is why women trust him," Bharadwaj said.

She said the members of the Mahila Morcha were doing corner meetings, home-to-home campaigns and reaching out to female voters in all manners.

Attacking the Congress government, she said that cases of rapes and atrocities on women have increased in the Congress' rule and the schemes they talk about have not given any benefit to the women.

Panchayat bypolls in Arunachal record 75 pc voter turnout

Itanagar, Nov 06 (PTI):

Over 75 per cent voter turnout was recorded in the bypoll for electing five gram panchayat members (GPMs) and one zilla parishad member (ZPM) in Arunachal Pradesh on Monday, an official said.

The polling, which began at 7 am and ended at 4 pm, was held peacefully, he said. The voter turnout is likely to go up as reports from two polling centers are yet to be compiled, State Election Commission secretary Taru Talo said.

Across 23 districts of the state, 54 seats fell vacant in the gram panchayats and two seats fell vacant in the zilla parishads. Polling was held for one zilla parishad seat and five gram panchayat seats, after the rest were decided uncontested, Talo said.

The seats fell vacant due to various reasons, including death and resignations of members, he said.

A total of 3,788 voters, including 2,015 women, were eligible to exercise their franchise in the five panchayat seats and one zilla parishad seat, spread over Anjaw, Lower Dibang Valley, Shi-Yomi, Lower Siang and Papum Pare districts, where polling was held.

Arunachal Pradesh has a total of 25 zilla parishads with 242 constituencies and 2,115 gram panchayats with 8,145 seats.

Elections to 40 gram panchayat seats and one zilla parishad in Vijaynagar administrative sub-division in Changlang district, however, is pending due to law and order situa-

WCD ministry to support 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' initiative



To bring societal change

Mumbai, Nov 06:

COLORS, announced its collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development's 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' initiative, to address the issue of girl child abandonment, through the launch of its new fiction show Doree. Television as a medium has played a huge role in holding a mirror to society and led to many women becoming agents of change. With an aim to bring societal change and address the

gender bias against girl child, through this association COLORS aims to raise awareness about the social evil of girl child abandonment. In addition to launching a primetime show on the subject, as part of this association, COLORS will promote the 24-hour emergency toll free Childline India helpline number (1098) for those seeking assistance for any abandoned girl child across the nation. Doree, airing every Monday to Friday at 9:00pm on COLORS, aims to generate popular conversation and thereby raise awareness on the issue of girl child abandonment.

Mrs Smriti Irani, Minister of Women and Minority Affairs says, "Just as a nation's progress is defined by how it treats its women and children, similarly entertainment's impact is defined by how it can change mindsets. Under the guidance of our honourable PM Shri Narendra Modi, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has made great strides through the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' initiative in changing the way girl child is perceived. I'm glad that our country's foremost entertainment channel COLORS has joined in this initiative to create a show, Doree on the important but often overlooked issue of girl child abandonment. The channel will be raising awareness of our Childline India 1098 helpline amongst viewers and provide the much-needed popular support to this initiative."

NAME CHANGE: It is informed to the general public that I, ADITYA KUMAR SINGH FATHER LATE. HARI SINGH Resident 2/3B, Ashish Nagar East, Risali, Bihilai, Tehsil and District-Durg (Chhattisgarh) have changed my old Name ADITYA SINGH FATHER LATE. HARI SINGH, so in future I should be recognized by my new name that is ADITYA KUMAR SINGH FATHER LATE. HARI SINGH in all Government and other documents. Aditya Kumar Singh 2/3B, Ashish Nagar East, Risali, Bihilai, Tehsil And District-Durg (Chhattisgarh)

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR LOST OF DOCUMENT: (Regarding Dotted Land bearing Plot No. 26 & 10 Sheet No. 21, Computed in Khata No. 2023 & 2022, Area 2160, 750, 2240 & 750 Sq. Ft. Total Area 5900 Sq. Ft. Situated at Mouja Shankar Nagar, Taluk Subahachandrapur, Dist. Durg (C.G.)... PUBLIC NOTICE: NOTICE is hereby given that my client Pintu Kumar Vaishnav S/o Late Radheshyam Vaishnav R/o House No. 391, Swami Vivekanand Ward, Ward No. 09, Shankar Nagar, Durg, Tehsil & Dist. Durg (C.G.) has obtained a piece and parcel of land bearing Khata No. 1223/13, area 0.005 Hectare = 47.49 sq. mtr. situated at Durg, (Ward) No. 09 Swami Vivekanand Ward Inner Portion) P.H. No. 24, R.N.M. Durg-1, Tehsil & Dist. Durg (C.G.), from (1) Smt. Smta Vaishnav W/o Late Radheshyam Vaishnav, (2) Rakesh Vaishnav, (3) Rinku Kumar Vaishnav, (4) Rani Vaishnav, (5) Diksha Vaishnav all children of Late Radheshyam Vaishnav, vide registered REINDEQUISITION deed dated 03.06.2022. The said Sarita Vaishnav & others were acquired as the legal heirs of Radheshyam. The said Shri Radheshyam Vaishnav S/o Shri Binjias Vaishnav had purchased the said property from Smt. Kausalya Devi Rathi W/o Nandkishor Rathi vide registered sale deed dated 17.06.1994. The said deed executed between Shri Radheshyam Vaishnav S/o Shri Binjias Vaishnav AND Smt. Kausalya Devi Rathi W/o Nandkishor Rathi dated 17.06.1994 was in the custody of my client and the same has been lost / misplaced by my client. A police report has been lodged against the lost registered deed on dated 03.11.2023. If the said lost registered deed dated 17.06.1994 is found by anybody, it is requested that the said deeds be handed over to my staff in my office. Any person having any right, title or interest or any claim, demand or objection of any nature whatsoever against or in respect of the said property or any part thereof is hereby requested to notify the same in writing to the undersigned with supporting documentary evidence within 07 days from the date hereof, failing which on such claims, demands, objections etc. shall be entertained thereafter and the said property shall be considered as free from all encumbrances. Subhro Chakravorty Advocate For Ashwini Singh & Associates Nagar Nigam Panisar, Supela, Bihilai, Durg (C.G.)

NAME CHANGE: It is inform to the general public that I Sameer Phadke S/o Shankar Dattatreya Phadke resident of House No. 11/B Kuber Greens, Purai District Durg Pin - 491107 (C.G.) have changed my old name Sameer Phadke S/o Shankar Dattatreya Phadke so in future I should be recognized by my new name that is Sameer Shankar Phadke S/o Shankar Dattatreya Phadke in all government and other document. Sameer Shankar Phadke House No. 11/B Kuber Greens, Purai District Durg Pin - 491107 (C.G.)

UCO BANK GE Road, BIT Campus, Durg (C.G.) POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties) [Under Rule-8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002] Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the UCO Bank, Branch - Kawardha (C.G.) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued Demand Notice on the dates, mentioned against each Account (given below) calling upon the Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagees to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices. The Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagees having failed to pay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagees and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagees attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets. The Borrowers/ Guarantors / Mortgagees in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of UCO Bank for the amounts and interest thereon.

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd. Corporate Office: 802, Natraj By Rustomjee, Western Express Highway, Sir M.V. Road, Andheri East, Mumbai-400069, Maharashtra. Raipur Branch : 1A & 1B, 2nd Floor, Shyam Plaza, Pandari, Raipur-492004, Chhattisgarh. Authorised Officer : Ashwin Sharma, Mob.:- 7697112220

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION CUM SALE Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned in sealed covers for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the physical possession, on 'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis', Particulars of which are given below:-

Hindi medium schools fighting for existence



Vijay Kumar Gupta

Pithora, Nov 06: After coming under the dominance of Atmanand English schools opened by Chhattisgarh government, the threat of existence is looming over the previously run Hindi medium schools. Most importantly, what will happen to the children studying in Hindi medium and the staff and teachers instructing them, remain unanswered.

On one hand, government claims are being made that Hindi schools will not be closed; on the other hand, the withdrawal and disbursement rights in Hindi schools

have been abolished under the orders of the government. As per information, the teachers have been transferred elsewhere, although they are still working in this school, but their salaries are being received from some other nearby school.

In Pithora, with the opening of Atmanand Vidyalaya, in Ranjit Agricultural Higher Secondary School, which has been running, for sixteen decades by now, by deleting the earlier name Ranjit Krishi Shala, the board of Atmanand School started flashing at the entrance. The tribal community and former students of the school strongly objected, and fi-



nally, on the instructions of the then education minister of the state, Premeai Singh Tekam, who came to the social program in village Bagarpali of Pithora block, the name of Atmanand was again erased from the entrance gate overnight and Government Ranjit Krishi Higher Secondary School Board was established. However due to non-disbursement of withdrawals from Government Ranjit Agricultural Higher Secondary School, Pithora, the financial activities of this Higher Secondary School have come to a standstill and other higher secondary

schools which have been affected by this in terms of teachers salaries include the high and higher secondary schools of Kauhakuda, Sonasilli, Jamhar, Chhibarra, Thakurdiya Khurd, Ghonch, Gadbera and Chikhli. In fact, this whole dilemma has arisen because English medium school is being opened on the condition of Hindi medium school. But if the Hindi school is sacrificed for the coronation of English, then opposition is natural. Government Ranjit Kisii Higher Secondary School in Pithora was started in 1958 in the name of Kaudiya Zamindar Raja Ranjit Singh and this pri-

private school had to face many financial difficulties. Even the land donated by the king had to be sold to pay the teachers' salaries. Struggling with problems, the school was taken over by the government in 1972. At present, the royal palace, the heritage of the royal family, is being run by the tribal community due to which the tribal community is emotionally attached to their king. In fact, such an experiment has already proved unsuccessful in winning the trust of students and parents.

In the only girl's middle and primary school of Pithora, Hindi medium has been discontinued and English medium CBSE course is being conducted from class 1st to 8th. As a result, Hindi medium girl students have to take admission in other schools. The big problem is for the students who have passed class 8th, who even if they are given admission in Atmanand School, they will have to study in CG course from class 9th instead of CBSE.

Election buzz subdued as rural areas prioritize farming

■ Farmers engrossed in paddy harvest, awaiting election promises

Fingeshwar, Nov 06:

As the rural landscape of Fingeshwar comes alive with the paddy harvest season, the election atmosphere takes a backseat. Farmers are actively involved in the ongoing paddy harvest, while the government has initiated rice procurement at support prices since November 1. However, the large-scale arrival of farmers to sell their rice is yet to materialize due to the moisture content in their produce, which must meet specific criteria for purchase.

The number of farmers visiting government rice procurement centers is expected to rise in the coming week as moisture levels decrease. Cooperatives across the region are actively engaged in rice procurement, with special provisions made by authorities to accommodate farmers during this election year.

In the political arena, the Congress party's announcement of loan



waivers for farmers has struck a chord with the agricultural community. Now, farmers eagerly anticipate the BJP's election manifesto, hoping for further promises of progress and development. While rice has played a pivotal role in past elections, this year, various political parties are expected to make significant announcements focusing on farmers' welfare.

Despite the election season, farmers and labourers remain dedicated to their agricultural activi-

ties, with even labourers fully immersed in the farm work. It is only after the completion of this month's rice procurement that the rural population may shift their attention towards political activities.

Farmers and farmer leaders are keeping a close watch on the manifestos of various national parties, including the BJP and Congress, while the operation of harvesters and tractors proceeds seamlessly in every village.

Officials receive training for EVM commissioning

Bilaspur, Nov 06:

Under the Assembly elections, EVM commissioning training was given to the sector officers appointed for 06 assemblies of the district in two shifts in the district office. In the first shift, sector officers and members of the commissioning team from Masturi, Takhatpur and Kota assembly constituencies participated, while in the second shift, training was conducted for the officers of Bilha, Bilaspur and Beltara assembly constituencies.

Municipal Corporation Commissioner Kunal Dudawat and District Level Master Trainer MT Alam informed the trainees about the intricacies of EVM commissioning and also resolved their doubts. The



Municipal Corporation Commissioner said that it is necessary to have technical knowledge along with taking various types of precautions in the work of shortage screening and also in the training, all the sector officers were informed about the commis-

sioning process like control unit, candidate setting, battery check, ballot unit, ballot paper setting, vehicle battery checking etc.

It was also informed that the EVM mock poll test will be conducted in the presence of representatives of political parties,

in which five percent of the machines will be mock polled with one thousand votes tested. Along with the operation of Ballot Unit, Control Unit and VHPET, detailed information was given on other points including connecting to each other, EVM sealing, mock poll, CRC, common errors and their reasons.

On this occasion, Deputy District Election Officer Shiv Kumar Banerjee, ROs, AROs, Sector Officers, Master Trainers of all the assembly constituencies were present. The process of commissioning of EVM machines will start from 12 noon in the strong room built in the Government Engineering College, Koni on 06th November and for this, all the EVM machines have reached the strong room.

Materials distributed for 804 polling stations

Kawardha, Nov 06:

For free, fair, peaceful and transparent voting to be held on November 7 in the first phase of Chhattisgarh, from Agricultural Produce Market Bilaspur Road Kawardha materials were distributed on November 6 for 804 polling stations of assembly constituencies 71-Pandariya and 72 Kawardha of Kabirdham district.

District Collector and District Election Officer Janmejy Mahobe has instructed all the presiding officers of the polling parties and polling officers 01, 02, 03 to be present within the stipulated time and collect the materials. As

per the schedule of the Election Commission of India, voting in Kabirdham district will start at 8 am on Tuesday, November 7 and the material will be distributed to 411 polling teams formed for 411 polling stations in Kawardha assembly constituency of the district.

Similarly, material will be distributed to 393 polling teams formed for 393 polling stations of Pandariya Assembly constituency. Apart from this, 103 polling parties (25 percent) have been reserved for Kawardha Assembly and 99 polling parties (25 percent) have been reserved for Pandariya Assembly. 24 polling stations in the district have

been prepared as model polling stations. In this, ten Sangwari polling stations each have been made in both the assembly constituencies.

The special thing is that in all these 20 polling stations, from the presiding officer to polling party numbers 1, 2 and 3, all women employees will be there. Similarly, in both these assembly constituencies, 1 polling center each will be made for disabled and 1 polling center will be made youth managed polling centre. According to the information received from the election office, there are total 14 candidates in Pandariya assembly constituency and 393 polling stations in

Pandariya assembly constituency. 473 ballot units, 474 control units and 513 VVPATs have been kept safe for these polling stations.

Control Unit 80, Ballot Unit 81 and 120 VVPAT have been kept in reserve, while the total number of polling stations in Kawardha assembly constituency is 411. In this assembly constituency, 02-02 ballot units will be used for each polling station for 16 candidates and NOTA 01 for a total of 17. Ballot Unit 990, Control Unit 497 and VVPAT 540 have been kept safe for these polling stations. Ballot Unit 168, Control Unit 86 and 129 have been selected for VVPAT reserve.

Sua dance gaining popularity



Rajim, Nov 06: The traditional Sua dance of Chhattisgarh is gaining popularity in the region as Diwali festival approaches, and there is a keen interest in people and children in particular practicing it to be used in festive celebrations.

In one such instance, in Lafandi, girls from higher secondary schools and colleges were performing in the dance group and among them, Chandni Sahu is studying in class XI, Yamini Sahu, Ishwari Yadav, Devika Dhruv who are studying in BA first year this

year, will be performing to this dance form in future doing the festival. Meanwhile according to Pandit Babulal Chaturvedi Panchang, Dhanteras will be celebrated on Friday, November 10, and Narak Chaturdashi on Saturday, November 11.

The festival of Diwali is on Sunday, 12th November. Govardhan Puja will be held on Tuesday, 14th November and the festival of Bhai Doj will be celebrated on Wednesday, 15th November. In view of the festival, people are seen busy in cleaning their houses and apart from the city; preparations have also been intensified in the villages and despite people being busy in agricultural work, they are also taking out time and cleaning the house, apart from children and women folks preparing for Sua dance.

Dr. Ramashankar Nagpure honored with AYUSH Global Award

Raipur, Nov 06:

In a remarkable recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of AYUSH medicine, Dr. Ramashankar Nagpure was honoured with the prestigious AYUSH Global Award during the Ayush Global Award Program 2023. The event, jointly organized by the Ayush International Medical Association (AIMA), Ayush Global Medical Association (AGMA), and Extension Center - Rajkot, MSME TDC (PPDC), in collaboration with the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, took



place on October 29, at the Shirdi Pushpak Resort, known as the city of Sai Baba Agra. The program featured discussions on the topic of "Ayush Hospital World Class Patient Care" based on Linsix Sigma, with Dr. Praveen Joshi, the chief

guest of the event, addressing the audience. Prominent figures such as film star Devdutt Nage, Dr. Pravin Joshi, Deputy Director, and Pranab Pandya, Training Officer, MSME TDC (PPDC) Agra, Ministry of MSME, Government of India, graced the occasion as special guests. The event also saw the presence of renowned film star and TV actor Miss Rutuja Wagwe, film star Suyog Gonhe, and Color TV Marathi Executive Producer Shantanu Borkar, along with Dr. Satish Karale, Chairman of AIMA, and Dr. Nitinraje Patil, Vice Chairman of AIMA, among others. Dr. Ramashankar Nagpure's well-deserved honour has garnered congratulatory messages from all quarters, reflecting the significance of his contributions to the field of AYUSH medicine.

Hundreds of women enter the BJP fold



Manendragarh, Nov 06:

Under the leadership of BJP District President Mahila Morcha Pratima Patwa and the tireless efforts of Dr. Mrs. Neera Yadav, impressed by the customs and policies of BJP, hundreds of women took primary

membership of Bharatiya Janata Party and were welcomed into BJP by wearing BJP's gamcha. On this occasion, senior BJP workers like former district president Alka Gandhi, Sunaina Bishwakarma, Shyama Sen, Basanti Raut etc. were present.

Attention to all sections in BJP manifesto: Sharma

Dongargaon, Nov 06: BJP through the manifesto has made important schemes for all sections and they have been implemented and every person will get its benefit, said spokesperson and election director Neelu Sharma, in a press conference, giving detailed information regarding the public welfare schemes released by BJP. Sharma, attributed and told how the benefits of the schemes have been given to the poor in every village on the ground.



plementing these announcements by spreading publicity. She also told that in the BJP manifesto, paddy will be purchased at 21 quintals per acre and Rs. 3100/- quintal as support price in lump sum, other than 12000 rupees to married women, recruit-

ment in 1 lakh vacant government posts, 18 lakh Prime Minister's residence and tap water in every house, tendu leaf collection 5500/- with standard bag 4500/- bonus, 10 thousand annually to landless labourers, other than Ayushman.

Treatment under Bharat, 500 new Janaushadhi centres for cheap medicines, action against people involved in recruitment scam, interest free loan with 50% subsidy for new industries, gas cylinder for poor at Rs 500/-, free travel for college students etc. She also gave information regarding many schemes like free transportation to Ayodhya under Ramlala Darshan Scheme. Sharma also said that Raman government has given many scheme benefits for the middle class families and every class will also benefit from this manifesto.

Congress Central Office inaugurated

Gourela, Pendra, Marwarhi, (Kota), Nov 06:

Congress candidate of Kota Assembly Atal Srivastava today did public relations in Sarbahara, Devargaon, Dhaurmuda, Pakaria, Padwania of Gaurella block and also the central office was inaugurated in sequence to the assembly election preparations. During the inauguration of the office, all the senior Congress officials, leaders, block president, District Congress Committee President, district officials, zone, sector, and booth presidents were especially present.

Atal Srivastava, intensified his contacts and directly contacted the voters by reaching door to



door and holding small meetings and appealed to vote in maximum numbers on November 17 and

said that the party has decided to serve the people of Kota region by making me its candidate. He said

that Chhattisgarh Congress's Bhupesh government is working for the villages and the poor and RIPA is working to provide direct employment to women sisters through YUPA and Gauthan.

Atal Srivastava was accompanied by District President Uttam Vasudev, Bilaspur Mandi President Rajendra Shukla, Block President Amol Pathak, Youth Congress President Aman Sharma, senior leader Ashok Sharma, senior leader Ramesh Sahu, Nagar Panchayat President Pankaj Tiwari, senior leader Pawan Sultania, Sardar Iqbal Singh and hundreds of workers.

Pak's apex court to take up deceased dictator Musharraf's plea against death penalty

Islamabad, Nov 6 (PTI)

Pakistan's apex court will start from Friday the hearing on a set of appeals related to conviction of now deceased former military ruler Pervez Musharraf, including one moved by the ex-leader, seeking to overturn his death sentence by a special court in a high treason case.

The three-judge special court of Justice Waqar Ahmad Seth, Justice Nazir Akbar and Justice Shahid Karim in the 2-1 split verdict on December 17, 2019 found Musharraf guilty of high treason under Article 6 for violation of the Constitution and sentenced him to death in absentia.

The judgement angered the country's powerful



army that has ruled over Pakistan for most of the period since its 75 plus year existence. It was the first time a former top military official had faced such a sentence for treason in Pakistan. The death sentence was later annulled by the Lahore High Court.

Musharraf, through his counsel Salman Safdar, had filed the plea to set aside the conviction by saying that the trial was conducted and completed "in sheer violation of the Constitution as well as the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) 1898 as well as the suspension of the judgment in the interest of justice and fair play."

After remaining in the cold storage for years, incumbent Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa set up a four-member bench including himself and Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Aminud Din Khan and Justice Athar Minallah to hear the case. Interestingly, the Lahore High Court on January 9, 2020 declared the formation of the special

court bench as "unconstitutional" on the grounds that it was formed without the approval of the cabinet.

Later, the Sindh High Court Bar Association on January 13, 2020 challenged the Lahore High Court decision of declaring as unconstitutional the decision of the Special Court, and sought to set aside the high court judgment. The petition contended that the high court verdict was contrary to the law laid down by the superior courts as well as against the dicta laid down by the Supreme Court in the case 2019 Lahore High Court Bar Association case. It pleaded to the apex court to restore the conviction by the Special Court for subverting the Constitution.

5.8-magnitude earthquake jolts Jajarkot in Nepal

Kathmandu, Nov 6 (PTI)

A 5.8-magnitude earthquake on Monday struck Jajarkot and surrounding areas in western Nepal, where a strong tremor on Friday killed 153 people.

There was no immediate report of any casualties or damage.

Jajarkot and surrounding areas were again hit by a major earthquake at 4:31 p.m. (local time), according to the National Seismological Centre.

The intensity of the earthquake was measured at 5.8 and its epicentre was at Ramidanda of Jajarkot, it said.

The tremor, which was also felt in Kathmandu, triggered panic among people. This was followed by another 4.5-magnitude earthquake at 4.40 p.m., said an official at the National Earthquake Measurement Centre.

The 6.4 earthquake magnitude that hit Nepal's western parts

Earthquake death toll revised to 153



Policemen pack relief material to distribute among earthquake survivors in Jajarkot District, northwestern Nepal, Monday.

Kathmandu, Nov 6 (PTI) Nepal on Monday revised the death toll from the 6.4 earthquake magnitude that hit western parts of the country to 153 from 157, citing duplication of some names.

Earlier, 105 deaths were reported in Jajarkot, the epicentre of the earthquake, and 52 deaths in Rukum West district. Now the District

Administration Office in Jajarkot has revised the death toll in the district to 101. There was no change in the death toll in Rukum West district.

According to Harishchandra Sharma, information officer of the DAO, Jajarkot, the death toll has been revised to 101 as there were duplication in names of those killed in Friday night's tragedy.

just before midnight on Friday killed 153 people.

PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif directs party leaders to commence preparations for national elections

Lahore, Nov 6 (PTI)

Pakistan's former prime minister and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif on Monday directed his party leaders to begin their preparations for the national elections scheduled to be held on February 8, according to a media report.

Sharif, 73, gave the directions during his first meeting at the Central Secretariat of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in Lahore after returning from a four-year-long self-imposed exile in London, Geo News reported. During the meeting, the three-time prime minister was welcomed by the party president and former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif, PML-N Senior Vice-President and Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz and other leaders.

"PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif on Monday directed his party leaders to begin their preparations for the national elections," said the report.



Sharif returned to Pakistan on October 21 after about four years of self-imposed exile in London where he had gone after getting a medical bail following his conviction in the Avenfield Apartment and Al-Azizia corruption cases.

According to the latest announcements made by Pakistan's President House, general elections will be held on February 8 to elect a new government.

The PML-N's election campaign has entered a new phase as Nawaz started his meetings with party members, the PML-N party said in a tweet on its official X account.

Senior PML-N leaders Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Ahsan Iqbal, the party's Election Cell Chairman Senator Ishaq Dar and Central Information Secretary Marriyum Aurangzeb also attended the meeting.

In the meeting, the members also discussed the future political activities of the party and the current political situation in the cash-strapped country.

Speaking to the leaders, Nawaz Sharif said that they will start the journey to development from where it was left off.

Following the meeting, Asif while speaking during a press conference said that Nawaz Sharif will contest in the upcoming elections.

After Nawaz Sharif arrived here last month, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) restored his appeals against his conviction in the Avenfield Apartments and Al-Azizia corruption cases but did not fix any date for the hearing.

Indian man gets life sentence for wife's gruesome murder

Houston, Nov 6 (PTI)

An Indian man was sentenced to life imprisonment in the US state of Florida for the gruesome murder of his wife in 2020 in the parking lot of a hospital where she was working as a nurse, according to a media report.

Philip Mathew on Friday pleaded no contest to the first-degree murder of Merin Joy, his wife who was planning an escape from an abusive relationship, The Sun Sentinel newspaper reported.

The plea deal spared him from the possibility of a death sentence, the report said.

In 2020, Joy, 26, then a nurse at Broward Health Coral Springs, was stabbed 17 times. Police said Mathew blocked her car in with his, slashed her repeatedly, and then drove over her body on the ground before driving off, police said. One of her co-

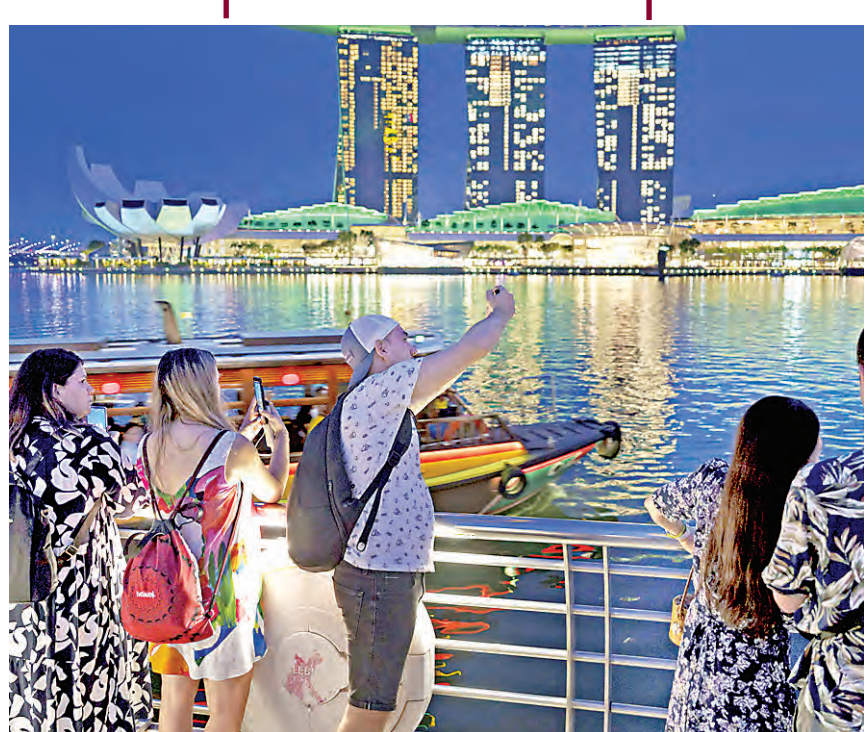
workers would later say Mathew drove over her "like she was a speed bump," and as employees rushed to her aid, Joy could only cry to them over and over: "I have a baby."

Before she died, police said, she revealed her attacker's identity.

On Friday, Mathew also pleaded no contest to aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. He was immediately sentenced to life in state prison with no possibility of release, plus a maximum of five years for the aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

The decision was made to waive the death penalty because of the certainty of the life sentence and because the defendant was giving up his right to appeal, said Paula McMahon, spokeswoman for the State Attorney's Office. Joy's family remains devastated by their profound loss.

CELEBRATIONS



Tourists takes picture as the Marina Bay Sands hotel resort is seen lit up in green to celebrate the Earthshot Prize and United for Wildlife in Singapore, Monday.

Pak steps up security at military and other sensitive installations after attack on air base

Islamabad, Nov 6 (AP)

Pakistani authorities have stepped up security at military and other sensitive installations following the weekend attack by militants on an air base that damaged three grounded aircraft and destroyed a fuel tanker, security officials said Monday.

A recently formed group, Tehreek-e-Jihad Pakistan, has claimed responsibility for Saturday's attack in Mianwali, a city in eastern Punjab province, where police have repulsed multiple attacks by another group, the Pakistani Taliban, in recent months. Tehreek-e-Jihad Pakistan emerged earlier this year and has claimed

multiple attacks, including the July 12 one on a security post in southwest Pakistan in which nine soldiers and a female passerby were killed. The military asserted that Saturday's attack at the Mianwali Training Air Base was largely thwarted because of a "swift and effective response" from security forces. Satellite photos analysed by The Associated Press, taken Saturday hours after the attack, show one air-

craft stand at the base destroyed by fire, while others appear to have sustained damage.

The military said it killed all nine attackers.

Authorities have increased security at military and other sensitive installations on intelligence reports about more possible attacks, said two security officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to media.

South Korea plans to launch its 1st military spy satellite on Nov 30

Seoul, Nov 6 (AP)

South Korea said Monday it plans to launch its first domestically built spy satellite at the end of this month to better monitor rival North Korea, as the North pushes to expand its arsenal of nuclear weapons targeting its adversaries.

The plan was unveiled days after North Korea failed to follow through on its vow to make a third attempt to launch its own reconnaissance satellite in October, likely because of

technical issues. Jeon Ha Gyu, a spokesperson for the South Korean Defense Ministry, told reporters Monday that the country's first military spy satellite will be launched from California's Vandenberg Air Force Base on Nov. 30.

The satellite will be carried by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket. Under a contract with SpaceX, South Korea plans to launch four more spy satellites by 2025, according to South Korea's Defense Acquisition Program Administration.

South Korea currently has no military reconnaissance satellites of its own and relies on U.S. spy satellites to monitor moves by North Korea.

The possession of its own spy satellites would give South Korea an independent space-based surveillance system to monitor North Korea in almost near-time. When operated together with South Korea's so-called three-axis system - preemptive strike, missile defense and retaliatory assets - the country's overall defense

against North Korea would be sharply strengthened, according to Lee Choon Geun, an honorary research fellow at South Korea's Science and Technology Policy Institute.

Lee said that U.S. spy satellites produce much higher-resolution imagery but they are operated under U.S. strategic objectives, not South Korea's. He said the U.S. also sometimes doesn't share satellite photos with highly sensitive information with South Korea.

NMDC STEEL Limited

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(CIN) - U27310CT2015GOI001618

Corrigendum to Expression of Interest (EOI) For Sale of BF Granulated Slag under MOU published on 26th Oct'23.

Our advertisement in newspapers published on 26th Oct'23 in the state of AP, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Odisha may please be referred for Sale of BFG Slag. Following corrigendum are being made in the referred advertisement:

- The BF Granulated Slag is available for sale under MOU to all customers including End users and Traders for domestic Sales as well for Export Sale.
- The Security Deposit will be Rs. 5 Lakh for entering into MOU.
- The Last date of submission of interest under the said EOI is extended to 15th Nov'23.
- The MOU Shall be entered for period Dec'23 to Nov'28 with provision of further extension for 3 years with mutual consent. Customers should lift the quantity on weekly basis.
- The Interested Customers including traders or Exporters may send their request to enter MOU for purchase of BFG Slag from NSL, Nagarnagar on their letter head quoting Ex Works Nagarnagar Price per Ton in INR with quantity which they are interested to take under MOU for domestic consumption/Sale/Export to Executive Director, NMDC Steel LTD, Nagarnagar, Dist. Bastar , CG 494001. Customers can also send mail to Shri Satish Kumar, GM(Commercial) at satishkumar@nmdc.co.in. For more details kindly visit <https://nmdcsteel.nmdc.co.in>

ESAF GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with ESAF Small Finance Bank and not redeemed by borrowers, despite repeated reminders and notices, of our branches, are listed below. This will be auctioned as per the details given below:

DATE OF AUCTION : 14-11-2023 TIME : 10 AM TO 4 PM
AUCTION VENUE : THROUGH E-AUCTION
AUCTION ADDRESS : <https://gold.matnet.org/>

Please register as bidder for the e-Auction with terms and conditions, and full details of e-Auction please visit the above site

BRANCHES & LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBERS	
Akaltara: 63220000699149, 715741, Baghahara: 63220000697122, 716739, 731550, 744525, 748148, 75220000952666, Bilaspur: 63230000065603, 89386, Champa: 63220000670113, 723795, 75220001054989, 1102430, Chandigarh: 63230000088310, 63230000122777, Dhamtari: 63220000568826, 744355, Donargarh: 63220000675384, 734774, 735212, 999447, Durg: 63220000749586, Katghora: 63220000687312, Kawardha: 75220001110024, Korba: 63220000554252, 627506, 717087, 728336, 737079, 142279, 755234, 7522000110254, Mahasamund: 63220000652838, 653476, 662999, 708904, 720431, 727458, 736291, 753788, 63230000065423, 80184, 94998, 98141, 63230000120891, 75220001073162, 1085320, Mungeli: 75220001104006, 1108839, 1108859, Pakhajore: 63220000653786, 679247, 683569, 707786, 719863, 744645, 745743, Pithora: 63220000656301, 686403, Raigarh: 63220000615209, 631928, 670223, 691383, 697742, 701257, 718985, 720471, 753868, 757141, 75220001033619, Raipur: 63220000668668, 729504, 741491, Rajnandgaon: 63220000743287, 68918, 81043, 75220001055367, 1055717.	

Customers who are interested to release the ornaments by paying the total due amount may do so, at the respective branches, on or two days before the date of the auction. Bidders who wish to participate in the auction shall produce their KYC documents. GST No. is mandatory for registered firms/companies. Bidders shall deposit a sum of Rs.50,000 as EMD before participating in the auction.

Thiruvur: Date: 06-11-2023
Authorized Signatory

दक्षिण पूर्व मध्य रेलवे

पेंशन अदात का आयोजन

सेवानिवृत्त रेलवे कर्मचारियों/अशक्तता पेंशनर/पारिवारिक पेंशनर की सुविधा हेतु दक्षिण पूर्व मध्य रेलवे रायपुर द्वारा मंडल रेल प्रबंधक कार्यालय में 15.12.2023 को प्रातः 11 बजे पेंशन अदात का आयोजन किया जाएगा। यदि आपके सेवानिवृत्ति के पश्चात मिलने वाले बकाया निपटान (पेमेंट ऑफ सेटलमेंट ड्यूज) से संबंधित अथवा पेंशन भुगतान संबंधी कोई शिकायत है, तो आप अपना अभ्यावेदन दो प्रतियों में दिनांक 17.11.2023 तक प्रस्तुत करें। न्यायालय में लंबित प्रकरण, नियुक्ति तथा अन्य नैतिकगत मामलों को पेंशन अदात में शामिल नहीं किया जायेगा। सेवानिवृत्त वे सभी कर्मचारी जिन्हें इस संबंध में अपने आवेदन पत्र प्रस्तुत करने हैं, वे अपने आवेदन पत्र वरिष्ठ मंडल कार्मिक अधिकारी दक्षिण पूर्व मध्य रेलवे रायपुर न्यू डी.आर.एम. आफिस खमतारई रायपुर (छत्तीसगढ़) 492008 के कार्यालय में दिनांक 17.11.2023 तक निम्नलिखित प्रारूप में जमा कर दें।

आवेदन का प्रारूप	
1	पी.पी.ओ. क्रमांक:
2	सेवानिवृत्त कर्मचारी का नाम:
3	पदनाम (सेवानिवृत्त/अशक्तता पेंशनर/पारिवारिक पेंशनर के समर्थ):
4	मंडल/युनिट का नाम/अंतिम कार्यस्थल:
5	विभागा:
6	मंडल/कार्यालय:
7	अंतिम वेतन:
8	सेवानिवृत्त/अशक्तता/मृत्यु का दिनांक:
9	मोबाइल/टेलीफोन नंबर:
10	पत्राचार के लिए पता:
11	सेवानिवृत्त/अशक्तता पेंशनर/पारिवारिक पेंशनर के शिकायत का विस्तृत विवरण:

नोट:- (पी.पी.ओ. एवं सेवा प्रमाण पत्र की छाया प्रति संलग्न करें)
पीआर/आर/सोनियर डीपीओ/आईपी/172 आवेदक के हस्ताक्षर
f South East Central Railway @secrail



CENTRAL Chronicle

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Rethinking Legal Adjournments

A Call for Responsible Action

Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud has boldly addressed a pressing issue plaguing our judicial system: the 'adjournment culture.' His words strike a chord with millions of litigants entangled in the complex web of legal battles, often spanning years or even decades. The incessant adjournments represent a major stumbling block in our judicial machinery at all levels. The CJI, with his piercing insight, has pinpointed the three 'As' afflicting our legal framework: adjournments, admissions, and appeals. In a surprising but commendable move, he has not exempted his own fraternity from criticism, acknowledging that serving judges, too, bear responsibility for this irresponsible behaviour. This chaotic ordeal has significantly eroded the credibility of our justice system, leaving us with a pervasive sense that justice delayed is indeed justice denied. The lamentable state of affairs naturally prompts us to question whether the proposed reforms aimed at expediting legal proceedings will bear fruit. Paradoxically, lawyers often seek adjournments even for cases categorized as 'urgent hearings.' It is imperative that they heed the CJI's impassioned plea to refrain from seeking repeated adjournments in new cases. Only then can we hope to tackle the alarming phenomenon known as 'docket explosion' - the relentless surge in the number of pending cases within Indian courts. Minister of Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal informed the Rajya Sabha in July of this year that over 5 crore cases languish in various courts across the country. This staggering backlog poses an enormous challenge to the judiciary. Former CJI NV Ramana, in August 2022, suggested that a solution might lie in harnessing modern technological tools such as artificial intelligence. However, the legal community also bears a significant share of the responsibility in alleviating this problem. Lawyers must exercise discretion and request adjournments only when absolutely necessary. The 'adjournment culture' represents a multifaceted challenge that warrants a comprehensive approach. Firstly, it perpetuates the agony of litigants who are desperate for closure. Cases are dragged on indefinitely, causing untold emotional and financial distress to those involved. This constant state of uncertainty corrodes faith in the legal system itself. Secondly, it imposes an immense burden on the courts, leading to the alarming backlog of cases. This backlog, as CJI Chandrachud astutely noted, is an indictment of the system's efficiency. Justice delayed is not only justice denied but also a mockery of the principles our legal system is meant to uphold. Thirdly, the 'adjournment culture' highlights a collective failure in accountability. Too often, there are no consequences for frequent adjournments. Lawyers, who play a pivotal role in ensuring the smooth functioning of the legal process, must be held accountable for unnecessary delays. Addressing this issue necessitates a collaborative effort from all stakeholders within the legal ecosystem. Lawyers must introspect and adhere to ethical standards that prioritize the timely resolution of cases over undue adjournments. Judges, too, must exercise discretion and set stringent guidelines for adjournment requests. Modern technology can be a valuable ally in this endeavour. The introduction of digital tools, such as AI, can streamline court processes, reduce paperwork, and facilitate the efficient scheduling of cases. However, these tools are only as effective as the responsible individuals who wield them. CJI DY Chandrachud's call to eradicate the 'adjournment culture' represents a pivotal moment in our legal landscape. It is an opportunity for the legal fraternity to introspect, reform, and reaffirm its commitment to justice. It is a call for accountability, efficiency, and a renewed focus on the fundamental principle that justice delayed is justice denied. The success of these reforms lies not only in the adoption of modern technology but, more importantly, in the responsible actions and ethical conduct of those who uphold the integrity of our legal system.

Our foreign policy needs to be re-examined

Sujit De

India has never occupied territories of its neighbours since Independence. So how can we be in the same terrorism-victim boat with Israel? How can we consider Israel's stand against Hamas equivalent to our country's stand against Pakistan-backed terrorism? The United Nations secretary-general António Guterres rightly said that Hamas attack did not take place in a vacuum. The truth is that 15 million Palestinians have been suffering the brutality of Israel's oppression for decades. There were acts of terrorism against British civilians like Kennedy ladies during the British Raj in India. Khudiram Bose and his friend Prafulla Chaki threw a bomb at a carriage thinking that the district magistrate of Muzaffarpur, Douglas Kingsford was in the carriage. However, Kingsford was seated in a different carriage and the bomb killed two British women. Can such attacks on British civilians ever justify Jallianwala Bagh Massacre by the British? Had the British still been ruling India, would the world have lent moral support to the colonial regime against the freedom fighters? India's decision to abstain from a United Nations General Assembly vote on a resolution calling for a humanitarian pause in Israel's bombing on the besieged Gaza Strip was a horrific departure from its long-standing foreign policy. India had always championed the cause of the oppressed be it in Vietnam or East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). India always spoke against Israel's occupation in Palestine and supported a two-state solution of the 1993 Oslo Accords. India's argument that the United Nations resolution lacked a clear condemnation of the Hamas attack on southern Israel on October 7, does not hold water as the resolution condemned attacks on both Israeli and Palestinian civilians. This was a foreign policy blunder. By this abstention from voting, India earned a dubious distinction of being the only country in South Asia that did not support the resolution. This isolated us not only from our immediate neighbours but also from the BRICS group of emerging economies. Other members of the BRICS, Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa (BRICS) voted for the resolution. The first sign of a strain was noticed in Qatar. It had kept the government of India in the dark about a court verdict that gave death penalty to eight retired navy personnel. Some experts on international relations said that the differences in the positions adopted by India and Qatar on the crisis between Israel and Palestine in Gaza, might have made Qatar coldshoulder New Delhi. This is an unfortunate development as many Indians have settled in Qatar. Moreover, Qatar is the main supplier of LNG to India. India has to compete with China in the neighbourhood. So it is much more important to project itself as a more friendly next-door neighbour than Big Brother China. Therefore, whether it is prudent to blow its own 'Viswa Guru' trumpet needs to be reassessed. This kind of self-promotion may give China an advantage. When the option is to choose between two Big Gurus, it is always better to opt for the bigger Guru as India's external affairs minister S. Jaishankar himself said that India could not pick a fight with China because the latter had a bigger economy. In September this year, opposition candidate Mohamed Muizzu fought and won Maldives presidential election for taking a pro-China shift leaving its traditional partner India. Indian foreign policy makers should ask themselves why our traditional ally Maldives left us. They should also re-examine our China policy. Instead of making excuses that China is a bigger economy, India should use its diplomatic resources to stop Chinese intrusions into the Line of Actual Control. Many countries with smaller economy in comparison with that of their neighbours, have successfully been keeping their territorial sovereignty intact.

(The views expressed above are the author's own. They do not necessarily reflect the views of Central Chronicle.)

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

AID TO NEPAL



Security personnel dispatch relief material to earthquake-hit Nepal.

Kerala Frustrates Attempt To Disturb Communal Amity

P. SREEKUMARAN



Kerala has, once again, lived up to its reputation of being a trail blazer. The State has shown the way to defeat determined attempts to disturb communal harmony, a hallmark of the State. The Left Democratic Front (LDF) Government lost no time in nipping in the bud the sinister designs of the communal forces to divide the State on religious lines. The Government's quick action came in the wake of a murderous blast at an evangelical convention at Kalamassery in Ernakulam district. The blast left three persons dead and over 100 injured.

In a clear and strong message to trouble-makers and agents provocateur, the Kerala Police filed a first information report (FIR) under Section 153(wantonly giving provocation with an intent to cause riot) and 153-A(promoting enmity between groups on grounds of religion) of the Indian Penal code against Union Minister Rajiv Chandrasekhar. In controversial social media posts, the Union Minister had blamed a particular community for the blasts on Sunday. The Police also included Section 120(o)(causing nuisance and violation of public order through any means of communication) of the Kerala Police Act against him. The Minister accused the Kerala Chief Minister of following

appeasement politics.

Coming down heavily on Chandrasekhar's statement, Pinarayi Vijayan said the Minister was spewing communal venom when the State stood together to face the situation after the blast. The people of Kerala, the CM said, did not share the politics of Chandrasekhar. The state stands unitedly against communalism, the Chief Minister said. In a strongly worded statement the CM characterized the Union Minister as a highly venomous and foul-mouthed person.

In a heart-warming development, the Congress-led UDF supported the Government's efforts to ensure communal amity and thwart the nefarious designs of forces of communalism. The all-party meeting convened in the aftermath of the blast saw the Congress fully backing the Government and making a few suggestions, especially to improve the functioning of the Intelligence department. The meeting called upon the people to unite in isolating attempts to destroy the social unity, cultural heritage and secular values of the State. All the parties assured the CM of their support to the Government's initiative to maintain peace.

A resolution passed by the all-party meet urged the people to guard against getting caught up in baseless speculation and rumours. "Each one should realize the ill-intention in propagating rumours that are anti-national and anti-people". The resolution further said the atmosphere of co-existence, brotherhood and peace in Kerala had attracted the attention of the whole world. "However, we know that there are people who cannot tolerate this unique characteristic and who want to destroy this

structure altogether. We will ensure that Kerala survives such attempts." The meeting also declares that any attempt to destroy the co-existence, interdependence and collective survival will be dealt with at any cost," the resolution stressed.

Meanwhile, the CPI(M) state secretary M V Govindan has said in a statement that an attempt was on to divert public attention from Kerala's solidarity with the Palestinians and demanded a thorough investigation. Significantly, Govindan's statement attracted appreciation from an unexpected quarter. General Secretary of The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), a prominent ally of the Congress in the UDF, P M A Salam lent his support to Govindan. There was no equivalency between Chandrasekhar's "incendiary statement" that "casts a particular community under an ominous suspicion" straightaway after the blast and Govindan's observation.

In another development, Kerala Police has booked BJP national secretary and spokesperson Anil K Antony for sharing a post on social media platform in which he allegedly commented on an incident involving burqa-clad women. The case relates to a viral video of some students protesting against a bus for not halting at their college. Anil allegedly shared the post on X with the comment "No bus rides without a burqa in northern Kerala."

See also Smear Campaign By BJP And Adanis Against TMC MP Mahua Moitra Is Part Of A Design

In the meantime, the police launched a massive crackdown on social media users who spread communal hatred following the blasts at Kalamassery. The police have registered cases against near-

ly 25 such users, including a few news portals. They have also identified a total of 89 accounts that posted extremely communal and polarizing comment.

A team from the National Security Guard (NSG) swept the blast site for forensic evidence with the assistance of the National Bomb Data Centre (NBDC). The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is also looking closely at the case and has reportedly interrogated the accused. It remains to be seen whether the NIA will formally take over the case.

In another development, Dominic Martin, who has claimed responsibility for the blast, told the police that he had tried his level best to prevent his family members from attending the Jehovah's Witnesses convention held on Sunday. He has said that he did it because he felt that the Jehovah's Witnesses is indulging in anti-national activities despite several warnings to stop these activities. The police said the accused has expressed remorse over his act that led to the death of three persons and left many injured.

At the end of the day, it can be said safely that the Government has once the perception battle. It took quick steps to defuse the tension and defeat attempts to create communal disharmony. The Chief Minister promptly initiated steps to counter the forces of destabilization by arresting even a Union Minister. The Government's efforts to maintain communal harmony have won all-round appreciation and praise.

(The views expressed above are the author's own. They do not necessarily reflect the views of Central Chronicle.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Indian Women's Hockey Soars

The Indian women's hockey team's performance in the ongoing Asian Champions Trophy showcases their hunger for greater success. Following their historic fourth-place finish in the Tokyo Olympics, they secured a bronze in the Asian Games. Despite falling short of gold, the tournament in Ranchi provides valuable preparation for future challenges. With a mental conditioning coach onboard, their attitude is transforming, setting the stage for potential victory in the Asian Championship and an advantage in Olympic qualifiers.

MKN, Raipur

Global Response to Terrorism

Terrorism remains a universal threat to humanity. Acts of violence targeting civilians deserve unequivocal condemnation. Recent actions by Hamas, including attacks on Israeli civilians, have drawn international attention, prompting counterattacks by Israel. Some Arabian countries have supported Palestine, often driven by religious rather than diplomatic considerations. In such conflicts, national interests often sway countries' positions, complicating efforts to prioritize a rational response.

Suresh Sharma, Raipur

Delhi's Air Crisis

Delhi's deteriorating Air Quality Index (AQI) reaching 'severe plus' levels raises serious health concerns. Urging vulnerable individuals to stay home is a short-term solution. A comprehensive strategy is needed, focusing on enforcing stricter emission regulations, promoting public transportation, and encouraging cleaner energy sources for a lasting solution to air pollution.

Rajkumar Sinha,
New Delhi

Urgent Aid Needed

The recent earthquake in remote western Nepal has been devastating, claiming over 150 lives and leaving widespread destruction. The remoteness of the affected area poses challenges in providing immediate aid like shelter, food, and medical assistance. National and international relief efforts must step in urgently to provide assistance. The global community should unite to help the affected communities in Nepal recover from this calamity. Authorities, relief organizations, and individuals should offer support through donations, volunteer work, or any means possible to aid in the recovery process.

Maimul Safui, Howrah

TWO GALLANT-HEARTED SIKHS

Kajal Chatterjee

Natural death of any one of the parents or siblings is unfortunate enough. Loss of residence due to natural disasters is also nothing but calamity enough. Getting displaced from the homeland, as climate or political refugees, remains the shock of life. But when lust for blood annihilate both parents and multiple siblings at one go with the only survivor running out with life by forsaking home and homeland for ever towards an unknown place full of uncertainty; then it is not simply unfortunate calamity or shock --- it is called MILKHA SINGH.

Equally Great or Greater athletes were present before Milkha, was present during Milkha and will be present after Milkha(in terms of success); yet the FLYING SIKH IS in a league of his own.

YES IS --- NOT WAS. After all, Milkha Singh (ultimately landing in a refugee

camp in Delhi) would not only remain a source of inspiration to fight back all alone against all adversities of life ranging from economic to psychological and achieve success; he remained AND STILL REMAINS a CONSTANT REMINDER of what we should not do as human beings.

Milkha Singh was a living victim of Partition and meaningless communal arson who had to witness the horror of hatred right in front of his eyes with his family getting wiped off from the face of the earth and had to bear with the wounds of such a carnage throughout his life. Yet he didn't hold any grudge against Pakistan and Muslims for it. He was enlightened enough to know that he was simply 'victim of the times' with communal-minded butchers calling the shots. After all, fanatic elements exist in every community of the globe since generations and so for every perse-

cutor against a helpless Hindu/Sikh during the pre as well as post Partition period; there lied one persecutor against a vulnerable Muslim innocent also! So blaming any particular community for the Partition riots and persecution is not only foolish, but also outright criminal. So he visited Pakistan in future and also harbored a close bond with the country. No wonder why Pakistan also mourned the demise of Milkha Singh --- the Legend. This is called a sense of closure and moving on in life.

If Indians truly love and respect Milkha Singh, then they should thwart the communal antics of certain camps so that no other innocent boy/girl has to fly in darkness towards uncertainty with homeland and deceased relations left behind permanently.

As for Bishan Singh Bedi, the cricketing world will of course recollect him as a great bowler; but I will always remember him as that

rarest of rare Indian possessing a thing named spine along with principles, ethics, humanity and conscience.

So the upright Bedi had succeeded in promptly directing the DDCA to remove his name from the stand of Feroze Shah Kotla when it was renamed 'Arun Jaitley stadium'. Indeed only a man of strong moral selfless character can take this stand! What a contrast to the Who's Who of the sporting or glamorous world who religiously act sycophant to the political class to pursue self-interest.

Bedi also didn't hesitate to condemn the utter lack of compassion in the politicians who had enforced the sudden and complete lockdown in 2020. He had also dared to question the dubious coronavirus related statistics which pathetically lacked minimum norms of honesty and transparency. The person who had found the horrific pictures of "Long March", with millions

of hapless poorest of poor citizens (senior citizens to babies) literally thrown upon highways and hundreds of them succumbing due to fatigue hunger heatstroke and accidents, as "Heartbreaking" is definitely possessed of a very large, large compassionate soul.

Again what a contrast to the other famous personalities who had shamelessly assumed the role of "Brand Ambassadors" of such a heartless force which used to dub the photojournalists as "vultures" for taking those images which were "heart-breaking" in the humane eyes of Bedi. Indian society is in urgent need of more and more conscientious Bishan Singh Bedis in every possible field who can stand up and demand accountability from those in power.

(The views expressed above are the author's own. They do not necessarily reflect the views of Central Chronicle.)

BRIEF

Coal ministry



Kolkata: The Coal Ministry is going slow on listing the two subsidiaries of Coal India Limited, BCCL and CMPDI, given the sharp rise in CIL's market capitalisation. "No further plans. Whatever CIL is listed is doing very well. Market cap has gone up by 26 per cent in the last one year," Coal Secretary Amrit Lal Meena told PTI on the sidelines of the 10th Asian Mining Congress and IME 2023.

Bata

New Delhi: Bata India on Monday said it will sell shoes and accessories of US-based lifestyle brand Nine West through its retail stores. The company's board has "approved licensing and manufacturing deal with Authentic Brands Group for their world-renowned lifestyle brand Nine West," according to a regulatory filing. "Under the arrangement, Bata India will have rights to manufacture, market and distribute Nine West shoes and accessories, across India through its stores," the filing said.

New orders

New Delhi: MAN Industries (India) Ltd on Monday said it has secured new orders worth Rs 380 crore. The current order book of the company has reached Rs 1,400 crore, MAN Industries (India) said in a statement. The current order book is to be executed within the next six months, it added. Shares of the company surged by more than 9 per cent to hit a 52-week high of Rs 256.80 on BSE following the announcement. Around 1.24 lakh shares were traded on the exchange.

Housing projects

New Delhi: Realty firm Anant Raj Ltd plans to launch three new housing projects in Gurugram and Andhra Pradesh during the next 6-9 months with an estimated sales value of Rs 4,000 crore, as it seeks to expand business amid strong demand for residential properties. Delhi-based Anant Raj Ltd, which is listed on stock exchanges, will launch a luxury group housing project in Sector 63A Gurugram, comprising over one million square feet of developable area.

Direct flights

Bengaluru: The Lufthansa Group launched direct service from Bengaluru to Munich, capital of Bavaria in Germany, on November 4. Bengaluru was chosen as the first destination on the Lufthansa Group network post-COVID. "Alongside Delhi and Mumbai, Bengaluru is the third Indian city with a direct connection for travelers via Lufthansa's 5 star Munich hub", the Group said in a statement.

RELIEF TO CONSUMERS

Govt launches 'Bharat Atta' at subsidised rate of Rs 27.50/kg

New Delhi, Nov 06 (PTI):

Ahead of Diwali festival, the Centre on Monday formally launched the sale of wheat flour at a subsidised rate of Rs 27.50 per kg under the brand name 'Bharat Atta' across the country to provide relief to consumers from high prices. 'Bharat Atta' will be sold through cooperatives NAFED, NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar via 800 mobile vans and 2,000-odd outlets spread across the country.

The subsidised rate is lower than the prevailing market rate of Rs 36-70 per kg, depending on the quality and location.

In February, the government had carried out a pilot sale of 18,000 tonnes of 'Bharat Atta' at Rs 29.50 per kilogram through these cooperatives in few outlets as part of the Price Stabilisation Fund scheme. Flagging off 100 mobile vans of 'Bharat



Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Piyush Goyal with Ministers of State hands over a packet to a beneficiary at the launch of 'Sale of Bharat Atta' at Kartavya Path, India Gate, in New Delhi, Monday.

Atta' at the Kartavya Path here, Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal said: "Now that we have tested and been successful, we decided to do a formal launch so that everywhere in the country can get atta at Rs 27.50 per kg."

The sale of wheat flour during the test run was less as it was retailed only

through a few outlets. However, there will be a better pick up this time as the product will be sold via 800 mobile vans and 2,000 outlets of these three agencies across the country, he said.

Goyal said about 2.5 lakh tonnes of wheat will be allocated from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) at Rs 21.50 per kg to Nafed,

NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar. They will convert it into wheat flour and sell at Rs 27.50 per kg under the brand 'Bharat Atta'. This will help boost availability and check prices of wheat flour, he added.

The minister further said that the government's intervention of selling few essential commodities -- chana dal, tomato and onion -- at a subsidised rate is yielding good results in controlling the price rise. Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar said out of total 2.5 lakh tonnes of wheat, about one lakh tonnes each will be offered to Nafed and NCCF, while 50,000 tonnes to Kendriya Bhandar. The mobile vans and outlets of these three agencies will sell three commodities -- wheat flour at Rs 27.50 per kg, chana dal at Rs 60 per kg and onion at Rs 25 per kg, he said.

Vedanta patents innovative breakthrough in bauxite refining process

Developed in collaboration with IIT Kharagpur

Mumbai, Nov 06: Vedanta Aluminium, the largest aluminium producer in India, has announced the development of a groundbreaking process to significantly reduce the generation of bauxite residue, commonly known as red mud in the alumina refining process. The process reduces bauxite residue by a remarkable 30% by eliminating iron values while simultaneously recovering a higher alumina yield, reducing the total organic content from bauxite during the alumina refining. The process significantly enhances resource efficiency and curbs energy con-

sumption during refining. The research project was led by the company's Research & Development (R&D) department in collaboration with the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT KGP), with special support from the Lanjigarh, Odisha unit, home to Vedanta's world-class alumina refinery. This cutting-edge development will enhance the company's operational excellence and have a sustainable impact on the global aluminium industry. Bauxite is the primary ore for aluminium, and it undergoes an intermediate refining stage, known as the Bayer process, to produce alumina, which is then subjected to electrolysis to produce aluminium.

Sensex, Nifty jump nearly 1 pc on gain in IT, banking shares

Rally for 3rd day on the trot

Mumbai, Nov 06 (PTI) Benchmark Sensex and Nifty rallied for a third straight session on Monday, closing higher by nearly 1 per cent on gains in IT, private banks and capital goods shares amid favourable trends in global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 594.91 points or 0.92 per cent to settle at 64,958.69. During the day, it rallied 628.76 points or 0.97 per cent to 64,992.54.

The broader Nifty of the National Stock Exchange climbed 181.15 points or 0.94 per cent to 19,411.75.

In the three sessions to Monday, Sensex has ral-



lied around 1,367 points and Nifty by 422 points to trade above 19,400 level.

Among the Sensex firms, Larsen & Toubro, Axis Bank, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance, Power Grid, Asian Paints, Mahindra & Mahindra and Bajaj Finserv were the biggest gainers.

'G20 Presidency gives clear direction to address needs of majority global population'



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during a seminar on 'Strong, Sustainable, Balanced and Inclusive Growth' organised under the aegis of G20 India Presidency, in New Delhi, Monday.

New Delhi, Nov 06 (PTI):

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said India's G20 Presidency has provided a clear policy direction for addressing the needs of the majority of the global population whose voices are often unheard in multilateral forums.

"However, we still have work left to do," the minister said in an inaugural address at the Seminar on 'Strong, Sustainable, Balanced and Inclusive Growth', organised by the ministries of finance and labour, and the com-

merce department. On December 1, 2022, India assumed the mantle of G20 Presidency.

The G20 New Delhi Leaders Declaration (NDLD), unanimously agreed to by all G20 countries, addresses some of the pressing challenges confronting the global economy and also provides policy guidance for a future built on people-focused principles and trust-based partnerships, Sitharaman said.

"Even though by the end of this month, our role as G20 Presidency comes to an

end, momentum must be maintained on the policy guidance in the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration.

"Not only should we engage with G20 partners to take forward the outcomes, but we should also explore how best we can integrate these outcomes into India's domestic policy-making process so that we can lead by example," she said.

Sitharaman emphasised that concerted efforts were taken by India's G20 Presidency, to mainstream the concerns and aspirations of the Global South.

Airbus signs contracts with Mahindra Aeroscope

For manufacturing of aircraft components

Mumbai, Nov 06 (PTI): European aircraft and aerospace major Airbus on Monday said it has signed new contracts with multiple India-based suppliers for the manufacturing of components for commercial aircraft.

Contracts have been signed with Aequs, Dynamatic, Gardner and Mahindra Aerospace for the supply of airframe and wing parts across Airbus' A320neo, A330neo and A350 programmes, the company said in a statement. The latest contracts follow the allocation of the A320neo family cargo and

bulk cargo doors manufacturing to Tata Advanced Systems earlier this year, Airbus said.

The company already procures components and services worth USD 750 million every year from India, and the latest round of contracts will add significantly to those volumes, it said.

"Make in India is at the core of Airbus' strategy in India. We are proud that we are putting in place all the critical building blocks for an integrated industrial ecosystem that will propel India into the front ranks of aerospace manufacturing nations," said Rmi Maillard, President and Managing Director of Airbus India and South Asia.

CRUCIAL MEETING



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during a meeting with Boeing India President Salil Gupte and Boeing India Chief of Staff Praveena Yagnambhat, in New Delhi, Monday.

Jaiprakash Associates defaults on Rs 4,258 cr loans

New Delhi, Nov 06 (PTI):

Crisis-hit Jaypee Group's flagship firm Jaiprakash Associates on Monday said it has defaulted on loans worth Rs 4,258 crore, including principal and interest amount.

In a regulatory filing, Jaiprakash Associates Ltd (JAL) informed that the company has on October 31 defaulted on repayments of a principal amount of Rs 1,733 crore and interest of Rs 2,525 crore.

The loans pertained to various banks, and the nature of the obligation is fund-based working capital, non-fund-based working capital, term loans and FCCB (foreign currency convertible bonds).

"The total borrowing (including interest) of the company is Rs 29,272 crore,

repayable by 2037, against which only Rs 4,258 crore is overdue as on October 31, 2023," JAL said.

Out of the said borrowing of Rs 29,272 crore, Rs 18,682 crore will get further reduced on transfer to the proposed Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for which the Scheme of Arrangement duly approved by all the stakeholders is pending sanction of NCLT. The entire loan is in any case under restructuring, it added.

The company said it has been taking tangible steps to reduce the borrowings. "Post the proposed divestment of cement business and the restructuring under consideration, the borrowing will get almost to nil upon implementation of revised restructuring plan," it said.

'India to remain top importer of coking coal'

Rising prices of raw material a concern

New Delhi, Nov 06 (PTI): India will continue to remain the top importing nation for coking coal in the near future, industry body ISA said noting that the rising prices are affecting the domestic steel industry the most. Coking coal is a key raw material that is used to manufacture steel through the blast furnace route.

The Indian steel industry is finding ways and means to explore sustainable pathways for coking coal usage by way of using various technologies. However, it is a long journey, Indian Steel Association (ISA) President Dilip Oommen said on Monday.

"India in the near future will remain the largest coking coal export destination, one due to a significant increase in domestic steel demand and the other as China will depend



Dilip Oommen

more on its own resources," he said, addressing the ISA Coking Coal Summit in the national capital.

India will continue to remain the top importer of coking coal as most of the Indian steel players have already planned new capacities in the BF-BOF route, Oommen said, adding that in India, BF-BOF (blast fur-

nace) accounts for 46 per cent of the production route, while EAF (Electric Arc Furnace) is 22 per cent and IF (Induction Furnace) using thermal coal is 32 per cent.

He added that India is the largest importer of met coal, which includes PCI (pulverised coal injection). The annual import ranges between 70-75 million tonnes.

The imports are mainly from countries like Australia, the US, Canada, and Mozambique, among others, he added.

According to SteelMint India, coking coal prices have moved up by around USD 100 per tonne in the last six months to trade at USD 350 per tonne at present. ISA Secretary General Alok Sahay said "partnership between coking coal miners and its user industry steel is most important.

Golden moment for NMDC, starts gold mining in Australia

Hyderabad, Nov 06:

National Miner NMDC commenced gold mining operations at Mt Celia in Western Australia through its subsidiary company Legacy Iron Ore Limited on Sunday.

Nagendra Nath Sinha (Secretary) Ministry of Steel, Government of India inaugurated the Gold Project of Legacy in the presence of Amitava Mukherjee, CMD (Addl. Charge), NMDC and Rakesh Gupta, CEO, Legacy.

Legacy's Mount Celia Gold Project will start ore mining at Blue Peter pits in the next two to three months. It is a watershed achievement for the 66 year old mining company,



NMDC, as it adds a new geography and a new mineral to its Portfolio, reiterating its commitment to build self-reliance in India's mining sector:

Fitch raises India's medium-term growth estimate, cuts China's

New Delhi, Nov 06 (PTI): Fitch Ratings has raised India's medium-term potential growth estimate by 70 basis points to 6.2 per cent on the back of an improvement in the employment rate and a modest increase in the working-age population forecast.

In a report on Monday, Fitch projected medium-term potential growth for the 10 emerging economies at 4 per cent, down from 4.3 per cent from the previous estimate. This was "driven by a 0.7 percentage point cut" in China's growth estimate.

"We have lowered China's supply-side GDP growth potential to 4.6 per cent from 5.3 per cent. China's growth has slowed sharply in recent years

and prospects for capital deepening have deteriorated as the property slump weighs heavily on the investment outlook," the rating agency said.

It also cut Russia's potential growth, by 0.8pp to 0.8 per cent.

By contrast, it made upward revisions to Brazil, India, Mexico, Indonesia, Poland and Turkey relative to its previous estimates.

Fitch attributed the higher growth forecast for India to a swift recovery in labour force participation rates, following significant declines in 2020.

"We have increased India's estimate by 0.7pp while those of Brazil, Turkey and Indonesia are all now higher by 0.2pp," it said.

Khairagarh district gears up for secure assembly elections

Collector ensures safety measures for Nov 7 voting

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Nov 06: In anticipation of the upcoming assembly elections on November 7, District Election Officer and Collector, Gopal Verma, has taken proactive steps to ensure the safety and security of polling stations in the district.

As the polling day approaches, SP Ankita Sharma has been directed to make necessary security arrangements at all polling stations within Khairagarh-Chhukhadan-Gandai district. Voting is scheduled to take place from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, and preparations are in full swing.



On Monday, November 6, starting from 7:00 am, the dedicated polling teams for various centers will depart from the Chhattisgarh Warehouse

in Pipariya, Khairagarh, where a strong room has been established to safeguard the integrity of the electoral process. District Election Officer

Gopal Verma emphasized the importance of maintaining security throughout the entire voting process, from the departure of the polling teams to their return to the strong room after the completion of voting.

Furthermore, the police administration's proposal has been taken into account, and instructions have been issued to ensure peaceful voting throughout the district. Special security arrangements have been made for sensitive, highly sensitive, and politically sensitive polling stations, reaffirming the commitment to a fair and secure electoral process.

Bharat Verma inspires Ghorda villagers to embrace elections

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Nov 06: Bharat Verma, the official BJP candidate, visited the village of Ghorda and urged its residents to actively participate in the upcoming assembly elections, breaking the previous boycott stance.

Ghorda village, part of the assembly constituency, had declared a boycott of the elections to voice their demands. For months, the villagers had been protesting, initially with Chakkajam, demanding the closure of a stone mine in their vicinity.

The mine had caused structural damage to many homes and led to issues related to drinking water and wastewater disposal. Despite their relentless efforts and support



from various BJP leaders, there was no response from the government and administration. Frustrated by the lack of engagement, the villagers decided to boycott the elections and displayed banners and posters to convey their decision.

However, on the morning of Sunday, November

5th, Bharat Verma, accompanied by Mandal BJP President Ramkumar Gupta and Dr. Narendra Sahu, made a surprise visit to Ghorda village. He implored the villagers to exercise their democratic right and use their votes to support their preferred candidate.

Encouraged by Verma's

visit, the villagers of Ghorda discussed their decision in a meeting and subsequently decided to withdraw their boycott stance. They pledged to participate in the upcoming assembly elections, emphasizing the importance of casting their votes in this celebration of democracy.

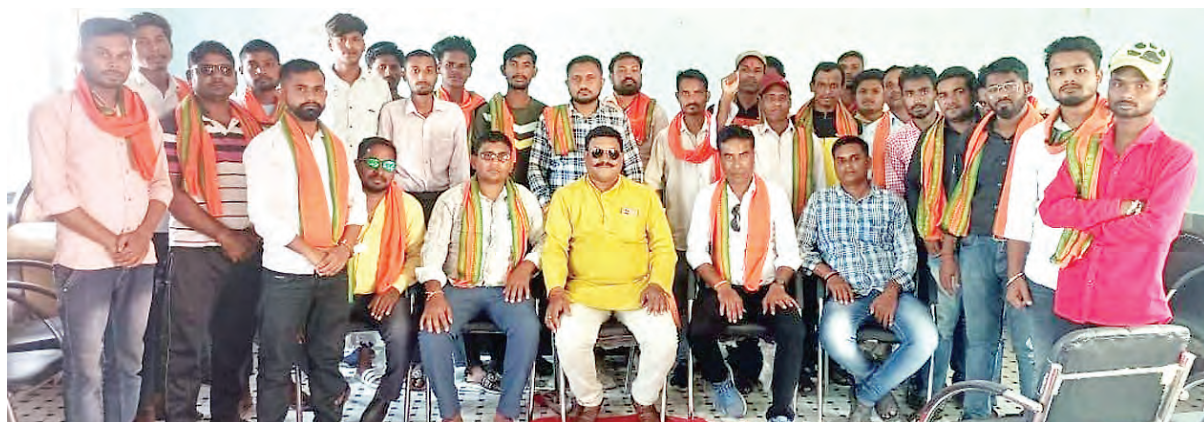
Kurud block of Bajrang Dal meeting held

- Highlights expansion and leadership appointments

Central Chronicle News

Kurud, Nov 06: The Chhattisgarh Bajrang Dal Block Kurud organized a significant meeting graced by the presence of Chhattisgarh Bajrang Dal Department Minister Ranjit Sahu. The discussion revolved around the organization's core values and stressed the importance of advancing their goals of service, security, and cultural preservation. The meeting also focused on the expansion of the Bajrang Dal's reach and responsibilities.

Key appointments were made during this gathering, including Santosh Nirmalkar as the District Co-Coordinator, Nireesh Dhruv as the District Chief



of Cow Protection, and Khubal Sahu as the District Chief of Security for Chhattisgarh Bajrang Dal.

The leadership team was further bolstered with Mithilesh Sahu as the Kurud block coordinator, and other co-ordinators such as Devendra Sahu and Lilesh Sahu.

Secretary Sanjay Sahu, joint secretary Rahul Sahu, Dilendra Yadav, vice president servant Ram

Sahu, security chief Krishna Kumar Sahu, cow protection chief Gautam Mahilange, Assistant cow protection chief Ravikumar Patel, media in-charge Hemant Sahu, and Lokesh Kumar Chandrakar, who was appointed as the head of student relations.

In his address, Department Minister Ranjit Sahu highlighted the continuous involve-

ment of youth from various parts of the state with the Bajrang Dal. He reiterated the organization's motto of service, security, and culture, emphasizing its commitment to inspiring Hindu youth to contribute positively to society.

Ranjit Sahu clarified that the Bajrang Dal was established not in opposition to any group but to safeguard against anti-social elements that posed

challenges to Hindus. Initially comprising local youth, the organization has since expanded its presence throughout the state.

The meeting was attended by dedicated members of the Chhattisgarh Bajrang Dal, including Ritu Raj, Shekhar, Keju Ram, Monendra Kumar, Yugal Kishore, and many others, showcasing their dedication to their mission.

Six players selected for under-16 tourney

- For National Tennis Ball Cricket Championship

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Nov 06: In a remarkable achievement, six young talents from the Sun Rise Cricket Society have earned the spotlight as they participate in the 28th Junior National Tennis Ball Cricket Championship in Maharashtra's Dhule district.

This event, organized by the Maharashtra Tennis Ball Cricket Association, has been a platform for nurturing emerging cricket stars from various regions.

The selected players, including Bhuval Goswami,



Shreyansh Upadhyay, Chitransh Sahu, and Shani Banjare, have displayed exceptional skills and dedication. Under the guidance of their coach and organizer, Jalesh Yadav, these promising athletes have secured their spots in the prestigious Under-16 National Cricket Tournament.

Chhattisgarh's cricket scene has been making waves, not only in men's

cricket but also in women's cricket, carving out a unique identity. Jalesh Yadav emphasized that at the Sun Rise Cricket Society's academy, they are committed to providing free training opportunities to girls and physically challenged players. The use of tennis balls for training and matches has proven instrumental in developing these young talents, allowing them to gain valuable experience.

Ajay Chandrakar exposes false promises of state govt

- Highlights BJP's commitment to development

Central Chronicle News

Kurud, Nov 06: Ajay Chandrakar, the BJP's state spokesperson for the Kurud assembly constituency, held a discussion with journalists at the BJP office today, where he criticized Chhattisgarh's Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel for making grand promises and creating an illusion while failing to deliver real progress. He emphasized the need for truthful leadership and compared the Chhattisgarh government's performance to the vision of development set by the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Chandrakar praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to fulfilling developmen-



tal visions for Chhattisgarh and highlighted the BJP's dedication to practical politics and transparency. During the informal discussion held at the BJP office in Kurud, Chandrakar referred to the BJP's manifesto and the Central Government's initiatives.

He outlined key promises, including financial support of Rs 10,000 every year for landless labourers, government jobs for one lakh youth, financial aid of Rs 12 thousand every year for married women under the Mahtari Vandan Yojana, affordable cylinders for Rs 500 to poor women, free healthcare up to Rs 10 lakh under Ayushman Bharat, interest-free loans and subsidies for new industries, and transparency in

Public Service Commission (PSC) examinations.

Chandrakar also mentioned plans for an innovation hub in Raipur and the construction of agricultural universities. He highlighted the BJP's commitment to facilitating the divine darshan of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi temple in Ayodhya, set to be built on January 22. Chandrakar challenged the credibility of the Congress manifesto and offered to engage in an open debate on the 36 points mentioned in it. He asserted that the people of Chhattisgarh had lost confidence in the Congress due to unfulfilled promises and called for a focus on genuine development rather than empty rhetoric.

Central Chronicle News

Manendragarh, Nov 06: Government Vivekananda Post Graduate College in Manendragarh successfully concluded a district-level Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) event, in line with the directives of the State Election Commission.

The event, under the guidance of Collector and District Election Officer Narendra Kumar Dugga, and led by District SVEEP Nodal Officer and Principal Dr. Sarojbala Shyag Vishnoi, aimed to

SVEEP event boosts voter awareness

- At Vivekananda College
- Students excel in various activities promoting civic engagement



raise awareness about the importance of voting.

The SVEEP event featured various competitions, including speeches, extemporaneous speeches, rangoli, henna art, poster design, slogan writing, and essay writing.

Students from multiple colleges in the district, including Government Vivekananda Post Graduate College, Manendragarh, Government Lahiri Post Graduate College, Chirmiri, Government

Maa Mahamaya College, Kharagaon, Dr. R.N.S. College of Education, Manendragarh, and Government Higher Secondary School, Belbahra, enthusiastically participated and secured the top three positions in various competitions.

During the program, District Education Officer Ajay Mishra encouraged all attendees, including officers, employees, and students, to exercise their right to vote. Principal Dr.

Vishnoi expressed gratitude to the students, professors, and guest lecturers who actively participated in the voter awareness program, highlighting its significance in increasing voter turnout and enhancing students' overall personality through extracurricular activities.

In the speech competition, Kishan Sarathi and Shivam Mishra from Government Vivekananda Post Graduate College, Manendragarh, secured

the first and second positions, respectively, while Irshad Ali from Dr. R.N.S. College of Education, Manendragarh, claimed the third spot. Shivam Mishra also won the extemporaneous speech competition, followed by Irshad Ali in second place and Kishan Sarathi in third place.

Other competition winners included Shiv Shankar Singh (slogan writing), Sakshi Gupta (henna art), Sanoj (poster design), Asma Sahu (essay writing), and Manisha Gupta (Rangoli).

The judging panel and organizing committee members played pivotal roles in the event's success. At the program's conclusion, Principal Dr. Vishnoi extended his gratitude to all participants and supporters.

SECR revolutionizes passenger experience with digital amenities

Innovative technologies bring real-time train information

Central Chronicle News

Raipur/Bilaspur, Nov 06: South East Central Railway is taking passenger satisfaction to new heights with cutting-edge digital amenities that provide real-time train information and enhance the travel experience. With a focus on convenience, safety, and efficient operations, the railway authorities have introduced modern facilities at major stations, ensuring that passengers are well-informed and comfortable throughout their journey.

Among the latest additions are the Train Indication Board (TIB), At a Glance Display Board (AGDB), Coach Guidance Display Board

(CGDB), and an Automatic Announcement System, all designed to streamline the rail travel process.

Highlights of latest facilities

Train Indication Board (TIB): Positioned near station entrances and various gates, the TIB offers crucial information such as train arrival and departure times, as well as platform numbers. These boards are strategically placed to be among the first things passengers encounter upon entering the station, promoting efficiency and ease of access. The TIB is now available at 35 stations across South East Central Railway.

At a Glance Display Board (AGDB): Installed at station

gates, footover bridges, and waiting halls, the AGDB provides passengers with insights into their traveling train's engine condition and coach position relative to the engine. This real-time data enables passengers to navigate the station more effectively, ensuring a hassle-free boarding experience. The AGDB is now operational at 33 stations within South East Central Railway.

Coach Guidance Display Board (CGDB): The CGDB informs passengers about the status of various coaches on their upcoming train, ensuring they can easily locate their assigned coach without any stress. Displaying coach positions well in advance of a

train's arrival, these boards are particularly beneficial for elderly or luggage-laden travelers. CGDBs are available on all eight platforms of Bilaspur railway station and can be found at 28 stations across South East Central Railway.

Automatic Announcement System: Leveraging computer control, this system not only provides audio updates about trains but also offers essential information regarding passenger safety, alerts, health, and available facilities.

These modern facilities are significantly enhancing the journey of railway passengers within South East Central Railway, making rail travel more convenient and passenger-friendly than ever before.

Central Chronicle News

Fingeshwar, Nov 06: Amidst a gathering of thousands of villagers and dedicated Congress workers at the weekly market in Fingeshwar, Amitesh Shukla, the Congress candidate, instilled confidence in the crowd, assuring them that the Congress party stands by its commitments without resorting to mimicry.

Shukla emphasized that the Congress government delivers on its promises, stating that their Chief Minister, Bhupesh Baghel, had already made 17 announcements in their manifesto. However, the BJP presented a manifesto that seemed more like a copycat version, devoid of clarity or originality, to the unsuspecting public.



Addressing the audience, Shukla pointed out the lack of trust in the BJP's manifesto declarations. He highlighted the BJP's unfulfilled promise of purchasing paddy at Rs 220 per quintal during their rule, questioning the party's commitment to farmers' welfare. He also drew attention to the BJP's

vague claims about loan waivers for farmers, leaving uncertainty about which year's loans would be forgiven, a tactic reminiscent of the unfulfilled promise of Rs 15 lakh per person.

Shukla further criticized the BJP's track record, mentioning their failure to deliver the promised bonus for

the year 2016-17 when it was due. Rejecting allegations that he is an outsider, Shukla clarified that he is a resident and voter of Kirwai village in the Rajim area, with 10 acres of farmland in Kirwai.

Addressing the historical significance of the region, Shukla acknowledged the legacy of Pandit Shayamacharan Shukla, who had represented the area and the state at the central level. He stressed the importance of unity among party workers and urged them to put aside differences to ensure the Congress party's victory.

Numerous senior party members also addressed the gathering, expressing their commitment to securing an overwhelming victory for Amitesh Shukla in the upcoming elections.

Angelo Mathews becomes first international cricketer to be timed out

New Delhi, Nov 06 (PTI): Sri Lanka all-rounder Angelo Mathews on Monday became the first international cricketer to be 'timed out' after not being ready to face the ball within two minutes of the fall of a wicket against Bangladesh in a World Cup match here.



Sri Lankan batter Angelo Mathews talk to umpires as Mathews being given 'timed out' during the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 match in New Delhi, Monday.

The 36-year-old walked out to bat after the dismissal of Sadeera Samarawickrama but had some issues with his helmet strap and signalled for a replacement, prompting Bangladesh to appeal for a 'time out'. Mathews was seen having an animated discussion with umpire Marais Erasmus and Richard Illingworth, explaining that he had some issue with the helmet strap but the Sri Lankan cricketer was asked to leave the field. According to article 40.1.1 of the ICC rules, "After the fall of a

wicket or the retirement of a batter, the incoming batter must, unless Time has been called, be ready to receive the ball, or for the other batter to be ready to receive the next ball within two minutes of the dismissal or retirement. If this requirement is not met, the incoming batter will be out, Timed out. Article 40.1.2 says: "In the event of an extended

Asalanka hits century as Sri Lanka make 279 against Bangladesh

New Delhi, Nov 06 (PTI): Charith Asalanka scored a century, while opener Pathum Nissanka and Sadeera Samarawickrama made useful contributions as Sri Lanka scored 279 all out in 49.3 overs in their World Cup match against Bangladesh here on Monday. Middle-order batter Asalanka scored a 105-ball 108, while Nissanka and Samarawickrama contributed identical scores of 41 runs each in a contest between teams which are out of semifinal contention. Earlier, Bangladesh won the toss and opted to bowl first.



Sri Lankan batsman Charith Asalanka plays a shot during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi, Monday.

135 for 5 in 24.2 overs. Though it has never happened in international cricket, there have been instances in domestic cricket

including one in the match between Tripura and Orissa at Cuttack in 1997 when Hemul Yadav was at the receiving end.

Kohli is 'absolute best' batter in world, says Ponting

New Delhi, Nov 06 (PTI):

Virat Kohli is the "absolute best" batter in the world on the basis of his overall record and he did not need to equal legendary Sachin Tendulkar's record number of ODI hundreds to earn that tag, feels former Australia captain Ricky Ponting.



Kohli equalled Tendulkar's record of 49 ODI centuries with a brilliant 101 not out against South Africa on his 35th birthday in a World Cup match on Sunday. The century only further strengthened Kohli's case of being one of the greatest players of modern times. "There is no doubt he is the absolute best and I have said that for a long time," Ponting said on the ICC website. "He didn't need to equal Sachin's record, he doesn't need to break the record. "If you look at his overall batting record it is incredible," said Ponting,

himself a legendary batter. The century against South Africa was Kohli's second of the tournament and fourth overall in all 50-over World Cups. The 35-year-old now has a total of 543 runs at this edition of the World Cup at an imposing average of 108.60. Ponting eluded to the fact that Kohli reached the feat of 49th ODI ton in 175 innings less than Tendulkar. "To think that he (Kohli)

got 49 ODI hundreds and equalled Sachin and in 175 less innings is unbelievable." Ponting predicted a more dangerous Kohli in the remainder of the World Cup as he can play with more freedom now that he has drawn level with Tendulkar. "That (49th ton) might be a bit of a monkey off his back. I think he has been working extra hard to equal Sachin's record.

We wanted to set record straight at ACT after failing to win Asian Games gold: Savita

New Delhi, Nov 06 (PTI):



Indian players pose for photos with the trophy after winning the Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2023 final match against Japan, at Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Astro Turf Hockey Stadium in Ranchi.

A disappointing Asian Games campaign on its mind, the Indian women's hockey team wanted to set the record straight by clinching the gold medal in the just-concluded Asian Champions Trophy in Ranchi, skipper Savita Punia said. Touted as favourites, India fell short at the Asian Games, losing to eventual winners China 0-4 in the semifinal in Hangzhou in October. But the Indians roared back to form, demolishing all their Asian rivals, including China, to claim their second Asian Champions Trophy title in Ranchi on Sunday with a 4-0 win over Japan. "We came with a target. We wanted to set the record straight after the team fell short in the Asian Games. We wanted to claim the gold medal here, especially since it was being held in India for the first

time," said Savita after claiming the ACT title on Sunday. "We always take it one game at a time in every tournament. This time, the whole team had a point to prove and I am glad we were able to do so." India, who won the bronze at the Asian Games, will return to Ranchi and look to repeat the performance at the women's FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers, scheduled to be held at Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh AstroTurf Hockey Stadium from January 13 to 19. "The team played a lot of attacking hockey. We took the initiative as we have the

players suited for it and everyone gave their best to make sure we stand on top of the podium," Savita said.

"The aim has always been to bring our performances from practice to the pitch. Now, for the women's FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers, we have time to prepare and ensure we come back and perform to the best of our abilities."

In recognition of their exceptional title-winning performance, which was marked by an unbeaten streak, Hockey India declared a reward of Rs 3 lakh for every member of the Indian women's team and Rs 1.50 lakh for each member of the support staff.

India's chief coach Janneke Schopman appreciated the performance and mentality of her team throughout the tournament. "As a team, we played very well and the intent to be better was seen in every player.

India, South Africa will be tough to beat, admits Steve Smith

Mumbai, Nov 06 (PTI):



Steve Smith during a practice session ahead of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match against Afghanistan, at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, Monday.

Steve Smith on Monday hoped Australia are peaking at the right time given they have five wins on the trot in the World Cup and are on the cusp of joining India and South Africa as the third team in the semifinals. While India are set to finish at the top of the points table, South Africa are currently placed second having qualified for the final four. Australia can join the two teams if they win their upcoming clash against Afghanistan, to be played here on Tuesday. "You do want to be peaking at the right time in the end, but obviously you need to do enough to make the semifinals. I think that would be the beauty of it if we were able to get there," Smith

told the media before Australia's training session at the Wankhede Stadium. "You know, we had a rough start, we lost two games and we have gradually, I guess, progressed as we have gone along and there are still areas we can work on," said Smith, adding that even though all-rounders

Mitchell Marsh and Glenn Maxwell are back to training, it remains to be seen if they get a nod for the contest on Tuesday. Smith said India's monumental win over what has been the second best team in the tournament, South Africa, makes the challenge even more difficult for Australia going ahead. "Tomorrow

(on Tuesday) is a big game for us. I think if we win we qualify if that is correct. I think you want to be peaking at the right time for sure and the two teams up top are playing really good cricket, in particular India, who beat the second team, South Africa, yesterday pretty convincingly," Smith said. "They are going to be tough to beat there is no doubt about that. But I think we are playing some good cricket so hopefully we can have a good day, get ourselves in there and give ourselves a chance," the middle-order batter added. Smith urged the Australian players to get behind their leader Pat Cummins who has worked hard to pull the team out of a precarious position, having lost two games at the start.

Brian Lara's inputs on tactical side of batting has helped me grow: Abhishek Sharma

New Delhi, Nov 06 (PTI):

Brian Lara's inputs on the tactical side of batting has immensely helped young Abhishek Sharma, whose standout performance propelled Punjab to the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy final in the current season. The left-handed opening batter, who also bowls handy slow-left-arm orthodox spin, has hit two hundreds and three fifties, including a 77 off 45 balls in the semi-final against Delhi. In all, he has aggregated 485 runs in the tournament. Having had a couple of decent seasons for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL, including a 400-plus run edition in 2022, the 23-year-old from Amritsar feels that he isn't very far from realising his main goal — to don the India Blues. "Brian Lara would talk to me more about tactical aspects of the game rather than technical one. He spoke about planning an innings, knowing which bowler to attack and in what conditions. He actually

helped me read the game better and that's helping me now," Abhishek told PTI before the final against Baroda. "He told me that if a bowler is in midst of a good spell and if I can just not attack him and play out the spell, I would have won the battle. There were some deep technical analysis and when I go out to bat, I keep that in mind," he said. Abhishek's game had changed a lot since he started opening but to be a national team contender, he might have to

bat lower down the order as Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Ruturaj Gaikwad are already ahead of him, having made their debuts. "Obviously, there is lot of competition for top order slots but the advantage that I have is my left-arm spin bowling. Since most of the current top order batters don't bowl, I have that advantage. "I think I can bat at any other position, but yes, if I'm asked what I prefer, then I would say that I like to open. But wherever the team

needs, I am ready as at the back of my mind, I know a lot of players are doing well at the top-order." Having scored two hundreds during the league phase and with a strike-rate of 180 plus and 39 sixes in 10 games (nearly four per match), Abhishek looks ready for the next level. "I had a plan in my mind before the tournament because I wanted to achieve a few scores and get wickets, fortunate that I have contributed for my team and achieving that goal."

Loss to India in group stage an eye-opener, need to play turning ball well: Maharaj

Kolkata, Nov 06 (PTI):

Losing to India in the group stage of the World Cup was an eye-opener for South Africa who hope to rectify their mistakes for a possible battle in the final, feels spinner Keshav Maharaj. "I think it was a good trial run. Hopefully, they do progress further in this tournament after the semi-final. We need to just identify areas where we can get better," Maharaj told reporters at the mixed zone on Sunday. "We've played exceptionally well past this point here. It's just about going back to those performances that we did, and identifying the areas

in which we can score against the turning ball." The win halted South Africa's four-match winning streak. "It's probably a good thing and a blessing in disguise for this team is just to make sure that we iron out our glitches. It's just a good eye-opener for us to see, "We played four good games on the bounce, so naturally there's one game that would go wrong, not to make excuses for the performance today, but I think it's a good idea and indication of what we need to do better going forward in this tournament, obviously building up towards that semifinal. "It's about making sure

that we're practicing in the next couple of games going forward into the semi-final and rectifying it sooner rather than later. "It's about going back to the drawing board and trusting the processes that we've done really well in this tournament so far," he added. Playing in front of a 70,000-strong packed Eden crowd was not intimidating, but India definitely had the home advantage, he said. "I don't think it was intimidating. You have to just embrace it as sportsmen. It's something that we're not used to, but there's even more reason to soak it up and enjoy the opportunity.

Rathour says Rohit's attacking batting approach at top of order working well for team

Kolkata, Nov 06 (PTI):

Rohit Sharma has not scored too many hundreds in the ongoing World Cup but batting coach Vikram Rathour feels that the Indian skipper has led the team from the front with his attacking approach at the top of the order. Rohit, who has scored one century (131) and two fifties from eight matches, has been consistently giving India fluent starts. His 24-ball 40 against South Africa here on Sunday ensured that India were off to a flier. India scored 326 for 5 after opting to bat first and then dismissed South Africa for a mere 83 for a

massive 243-run win. "It's absolutely Rohit's idea. He's taking the initiative," Rathour said at the mixed zone. "If there's something on the wicket, he's looking to go for his shots. It is working out really well for the team. He's one guy who's leading with his action." Rohit and Shubman Gill took charge of the South African new-ball bowler duo of Lungi Ngidi and Marco Jansen and unsettled their rhythm. Rohit may have failed to convert his start but he helped India reach 91 for 1 in the powerplay, which allowed Virat Kohli and Shreyas Iyer to take it

easy in the middle overs before stepping up the run-rate. "We're looking to score as many runs as we can. The start that Rohit and Gill provided helped Virat and Shreyas to settle down and take their time. "Maharaj looked like the bowler who could have got some wickets on this wicket. That start gave us the opportunity to play a little safely. That was a great strategy and it worked out well," Rathour said. The Indian batting coach also hailed Shreyas Iyer's valuable 77 off 87 balls in a match-turning 134-run partnership with Rohit. "He (Iyer) always

Panther wins Indian Masters Polo Championship

Raipur, Nov 06:



In a thrilling and nail-biting final match, the Jindal Panther Polo team emerged victorious in the Indian Masters Polo Championship, defeating the Achievers team 9 goals to 8. The electrifying final was held at the iconic Jaipur Polo Grounds in New Delhi, showcasing the exceptional skills and teamwork of the polo players. Both the teams displayed the best professional polo game that one can expect in a match. But it was the Jindal Panther team that emerged victorious and outplayed the Achievers in every aspect of the game, winning the finals of the Indian Masters Polo Championship 9 goals to 8.

At 14 goals, Indian Masters is played at the same level as the Polo World Cup. The Jindal Panther team has won the last 5 tournaments it has played, including the prestigious

Bhopal Pataudi Cup last week. The Jindal Panther team showcased great team sport with skipper Naveen Jindal, Arjuna Awardee Simran Shergill, Santiago Marambio and Siddhant Sharma display-

ing top class polo skills. Santiago Marambio scored maximum 4 Goals for the team whereas Simran Shergill (3 Goals) and Naveen Jindal (1 Goal) made significant contributions to ensure victory.



Mizoram gears up for assembly polls today

Aizawl, Nov 06 (PTI)

Mizoram is all in readiness for the assembly polls on Tuesday, as over 8.57 lakh voters gear up to decide the electoral fate of 174 candidates, amid tight security arrangements put in place, officials said on Monday.

Voting will begin in all 1,276 polling stations across Mizoram at 7 am and continue till 4 pm, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Madhup Vyas said. The votes will be counted on December 3.

Of these, 149 are remote polling stations, while 30 voting centres along the inter-state and international borders have been declared critical and vulnerable, another senior official said.

"Mizoram has a tradition of conducting the most peaceful elections in the country. We hope to maintain that," Vyas told PTI.

He said the 510-km-long international border with Myanmar and 318-km boundary with



Polling officials with EVMs and other election material leave for poll duty ahead of Mizoram Assembly elections, in Aizawl, Monday.

Bangladesh have been sealed ahead of polling for the 40-member Mizoram assembly.

Assam Rifles is managing the Myanmar border, while BSF is in charge of the international border with Bangladesh.

Besides, the inter-state boundaries with three districts of Assam, two with Manipur and one with Tripura have also been closed.

Most polling personnel

carrying EVMs have already reached their respective booths, Vyas said.

"We have adequate spare EVMs and enough engineers to take care of technical glitches. The law and order situation is also being constantly monitored," he said.

Security has been tightened across the state, with around 3,000 policemen and a large contingent of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) deployed

Vital statistics...

Over 8.57 lakh voters gear up to decide the electoral fate of 174 candidates including 18 women. Voting will begin in all 1,276 polling stations across Mizoram at 7 am and continue till 4 pm. Of these, 149 are remote polling stations, while 30 voting centres along the inter-state and international borders have been declared critical and vulnerable. Altogether, 8,57,063 electorate, including 4,39,026 female voters, are eligible to exercise their franchise in the Mizoram assembly polls.

for the polls, officials said. A total of 174 candidates, including 18 women, are in the fray.

The ruling Mizo National Front (MNF), main opposition party Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) and Congress have fielded 40 candidates each.

The BJP and debutant Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) are contesting in 23 and 4 seats, respectively.

VICTORY CELEBRATION



A BJP candidate with supporters celebrate his win in the Gram Panchayat elections, in Nagpur district of Maharashtra, Monday.

'INDIA alliance stuck in Congress quagmire'

MP POLLS

Bhopal, Nov 06 (PTI)

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday alleged that Congress has turned into "daldal" (quagmire) and the INDIA alliance has stuck in it as he demanded "clarification" from the party leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Chouhan's comments come against the backdrop of a spat between Congress leader Kamal Nath and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav over the failed electoral tie-up in Madhya Pradesh.

A day before, Yadav alleged that Congress had stopped the caste census and implementation of the Mandal Commission report in the past.

"I want to ask Priyanka ji that SP and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) which are parts of the INDIA alliance are fighting against each other in Madhya Pradesh assembly polls. It is like friendship in Delhi



Shivraj Singh Chouhan

and wrestling in states," Chouhan told reporters at Singrauli.

Polling for 230 seats in Madhya Pradesh is scheduled for November 17 and votes will be counted on December 3.

"The alliance partners are only cursing Congress and saying it is not a reliable party," he added.

He said the Congress has turned into "daldal" (quagmire) and the INDIA alliance is stuck in it.

Yadav had termed Congress a "chalu party" (cunning) which "cheats" people and said the SP committed a mistake by relying on it, Chouhan said.

"When nobody (in the opposition bloc) trusts Congress how can people

in Madhya Pradesh believe in that party?" the senior BJP leader asked.

He also asked MP Congress president Kamal Nath to "clarify" his age.

"Yadav had yesterday remarked on how an 80-year-old man will recognize someone. He (Nath) had told former Congress president Rahul Gandhi in a programme that he is 72 years old. Nath must clarify his real age," Chouhan said.

He hit back at Gandhi Vadra for questioning the contribution of the BJP government to the welfare of farmers.

"The prime minister and the chief minister (referring to himself) are paying 'Samman nidhi' to cultivators and have made arrangements for irrigating their land. (Crop) loans are provided to tillers at zero per cent interest rate," Chouhan said.

What did the government led by your party (Congress) do for farmers when it was in power? They didn't even waive farm loans," he said targeting Gandhi Vadra.

Chouhan alleged Gandhi Vadra had made a "false statement" that the BJP government had provided "only 21" jobs in Madhya Pradesh, which he said was akin to opening "a shop of lies".

"You should not have lied so much. I only distributed 50,000 appointment letters in MP," Chouhan added.

Gandhi Vadra is visiting poll-bound Madhya Pradesh on Monday to address two public meetings in Dhar district and Indore.

Addressing a rally in the Jatara constituency in Tikamgarh district on Sunday, Yadav had said both the Congress and the BJP have started talking about a caste census and reservations to woo the "pichhde (backwards), Dalits and Adivasis (PDA) sections".

The SP and the Congress are part of the opposition bloc Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) but the two parties are fighting the MP polls separately.

'Cong delayed state formation by 14 years'

Devarakadra (Telangana), Nov 06 (PTI)

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on Monday accused the Congress party of delaying the formation of Telangana state by 14 years even after promising it, and asked the people of the state to vote based on the credentials of parties in the November 30 assembly polls.

At a rally here, the BRS chief requested the people to vote for his party's candidate, and told the peo-



CM K. Chandrashekar Rao addresses the Praja Ashirvada Sabha at Makthal in Narayanpet district of Telangana, Monday.

ple to be aware of the track record of political parties

before casting their vote for them.

"They (Congress) tried to destroy our party. They tried to buy our MLAs. Despite their promise of formation of Telangana, they gave (the state) only after 14 years of our struggle, and that too only after I undertook a fast unto death demanding statehood," Rao said. He said several people died demanding a separate Telangana during the statehood agitation, as the Congress party delayed its approval for a new

state. Speaking about the undivided Mahabubnagar District (Palamuru), KCR said his government has completed several projects bringing water to parched lands. He also promised to complete the pending projects if the BRS is voted to power again. He requested the people not to vote casually, but evaluate the behaviour of various political parties and exercise their franchise by voting for a party that works for the poor and farmers.

Video on money transactions goes viral

MP ELECTIONS

Morena, Nov 06 (PTI)

A video purportedly showing the son of Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and a "middleman" talking about several crore rupees went viral on social media amid Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh and set the ruling BJP and opposition Congress on collision course on Monday. While Tomar's son Devendra

Pratap Singh Tomar termed the video as fake and got an FIR registered with the Civil Lines police station here, Congress leaders sought a probe by the Enforcement Directorate as well as action from the Election Commission of India. In the purported video being linked to Devendra Tomar, the alleged middlemen is heard talking about arranging four to five accounts for transferring funds to the tune of crores of rupees.

Fake: Union minister's son, gets FIR registered



Devendra Pratap Singh Tomar

While Tomar's son Devendra Pratap Singh Tomar termed the video as fake and got an FIR registered with the Civil Lines police station here, Congress leaders sought a probe by the Enforcement Directorate as well as action from the Election Commission of India. In the purported video being linked to Devendra Tomar, the alleged middlemen is heard talking about arranging four to five accounts for transferring funds to the tune of crores of rupees.

Congress' welfare plank up against local caste equations in Raj's Marwar

Jodhpur, Nov 06 (PTI)

Jodhpur, Nov 6 (PTI) The main Congress plank in the Rajasthan polls is supposed to be the array of welfare schemes announced in recent months by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. But would that be enough for the party to win a second term in the state? Voters in the Marwar region's Luni, Bilara and Osian assembly constituencies are sending out mixed signals ahead of the November 25 assembly elections.

Many feel that caste will trump sops like pension for the elderly, subsidised cooking gas and free smartphones for women.

In Luni assembly constituency, a group of women waiting outside a fair price shop lauded the government's schemes that provide pension, free smartphone, ration kits and subsidised LPG cylinder at Rs 500. "The government schemes are good. I am getting a pension and have got a smartphone as well as ration kits," said Geeta Devi, as other women present in the group nodded in agreement. A group of men in Bilara constituency, however, said funds used for distributing free smartphones could have been used for solving other civic issues.

"Crores of funds were used in the purchase of mo-

bile phones. We have several drinking water issues and other civic problems in the area. The funds could have been used to solve such basic issues," Laxman Singh said. Other men gathered there praised the state government's ambitious Chiranjivi Health Scheme, which provides Rs 25 lakh health cover to a family. With about 2.51 crore women voters in the state out of a total of 5.26 crore, the Congress party has announced several schemes tailor-made for them. Women have been the focus of Ashok Gehlot government's attention in the last five years, and it launched

around 10 new schemes exclusively for them while running 34 other women-centric schemes.

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